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Jane Goodall delivers motivational “you matter” message during visit with youth at Oak Creek

Oak Creek YCF youth enjoyed a rare opportunity last month to hear anthropologist Dr. Jane Goodall talk about her renowned chimpanzee research. Goodall visited Oak Creek after Three Lakes High School teacher Ben Sharvy, having learned Goodall was scheduled to speak in Salem, e-mailed her an invitation.

Goodall – soft-spoken, gracious, speaking, and answering questions for more than an hour – told youth about waiting tables to earn enough money to go to Africa at age 23. She said she began her famous study of chimpanzees at the suggestion of archeologist Louis Leakey, learning “they’re more like us than anything else on the planet.”

She told Oak Creek youth that chimpanzees kiss, embrace, hold hands, shake fists, swagger, and throw rocks: “They do these things like we do and in the same context.”

She encouraged involvement in her youth program, Roots & Shoots, and said she accepted the Oak Creek invitation because “this is the greatest hope we have for the future – the young people.” Two youth gave Goodall a tour of the facility, and youth gave her a packet of letters and notes of appreciation after her presentation.

“Every single one of us makes a difference every day,” she told Oak Creek Youth. “We all matter, we’re all here for a reason.”



Internationally known anthropologist Dr. Jane Goodall spoke with youth last month at Oak Creek YCF.

See Goodall visits Oak Creek, page 6

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.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

SERVICE AWARDS

The anniversaries listed are for August.

35 YEARS

Joe Bowling
Hillcrest YCF

Susan Nanson
MaLaren YCF

30 YEARS

Gary Freshour
Camp Florence YTF

20 YEARS

Janie Richards
Multnomah PPO

Advisory members' faithful service recognized

The Office of Minority Services has given youth-made awards to faithful members of OYA's African American Advisory Committee, which OMS Manager Lonnie Jackson said has met monthly for several years. Members meet with and speak to youth, and advise OMS on policy and program.

"It means so much for youth to have someone who comes to visit them just because they care," said Deputy Director Fariborz Pakseresht. Director Colette S. Peters said she knew the group was special the first time she met with them two years ago: "The passion and heart you have is really obvious." ■



Pictured with Director Colette S. Peters are, from left, Dr. Larry Griggs of Corvallis, Pastor Robert Richardson of Portland, and James Davis of Salem. Not pictured: Dr. Vernon Baker of Portland, Earlean Wilson-Huey of Albany, and Sheryl A. Thomas of Salem.

Lane office moves to more convenient location

The Oregon Youth Authority's probation and parole office has moved to downtown Eugene. The new address is:

Suite 180
115 W. Eighth Avenue
Eugene, Oregon 97401

"This increases accessibility for youth and families by putting the office in Eugene's downtown core, two blocks from the Lane Transit District bus station," said Debbi Martin, supervisor in the Lane County office. For the past 10 years the office has been housed with the county's Department of Youth Services near Autzen Stadium.

The new phone number at OYA's Lane County office is 541-684-2613. The new fax number is 541-684-2611. The office has a staff of seven juvenile probation and parole officers, one probation and parole assistant, a foster care certifier, and support staff. ■

Robyn Jacobson returns to OYA as a supervisor



Robyn Jacobson

Robyn Jacobson, a juvenile corrections professional with nearly 20 years' experience as a supervisor and line worker, has returned to OYA as Field Supervisor for Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties. As field supervisor she succeeds John Walton, who retired.

Jacobson worked as a treatment manager at North Coast YCF from 1997 until it closed temporarily in 2003, when she became director of the Baker County Juvenile Department. For the past five years she was a self-reliance supervisor for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, supervising 19 employees in the Caldwell and Payette offices that manage Medicaid, food stamps, and cash assistance programs.

Jacobson began her corrections career in 1992 as an intern with Benton County Community Corrections, and also worked three years as a counselor for the Clatsop County Juvenile Department. She grew up in Coquille, is a graduate of Coquille High School, and holds an undergraduate degree in sociology from Oregon State University. ■

Three employees at MacLaren, North Coast earn certifications as AOD counselors

Three more OYA staff members have passed the ACCBO exam to become state-certified alcohol and drug counselors.

The three newly certified CADC1s are:

- Christy Hess, a GLC at MacLaren YCF;
- Marty Tolmich, a GLC at MacLaren YCF; and
- Jonathan Wyatt, a GLC at North Coast YCF.

Seventeen of the 20 original students in the 2010 OYA class to prepare employees to become CADC1s have completed requirements for the certification. Including previously certified employees, Hillcrest has 11 ACCBO-certified staff members, and North Coast and MacLaren have eight each.

Lee Lederer, OYA Treatment Services Coordinator, said Hess, Tolmich, and Wyatt put in extra effort to pass the exam. Hess, who had been laid off, continued to study and seek out tutoring on her own time. Tolmich, who was on leave after being assaulted by a youth, studied on his own time after returning to MacLaren. Wyatt was clinically supervised by his father, North Coast QMHP Andy Wyatt, who has earned his Master of Addictions certification and the Nationally Approved Clinical Supervisor certification.

Staff have to do personal study and complete 1,000 hours of clinical supervision before sitting for the ACCBO test. ■

SERVICE AWARDS, *cont.*

The anniversaries listed are for August.

10 YEARS

Adam Bergin
MacLaren YCF

Paul Burger
Central Office

Yancey Day
North Coast YCF

Dennis King
Hillcrest YCF

Jorge Pelinski
MacLaren YCF

Jason Sinniger
Lane PPO

Alan Walker
Training Academy

MACLAREN EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Jorge Pelinski

RIVERBEND EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Rick Snyder

DEPARTURES

Carol Ballweg
Tillamook YCF

Jim Ciaramitaro
Training Academy

Clifford Hassel
Central Office

Mark Hunt
Central Office

Latonia Teter
Tillamook YCF

ARRIVALS

Sander Choffat
Tillamook YCF

Jennifer Peterson
Oak Creek YCF

Samuel Walker
MacLaren YCF

Julian Wallace
MacLaren YCF

Foster care certifier elected to Tangent council

OYA Foster Care Certifier Colynn Elder has been elected to the Tangent City Council, bringing to at least two the number of OYA employees who are council members in their communities.

Elder was elected Sept. 20 to the five-member council after being urged to run by her neighbors and receiving a call from Mayor Seaton McLennan.

She is serving the balance of an unexpired term and, if she decides to seek re-election, would run again in November 2012. Elder has been an OYA employee for 14 years, and foster care certifier for Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties since February 2002.

Also serving as a city leader is RiverBend Treatment Manager Gary Lillard, now in his third term on the La Grande City Council. ■



Colynn Elder

New visitor policy builds on MacLaren pilot

OYA's new policy for visitors is a result of a successful year-long pilot at MacLaren YCF. It also builds on the agency's Facility Access form (YA 4007) requiring visitors to acknowledge their understanding of OYA's contraband policy, which became effective in March.

The new visitor policy requires visitors ages 13 and older to show valid photo ID; visitors 18 and older to have completed a LEADS check; and visitors ages 12-24 to have completed a JJIS check. Visitors must turn in the new visiting forms to the facility by Dec. 1.

"We're not using the LEADS check as a sole reason to deny someone access," said Chris Duval, Operations Policy Analyst in Facility Services. "It's just one more piece of information. All of this is to ensure we have safe environments, that no one with active warrants enters a facility." During MacLaren's pilot, she said, very few individuals were temporarily denied visiting privileges.

Duval said OYA scheduled the new policy to take effect after Thanksgiving and far enough in advance of Christmas to permit visitors to complete the checks without missing any of the special holiday visits.

Duval said the visitor policy aligns with that of DOC and other corrections agencies that require criminal background checks. "OYA supports visitors because they're very beneficial to the youth's reformation



MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility administration building

plan," she said. "We encourage visits from family, pastors, and mentors who are there for the youth now and will be there in the future." ■

Jan Verser named OYA's interim Nurse Manager

Jan Verser, R.N., who joined Hillcrest YCF's nursing staff in 1983, is OYA's Interim Nurse Manager. In that role she supervises 13 health care staff members and the supervising nurses at Hillcrest and MacLaren YCFs.



Jan Verser

Verser joined Hillcrest's nursing staff when the facility was operated by the DHS Children's Services Division, became acting nursing supervisor there in 1988, and was appointed nursing supervisor in 1989.

She retired in 2003, after which she worked on contract as a nurse consultant doing special projects for OYA. She will serve as Interim Nurse Manager until a permanent replacement is recruited. In that role, Verser succeeds Teresa Hanon, R.N., who came to OYA from DOC and elected to return to the adult corrections agency. ■

Oak Creek staff address national conference

Two OYA facilities – Oak Creek and Rogue Valley YCFs – are engaged in a six-state Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports research project financed by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. The two Oregon facilities are testing the effectiveness of using PBIS principles in a juvenile corrections setting.

As a result, two Oak Creek staff members – Program Director Alicia Buettner and YCUC Jeff Tegner – joined the University of Oregon's Jeffrey Sprague, Ph.D., in making a presentation to the Oct. 27-28 National PBIS Leadership Forum in Illinois. Sprague is Co-Director of the UO's Institute on Violence and Destructive Behavior, which is conducting the research project.

The project involving Oak Creek and Rogue Valley is the first to receive development support from the federal education department, Sprague said. "Oak Creek is an 'early adopter' facility and served as the model for our presentation on the features and outcomes of this research and implementation project." Research is designed to assess PBIS's adaptability to and effectiveness in secure facilities.

Sprague said juvenile corrections staff members and teachers attending the conference were given "strategies, techniques, and tools for intervening at both universal and selective group levels, and for identifying and supporting youth needing more targeted, intensive, and individualized services."

Buettner said she and Tegner talked about "how Oak Creek is intervening with youth behaviors to get positive changes in behavior, the obstacles we face, and changes we have made in our level system as a result of staff feedback and continued learning through DBT and PBIS." Tegner, who coordinated the effort at Oak Creek, said a core group involving QMHPs, line staff, and managers built Oak Creek's program.

Other states involved in the research project are California, Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, and Texas. ■

Goodall visits Oak Creek

Continued from page 1



Two Oak Creek youth greeted Goodall, told her about the Oak Creek facility, and led a tour.

of human intellect. But she said humans aren't so smart about preserving their planet. "How come we are destroying our only home?" she asked rhetorically. She said indigenous peoples ask how their actions will affect future generations, but we look at how our actions will affect us, our jobs, or stock prices. "It's all about me-me-me and all about money and not about the future," she said.

Youth came to Goodall's presentation with lots of questions, ranging from whether the extinction of one species sets off a chain reaction to whether she learned to understand chimpanzee language.

"They were great questions," Goodall said afterward. "They were very sharp and that says a lot about the education in this facility." ■



Goodall greeted Rusty, Oak Creek's rescue dog and mascot, saying Rusty also was the name of her first dog.

Now on the road 300 days a year, Goodall had naturalist instincts early. As a girl, she said, she read Tarzan books and hid in the henhouse to learn how chickens laid eggs. She initially went to Africa with no college education, and enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Cambridge after Leakey said she would need a degree to get financial support for her research.

She said the biggest difference between chimpanzees and humans is the development



Three Lakes High School teacher Ben Sharvy extended the e-mail invitation after learning Goodall was scheduled to visit and speak in Oregon.

Goodall spent more than an hour talking with youth and answering their questions.



Hillcrest youth among “peacemaker” honorees

Hillcrest YCF youth who contributed art to the new Salem Peace Mosaic were among 600-plus community volunteers honored last month during the 22nd annual Salem Peace Lecture at Willamette University. It was the first time a project was a Peacemaker award recipient; past honorees were individuals and the United Nations on its 50th anniversary.

Hillcrest youth wrote essays on subjects such as what peace meant to them, and worked with mosaic artist Lynn Takata on three-dimensional likenesses of panda, leopard, elephant, dove, and big-horned sheep heads, and of a snake wrapped around a tree branch (*Inside OYA*, August 2011). ■

The 40-foot mosaic is located on the south exterior wall of the Salem Family YMCA, located at 685 Court St. N.E.



Hillcrest pow-wow features drummers, singers



A Veterans Color Guard added both a colorful and somber touch to Hillcrest YCF's annual pow-wow, organized by the Native American Rehabilitation Association, and featuring drummers and singers.

A Veterans Color Guard led drummers and singers onto the green for Hillcrest YCF's Oct. 8 pow-wow, after which they posted the U.S., Oregon, traditional Native American, and MIA flags. The Native American Rehabilitation Association provided the drummers and singers; NARA Cultural Director Philip Archambault served as emcee. Featuring traditional pow-wow foods, the event was coordinated by Multicultural Services Coordinator Griselda Solano with assistance from Contractor Dusty McKay, Tribal Liaison Jack Lawson, and support from Hillcrest's administration and staff. ■

INSIDE OYA

Colette S. Peters
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Send your stories for the December issue by Nov. 30. Articles received after that date will be held for the January newsletter.



Cabinetry introduced at Newbridge High

Youth at Rogue Valley YCF are gaining a new vocational opportunity – cabinet-making.

The facility's Newbridge High School introduced the class this fall in response to a desire to offer more school-to-work opportunities for the larger numbers of older (VESOY) youth it is serving as a result of OYA's realignment.

Instructor Warren Helgeson said the school already has both computer numeral control machines and traditional wood-working tools, making it possible to add the class at little additional expense. After studying cabinetmaking as an undergraduate, he used his skills avocationally, making cabinets in the summer early in his teaching career. Helgeson currently is brushing up on new cabinet construction techniques, materials, and hinge systems, and recently took a class in artistic concrete countertops.

"Youth will learn construction techniques that could lead them to the building trades," Helgeson said. "If you can do cabinet-making you also have the transferrable skills to do a variety of building trades such as framing, roofing, and finish trimming." In addition, skills learned in the class would be transferrable to other trades such as metal-working and manufacturing.

Ten to 12 youth enroll in the class. The school is in the process of identifying proficiencies so it can grant certificates telling employers what skills youth have mastered.

Long-term youth who develop high-level cabinet-making skills can be journeymen-like workers mentoring youth newer to the class, Helgeson said. "That helps develop teamwork, cooperation, communication skills, and problem-solving – some of the soft skills employers are looking for." ■



Rogue Valley YCF youth are practicing their newly learned skills by building such items as cabinets and monitor risers for the facility. Instructor Warren Helgeson says skills youth learn are transferrable to other potential employment in the building trades.