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North Coast YCF benefits from teamwork

*By Tracey Kreiger, administrative specialist
Physical Plant Operations*

Physical Plant Operations (PPO) management wanted to accomplish three seemingly unrelated goals: hold a regular meeting with all staff; build us into a stronger working team; and make much needed upgrades to North Coast YCF in Warrenton. The solution? Accomplish all three at the same time.

On August 27 and 28, more than two dozen PPO staff gathered at the facility. While there, we would learn to work together more closely while giving the building a facelift.

With much thought and planning dedicated to what maintenance and projects to tackle, we divided into teams to complete our various assignments. We painted the laundry rooms in all three living units and installed fiber reinforced plastic board on the walls. We painted the living unit kitchens, updated electrical outlets, and did some framework on the cabinets in preparation for new flooring. A main hallway also got fresh paint and new ceiling tile was installed.

The exterior of the facility got a facelift, too. We pressure-washed the building top to bottom,

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OYA Physical Plant staff met at North Coast YCF in August for team building and repair work.

This month's masthead photo is by Ronald Sandler. You may submit a photo for use as an *Inside OYA* masthead by e-mailing your photo to oya.communications@oya.state.or.us.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

SERVICE AWARDS

The service awards listed are for August and September 2013.

30 YEARS

Nancy Fuller
Hillcrest YCF

Daniel Howard
Tillamook YCF

25 YEARS

Troy Bjugan
Multnomah PPO

Melvis Johnson
MacLaren YCF

Joseph King
Information Services

Nancy Mills
Health Services

Karen Waritz
Multnomah PPO

20 YEARS

Becky Halbirt
Marion PPO

OYA director receives top honors from CJCA



Fariborz Pakseresht

OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht is the 2013 recipient of the Outstanding Administrator Award from the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators (CJCA). Fariborz accepted the honor Oct. 10 at the CJCA's Leadership Institute meeting in Chicago.

"This award recognizes Fariborz's significant and distinguished contributions to the field of juvenile justice," said Ned Loughran, CJCA's executive director. "All of us deeply appreciate his committed leadership and dedication to improving the lives of at-risk young people, their families and communities."

Fariborz credited OYA and its employees for making it possible for him to receive the award. "I am humbled to receive this honor and pleased to know that our work is being recognized nationally," he said. "I am proud and honored to lead an organization whose employees are dedicated every day to helping troubled youth and reducing victimization. Their contributions help make our communities safer and provide opportunities for youth to lead productive, crime-free lives."

The CJCA Outstanding Administrator Award has been given annually since 1999. Previous recipients include top administrators of youth correctional agencies in California, Colorado, Maine, Missouri and North Carolina.

CJCA is a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving services and practices among juvenile justice agencies in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and major metropolitan U.S. counties. ■



Director Fariborz Pakseresht speaks with a youth in OYA's care at Oak Creek YCF.

New video features discussion of YRS and PYD



The Youth Reformation System (YRS) and Positive Youth Development (PYD) are the topics of an instructional video recently circulated to assistant directors, superintendents and camp directors for viewing by employees. The 17-minute video features (left to right) OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht, YRS Team Leader Shannon Myrick, and PYD Team member Caleb Bronemann, the MacLaren campus services manager. The video also is available on YouTube. ■

Cultural events heighten youth awareness

Native American culture was celebrated at OYA facilities this summer to help educate and engage youth about the rich traditions of Native Americans. The series of events is designed to help youth appreciate and support differences in others.

Eastern Oregon YCF hosted a sweat lodge in August. Pow-wows were held at Tillamook YCF in August and at MacLaren YCF and Rogue Valley YCF in September. MacLaren's pow-wow also included a first-time visit by a group of Apache dancers from the Chemawa Indian School in Salem.



Deputy Director Joe O'Leary (left) chats with Native American Services Coordinator Steve Llanes (center) and Phillip Archambault (right) of the Lakota tribe at the MacLaren YCF pow-wow.

Native American Services Coordinator Steve Llanes, who is based at MacLaren, said activities such as sweat lodges and pow-wows “help expose youth to different cultures and get them outside their comfort zone. The kids meet people they wouldn't normally meet. When they make those connections they're less inclined to settle their differences with anger and violence.”

Other OYA facilities are holding similar events this fall. ■



Tribal leaders make their entrance at the Rogue Valley YCF pow-wow.



Drummers keep up the beat at the MacLaren YCF pow-wow.



Dancers and drummers from MacLaren YCF supported youth and staff at the Tillamook YCF pow-wow.

15 YEARS

Shawn Cray
Eastern Oregon YCF

Christopher Johanson
North Coast YCF

Roderick Martin
Hillcrest YCF

Scott Palmer
MacLaren YCF

Rene Torres
North Coast YCF

15 YEARS, *cont.*

Ronald White
Eastern Oregon YCF

Kara Youngblutt
Hillcrest YCF

10 YEARS

Rebecca Avila
Business Services

Michael Makinster
Camp Tillamook YTF

Botswana leaders visit two OYA facilities

Foreign countries are taking note of Oregon’s reputation for efficient, progressive state government. As proof, OYA recently hosted a delegation from the African nation of Botswana for a day of learning at MacLaren and Oak Creek youth correctional facilities.

The 10-member delegation consisted of leaders in Botswana’s government. The delegates also visited other sites in the state, including Oregon State Hospital in Salem, over a 2-week period. The trip was organized and sponsored by Transformation Systems International (TSI), a Washington state-based group that builds partnerships with government agencies, businesses and non-profits.



Botswana delegation members listen intently to youth at MacLaren YCF as they discuss their experiences at OYA.



Lorato C. Morapedi, CEO of the National Development Bank of Botswana, talks with a youth at Oak Creek YCF.

The delegates visited MacLaren YCF the morning of Sept. 26. Accompanied by OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht, Assistant Director for Facility Services Clint McClellan and Superintendent Dan Berger, they toured the welding shop and the Project POOCH kennels. They wrapped up their visit to MacLaren with a meeting in which several youth shared the experiences that led them to OYA and what they hope to accomplish after their commitments are completed.

After lunch, the delegation traveled to Oak Creek YCF, where they toured the compound with Superintendent Mike Riggan and met with staff and youth. After a dinner of grilled hamburgers, they gathered in the library to meet with youth.

“It had a major impact on me,” said Lorato C. Morapedi, chief executive officer of the National Development Bank of Botswana, of her tour of OYA facilities. “I got a lot out of this visit. It was very good. It meant much to me.”

As they prepared to leave Oak Creek for Portland and the flight back to Botswana, the delegates treated the youth and staff to a rendition of their country’s national anthem, “Fatshe leno la rona” (Blessed Be This Noble Land). ■



Members of the Botswana delgation join OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht and the staff of Transformation Systems International at Oak Creek YCF at the conclusion of their visit.

Kimberly Ross
Hillcrest YCF

Donald Tomfohr
Clackamas PPO

Nevada delegation learns about PREA

Staff from the Clark County, Nev., Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) traveled to Oregon in September to meet with their OYA counterparts. The purpose of the Nevadans' visit was to learn how OYA implements the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

OYA is a national leader among juvenile justice agencies in PREA compliance. PSO Chief Investigator Dave Manley and his staff, including PREA Coordinator Kila Jager, explained the agency's approach.

The Nevada delegation also met with Deputy Director Joe O'Leary, Assistant Director for Facility Services Clint McClellan and Treatment Services Director Dr. Whitney Vail. The delegates also visited Hillcrest and Oak Creek facilities.

"Thanks for the hospitality and all the work you did to make our visit exceptional," wrote DJJS Assistant Director Patrick Schreiber to PSO staff afterward. ■



Patrick Schreiber (center), assistant director of the Clark County, Nev., Department of Juvenile Justice Services, commended PSO Administrator Dave Manley (far left) and PREA Coordinator Kila Jager (far right) for the accomplishments OYA has made to achieve PREA compliance.

Tillamook students get creative with writing

Trask River High School serving Tillamook YCF and Camp Tillamook YTF has been making good use of a \$250 Language Arts grant it received from Utah-based Creative Communication for the 2012-2013 school year.

Pam Miller, the teacher who applied for and received the grant, commended Creative Communication for its commitment to the promotion of writing and the teaching of writing in schools.

"Your program has been an awesome experience for my students," said Miller in a statement to the granting organization. "To have the opportunity to be published is every writer's dream. You produce a professional product that does their work credit. Thank you for offering something that encourages the creativity within our youth."

Miller's students have been participating in Creative Communication contests for several years and their writing has been published in its anthologies. To learn more about Creative Communications, visit www.poeticpower.com. ■



Pam Miller's students at Trask River High School show their love of writing and poetry.

5 YEARS

Andrea Bassett
Rogue Valley YCF

Dustin Boos
MacLaren YCF

Jonathan Driver
Hillcrest YCF

DEPARTURES

Dwight Aarestad
Eastern Oregon YCF

Joann Beatty
Rogue Valley YCF

Melissa Butler
MacLaren YCF

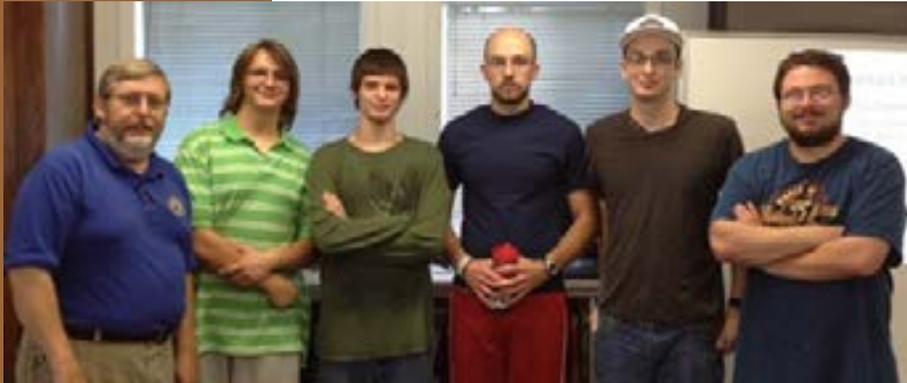
Summer Chatham
Health Services

Monte Fairchild
Rogue Valley YCF

Charlotte Gaona
Hillcrest YCF

Oregon leads way on youth offender education

The Digital Age is fostering a quiet revolution for incarcerated youth wanting to pursue higher education, and Oregon is leading the way.



The OYA Geek Squad (left to right): GLC Gary Westoby and youths Wesley, Nick, Andrew, Nathan and Dustin. Based at Camp Tillamook YTF under Gary's supervision, youth refurbish donated computers for e-learning use.

Oregon recently became the first state in the nation to offer juvenile offenders free, online courses that can lead to college credits. Youth can learn from videos on computer disks that contain brief lectures from technical experts on various topics, followed by a quiz that is instantly graded.

The courses, created by California-based Education Portal, are designed to help OYA youth pass the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test. CLEP credit is accepted by nearly 3,000 colleges and

universities nationwide. OYA currently offers Education Portal courses in algebra, business, English, U.S. history and psychology.

The computers that youth use for e-learning are donated by the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). They are transported to Camp Tillamook YTF, where a crew of kids – known informally as the “OYA Geek Squad” – wipe the computers’ memories clean and refurbish them under the supervision of GLC Gary Westoby.

On a rainy day in late September, Westoby filled a van and trailer with surplus computers and monitors from the DOC warehouse in Salem and hit the road to the coastal facility.

“Initially we want to place at least one computer on each living unit in OYA,” said Westoby. “That means at least 32 to cover every living unit in the agency.” He makes sure that the computers used by OYA kids are self-contained and not connected to the internet, so they can’t be used to access inappropriate websites.

Education Coordinator Frank Martin has worked closely with Westoby to launch e-learning at OYA. Martin has appeared in e-learning promotional videos and recently traveled to Olympia to share Oregon’s e-learning experiences at a conference hosted by Washington state juvenile justice leaders. Martin is a vocal advocate for educating juvenile offenders, saying it contributes dramatically to lower recidivism and saves money.

He’s right. In August, the non-profit RAND Corp. issued a report saying those behind bars who



OYA's Frank Martin promotes e-learning in a YouTube video produced by Education Portal.

Marion Knight
Marion PPO

David Lavier
Hillcrest YCF

Amanda Lowe-Davies
Director's Office

Maria Gloria Martinez
Umatilla PPO

Sue Nanson
MacLaren YCF

Kimberly Ross
Hillcrest YCF

Linda Solomon
Oak Creek YCF

Sid Thompson
MacLaren YCF

Chad Trask
Multnomah PPO

RiverBend firefighters earn praise

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) praised the efforts of RiverBend's young firefighters during the wildfires that plagued the state this summer.

"Standing shoulder to shoulder on the fire line this summer with agency and private sector personnel were firefighters from Oregon's correctional institutions," ODF said in an Oct. 2 news release. "ODF's Northeast Oregon District used crews out of OYA's RiverBend facility at La Grande on several fires this summer."

OYA youth based at RiverBend's fire academy, together with state Department of Corrections inmates who were also deployed to fight fires, saved taxpayers millions in labor costs. "In fulfilling Oregon law which requires inmates to contribute economically to the state, the crews tallied substantial cost savings when compared to hiring regular workers for the same tasks," stated ODF. "On the Douglas Complex fires alone, use of inmates shaved an estimated \$1.2 million off the total."

OYA contracts with ODF to train youth at RiverBend on firefighting tactics and techniques. The training is one of OYA's many vocational education programs offered at facilities.

Youth undergo 4 to 6 weeks of training conducted by professional instructors to receive a Wildland Firefighter Type 2 qualification card, also known as a "Red Card." This enables the youth to seek employment as firefighters after they complete their OYA commitment.

Nineteen young men were the latest to graduate from the fire academy in a June 28 ceremony. In September, eight trainees traveled to the Department of Public Safety training academy in Salem to attend a memorial service for fallen firefighters. ■



OYA youth from RiverBend's fire academy traveled to Salem for a Sept. 19 memorial service for fallen firefighters. Brett Dunten (standing at far right) is a professional firefighting instructor who leads the academy.

DEPARTURES, cont.

Kenneth Walker
RiverBend YCF

ARRIVALS

Brandy Anderson
RiverBend YTF

Joni Bour
Camp Florence YTF

Margaret Braun
Information Services

Camille Canty-Fischer
Rogue Valley YCF

Hillcrest hosts Mexican dance troupe

A Mexican dance troupe from Hillboro performs at a multi-cultural celebration held Sept. 19 at Hillcrest YCF. The Office of Minority Services organized the event, which featured dancing, food and festivities representing various cultures from around the world.



**ARRIVALS,
cont.**

Maria Chavez-
Haroldson
Director's Office

Martha Dalton
RiverBend YTF

Lisa Godwin
Director's Office

Steven Hames
Rogue Valley YCF

Dee Hancock
Camp Tillamook YTF

Clint Johnson
RiverBend YTF

Mark Jones
Rogue Valley YCF

Brandon Kellogg
RiverBend YTF

Joseph King
Information Systems

Scott Manning
Hillcrest YCF

Eastern Oregon youth honored for talent

**By Charmarie Bradach, treatment manager
Eastern Oregon YCF**

Seven youth from Eastern Oregon YCF entered art and woodworking projects in the Harney County Fair Rodeo and Race Meet Sept. 3-8. All youth earned ribbons for finishing in first through third places.

Josh entered airbrush, pencil and felt-tip drawings, and was awarded \$10. Chris entered two pencil drawings and was awarded \$1.50. Clayton and Matt entered drawings and were awarded \$1.50 each. Joe entered a mantle clock he built and won \$2.

Two youth were awarded highest honors for their projects. Chris (in the photo to the right) made a miniature grandfather clock and won the title of Grand Champion and \$4. Terry entered a wall sign with this year's fair theme, "A Family Affair with Country Flair," and won judge's choice and \$2.

The youth were very excited to have the opportunity to enter their works and be recognized for their creativity. Superintendent Doug Smith thanked facility volunteer Kris Baker for organizing the entries. ■



Chris displays his award-winning project.

Rogue Valley dads make daughters smile

**By Krystle Moxley, group life coordinator
Rogue Valley YCF**

We have several young men here at Rogue Valley YCF who are fathers of daughters. The girls' ages range from 3 months to 3 years. Our youth were given the opportunity to attend a class to make tutus for their daughters for "Daughters Day," an unofficial holiday observed nationally in August.

I taught the class.

These young men worked for 3 hours on their tutus

and were able to send them out or give them to their daughters during visitation.

It was a huge success! These young men not only were able to connect with their daughters on a brand new level, but were taught an invaluable



Dillon wears a tutu he made for his daughter.



(Left to right): Rogue Valley YCF youth Casey, Dillon, Luciano and Conner display tutus they made.

North Coast YCF benefits from teamwork

Continued from page 1

including the entrance and sidewalks. We mowed lawns and weeded the flower beds. Roof drains were cleaned and screens on the air-conditioning returns were repaired. The A/C units and fans on top of the building also were serviced. We sealed the hollow metal exterior window assemblies with caulking. Various plumbing repairs were made and fixtures replaced.

We also hung signs, unclogged drinking fountains, and removed the old satellite dish and weather station from the roof.

North Coast Facility Operations Specialist Mike Inniss graciously allowed us to borrow tools from his shop and shared his extensive knowledge of the facility. His assistance and coordination throughout the entire project were much appreciated.

We also could not have made as much progress as we did without the support and assistance of Superintendent Dan Berger (who has since been appointed superintendent of MacLaren YCF). He and his staff devised alternatives to providing meals and doing laundry for youth while we occupied their space.

Cook Supervisor Mike Edler provided lunch and snacks for the two days we were there, including preparing a delicious meal of salmon donated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. ESS Louise Stecher ensured that everyone signed in, kept track of them, and ensured that we were comfortable and had coffee in the mornings. GLC Dean Jones and Treatment Manager Jim Sapper coordinated security to keep staff and youth safe.

In all, the entire North Coast staff did an amazing job coordinating and ensuring that these work days were productive. We thank them for their support, patience and flexibility as we occupied their facility to make some much needed repairs.

The North Coast project was such a success that PPO staff will choose a different facility to focus on each year. ■

Congratulations to everyone for the great work on North Coast YCF.



Dennis Padilla (left) and Steve Babcock install ceiling tiles.



Left to right: Dan Spreadborough, Mike Powers and Chuck Hill work on a dorm kitchen.

ARRIVALS, *cont.*

Anne May
Director's Office

Courtney May
Oak Creek YCF

David Molstad
Hillcrest YCF

Isaiah Montoya
Oak Creek YCF

Shasta Pruitt
Rogue Valley YCF

Santiago Quintero
Washington PPO

Bonni Rose
Business Services

Damien Schubert
Rogue Valley YCF

Maria Sheldon
Community Services

Joshua Smith
Rogue Valley YCF

Lana Sweat
Hillcrest YCF

INSIDE OYA

Fariborz Pakseresht
Director

Joe O'Leary
Deputy Director

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Send your stories and photos for the November issue by November 12. Articles received after that date will be held for the following newsletter.



OYA leads way on youth offender education

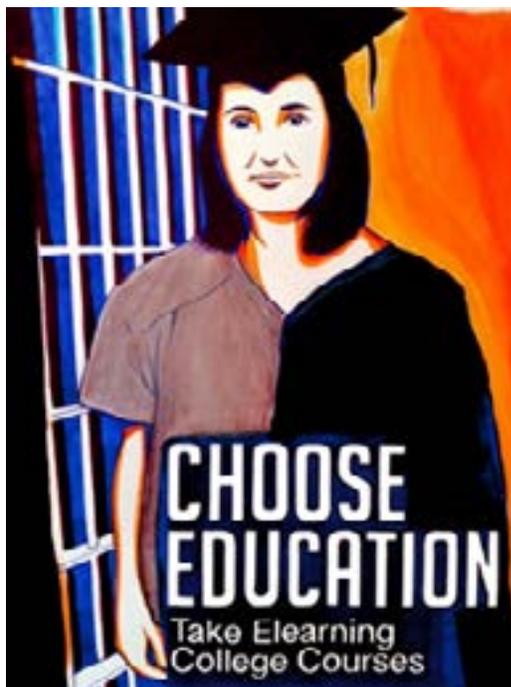
Continued from page 6

educate themselves or learn a trade are “significantly less likely” to commit crimes after they are released.

“When people ask me why we’re educating kids in OYA facilities, I point to the RAND report that says for every \$1 invested in educating inmates, it saves taxpayers \$4 to \$5 in reduced recidivism costs down the road,” said Martin. (For the full report, visit www.rand.org.)

Martin also recruited a Salem artist, Mark Dwyer, to donate his time and talent to design posters to promote e-learning in facilities. Education Portal staff also produced several instructional and testimonial videos about e-learning, including one featuring Austin, a 19-year-old at Eastern Oregon YCF who is taking online courses.

“Education Portal brings college to us kids,” says Austin in the video. “Honestly, I’d like to come out of here with almost a degree. The problem is I don’t have any family. I don’t have anyone to help me on the outs. The only person I have is me. So paying for the college credits is what’s going to be difficult for me. I’m going to finish all the credits I can before I get out.” ■



Posters promoting e-learning were developed for OYA by Salem resident and artist Mark Dwyer.



Austin at Eastern Oregon YCF discusses the benefits of e-learning in a YouTube video.

Rogue Valley dads make daughters smile

Continued from page 8

able lesson — masculinity wears many hats (and in some cases, a tutu).

Not only were these youth very thankful for the class, but they took great pride in their work. The ear-to-ear smiles on their faces when they saw their daughters wearing the tutus were priceless. ■



Luciano weaves a tutu for his daughter.