

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

ACCOUNTABILITY

RESPECT

SUMMER  
2013

# INSIDE OYA

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## OYA foster youth overcome adversity to graduate

Three youth living with foster families under the supervision of OYA graduated June 2 from Baker High School in Baker City. Their stories were written up in the June 7 edition of the *Baker City Herald* newspaper.

Tyson Walton entered the OYA system at age 14. He is an honor student and varsity athlete

(football, wrestling and track), and plans to attend Eastern Oregon University.

Dan Stinson has been in state custody since childhood, but overcame past struggles to earn membership in the National Honor Society and play varsity athletics (football and baseball). He will attend the University of Oregon this fall, having already earned 18 college credits while in high school.

Stephen Spenst has been in OYA care for the past four years and has excelled at varsity athletics, including wrestling and track. He plans to attend a local community college.

Baker High School Principal Jerry Peacock praised the three young men for "overcoming much adversity in their lives to achieve success and the promise of a bright future. I am incredibly proud of them."

"This is a wonderful example of the positive outcomes that can happen with the support of our dedicated foster parents and local communities," said Erin Fultz, OYA Community Resources manager. ■



From left to right, Tyson Walton, Baker High School Principal Jerry Peacock, Dan Stinson, and Stephen Spenst celebrate graduation day.

This masthead photo was taken by Ann Snyder. 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](mailto:oya.communications@oya.state.or.us).

## SERVICE AWARDS

The service awards listed are for April, May and June 2013.

### 35 YEARS

Janice Blanshan  
Information Services

Alberto Rodriguez  
Marion PPO

### 25 YEARS

William Bowers  
Josephine PPO

Linda Gesler  
Facility Services

Ken Jerin  
Rogue Valley YCF

Vincent Vogt  
Hillcrest YCF

### 20 YEARS

Earline Bottelson  
North Coast YCF

Tina Egler  
Hillcrest YCF

Danny Hernandez  
Marion PPO

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# Oak Creek youth put the 'green' in greenhouse

With Oregon's growing season under way, Oak Creek YCF youth are ready with a "green greenhouse" supported by a 600-watt wind turbine and solar panels. Not only that, but youth have built raised beds complete with timer-controlled underground sprinkling systems.

"The girls have had their hands in everything we've done here," said GLC Doug Charles, who is the facility's Career Technical Education coordinator. That includes putting together a 40- by 30-foot greenhouse that came from Camp Florence, installing the wind turbine, and planning to add the solar panels. They also built stairs and a flagstone patio at the greenhouse's entrance.

Charles, who knows something about the work from his former career as a general contractor, said the girls' efforts also received the assistance of Hillcrest maintenance staff members Sean Finley (electrical) and Jeff Sturgis (plumbing). Charles did painting, and Oak Creek's Angela Tehson also assisted with the project.

"I can say, 'Wow, I did that.' It feels good," said Vanessa M., one of three girls working on the project. She said she learned not only construction skills, but also people skills: "Working together is a big one. Even if we don't get along on the unit, we get along doing work."

They've grown tomatoes, peppers, sunflowers, lettuce, and other produce, as well as lupine and two varieties of mallow to support Oregon State University's work with the Fender's blue butterfly.

The next project is a second shed, which Charles said will include how to build trusses. They also will add a weather station Charles hopes Three Lakes High School will incorporate into its science education. He said he also wants to expand work opportunities in the community.

Three Lakes High School Principal Kevin Hunking said Charles also was trained to do flagger certification, and that so far nine youth have been certified to work as flaggers in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. "Doug knows what he's doing, he holds them to a high expectation, and I think they're really excelling at that," he said.

"It made me feel my time there wasn't dead time, I was doing something," said Hailey P., who is now on parole. "This was the real group for me, the real treatment." ■



Vanessa M. (left) and Hailey P. tend plants in the greenhouse at Oak Creek YCF.

# OYA youth take top honors in national contest

An 18-year-old girl at Oak Creek YCF finished first in a national poetry contest, with poems by three other youth in the agency's care tying for third place. Their achievements were covered in the June 9 edition of the *Eugene Register-Guard* newspaper.

Brianna Nicole Ireland's poem, "Hell's Angel," took top honors at Words Unlocked, a competition sponsored by the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings (CEEAS). The contest for incarcerated youth drew more than 1,000 entries from more than 40 schools based in juvenile correctional facilities nationwide.

Poems by three other OYA youth tied for third place: "As the Grass Grows" by Stephen Jerome Fowler, 21, who resides at MacLaren YCF; "Tell Me About Me" by Angela Denise Miller, 19, at Oak Creek; and "Split Personality" by Angel Whisper, 19, also at Oak Creek.

"The outcome of this competition proves what we already know about many of our kids: That their creativity, imagination and drive are not diminished because they are incarcerated," said OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht. "It also proves that we have some of the best educational programs among juvenile justice agencies in the country, staffed by some of the most dedi-

cated and resourceful instructors and principals who teach and mentor at-risk youth. On behalf of everyone at OYA, I congratulate Brianna, Stephen, Angela, Angel and the other youth who submitted poems. They are all winners."

"We have been overwhelmed both by the number students who submitted poems and the quality and honesty of their works," said David Domenici, CEEAS executive director. "We are proud of the students in OYA facilities who participated in the initiative, and we deeply appreciate the support that the adults — teachers, principals, and OYA leadership — showed by encouraging the students to participate and express themselves."

CEEA will award Ireland \$100 and present \$25 to each of the third place finishers. All four youth will receive a Words Unlocked poetry anthology and a signed copy of *A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival, and Coming of Age in Prison* by Dwayne Betts.

The four winning poems are reprinted on pages 7, 8 and 9 of this issue of *Inside OYA*. ■



*From left to right, Angel Whisper, Brianna Nicole Ireland, and Angela Miller are three of the four OYA youth who received top honors in a national poetry contest.*



*Stephen Fowler, also a national award winner, gives a poetry reading at MacLaren.*

## 15 YEARS

Lawrence Bergerson  
North Coast YCF

Chad Bradach  
Eastern Oregon YCF

Anthony Enriquez  
MacLaren YCF

Carol Gillespie  
Community Services

Tyron Glazier  
Hillcrest YCF

Candy Green  
North Coast YCF

Kristofer Heckenberg  
North Coast YCF

John Hernandez  
Hillcrest YCF

John King  
Tillamook YCF

Benjamin Moul  
Hillcrest YCF

Doug Nguyen  
MacLaren YCF

Tim Reynolds  
Rogue Valley YCF

Yvette Thomas-Graves  
Hillcrest YCF

Debbie Winn  
Health Services

Frank Wolfburg  
Hillcrest YCF

## 10 YEARS

Izzriel Cavazos  
Hillcrest YCF

Michael Hovden  
Camp Tillamook YTF

Sharon Kaszycki  
Health Services

William Kimball  
Business Services

Gary Lillard  
RiverBend YCF

Monica Moran  
Benton PPO

Lance Schnacker  
Information Services

## 5 YEARS

Matthew Brandt  
Business Services

Gordon Brosmore  
Business Services

Gina Brown  
Coos PPO

Kyle Burton  
Hillcrest YCF

Emily Cox  
Oak Creek YCF

Ross Davis  
MacLaren YCF

Ken English  
RiverBend YTF

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# OYA offers innovative education options

As OYA youth graduated from facility high schools in June, the agency formally introduced a first-of-its-kind program to help close-custody youth catch up on educational opportunities they missed before incarceration.



*A youth takes an Education Portal course.*

Known as Education Portal, the program offers free, online college courses that lead to widely accepted college credits. Oregon will be the first state in the nation to use this system to offer an array of college courses to juvenile offenders.

This system complements classroom and vocational education by offering youth the opportunity to learn from college video DVDs after school. Using Education Portal, youth can earn credit for the first two years of college and significantly reduce the time and cost of earning a degree.

“When at-risk youth arrive at OYA, they are often years behind in high school, have learning disabilities, and have suffered from abuse and neglect,” said OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht. “This program offers our youth the ability to make up for lost time and educational opportunities.”

Each DVD contains a series of 5-minute lectures on math, English, and other topics taught by experienced instructors. Each lecture is followed by a brief quiz that is instantly graded. The courses are designed specifically to help OYA youth pass credit-granting exams such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test. CLEP credit is accepted by nearly 3,000 colleges and universities nationwide. ■



*DVD courses offered by Education Portal allow youth to earn college credit at their own pace.*

## Community 101 class awards \$5,000 in grants

*Nine youth at Hillcrest YCF enrolled in Robert S. Farrell High School's Community 101 class awarded \$5,000 to four Marion County nonprofits in May. The youth (shown in the photo to the right standing behind representatives of the nonprofits) awarded \$500 to Family Building Blocks, and \$1,500 each to Mano a Mano Family Center, Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Center, and Liberty House, a safe place for abused children.*



*Community 101, organized and funded by the Oregon Community Foundation, provides students with opportunities for service and leadership through charitable giving and volunteering, and helps build an appreciation for civic engagement and responsibility.*

# Aloha from Albany!



*The weather turned cold, but that didn't stop Oak Creek YCF staff from hosting a luau May 18.*

*Cultural differences and similarities were honored with native food and entertainment.*

*In the photo to the left, Cook Kelly Carpenter (left) and GLC Shirley Jones prepare to serve staff, youth and guests.*

# Aloha from Tillamook!



*The weather was better on the coast when Tillamook YCF and Camp Tillamook YTF held their luau May 25.*

*In the photo above, staff and youth line up to enjoy the food.*



*In the photo to the right, Training and Development Specialist Alan Walker (left, with shovel) and OMS Transition Specialist Funaki Letisi (right, with shovel) show how to prepare a pig that's been roasted in the ground. Judging by the number of people who lined up for a serving, the cooking method was a big success.*

5 YEARS  
*continued*

James Foehr  
MacLaren YCF

Salene Green  
Health Services

Justin Harris  
Hillcrest YCF

Daniel Hoke  
Eastern Oregon YCF

Chad Merrill  
Tillamook YCF

Patricia Meyer  
Business Services

Julie Milstead  
MacLaren YCF

Shannon Myrick  
Information Services

Scott Parker  
North Coast YCF

Linda Solomon  
Oak Creek YCF

Edward Thomas  
MacLaren YCF

Stacy Tolich  
Health Services

Robert Tully  
Hillcrest YCF

Stephanie Ward-Sosa  
Oak Creek YCF

## DEPARTURES

Joshua Bush Anguiano  
MacLaren YCF

John Borroz  
MacLaren YCF

Josiah Briels  
Eastern Oregon YCF

Greg Budreau  
Information Services

Donna Carsner  
Linn PPO

Izzriel Cavazos  
Hillcrest YCF

Dan Chinnock  
Director's Office

Holly Cooper  
MacLaren YCF

Yancey Day  
North Coast YCF

Jillian Donnelly  
MacLaren YCF

Linda Gardner  
North Coast YCF

Jose Gonzales  
MacLaren YCF

Danny Hernandez  
Marion PPO

Lonnie Jackson  
Director's Office

Jason Keith  
Tillamook YCF

# OYA employees honored for excellence

Oregon recognized three important “weeks” in May to showcase the significant work OYA employees perform on behalf of troubled youth and the citizens of Oregon. Those weeks, all of which took place May 5-11, were Correctional Officers and Employees Week, Nurses Week, and Public Service Recognition Week.

These weeks offered employees an important opportunity to pause and reflect on their contributions – both in their daily work and process improvement efforts – to the lives of our youth, their families and their communities. The following employees were selected by facility management for excellence in supporting OYA’s mission and operations. They received certificates and OYA coin awards.

## Camp Florence Youth Transitional Facility

- Cook Rosemary “Rose” Moso was commended for her “upbeat attitude and strong work ethic” and for being willing to work any shift, adjusting her schedule, “and working extra hours in support of the program.”

## Camp Tillamook Youth Transitional Facility

- Office Specialist Amy Braden was recognized for completing her assigned work duties “with impeccable professionalism and integrity.”

## Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility

- YCUC Chad Bradach was recognized for “leading by example, being a respected role model and making a positive impact on youth and staff alike.”

- Teacher Sandy Cargill was honored for “exemplifying a commitment to assisting our young men on their road to reformation” and providing them with lifelong skills.

- GLC Earl McGee was recognized for his “tireless efforts to improve the safety of our facility, which have had a positive effect on all who work or visit here.”



*GLC Karissa Roy demonstrates agility during National Correctional Officers and Employees Week festivities at Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility in May.*

- GLC LeRoy Thissell was honored for his “ability to explore dynamic approaches in dealing effectively with troubled youth.”

## Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility

- TM Marcus Bigelow was commended for his “dedication to creating vocational and educational opportunities for youth” and for being “instrumental in Hillcrest’s partnership with Oregon State University and the Inside/Out Program.”

# Facility Services employees honored

*Continued from page 6*

- GLC Frank Dawson was recognized for his work to “achieve positive outcomes and harmony” with youth and co-workers, and for his ability to de-escalate youth in crisis with a “strong, calming influence.”
- ATOD Coordinator John Day was commended for “doing an excellent job coordinating services and required documentation,” leading to an ATOD program review “with no adverse findings.”
- YCUC Thomas Decker was recognized for “spending more time than just about anyone on campus, covering extra activities, including the bike repair program, and youth supervision for other units through mandatory team coverage.”
- GLC Ty Glazier was recognized for his commitment to ensuring that the youth on his unit are safe and for “bringing a keen focus on involving youth in treatment as well as positive pro-social activities.”
- YCUC Rod Green was recognized for having “outstanding leadership skills and going above and beyond,” as well as for his “exemplary work ethic and commitment” to co-workers.
- GLC Levi Miller was recognized for being “very security conscious and proactive” to prevent issues before they arise, and for “maintaining a safe environment while at the same time providing opportunities to impact youth in a positive way.”
- GLC Scott Perry was recognized for being “able to work with very difficult youth” through a calm approach that “encourages and allows them to be able to make good choices when in crisis.”

*Continued on page 12*

## Hell’s Angel

*by Brianna Nicole Ireland*

Not all angels go to heaven.  
Sometimes angels go to hell.  
I know this, cuz I watched you slip.  
And loaded your pipe as you fell.

I didn’t realize at the time,  
How hard you’d hit your head.  
His radar tracked her damaged soul,  
And lead her to his bed.

But she was young, and vulnerable.  
And he was thirty-six.  
Heart wrapped in crystal smoke ribbons,  
She laid a kiss upon the devil’s lips.

Come, embrace this invitation,  
To a wonderland of sin.

I told the devil, “No,”  
He held a gun to my head!  
Pumped that fire through her veins,  
And laughed when she cried,  
And all too soon, our dream  
Became a real hell-ride.

Escape did come,  
But in a blur.  
Escape for me,  
But not for her.

Sex is now her occupation,  
Love is just a game.  
The gears, they keep on turning,  
But they’re bound to grind away.

And this girl, that I helped ruin,  
Still hides the scars beneath her lingerie. ■

## DEPARTURES

*continued*

Daniel Layman  
Oak Creek YCF

Dean Lodmell  
MacLaren YCF

Shane Pallesen  
MacLaren YCF

Pamela Shaffer  
MacLaren YCF

Michael Shupp  
MacLaren YCF

Mitchell Stephens  
MacLaren YCF

Darrell Strand  
MacLaren YCF

Shane Thurston  
Hillcrest YCF

## ARRIVALS

Kayla Callahan  
RiverBend YTF

Jodi Cochran  
Director's Office

Christine Kirk  
Director's Office

Britton Nelson  
RiverBend YTF

Ryan Nordhagen  
Eastern Oregon YCF

Rodney Roberts  
North Coast YCF

# Split Personality

*by Angel Whisper*

I'm the girl dazed and confused  
I'm the girl wearing rotten shoes  
I'm the work who's Always on the news  
I'm the girl that smells like booze  
I'm the girl Askin for a Doller or two  
I'm the girl that's lying to you  
I'm the girl skipping to her own tune  
I'm the girl who loves to make a Mess  
I'm the girl with Tracks on her neck  
I'm the girl who steals with no regret  
I'm the girl everyone says doesn't care  
I'm the girl with bugs in her hair  
I'm the girl who sleeps under the bridge  
I'm the girl using Dirty rigs  
I'm the girl who screws fellows for a fix  
I'm the girl deep down in the Mix  
I'm the girl who needs to shower  
I'm the girl dopesick in the early hours  
I'm the girl flying a sign on the corner  
I'm the girl in line at the soup kitchen  
I'm the girl everyone thinks is a bitch  
I'm the girl domestically beaten  
I'm the girl without feelings  
I'm the girl daddy gave up on  
I'm the girl whose life's like a rerun  
I'm the girl stick in this place  
I'm the girl people say can't change  
I'm the girl waiting for the next train

I'm the girl, fingers stained with nicotine  
I'm the girl whose life feels like a dream  
I'm the girl singing for spare change  
I'm the girl who no shoes on my feet  
But I'm Also A girl who....

Wants to Achieve her goals  
Grow strong and move forward  
Earn back some Respect and Quit the dope  
be Able to look myself in the eyes  
Do something and fail, but be able to say that  
I Tried  
Learn from my mistakes  
get educated, use my Brain  
Quit hurting my body and get healthy Again  
Overcome the streets, And one day own a  
home  
break these chains off and make my life my  
own  
feel secure And safe in my skin once more  
wants to stop causing her loved ones harm  
wake up and not wish I was dead one day  
work through and recover from the strife &  
and pain  
believe in myself, end the destructive cycle  
I've made  
Treat myself with dignity and be the girl  
Everyone knows I was born to be. ■

# Tell Me About Me

*by Angela Miller*

Tell me why I feel abandoned  
    When I abandoned you  
Tell me how I'm honest  
    When I don't know the truth  
Tell me why I sit in darkness  
    When I could be in the light  
Tell me how I'm such a fighter  
    When I don't know how to fight  
Tell me why I write so much  
    When I have nothing to say  
Tell me how I'm always fine  
    When nothing is okay

Tell me why I want to walk  
    When I have nowhere to go  
Tell me how I am so high  
    When I feel so very low  
Tell me why I run away  
    When I have nothing to run from  
Tell me how I'm still alive  
    When I make myself so numb  
You can't tell me can you  
    No one knows me like I do  
Tell me how that can be true  
    When I don't know as well as you ■

# As the Grass Grows

*by Stephen Fowler*

As the grass grows...  
a clock ticks  
The earth spins  
A little boy becomes a man  
God holds the world in His hand  
As the grass grows...

Gun shots in the midst of a city  
A little boy sucking at his mother's breast  
grows to bust Simi's Bang Bang!  
As the grass grows...

A young girl becomes a victim of rape and  
filled with hate so deep  
She thinks chuck this purse  
grab a skirt and hit the streets  
For somethin' to eat  
Sellin' her body for a meal or a couple of bills  
As the grass grows...

A mother on welfare with several kids strung  
out on heroin  
Applies for a job that she'll never get  
As the grass grows...

A bomb explodes and new orphans feel an  
orphanage home  
As the grass grows...

Another baby aborted  
As the grass grows...

A loving father loses his kids in a divorce  
A 90 year old woman loses the love of her life  
in the middle of the night  
A child starves in a country hungry for life  
It can only be so long until that AIDS infected  
teen spreads her disease  
out of a love she thought was deep  
But he left her on her knees for another chick  
then another  
as the cycle repeats in the mirror  
over and over again  
'I'm not scared' as he puts the rope around  
his head  
Stepping off the chair with a note that reads  
'I love Jimmy and if being gay is wrong in life  
then I want to be dead  
As the grass grows...

You never see growing grass as a ticking time  
bomb.  
You never bend down and say this strand of  
grass  
Was an airplane crash  
Or this football field is a graveyard  
But as time continues our planet accepts  
disaster,  
We fall deeper in sin than we began  
and become victims of our own demise.

So be aware as we laugh and smile pretend-  
ing life is chocolate and flowers.  
Under your eyes and beneath your feet the  
grass continues growing...  
And disaster continues to peak.  
As the grass grows... ■

## Youth under community supervision graduate

Youth under OYA's Community Services supervision continued to make educational strides throughout the school year, culminating in a strong showing when diplomas and educational certificates were handed out in June.

Seventy-eight youth from every part of Oregon received high school diplomas, and another 80 youth from throughout the state received GEDs. In addition, one youth under the supervision of the Multnomah Probation and Parole Office received an AA degree.

Our congratulations go to these youth and to the Community Services staff who help encourage and guide them throughout the year. ■

# Community Services employees honored

Seven Community Services employees were honored July 10 for outstanding performance during a ceremony at the state public safety academy in Salem. The awards were part of an early celebration of the July 21-27 Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week.

“Community Services employees contribute directly to Oregon’s quality of life by working closely with at-risk youth so they can lead productive, crime free-lives,” said Phil Cox, assistant director of Community Services. “By strengthening public safety and reducing future victimization in our communities, they are making Oregon a better place to live, work and play. I am honored to serve with them.”

The seven employees honored were:

- Craig Contreras, supervisor for Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake counties: “Craig can often be found communicating with parents, covering cases, transporting youth, attending court, and meeting with youth in detention,” said Cox. “He has developed trusting, professional relationships with colleagues, youth and community members.”



*OYA Deputy Director Joe O’Leary (left) and Assistant Director of Community Services Phil Cox (right) honored Community Services employees Tara Williams, Steve Mayo, and Jan Seiler at the July 10 Community Services all-staff meeting. Other Community Services employees honored but not pictured were Craig Contreras, Richard Hendricks, Chris Jensen, and Ron Sandler.*

- JPPO Richard Hendricks: “Richard goes above and beyond for youth, co-workers, and our community partners,” said Cox. “His positive attitude is a powerful tool when it comes to being a role model for youth in our care.”
- Chris Jensen, foster care certifier for Eastern Oregon: “Not only does Chris work well with individual foster parents, she maintains excellent relationships with foster youth while covering a large geographical area,” said Cox. “She always goes the extra mile to help out.”
- JPPO Steve Mayo: “Steve has effectively escorted many at-risk youth who have been returned to Oregon over the years under the Interstate Compact for Juveniles,” said Cox. “He has received frequent compliments from officials in other states about his efficiency and consideration during these transports, which are often stressful.”
- JPPA Ron Sandler: “Ron plays a vital role in transporting youth who abscond back to Oregon under the Interstate Compact on Juveniles,” said Cox. “While flying with at-risk youth in the commercial airline system is often stressful and frustrating, Ron maintains a positive attitude and is a pleasure to work with.”

## Two OYA nurses named “Nurses of the Year”

Two nurses at Rogue Valley YCF were named the agency’s nurses of the year for excellence in supporting the agency’s mission. They received OYA coin awards as part of the observance of National Nurses Week in May.



Correctional nurses Jill Duncan and Debbie Winn were honored for consistently demon-

*From left to right: Rogue Valley YCF Superintendent Ken Jerin watches as Assistant Director of Business Services Jan Dean reads the certificates honoring OYA nurses Jill Duncan and Debbie Winn.*

strating strong initiative, particularly by going above and beyond their regular work schedules from June to October 2012 to ensure that OYA youth needs were met.

“Your contributions and teamwork add value and show high level of commitment to OYA Health Services and to the mission of the agency,” said Assistant Director of Business Services Jan Dean.

OYA Medical Director Marcia Adams, M.D., added that the employees serve as role models for “providing positive development to each other and to the youth we serve.” ■

## Youth at RiverBend honor fallen firefighters



GLC Giles Darrow led youth at RiverBend YTF in a July 2 memorial service to honor the 19 firefighters tragically killed in an Arizona wildfire June 30. The service was held at the request of youth who participate in the facility’s firefighting academy. Forty-four youth and observers attended the service.

# Facility Services employees honored

*Continued from page 7*

- TM Delvena Torrez was recognized for being “a strong supporter and believer in the reformation of youth” and for her more than 30 years of state service.
- QMHP Jeff Rodin was recognized for “most recently helping a youth connect with his grandmother, as he learned that she had been placed in hospice” and for “being a positive team member at many different levels.”
- GLC Robby Tully was commended for having a natural, therapeutic approach “that introduces alternative points of view and draws youth into discussions without eliciting defensive or negative responses.”

## MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility

- GLC Chris Bauge was honored for “consistently going the extra mile” in his duties.
- Acting TM Jeff Canfield was recognized for “embracing OYA’s recent initiatives of positive youth development and collaborative problem solving” and establishing himself as “a champion for these projects.”
- YCUC Jamie Jeter was commended for “being a strong advocate for youth through continuous communication with community partners and transition specialists.”
- GLC Mike Jordan was honored for “being a team player who exemplifies OYA’s core values – professionalism, accountability, integrity and respect – on a daily basis.”
- GLC Derek Shrives was recognized for “regularly taking the initiative to get things done and having a collaborative work style.”
- GLC Ed Thomas was commended for “continuing to demonstrate a tremendous work ethic and a great attitude.”
- QMHP Shannon Wilhelm was honored for being “an asset to the Treatment Services team and the MacLaren facility as a whole.”

## North Coast Youth Correctional Facility

- TM Jami Ayers was recognized for her “excellent leadership, work ethic, and focus on youth reformation.”
- GLC Mike Barter was recognized for improving the safety culture of North Coast YCF, and for improving communication through the purchase of a new radio system.
- Supervising Cook Mike Edler was recognized for being a “good steward of state funds” by serving high-quality food to youth and staff within budget.
- GLC Corey Herndon was recognized for his “commitment to maintaining positive youth activities” by organizing a tournament for the youth basketball team in March.
- GLC Dean Jones was recognized for “peer leadership and dedication to duties” by providing superior training to staff and improving the facility’s emergency management plan.
- Executive Support Specialist Louise Stecher was recognized for handling the workload of two positions, which “allowed for fiscal savings and effective operations to occur simultaneously.”
- GLC Roger Thomas was recognized for being a “team player who is always available to help out where needed.”

*Continued on page 13*

# Facility Services employees honored

*Continued from page 12*

## Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility

- Executive Support Specialist Alice True was voted “Staff of the Year” by her peers.
- Cooking staff members Audrey Adams, Jason Atkinson, Kelly Carpenter, and Chris Carsner were recognized for “supporting the campus day in and day out with not only excellent meals, but superior support of each and every special event at the facility.”
- GLC Tony Dela Cruz was honored for his “low key but deliberate approach to his job, which helps contribute to the safety of the entire campus.”
- GLC Mike Frieze was recognized for his “ability to motivate and engage the youth in outdoor activities.”
- GLC Brenda Frontino was commended for “helping youth perform at their best and helping them to be successful.”
- GLC Bridgette Johnson was honored for being “a reliable and helpful team member who always looks for ways to improve the program at Oak Creek.”
- GLC John Jones was recognized for being “calm in a crisis and willing to work with any youth, regardless of how they may have behaved in the past.”
- QMHP Dawn Leon was commended for “carrying out her duties with quality, fidelity and excellence, and also taking the time to plan extra-curricular activities for staff and youth.”
- Counselor Lori McGovern was honored for “inspiring youth to dream more, learn more, do more and become more.”
- GLC Matt McLin was recognized for “carrying out his duties with excellence, perseverance and empathy.”
- GLC Kevin Nelson was commended for his work “as a trainer for the facility, who ensures that curriculum is delivered with integrity and in a way that is absorbed by all staff.”
- GLC Terry Santini was honored for “playing a crucial role in improving the facility’s drug and alcohol treatment services.”
- GLC Joal Traynor was recognized for his “great care and concern for the local community and volunteering for various organizations to help those less fortunate.”
- GLC Angie Weitman was commended for being “a leader who has a great work ethic, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of the youth.”

## RiverBend Transitional Facility

- Supervising Cook Ryan Alexander was recognized for always being “willing to take on far more than what is expected” while providing meals within budget.
- Office Specialist Donnelle Clipfell was recognized for her “attention to detail, diligence, and tireless efforts that epitomize the agency’s core values.”
- GLC Steve Stonebreaker was recognized for being “a constant for the youth in a fluctuating world” and for holding youth accountable “with respect and communicating their needs to the appropriate parties.”

## Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility

- GLC Jim Buchanan was recognized for his “respect and compassion, high standards, unwavering integrity, and honesty.”

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# Facility Services employees honored

*Continued from page 13*

- Maintenance Specialist Robert Dahl was recognized for “consistently balancing multiple requests from multiple sources, always responding with patience and kindness.”
- GLC Mick Lambert was honored for exceeding expectations in implementing the Vocational Educational Services for Older Youth program.
- Office Specialist Jennifer Putnam was recognized for her “enthusiasm in helping out whenever needed” and for displaying “compassion and respect for others.”
- YCUC Angela Sabin-Veek was commended for organizing fundraising, vocational education, volunteer and other programs.

## Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility

- GLC Sean Dooher was honored for his “stable and calming effect on the workplace” and for being someone youth trust and turn to for guidance.
- Nurse Sharon Kaszycki was recognized for “doing a two-person job for a long time,” being a hard worker, and caring about youth.
- GLC Dennis Martin was honored for working with youth for 30 years and for guiding youth and staff “with humor and gentleness.”

In addition, Assistant Director of Facility Services Karen Daniels recognized Troy Gregg, Emily Holmes, Rod Martin, and Gary Westoby for outstanding performance in facility operations. ■

## Highland games



*MacLaren YCF hosted instructors from Portland Highland Games June 29 to teach youth about Scottish games and culture. Kids learned about traditional games such as the Braemar Stone Throw, Scottish Hammer, and Caber Toss. They also received lessons in Scottish history, genealogy, and geography. Guests, youth and staff enjoyed a barbecue afterward.*

# Oak Creek YCF teacher receives national award

Scott Ryan, a teacher at Oak Creek YCF Three Lakes High School, is one of four teachers nationwide to receive highest honors in the “Lighting the Fire” awards from the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings (CEEAS). An English language arts teacher, Ryan was praised by students for nurturing their creativity.



Scott Ryan

“Mr. Ryan is the window of success for so many of us,” said one of his students.

“He is nothing if not fair, respectful, respected, easily accessible, caring and knowledgeable,” said another.

In a statement announcing the winners, CEEAS said, “Teaching in a secure youth facility can be difficult work, but it is teachers like these who continue to remind us of what is possible. Just one teacher has the power to alter the trajectory of a student’s life and the work of these teachers is proof of that. They inspire their students to dream big, challenge them to work hard, and support their journeys – even when the path is daunting.”

Earlier this year, Ryan encouraged his students to enter their poetry in the “Words Unlocked” national competition sponsored by CEEAS, resulting in 17 girls submitting 33 poems in the contest. “Often I was asked, ‘Is this good enough?’” recalled Ryan. “My response was, ‘It is not good enough if you don’t take the risk to submit your voice.’”

One of Ryan’s students, Brianna Nicole Ireland, won first place. Two other students, Angela Denise Miller and Angel Whisper, tied for third. (See the article on page 3 of this issue.)

OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht praised Ryan as an inspiration to his students and peers. “Scott is a teacher who empowers youth to unlock their hidden potential,” he said. “Although his students are in secure facilities, he has given them the freedom to express their creativity. He helps prepare them to lead productive, crime-free lives after they leave OYA. His work contributes directly to juvenile justice reform and to making Oregon a better place to live, work and play.”

Ryan has been teaching at Three Lakes High School since 2011. He and the other recipients of the “Lighting the Fire” awards were chosen by a panel of three judges from a nationwide pool of applicants. The winners each received an inscribed copy of *Hip Hop Genius: Remixing High School Education* by Sam Seidel, a framed certificate, and a cash award. ■

## Community Services employees honored

*Continued from page 10*

- Office Specialist Jan Seiler: “Jan supports staff in four counties, with each county having its own separate and distinct needs,” said Cox. “She has developed collaborative working relationships in all four counties with ease.”
- Tara Williams, acting field supervisor for Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Polk and Yamhill counties: “Tara has established great working relationships with our numerous community partners in the five counties she supervises,” said Cox. “She treats others with respect and always has the best interests of the community at heart.”

Earlier this year, Cox also recognized Lane PPO Supervisor Deborah Martin for excellence in parole and probation operations. ■

## INSIDE OYA

**Fariborz Pakseresht**  
Director

**Joe O'Leary**  
Deputy Director

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Send your stories for the autumn issue by August 30. Articles received after that date will be held for the winter newsletter.



# Keeping youth safe: An important reminder

Making sure that youth in our care are kept safe from sexual victimization – beyond what they already may have suffered at home or elsewhere before OYA commitment – requires constant vigilance. While all of us can take pride in Oregon's national leadership when it comes to compliance with the comprehensive federal law – the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) – that prohibits and penalizes conduct that leads to sexual victimization in juvenile facilities, it's equally important that we continue to remain alert.

In early June, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a report that included some disturbing findings. DOJ found that almost 10 percent of youth (1,720 individuals) in state juvenile facilities nationwide reported experiencing one or more incidents of sexual victimization by another youth or a facility staff member.

It's instructive to note the types of interactions between staff and youth before the sexual contact. According to DOJ: "Among victims of staff sexual misconduct, nearly two-thirds of the youth said that staff had told them about their personal life (69 percent), treated them as a favorite (64 percent), or given them a special gift (62 percent). Nearly half of the victims (49 percent) said the staff member gave them pictures of themselves or wrote them letters, and nearly a third (30 percent) said the staff member contacted them in other ways when the staff member was not at the facility."

OYA has zero tolerance for these types of behaviors, and has clear policies in place about setting personal boundaries when interacting with youth. Within OYA, the Professional Standards Office (PSO) is charged with investigating any allegations of misconduct defined by PREA or which rise to the level of illegal, unethical, or abusive behaviors. As needed, PSO works with OYA's Human Resources Office, facility and field management, and state and local law enforcement agencies. PSO's and HR's actions play a key role in promoting a safe environment, which is a cornerstone of OYA's culture of positive youth development.

"As employees, we also have a role to play, and that is to responsibly report inappropriate behaviors," said PSO Chief Investigator Dave Manley. "It can be difficult to come forward and make a charge against a co-worker, but it's the right thing to do for the safety and well-being of youth and staff."



Reporting misconduct is mandatory under the law. Maintaining OYA's zero tolerance for abusive behavior relies on everyone's willingness to stand up against inappropriate conduct when we see it.

If you observe youth or staff behaviors that you believe merit an investigation, please step forward and call a PSO member or send an e-mail to professionalstandards.office@oya.state.or.us.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to maintaining a workplace in which youth, staff and other stakeholders can feel safe and take pride. ■