

MAY
2011

INSIDE OYA

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An OYA nurse's day is never dull – it's full of health education, support for youth, and surprises

It's a little before 7 o'clock on a Tuesday morning. Nancy Mills is checking the clinic's AED and logging the temperature of the refrigerator where vaccines are stored. By a little after 11 a.m., Mills will have drawn



Registered Nurses Carolyn Timberlake, Nancy Mills, Grace Klewitz and Kari Roper care for youth at Hillcrest YCF.

blood, delivered an injection, administered a med, irrigated ears, and treated a sprained ankle for 13 Hillcrest YCF youth.

"I think we work very hard at providing the best service we can for the youth," said Mills, a registered nurse for 25 years who has been with OYA since February 2008. "We take care of them physically, we're supportive emotionally, and we help them learn and grow and trust. A lot of these boys don't trust." Mills is among 28 nurses across the agency and thousands nationally recognized during National Nurses Week May 6-12.

At the intake site for male youth offenders, Hillcrest's nurses begin their work almost as soon as youth arrive on campus. Mills said most youth offenders come to OYA in fairly good health, although Hillcrest does see youth with debilitating disorders. Nurses also see diabetes and other issues such as deaf youth without hearing aids and undernourished youth who need food supplements. She has seen youth with dog bites, taser burns, and injuries from jumping off a ledge while fleeing police.

Nurses are called to take charge of campus medical emergencies, such as a

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ANNIVERSARIES

The anniversaries listed are for the month of March.

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS

Tino Romero

*Group Life Coordinator
MacLaren YCF*

FIFTEEN YEARS

Daren Blaylock

*Group Life Coordinator
Hillcrest YCF*

Jayson Ellis

*Unit Coordinator
MacLaren YCF*

FIVE YEARS

Bruce McRoberts

*Group Life Coordinator
Hillcrest YCF*

Judi Wick

*Facility Nurse
MacLaren YCF*

Lois Wilder

*Group Life Coordinator
Tillamook YCF*

Director's column



Colette S. Peters

Welcome to the May issue of *Inside OYA*.

With the Legislature still in session, we all are focused on OYA's budget and the questions that

surround it. I will continue to keep you updated as the 2011-13 budget process moves forward.

With that in mind, thank you for staying focused on your jobs and for all the good work you are doing with our youth through programming and other supports designed to aid in their reformation and re-entry.

In this issue you'll read about OYA youth who are participating in local communities by building and donating planters and bird houses for a local fund-raiser (RiverBend), repairing an 1890s fire hose cart for a local museum (also RiverBend), and creating and displaying art (Rogue Valley YCF).

Other youth (at MacLaren) are helping develop a sustainable, curriculum-based gardening project that will involve master gardeners and other community members.

A second garden (at Oak Creek) is being made possible by a \$2,000 Youth in Action grant from the American Leadership Forum of Oregon. Youth at Oak Creek's Three Lakes High School received one of eight grants for which 26 schools and nonprofits applied.

The youth will use their award money to purchase garden seeds, plants and tools, as well as other supplies. They also plan to bring in speakers on nutrition and to hold fitness events.

But even more impressive, one of the other eight Oregon award winners was Hillcrest's Robert S. Farrell High School. Of eight grants awarded, OYA received two! Hillcrest youth will be using their grant award to purchase a fitness training system and develop a fitness program.

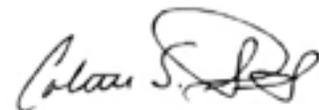
And, although not mentioned in this newsletter, several other OYA facilities also provide opportunities for youth to gain experience in nursery and forest projects – Camp Florence, Camp Tillamook and Tillamook YCF, Hillcrest, North Coast, and RiverBend.

We're also inviting communities to participate in local advisory committees for each of our facilities. Three of those committees are up and running (at Eastern Oregon, North Coast and RiverBend), and plans are under way to create similar committees at all of our facilities.

This community involvement – our youth supporting their communities and our communities supporting OYA – is one of the keys to helping youth successfully re-enter their communities and lead productive, crime-free lives. We couldn't do this without the support of so many Oregonians.

And last, but definitely not least, we rely on our nurses and Health Services staff and contractors to ensure our close-custody youth receive the nutrition and medical care they need to thrive. My thanks to everyone who makes up the Health Services team.

Sincerely,



Colette S. Peters
Director

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youth at Hillcrest's Robert S. Farrell High School who collapsed from low blood sugar. It was an opportunity for Mills to discuss the value of eating regularly. As Mills sees other youth in the clinic on this morning, she delivers mini-lessons about exercises that burn fat (to a youth who was trying to lose weight), sickle cell disease (to an African American youth in the clinic for a routine screening), and exercises a youth could do without straining his sprained ankle.

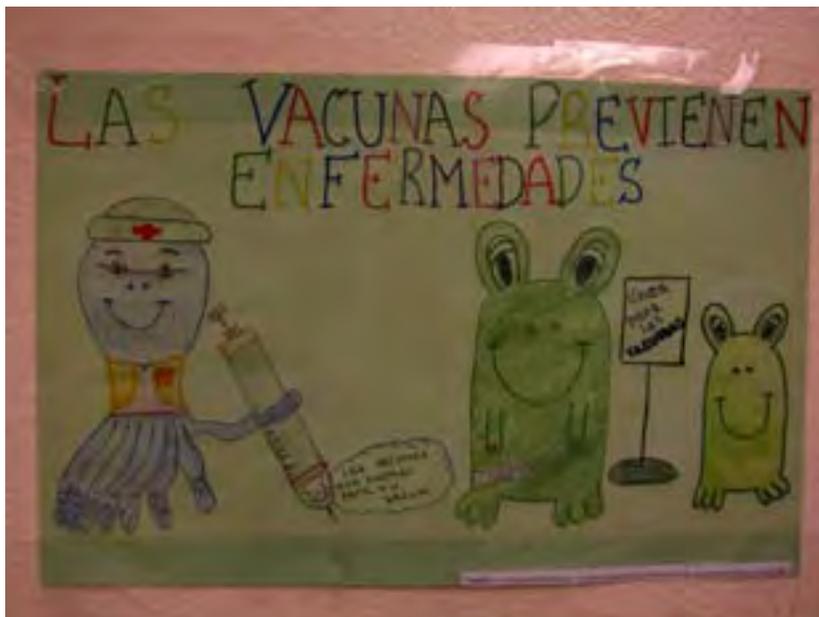
It's a nurse-driven clinic, with Medical Director Marcia Adams, M.D., coming into the clinic three times a week to see patients; a dentist in the clinic two days a week; a part-time mental health nurse practitioner; and other contract providers who visit or who receive youth in their offices in the community.

On this particular morning most youth here to have their blood drawn say they don't like needles even though the procedure is familiar to most of them. "I enjoy interacting with the youth, and hope I can say something to them that might make a difference in their lives," Mills said. "They're overall very respectful of us, and I appreciate it." The clinic is open seven days a week, including evenings.

Twice a month nurses assist two volunteer dermatologists who do laser removal of gang tattoos, which in some instances requires as many as 10 or 11 visits. "If they're homemade tattoos, they come off pretty easily," she said. "Any red inks won't come off with standard laser treatment."

Among other duties of OYA nurses are calling parents (to alert them to a medical issue or to ask about private insurance); writing transport orders (for youth to visit medical specialists in the community), taking medical histories, keeping charts updated, scheduling appointments, and doing other medical paperwork; attending some youths' MDT meetings; giving vision and hearing tests; counseling patients; administering vaccinations; and educating youth and staff during flu season. They routinely lock doors and count needles, scissors, and other sharp objects.

Every nurse has a story about how she or he got into the profession. Mills said she had worked as a banker for seven years when she experienced a difficult birth with a first child. A nurse stayed with her throughout. "I was so impressed. I said, 'That's what I want to do.'" ■



A youth-created Spanish-language sign talks about the benefits of vaccinations.

NEW HIRES

CENTRAL OFFICE
Sean Banks

CAMP TILLAMOOK
Jacob Howitt

COOS PAROLE AND PROBATION
John Walton

EASTERN YCF
Maria Zitelli

HILLCREST YCF
Dean Anchez
Anthony Smith
Nicholas Tyree

MACLAREN YCF
Mike Howard
William Misi
John Tallmon
Jeremy Weldon

TILLAMOOK YCF
Lehu Caldwell
Sander Johaness
William
McEldowney
Karol Rhodes
Latonia Teter

STAFF RECOGNITION

HILLCREST
Carolyn Timberlake
Bill Wenger
Staff of the Month

MACLAREN
Izzy Salinas
Employee of the Month

STAFF CHANGES

DEPARTURES

Shannon Ely

Central Office HR

Kevin Gibson

Coos County PP

Lisa Hinman

Central Office HR

Robert Rivera

Rogue Valley YCF

Erica Sandstrom

Rogue Valley YCF

Amy Tatum

Eastern Oregon YCF

Horticulture pilot at MYCF, Oak Creek a first for OYA

Do you want to know the best time to plant peas? Or how to set up a drip-irrigation system? Or where to find a recipe that gets people to eat their veggies? Soon you may be able to get answers from youth at MaLaren and Oak Creek YCFs.

The two facilities are engaged in OYA's new horticulture pilot that Education Coordinator Frank Martin says will be the agency's first sustainable, curriculum-based gardening project.

The goal is to give youth the benefits of gardening – academic credit, therapy, a work ethic, and skills they can take with them into the community.

OYA Medical Director Marcia Adams, M.D., applauds the pilot. "I think youth are more likely to eat vegetables when they actually grow and harvest them themselves," she said, "and you cannot beat the nutritional value of fresh vegetables."

She said youth who are overweight or obese are encouraged to eat smaller portions to lose weight, and exercise and healthy eating habits – including lots of fruits and vegetables – are encouraged for all close-custody youth.

To learn how to get started, OYA representatives visited gardens at the Oregon School for the Deaf in Salem and Terra Nova High School in Beaverton, which grants math, language arts, science and other academic credit through its horticulture program. OYA also will review curricula from other juvenile corrections agencies that support youth-managed gardens.

Oak Creek has a greenhouse it obtained from Camp Florence, where it no longer was being used. Oak Creek's horticulture project overlaps with its Health-tastic group, which received a \$2,000 grant to promote nutrition (see page 6).

MaLaren youth are building and installing wooden raised beds to start its garden, which GLC2 Dan Ferguson said will expand to a larger space on the campus's east side.

These and other OYA facilities have had horticulture programs, Martin said, but not on this scale. Other OYA facilities with garden, greenhouse, nursery, or forestry projects are Camp Florence, Camp Tillamook, Hillcrest, North Coast, and RiverBend.

Martin said youth will learn about soil management, irrigation systems, crop fertilization and rotation, and equipment operations in a state with robust agricultural and nursery industries. Oak Creek Program Director Fabian Casarez said master gardeners and others from the community may be invited



Raised beds mark the start of MaLaren's planned garden space.

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to speak to youth. It also may be possible to donate produce to local food banks, Martin said.

"It's a learning tool and something youth can do when they leave here," Ferguson said.

OYA has received technical assistance from the Youth Conservation Corps, Department of Education, Bureau of Labor and Industries, and others. OYA also received an estimated \$500 worth of seeds from Terra Nova High School. ■



Donated seeds will go to good use in OYA's pilot gardening project.

Correctional facilities 'gave me structure I use today'

Jamie Freeman called from the road the other day to ask how to obtain a copy of his GED certificate, which he remembers earning at MacLaren YCF in the 1980s. He also said he wanted to write a letter to someone about his experience there. "MacLaren saved my life," he said.

Freeman, 39, now lives in Nashville, has a wife and 13-year-old son, and is on the road five days a week driving GM auto parts from Ohio to Texas.

Growing up in Lane County, Freeman remembers, he had almost no parental direction. He said he benefited from his time at MacLaren, Hillcrest, Camp Florence, and Camp Tillamook. (JJIS confirms he was in and out of these facilities for several years ending in 1990.) "In all those places I always felt secure," he said. "They gave me structure. We made our beds, we brushed our teeth, we ate meals at a certain time, they gave us church and school. The structure we had in there I use today."

At MacLaren he got experience doing maintenance work and painting, and then held landscaping, maintenance, painting, and drywall jobs until going to truck-driving school five years ago. He remembers when MacLaren's chaplain invited him to come to church and encouraged him to earn his GED. "Now my wife and son and I are heavily involved in church," he said. He said he pays attention to how their son is doing in school and who his friends are.

"The staff who work there," he said of OYA facilities, "may not understand what kind of help they're giving these kids. But in the long run we look back and we realize you guys impacted our lives greatly." ■

Jamie Freeman



FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION

Linn County foster parents Donna and Arnold Brubaker were honored in April at the annual conference of the Oregon Adolescent Sex Offender Treatment Network.

As a surprise, the Brubakers' OYA and Linn County partners were on hand to congratulate them.



The Brubakers

YOUTH MAKE ANTIQUE WHEELS LIKE NEW FOR LOCAL MUSEUM

When Superintendent Brian Blisard got the call asking if RiverBend could help the Union County Museum with a project, he had visions of youth pulling weeds.

But the project turned out to be interesting enough that it was featured last month in *The La Grande Observer*.

Youth sanded, primed and painted the wheels of the museum's 1890s-era fire hose cart. Museum curator Blanche Kohler said the wheels, which she described as having been pocked and weathered, now shine like a new car's finish.

When she picked up the wheels, Kohler said, she told the youth about the history of the fire hose cart, which in its day was pulled by six firemen. The cart is on display at the volunteer-operated Union County Museum, which reopened Mother's Day.

Songwriter brings talent and heart to NCYCF concert

North Coast YCF youth recently took up maracas and a rain tube to join songwriter and composer Lulu LaFever in concert at the facility. "They exhibited a great deal of joy and enthusiasm in not only listening to the creative performance, but in being allowed to participate in its production," said Bruce Dustin, a Warrenton High School teacher who attended the concert.

LaFever has visited North Coast for several years. "She is a Grammy Member with incredible talent and a heart for troubled youth," said Robbie Porter, South Jetty High School Director of Education.

"The youth were captivated by her personal experiences, her stories, and her music," Porter said. ■

Hillcrest, Oak Creek youth win healthy-living grants

Youth fitness and freshly grown foods were at the heart of project ideas that earned Youth in Action grants for Hillcrest and Oak Creek YCFs from the American Leadership Forum of Oregon.

The contest was a project of the Forum's annual leadership group, of which OYA Deputy Director Fari-borz Pakseresht is a member, and was modeled on First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative.

"We wanted youth to come up with the ideas that could be put into action," Pakseresht said. The eight corporate-funded awards attracted youth applications from 26 schools

and nonprofits such as Boys and Girls Club and YMCA.

Youth at Hillcrest's Robert S. Farrell High School are using its \$1,767 award to purchase a fitness training system that allows the user to work on strength, balance, flexibility, and core strength. It was purchased from Exercise Equipment Northwest of Salem, which provides used athletic equipment to Hillcrest and will make an in-kind contribution with the purchase.

"The more active the guys can be, the better," said Rod Martin, who works with the youth group with fellow recreational staff member Mike Powers. "It benefits attitude, and increases social skills and sportsmanship as they work together and encourage each other."

At Oak Creek, Three Lakes High School youth who call themselves the Healthtastic group – they elected officers, and approved bylaws and a mission statement – proposed growing a garden and encouraging cooking classes, fitness events, and nutritional speakers.



Seedlings are readied for planting at Oak Creek YCF.

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“We want to grow some of our own fresh vegetables and learn how to cook them so they appeal to people our age,” they wrote in their application. “We believe that we will feel better emotionally if our bodies are in better shape.”

They are using the \$2,000 award to purchase garden seeds, plants, and tools; cooking and nutritional supplies; and recreation and PE supplies.

Unit Coordinator Drew Reynolds said Oak Creek youth benefited from

learning how to work cooperatively, put their collective thoughts in writing, and work more professionally with staff, cooks, and administration.

“Their input is being heard and that is a really good message for kids,” he said.

Because OYA youth could not attend a May 4 awards ceremony at the State Capitol, Pakseresht said, an effort is being made to have awards presented to youth at the two facilities. ■

Tribal liaison ensures OYA keeps promises to tribes



Jack Lawson, OYA Tribal Liaison

Staring from the walls of Jack Lawson’s cubicle are two portraits of Native Americans by renowned American West photographer Edward Curtis. They speak to who Lawson is – he’s affiliated with Oklahoma’s Creek nation – and what he does.

As OYA Tribal Liaison, Lawson’s job is to support Native American youth by helping the agency better collaborate and keep its agreements with Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes.

Lawson is part of the Office of Minority Services, believed to be the only such office in any state juvenile corrections agency.

Lawson joined OYA in 1998 at a time of heightened concern about Native American youth. An ACCBO-certified drug and alcohol counselor, he brought experience working with adult corrections, the state hospital and other organizations. He has negotiated memoranda of understanding with seven of Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes, which include terms such as a promise to notify tribes when their youth come into contact with the juvenile justice system. OYA interacts with the other two tribes as if MOUs existed.

He will attend a Native American youth’s MDT meeting if a tribal representative cannot. He fields calls from JPPOs seeking information and referrals for Native American youth. He hears from facilities with questions about how a youth can connect with his tribe. He leads trainings.

He finds volunteers to lead sweats at several facilities, and occasionally leads sweats himself. “It gets youth connected to something bigger than themselves, it helps them heal emotionally and spiritually, and it develops a sense of community,” he said of sweats. “I really believe youth who participate in these experiences have a lower incidence of negative behaviors.”

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OYA ISSUE BRIEFS NOW AVAILABLE ON WEB AND OYA NET

Seventeen OYA issue briefs on subjects ranging from education and treatment services to recidivism and successful re-entry have been posted on OYA Net and on the agency’s public Web site.

Other subjects the issue briefs describe include controlling facility costs, ensuring agency effectiveness and efficiency, food and nutrition services, foster care, health services, how youth move through the system, matching youth with needed services, meeting youth mental health needs, multicultural services, positive youth development, protecting youth from sexual victimization, and using data to support juvenile justice services.

To find the issue briefs on OYA Net go to the Communications site (under Divisions, Director’s Office) and find OYA Issue Briefs under Recent Documents. On the Web site, you can find issue briefs by clicking on OYA News.

CORRECTIONS TODAY FEATURES ARTICLE ON PYO

Corrections Today has published an article about positive youth outcomes by Director Colette S. Peters and OYA Research Analyst Shannon Myrick, Ph.D.

The article, which outlines the work CJCA is doing to develop performance measures beyond recidivism, describes the circumstances of two youth offenders after their release from close custody for person-to-person felonies.

One youth, who had positive community connections, got help finding housing, obtaining part-time work, and enrolling in college. The second youth is unemployed and homeless. Yet based on the standard of recidivism, both are successes because they are crime-free.

The article discusses whether outcomes can be better measured through methods other than just tracking recidivism.

The full article is available online at <http://www.aca.org/publications/ctmagazine.asp>.

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He manages the OMS training schedule and treatment services, and compiles the annually required government-to-government report describing OYA-tribal interactions during the year. As a member of OYA's curriculum review committee he created a tool to evaluate whether curricula can be used successfully across diverse cultures. He wants to gather data to see if evidence supports his experience suggesting the value of sweats and other Native American cultural practices.

"All of this happens in the context of all that OYA does," he said of OMS services. "We make sure our services are cohesive with the agency so we are not an effort unto ourselves."

He's now trying to enlist Native American foster parents for OYA, and he's working with field staff to determine how the Street SMARTS curriculum – already reaching facility youth – might support OYA youth in the community.

"I tell the tribes, you need to be making relationships with your local juvenile department, and vice versa – juvenile departments need to be making relationships with the tribes," he added. "It's about staying connected with them." ■

Advisory committees being named for YCFs, camps

Superintendents and camp directors are forming community advisory committees for OYA's 11 YCFs and transitional facilities. The advisory committees are intended to create two-way communication between facilities and the communities in which they operate.

Karen Daniels, Assistant Director for Facility Services, said she expects advisory groups to include family members, local law enforcement officers, and criminal justice representatives, but otherwise superintendents and camp directors have discretion about whom they invite to join.

Advisory committees already formed at Eastern Oregon, North Coast, and RiverBend also include members such as volunteers, city officials, private business owners, and district attorneys, as well as representatives of social services agencies, juvenile departments, tribes, parks, and school districts.

Daniels said she had good results with advisory committees when she managed facilities in other states.

In downtown Phoenix, Ariz., she managed an adult correctional facility that had to relocate because of freeway construction. There was stiff resistance to having the facility remain downtown, she said, but after advisory committee members were educated about issues such as treatment, work programs, and public safety, the facility was able to move a block away and more than double its size. "I couldn't have done it without that community advisory council," she said.

She acknowledged superintendents and camp directors already know many people in their communities. She said the advisory committees will formalize these relationships and give community partners a forum where they can learn about OYA facilities and share their ideas, concerns, and questions. ■

Pupils decorate RiverBend birdhouses for fund-raiser

Sometimes OYA youths' community service occurs in unexpected ways.

When the PTA at La Grande's Central Elementary School holds its first art walk May 19, it will sell birdhouses and planters made by RiverBend youth. After receiving the unfinished items from RiverBend, the school's younger students painted and decorated them.

The birdhouses and planters will be among student-crafted art pieces in the PTA fundraiser being held in conjunction with La Grande's monthly third-Thursday art walk. "When you're doing a fundraiser it's just awesome to get a donation with 100 percent profit," said Heidi Halsey, the PTA's art walk coordinator.

She said she called Superintendent Brian Blisard because she knew RiverBend contributed to the La Grande-area community, plus the fact that she had met someone with a RiverBend connection who occasionally visits the office where she works. When she called RiverBend, Blisard told her he already had youth-made birdhouses and planters ready.

To get an idea of what the RiverBend contribution will support, past PTA projects helped bring in an artist in residence, install a \$40,000 playground, and purchase classroom items the school district cannot afford to provide.

Halsey is optimistic about brisk sales. "They had so much fun," she said of students who painted the birdhouses and planters. "They were asking, 'Do we get to keep them?'" "I think we'll have lots of shoppers." ■



Birdhouses built by OYA youth and painted by local elementary school students await their new owners.

YOUTH ART ON DISPLAY IN JUNE

A number of Rogue Valley YCF youth artists will have their art displayed during June in the 6th Street Coffee & Deli in downtown Grants Pass. The show will begin during the First Friday Art Night June 3 and continue through the month.

Rogue Valley youth are in their third three-month term of evening art classes with professional artist Ashley Rapple-yea, who holds an undergraduate degree in art education, is a substitute teacher in the public schools, and works as a freelance artist and photographer.

She said she decided to volunteer at Rogue Valley after enjoying teaching summer school there last year. She has had youth draw portraits, draw an inspiring element from their lives, and draw using the theme "coming home."

Up to 12 youth are enrolled in each class.

Author Josh McDowell visits Tillamook youth

"I was very fortunate I didn't come to a place like this," Christian motivational speaker Josh McDowell told nearly 30 youth at Tillamook YCF and Camp Tillamook.

McDowell said he wanted his drunken dad dead because he beat his mother and that he threatened to kill a man who for seven years sexually abused him. He talked about eventually bringing his father to Christianity and sobriety, and also forgiving the man who abused him.

"When you don't forgive someone else," McDowell said during his April 26 visit, "they don't pay the price – you do." He said he decided as a teenager not to view himself as a victim. "Your attitudes are your choices, guys," he said. "I don't care what's been done to you, it's your choice." McDowell spoke during an Oregon visit that also included speeches in Astoria, Seaside, and Tillamook.

One youth said he wanted to write a memoir and asked McDowell, who has written scores of books, if he had any advice. "Yes, every day keep a journal, write down every thought you have about your life, every joy, every hurt, every question, every answer. You may have a digital mind but no memory card. If you don't write it down, you'll forget it."

McDowell, who said he was in his 50th year speaking to youth, was invited to the Tillamook facilities by GLC Gary Westoby, a board member of Tillamook County Men for Christ (TCMFC). He said Camp Tillamook youth have weekly opportunities to attend church and a TCMFC breakfast. ■



Visiting author Josh McDowell speaks to youth at Tillamook.

INSIDE OYA

Colette S. Peters
Director

Fariborz Pakseresht
Deputy Director

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

