

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

ACCOUNTABILITY

RESPECT

APRIL
2013

INSIDE OYA

Inside OYA has been on a break for the past several months. With this issue, we begin to catch you up on what's been happening at OYA since last fall.

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Pow-wow ceremony

Give youth confidence, Oregon's education leader tells DMC Summit participants

Dr. Rudy Crew brought a message about expectations to last year's Governor's Summit on Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System.

"We're married to the bell curve," the Chief Education Officer for the Oregon Education Investment Board told the approximately 300 individuals attending the Nov. 1-2 working summit. He said the education system has "sown the seeds of failure" for some youngsters.

"If our system is oriented toward figuring out who's smart and who's not, then it is ordained that 50 percent of our children are going to jail instead of Yale," Crew said. Instead, he said, "Our charge is to figure how every child in French I can go to French II."

He said educators should consider how they would want the school day to feel if they were students, and asked: "How would you want someone to talk with you if you don't know how to do something?"

"It doesn't take money to figure out how to give children confidence," he said.

"Will you walk away from here different?" he asked. "Will you walk away from here committed to doing just one more thing in your organization? This is ours to win or lose. It depends on how much we want to win it." ■



Dr. Rudy Crew brings a message to the DMC Summit about the importance of instilling confidence in youth.

If you would like to submit a photo for use as an Inside OYA masthead, please send your photo via e-mail to oya.communications@oya.state.or.us.

SERVICE AWARDS

The service awards listed are for the last four months of 2012.

30 YEARS

Becky Cox
Information Services

Linde Ferge
MacLaren YCF

25 YEARS

Catherine Baird
Washington PPO

Don Crossley
Information Services

Fereydoun Ejtehad
Clackamas PPO

Tracey Kreiger
Business Services

20 YEARS

Michael Barter
North Coast YCF

Amy Braden
Camp Tillamook YTF

Karen Burnett
Community Services

Director honored with 2013 Peacemaker Award



Fariborz Pakseresht

OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht was honored Oct. 17 with the Peacemaker Award at the 23rd annual Salem Peace Lecture. Calling Pakseresht “Salem’s quiet dynamo,” Peter Bergel of the Peace Lecture Committee presented the award.

“Fariborz Pakseresht is a remarkable state worker who has managed to infuse the values of peace into the functions of state government,” Bergel said on behalf of the Peace Lecture Committee. “Not only has Fariborz developed a reputation as a proponent of efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency in government, but he also has developed innovative programs that draw youth offenders into the social fabric of the larger society, teaching them useful skills and exposing them to cooperative community values.”

The committee noted that Pakseresht’s community service includes serving on the board of directors of the YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties; the board of the Salem Peace Plaza, Inc.; and the Annual Salem Peace Lecture’s planning committee. He also is a fellow of the American Leadership Forum and served as a member of the Oregon Solutions Camp Odyssey Team. ■

OYA joins 11-state better-schools consortium

OYA has joined an 11-state consortium whose goal is to improve education in correctional settings, a good fit with OYA’s Youth Reformation System and its goal for positive youth outcomes.



OYA employees attended a retreat sponsored and paid for by the University of Maryland-led consortium aimed at improving education in juvenile correctional settings. OYA Education Coordinator Frank Martin is third from left.

The consortium, staffed

by a University of Maryland educator, is beginning its work by collecting baseline data – academic achievement, credit accumulation, and numbers of high school diplomas and GEDs.

“We will do all we can to provide support, tools, and coaching with the goal of helping teachers improve the quality of their instruction,” said David Domenici, Director of the University of Maryland’s Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. He said states will be expected to make the difficult decisions about educational staff, the role of security staff, and effective use of technology. Previously, Domenici co-founded the Maya Angelou Public Charter

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Former OYA youth shares his road to success

Director Fariborz Pakseresht introduced Antoine Kennedy at last November's Governor's Summit on Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System as a man who, based on current sentencing guidelines, would have been behind bars for the rest of his life. Instead, Kennedy, 38 and a former gang member, served a lengthy sentence at OYA and then in the adult system, and now is working as a dental assistant and preparing for a real estate business.

Kennedy provided a "youth perspective" at the Summit. He was invited to speak after talking with Lonnie Jackson, OYA's Office of Minority Services Director. "I felt like I couldn't do it," Kennedy said, "but he touched me, he was so sincere."

Pakseresht said Kennedy "used the time he had in the system to make a life plan for himself." Kennedy said that decision was prompted by conversations after he was transferred to Texas with a man in the next bunk who was a voracious reader despite serving a life sentence. "It made me start thinking about being a man, about life, about how you are going to get out one day and what are you going to do?" he said.

He said he began reading "self-development books and textbooks," and educating himself about mutual funds and stocks. "I realized I had to be ready for it when I came out," he said. "No one taught me to buy my first home. No one taught me to incorporate my business. No one taught me to go to the dealership and buy my first car. But I did."

After Kennedy spoke, Pakseresht presented him with metal tree of life made by MacLaren YCF youth. "Remember his face," he said as he stood beside Kennedy, "because that's the potential of every youth." ■



Fariborz Pakseresht (left) introduces Antoine Kennedy.

Better-schools consortium

Continued from page 2

Schools in Washington, D.C., and was founding principal of the Maya Angelou Academy in the District's long-term secure juvenile facility.

Positive results for Maya Angelou Academy youth included earning credits at three times the rate they previously had done, and advancing in math and reading at rates more than doubling those they achieved before attending the academy.

"My hope is we can get some of the same results and outcomes that were achieved by the Maya Angelou Academy for our youth in less restrictive settings and in safer, more positive environments for youth and staff," said OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht.

OYA Education Administrator Frank Martin said Oregon has information to share about youth Internet access for online college, Internet use policies, and specific rules for youth access. Likewise, he said, Oregon is benefiting from other states' experiences with online college courses and different methods for assessing and monitoring educational achievement.

Other consortium members are Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Missouri, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah. ■

20 YEARS, *cont.*

David Johnk
MacLaren YCF

William Rigaud
Camp Tillamook YTF

Matthew Schulze
Rogue Valley YCF

Michelle Schwarzin
Health Services

Rick Snyder
RiverBend YTF

15 YEARS

Kent Bittner
Hillcrest YCF

Thomas Bolar
Jackson PPO

Richard Bones
Malheur PPO

Tamera Bowen
North Coast YCF

Charmarie Bradach
Eastern Oregon YCF

Lienna Bui
Community Services

Tracy Campbell
MacLaren YCF

Danny Chaves
Rogue Valley YCF

Eric Conzoner
Hillcrest YCF

Hector Cruz
Rogue Valley YCF

Robert Dahl
Business Services

Colynn Elder
Community Services

Seantel Heisel
Community Services

Michelle Henry-
Davis
Rogue Valley YCF

Noel Hoback
Rogue Valley YCF

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Catching up with Facility Services

FROM ROGUE VALLEY

Fund-raiser nets dollars, community support

Last November's dinner and silent auction at Rogue Valley YCF raised more than \$2,700 to support youth activities, but that was only part of the profit.

"The youth saw how many people – most of them they didn't know – would come in to support the program," said Rogue Valley's Activities Coordinator, YCUC Angela Sabin-Veek. "That was powerful for them."

The Thanksgiving-theme dinner attracted nearly 60 people, served by 10 youth who waited tables and assisted Cook Supervisor Jeff Bassett in the kitchen.

Four youth in Rogue Valley's Leading the Change group (*Inside OYA*, July 2011) spoke to the guests. Six youth presented vocal and instrumental music with volunteer Margo McAlpine (*Inside OYA*, May 2012).

Operations Director Noel Hoback assembled a slide show of Rogue Valley activities, and youth made posters depicting the activities the youth incentive fund supports. The idea for the dinner and auction came from a member of Rogue Valley's Community Advisory Board, who suggested inviting community members who support youth. Proceeds support Christmas gifts for youth, recreational programs, and other behavioral incentives that are not part of the facility's normal budget. ■



The room is set for the silent auction at Rogue Valley.

Newspaper publishes youth's letter

A youth at Rogue Valley YCF, Billy W., wrote a letter to the editor acknowledging the important work of the facility's volunteers. It was published by the Grants Pass Daily Courier. It is reprinted below:

Here at the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility we have a group of awesome volunteers that come in and share their time with us to teach us about a variety of things from religion to small bits of information about things that they may know and we would like to know. But at Christmas time we get the treat of having a special day to have more time to eat some food and drinks from places outside lockup to help us feel a little more holiday spirit so we aren't so down about being away from family.

They will usually bring a few gifts like socks, pajamas, underwear, notebooks, and photo

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Youth art displayed for community members

For a second consecutive year, Rogue Valley YCF youth have shown art work in a First Friday art night. The 45 art pieces by 25 youth were on display throughout October at Rogue Coffee Roasters in downtown Grants Pass.



“That little coffee shop is packed all the time,” said Ashley Rappleyea, who taught art to Newbridge High School students during the summer. “A few people were saying ‘this is great work,’ a few people asked if the art was for sale.”

Rappleyea, a new mom who teaches part time at Grants Pass High School during the academic year, said students in the summer class experimented with graphite, pastel, acrylic, and watercolor.

“When we start out in pencil a lot of students are saying, ‘I can’t do this, I don’t know how to draw,’” she said. “But once they pick up a paint brush it’s a completely different experience. They have less control over the paint than they do the pencils and it’s kind of liberating. They can’t erase every mistake, they just have to work with it to make it work.”

Besides Rogue Coffee Roasters providing space for the art, she said, the In His Timeframe store provided mats and frames for several of the pieces. ■

Youth’s letter

Continued from page 4

albums for each youth that is in the facility. They also bring in a few new games and some sports equipment as well.

We try to make things here as good as possible so that we can make a change in the community when we are released, that way we don’t come back. It is really fun and warming to have people devote their Christmas to us and come to help spread the cheer in a way that people can put all their problems aside to have a great time.

I hope you enjoy your holiday and help the people see that we enjoy the company of others on holidays. Written by your friendly local correspondent from Delta Unit. ■

15 YEARS, *cont.*

Jamie Jeter
MacLaren YCF

Javier Lete
RiverBend YTF

Steven McNeil
RiverBend YTF

John Moses
Information Services

Charles Muilenburg
Eastern Oregon YCF

David Orlove
Rogue Valley YCF

Matthew Payne
Rogue Valley YCF

Ed Pierson
Malheur PPO

Darrin Ryckman
Eastern Oregon YCF

Griselda Solano
Salinas
Hillcrest YCF

Terry Santini
Oak Creek YTF

Steve Schrunk
Oak Creek YCF

Tom Swift
Hillcrest YCF

Pamela Weaver
Marion PPO

10 YEARS

Julie Cain
MacLaren YCF

Michael Coday
Camp Florence YTF

Tamera Freed
Eastern Oregon YCF

John Hansen
Tillamook YCF

Frances Howells
Lane PPO

Chris Martin
North Coast YCF

Jeffrey Pickell
Camp Florence YTF

5 YEARS

Marcia Adams
Health Services

Jamie Alton
MacLaren YCF

Eusebio Bermea
MacLaren YCF

Kim Berry
Health Services

David Coulter
Tillamook YCF

Stephen Dyer
North Coast YCF

Linda Ediger
Tillamook YCF

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FROM FLORENCE AND TILLAMOOK

Camp Florence youth gets tips, encouragement

When you're preparing a resume, it's a great idea to get the advice of a professional in the field. Camp Florence's Joe M. got just that sort of help from Phil Goetschalckx, construction superintendent for Fred Wahl Marine Construction in Reedsport.

Marc Barnum, Camp Florence's vocational coordinator, put the two together. "Phil spent 45 minutes helping Joe edit and add to his resume, pulling background information that Joe had forgotten or was not aware was pertinent," he said. "It was amazing to watch." The company builds ocean-going vessels.

Joe's background includes learning welding while at MacLaren YCF. He passed the company's test for an entry-level welder, and was told there would be a job for him if only he could work a 40-hour week. A work-experience position remains a possibility, however.

"This illustrates how teamwork and the training we are providing at all facilities is working to get youth ready for employment," Barnum said. "I have not met the welding instructors who trained Joe, but my hat's off to them." ■

Tillamook YCF youth "the greatest bunch"

Bill Stam makes a comment about youth he's encountered at Tillamook YCF that any parent would like to hear: "We absolutely love the boys. They're the greatest bunch of boys I've ever worked with, so respectful, so willing to learn."

Stam and his wife, Gwin, began volunteering with Tillamook YCF youth after he participated in the facility's first pow-wow as a member of the Veterans Color Guard (Inside OYA, October 2011). Since then, the couple – he's Lakota, she's Apache – have taught youth how to make leggings, moccasins, and other Native American items.

"We're not just teaching them to make things," Gwin said, "but we're telling them the culture behind it."

Bill said he's seen a turnaround in the youth, whom he remembers as unenthusiastic at first. "Now we go there and we can hardly get through the door," he said. "They shake my hand and hug my wife.

The respect they show my wife is just incredible, totally awesome."

Gwin has taught youth bead work that, her husband says with pride, led to three youth winning ribbons at last summer's Tillamook County Fair (Inside OYA, September 2012). "Their



Bill and Gwin Stam

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Camp Tillamook youth first college graduate

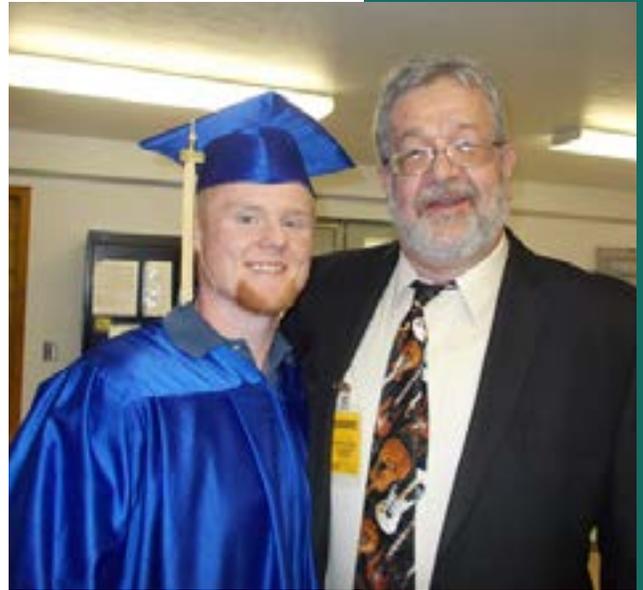
The graduate wore a cap and gown. His mom was in the audience. And he heard congratulatory remarks from his mentor, retired Tillamook judge Neal Lemery.

Any graduation is special, and this one especially so because Daniel W. was the first Camp Tillamook youth to earn a college degree. It is an associate's degree in general studies from Portland Community College, on which he began work while at Tillamook YCF.

"Education is a gift each of us gives to ourselves," Judge Lemery said in remarks honoring Daniel and encouraging other youth to pursue their studies. "No one can ever take away that gift. Education frees each of us from the slavery of bad ideas, of helplessness, and despair. Education gives us hope."

Among others in the audience during the February commencement were Camp Tillamook and Tillamook YCF staff and youth, past staff who had worked with Daniel, and volunteers. Assistant Director Karen Daniels and Education Administrator Frank Martin spoke by phone.

Judge Lemery told youth the only limits to achieving their dreams are those they impose on themselves. "This is the gift we celebrate tonight, the gift of education," he said. "It is as close to you as the books on your bookshelf, the discussions you have in class tomorrow, and the serious conversations you have around the dinner table tonight." ■



Daniel W. (left) poses for a graduation photo with his mentor, retired judge Neil Lemery.

The "greatest bunch"

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bead work is good enough to sell," he said.

Fifteen youth also were given Native American ribbon shirts made by Gwin, whom Bill said used to sew show clothes for entertainers Wayne Newton and Doc Severinsen. The Stams not only donate leather, turkey feathers, abalone shells, beads, and other supplies, supported by Gwin's sale of ribbon shirts, but also drive to Tillamook at least monthly from their home in the Marion County community of Jefferson.

The Stams also arranged visits by Veterans Color Guard member John Sarantos, who taught flute, and the donation of 15 flutes by Tom Stewart of Stellar Flutes in Shelton, Wash. GLC Gary Cherry, who coordinates Tillamook YCF's Native American programs, said the flute-playing is impressive: "If you heard them play the flute you'd say, 'Wow, they learned that in five lessons?'"

The Stams' work with the youth resonates on many levels. "Everything they teach them they can carry on into life," said Cherry. "For example, the bead work teaches patience and the joy of working with their hands. Bill and Gwin also influence treatment. They let youth know that you have to be a good person, be generous and kind to other people."

Cherry said the youth get excited as soon as they learn the Stams are coming. "They want to be in bead work, they want to do the flutes, they want to be a part of it," he said. "It's amazing what power Bill and Gwin generate." ■

5 YEARS, *cont.*

Andrea Ejtehadi
Clackamas PPO

Benny Flores
Hillcrest YCF

Deena Frishkorn
Health Services

Cameon Gustafson
Oak Creek YCF

Charles Hill
Business Services

Robert Holbrook
MacLaren YCF

Michael Hurd
RiverBend YTF

Amanda Lowe-Davies
Director's Office

5 YEARS, *cont.*

Scott McLaughlin
Hillcrest YCF

Debra Mitzel
MacLaren YCF

Albie Mushaney
MacLaren YCF

Tyea Robertson
Oak Creek YCF

Jeffrey Rodin
Hillcrest YCF

Janes Vanorden
MacLaren YCF

Wilbert Wenger
Hillcrest YCF

James White
Health Services

Catching up with Community Services

JPPO connects youth with Second Chance bike

Most people know the excitement of getting a new bicycle, and Yolanda A. – paroled from Oak Creek YCF – was no exception. “That’s my favorite color, seafoam green,” she said. “It’s cool.”

Hillcrest YCF Superintendent Troy Gregg presented the bike to Yolanda in October through the facility’s Second Chance Bicycle Recycling program, a partnership with the Family YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties (*Inside OYA*, August 2012).

“This will help a lot, to get to a job or to other resources I need,” said Yolanda, a Polk County youth who lives in a proctor home. “The bike was donated by someone in the community,” Gregg told Yolanda, “and our youth worked on it.”

It was JPPO LuAnn Dallison who contacted Gregg to see if an OYA youth who was showing promise could get a bike. Gregg came up with not only a looks-like-new bike but also a bike helmet. And the proctor parent chipped in a bike lock.



Youth Yolanda A. receives a bike from Second Chance Bicycle Recycling at Hillcrest YCF. From left: Hillcrest Superintendent Troy Gregg, Yolanda, and JPPO LuAnn Dallison.

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JPAS helps ensure right youth, placement, time

Provider access to JJIS, rolled out statewide in 2011, promises to support OYA’s Youth Reformation System and deliver better data about the types of residential programs youth need.

“Youth won’t stay any longer than they need to in a program because, rather than just one placement, we’ll be managing an entire continuum to get the right youth in the right place for the right amount of time,” said Phil Cox, assistant director for Community Services.

He said the JJIS Provider Access System (JPAS) also will show which programs are in demand and which have vacant beds, better reflecting the program types OYA most needs. “In the next two years we will see that vision where we can really manage need and supply and demand,” he said. “This manages, predicts, and makes most efficient how agency staff and residential providers work with one another for the best outcomes for youth.”

Among JPAS features already available to the 578-bed provider network are Web-based access to case plans, mental health assessments, risk/needs assessments, youth typologies, and ORRA and other scores; ability for JPPOs to make electronic referrals and also learn when providers accept youth; and lists of approved contacts so youth in residential programs may

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Youth who ‘grew up a lot’ lands call-center job

If you phone Wells Fargo and talk to an operator in the company’s Washington County call center, you may be talking with an OYA youth who has gotten her life back on track.

Dee S. was in Lithia Springs’ residential sober-living program, in which she said she also quit smoking cigarettes. She completed Wells Fargo’s six-week training program in early November, and also plans to enroll at Portland Community College.

“I’d like to say it was my work with her,” JPPO Joe Manuma said with a laugh. “But it was the right program at the right time. She’s a very intelligent, motivated young lady who needed space from her prior living situation to see there were possibilities out there other than what she was doing.”

Dee said the 10-month Lithia Springs program was hard, and that it produced positive results: “That’s what my whole life was about, that’s what I did, doing drugs. I didn’t know what there was to do. If there wasn’t some kind of substance involved I felt I could never have fun.”

She got the lead for the job talking with a Wells Fargo employee while shopping at Best Buy, and Lithia Springs provided resume-writing experience as well as mock job interviews.

Manuma said Dee followed through with her treatment, met all her court conditions, and engaged with Lithia Springs staff when she had questions. “I’m still the same person,” Dee said, “but a lot of things about me have changed. I learned how to live with women. I learned how to put up with people I don’t like, and to deal with it in a way that isn’t self-destructive. I grew up a lot.” ■

Second Chance bike

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“This young lady has been using the skills she learned in treatment,” Dallison said. “She’s been asking for help in all the right places, making really good choices. This will give her another way to get around and get some exercise as well.”

Dallison said she liked how Yolanda’s bike demonstrates partnership between OYA’s field and facility: “If it helps our kids who are paroling to the community by utilizing things that the facilities are doing, and that’s a really cool thing.” ■

JPAS

Continued from page 8

have earlier contact with family members.

Provider access is limited to the information they need, and does not include ability to view JPPOs’ notes about youth, for example. Providers can make and see their own notes in JJIS, however.

“The JJIS team really deserves a lot of accolades for how much they’ve done to make this as painless as possible,” said Erin Fultz, manager of OYA’s Community Resources Unit. Not only did they craft and troubleshoot JPAS, she said, but they also produced a training video and delivered training to the field. JPAS’s features resulted from a collaboration of OYA, providers, and county representatives.

This is phase 1, with advances expected to include elements such as the ability to scan documents to JJIS. Cox said JPAS might later be expanded to bring in more partners, such as high schools. “JPAS is a template for bringing on other partnerships,” Fultz said. ■

DEPARTURES

Kristina Baker
Eastern Oregon YCF

Derek Barnes
MacLaren YCF

Andy Baxter
MacLaren YCF

Janet Brattin
Health Services

Randy Bush
Tillamook YCF

Irene Campos
MacLaren YCF

Chris Duval
Facility Services

Justin Elways
MacLaren YCF

Linde Ferge
MacLaren YCF

Veronica Hernandez
Oak Creek YCF

Mark Hunt
Director’s Office

Joe King
Information Services

Benjamin Kuenzi
MacLaren YCF

Patricia Stephens
MacLaren YCF

More Facility Services news

FROM MACLAREN

Order up! Silhouette cafe serves up experience

If you get a chance to visit the new Silhouette café at MacLaren YCF, you might want to try the \$3 breakfast burrito. “It’s a healthy burrito,” said Tony Enriquez, the GLC who supervises the café and its staff of youth. “It’s pretty big.”

“It’s filling, it’s cheap, and it tastes amazing,” said Clayton F. “It’s bigger and it’s got a lot of flavor,” said Kaedyn D.

It’s also pretty popular – more people order the available-all-day breakfast burrito than any other item on the menu. Jason R. said they once got 13 orders for it in 10 minutes.

The healthier Silhouette has replaced MacLaren’s former canteen and its reputation for deep-fried foods. Youth chose the café’s colors and menu, did the work of figuring out pricing, are taught sanitation, learn proper storage and cooking temperatures, and gain knowledge of stock rotation and ordering. Some foods such

as tomatoes come from MacLaren’s youth-managed garden.

Enriquez, who years ago managed a deli, said the seven youth in the Silhouette program get a combination of business management and culinary skills. The café does approximately \$100 a day in business, not including separate canteen sales of sodas and chips. It’s one of several culinary programs across OYA.

Diane Hass, transition specialist at MacLaren’s Lord High School, said the training – it’s in both kitchen and classroom – can lead to an industry-recognized certification. “When they leave here they can take their certification to any restaurant and, rather than starting as a dishwasher, start in a culinary job,” she said.

The youth rotate assignments every week or two in cooking, baking, sandwich prepara-

tion, waiting tables, and dishwashing. Youth research recipes, and one youth brought in his mother’s secret for preparing bacon – sprinkle it with brown sugar before baking. They also have tried out recipes provided by MacLaren staff members.

Asked what he’s learning, Chris W. had a ready answer: “Professionalism, teamwork, and staying busy. When you stay busy you always see what needs to be done.” He said what he’s learning is important to him: “I’m 18, I have three kids. I’m trying to make my life better and their lives better.”

The Silhouette is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Wednesday noon to 3 p.m. ■



GLC Tony Enriquez

Anthony E., Kyden D., Chris W., Jason R., Sean D., and Clayton F. have gained culinary experience at MacLaren’s Silhouette cafe that will help them gain jobs in the community.



Club adds MacLaren to book drive beneficiaries

A motorcycle club that says its book drive collected more than 10,000 volumes last year for an Oregon adult prison included MacLaren YCF in its most recent drives in Bend and Eugene.

“We branched out because the public is much more interested in sending books to juvenile facilities,” said Todd Gobeille of Bend, president of the Gorilla Gospel Motorcycle Club. “They really like the idea of trying to reach these guys before it’s lock-‘em-up-and-throw-away-the-key as adults.”

Gobeille said the club needed trucks and U-Haul trailers to deliver thousands of books last year to Two Rivers Correctional Institution in Umatilla. He said last year’s book drive was prompted by a club member, recently released after 10 years at the Umatilla prison, who

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FROM OAK CREEK

Books donated to Oak Creek YCF’s school library

The Three Lakes school library at Oak Creek YCF is richer in numbers of books and diversity of titles as a result of the enterprise of Librarian Elizabeth Schmidt and a friend who got on the phone seeking donations.

As a result of their effort, the library received a donation of approximately 250 books from Barnes & Noble’s Tanasbourne store in Beaverton. “We told them the nature of our library and the audience we serve,” Schmidt said.

“I think the girls were all excited to see a lot of new titles on the shelves,” she said. “It was a reminder that the library is there and it’s growing and changing.” Assisted in her search for donated books by friend Joyanne D’Lugatch of Beaverton, she put a retail value of approximately \$5,000 on the books.

She said the titles include political commentary, best-selling novels, self-help books, baby care, and activity books. She said a public library also has indicated it may be able to donate books to the Three Lakes library.

Titles that were duplicated are being donated elsewhere or going to an Albany used-book store for credit toward purchasing books Oak Creek youth are requesting.

“I was surprised at the generosity,” said Schmidt, who works a half-day a week at the library and the balance of the week at Multnomah County’s Donald E. Long Detention Center. “We’re definitely working with a limited budget.” ■



Newly donated books fill the shelves of the Three Lakes library at Oak Creek.

ARRIVALS

Abraham Choate
Eastern Oregon YCF

C. J. Drake
Director's Office

Justin Elways
MacLaren YCF

Marco Faraoni
Camp Tillamook YTF

Chris Fought
Business Services

Nickolas Herrera
MacLaren YCF

Nicole Loyd
Health Services

Jim Potter
Eastern Oregon YCF

Jeannette Skjei
MacLaren YCF

Gregory Starling
Information Services

Tim Tyndall
Information Services

Julian Wallace
MacLaren YCF

Kristopher West
Information Services

Susan Wyant
Business Services

FROM HILLCREST

High Point challenge to be annual winter event

A timed basketball competition in which teams of youth try to make the most baskets has been a favorite at Hillcrest YCF for a decade or more. As an agency-wide competition during winter break, it was successful enough that OYA recreation coordinator Rod Martin says it will be an annual event.

"It's basically a team-building competition," Martin said of the High Point Challenge. "You have two participants who work together, but it's not necessarily a skill event. Anybody can do the activity, burn calories and be healthy." At least 200 youth participated in the event, he said, in which youth shoot baskets for two minutes from designated points on the court. The activity can be held in many different formats (tournaments, brackets, or time frames) but for the purposes of this competition two minutes was the designated time per team.

Facility winners were the North Coast and Oak Creek teams, who made the most baskets in their categories. Martin said two facilities were unable to participate because of scheduling conflicts, and more notice will be given for next December's competition. ■

Zeta Players bring 'Grinch' to life on stage

Five youth in Hillcrest YCF's Zeta unit – they call themselves the Zeta Players – had an enthusiastic pre-holiday audience for their production of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The youth performed three times – once for other Zeta youth and twice for families of the youth and invited friends of the director.

Director Cindie Matthewson began volunteering last year after participating in a Christian singles group's Christmas party for Hillcrest youth in 2011. "They know I believe in them," she said of the youth she directed. "These guys don't have family, and their shoulders go back when you tell them you believe in them."

Zeta's treatment manager, Karri Robinson, said Matthewson's drama and theater work supports treatment. "It's building their confidence, having them reach outside themselves, and having them work together as a group and realizing they're part of a larger group they're responsible to," she said.

Matthewson, an office manager for a CPA firm, found an abbreviated script online. She did make-up and supported youth in making costumes. Youth made a banner as a stage backdrop.

Matthewson's job was made more challenging when two of the five youth with whom she'd rehearsed became unavailable – "because life happens," as she told one audience – and two of the Zeta Players were last-minute entrants.

Matthewson said she's part of a family with theater in its blood. She's done community theater and written plays. And she clearly has a knack for staying relatively calm in challenging circumstances. As an ice breaker with youth, she said, she asked them to say what animal they would like to be. One said dolphins because they stay with their family; another said a lion because lions protect their families. "Every animal they mentioned was about family," she said. "That really hit me." At the conclusion of one performance an audience member asked what the play's message was. "Christmas isn't about gifts," one youth answered. "It's about family."

"I want them to believe in themselves," Matthewson said of the five Zeta Players. "I want them to make a difference in their lives, I want them to know they can accomplish anything." At the final performance they gave her a card signed, "From Your Dudes." ■

NARA annual pow-wow honors Llanes, Lawson

Two long-time Office of Minority Services professionals have been recognized for outstanding service to the state's Native American community.

Jack Lawson and Steve Llanes were recognized by the Native American Rehabilitation Association at the organization's annual New Year's Sobriety Pow-wow. Lawson was Tribal Liaison in OYA's Office of Minority Services until his retirement in December. Llanes has been MacLaren YCF's Native American Services Coordinator since 2005.

At the pow-wow, held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Lawson and Llanes were among seven people recognized for long-time service to the Native American community. All seven were given Pendleton blankets bearing the NARA logo.

Attended by several hundred people, the annual pow-wow featured Native American drumming, singing and dancing. There also was a sobriety countdown, recognizing people who had been clean and sober ranging from a short time to decades. ■



Participants at the NARA pow-wow in Portland honored OYA staff members Steve Llanes (front row, left) and Jack Lawson (front row, third from left).

MacLaren's books

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knew many prison books were damaged.

Drop-off sites for the current book drive are at Westside Church's two Bend locations and Devote30's four Eugene-area locations. Delivery of books collected during the drive took place in early April. "With the world switching over to Kindles and tablets," he said, "it's hard to find people who don't have books to give."

Gobeille, who has written a book and operates a Bend graphic-design company, said he spent 16-17 months at MacLaren YCF, where he earned his GED, and in other OYA placements.

"We are not a preachy outreach club," he said of the Gorilla Gospel club. "We can still look bad, but we're striving toward being better people and contributing members of society. It feels good to be a good guy, it feels good to help." ■

INSIDE OYA

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Send your stories for the May issue by April 30. Articles received after that date will be held for the June newsletter.



Winter holidays saw OYA youth serving locally

During the December holidays close-custody youth found a variety of ways – bicycles, greeting cards, wooden toys, dogs, and other methods – to provide service to their communities.

“These projects are helpful in teaching empathy and compassion to youth in our care,” said Rogue Valley YCF activities coordinator Angela Sabin-Veek. Rogue Valley youth spent extra days with abandoned shelter dogs, including a blind Labrador retriever as part of ongoing work they do with the animals. They also sent holiday greetings to people who usually don’t receive them.

Among other facilities’ youth community service projects:

- Camp Florence youth assisted the local Soroptomist International group in assembling and distributing baskets of gifts and food to low-income residents.
- Camp Tillamook youth helped cut and load onto a logging truck a Christmas tree that was driven to Sparks, Nev., for the community’s annual tree-lighting event. (Sparks and Garibaldi are sister cities.)
- Eastern Oregon YCF youth built a bench and bookcase for the local Boys and Girls Club.
- Hillcrest YCF youth in the YMCA’s Second Chance Bicycle Recycling program rehabilitated bicycles that were delivered to children and families during the holidays.
- MacLaren YCF youth prepared more than 70 holiday cards for soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. The cards were mailed by a group that supports service personnel. “Some of the youth identified themselves as being in a correctional facility,” said Program Director Tom Johnson, “saying they sympathize with being away from home over the holidays.”
- North Coast YCF youth made holiday cards for residents of a local care center.
- Oak Creek transitional youth delivered handmade holiday cards to residents of a local assisted living facility, where they also sang Christmas carols.
- RiverBend YTF youth made wooden toys – puzzles, helicopters, trains and VW bugs – for children of families in a local shelter. They also decorated trees for a Blue Mountain Humane Association event where they distributed snacks to participants.

Facilities’ staff members also adopted families, collected toys, and undertook other projects to support their neighbors in the community.

Director Fariborz Pakseresht said youth projects support reformation. “These projects give youth a feeling of being a part of the community,” he said. “They contribute to youth being able to successfully reintegrate back into the community, and we get many positive comments from the community about the great work these youth do.” ■

The May issue of *Inside OYA* will continue to catch you up on what has been happening throughout the agency for the past several months. Current stories will begin to appear in the June and July issues. We appreciate your patience while the newsletter has been on hiatus.

In the meantime, if you want to stay updated on events and activities throughout the agency, you can follow OYA on Twitter @OregonYouth. And if you have ideas for stories, please let the OYA Communications Office know and we will cover them in upcoming issues of *Inside OYA*. ■