



the Inside Scoop...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

It's been a while since we've had an *Inside Scoop...of OJJ* and this issue is packed with news and pictures of what's been going on throughout OJJ. You are always busy and the good things you do just keep coming.

As you can see from the photos at right, OJJ brought home the ACA Golden Eagle and I could not be more proud of you. Because it's all you! People made things happen and each and every one of you had a role in winning that Golden Eagle award. Every office and facility throughout our system was involved, through being accredited. But having a piece of paper for the wall and a prestigious award for the office is not what it's all about. People made it happen, and what we are seeing is success, a direct result of your efforts to meet the mission every day. OJJ's people are our greatest asset. As ever, OJJ, you rock!

Well, Indian Summer is past and winter arrived with a blast just in time for the holidays. It's officially time to pull out those glitzy holiday sweaters.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of *The Inside Scoop*. I'm already looking forward to the next one to see what you all have been doing.

"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers

Bringing Home the Golden Eagle





Finding the way

Things which now come easily and naturally to you, at one time seemed difficult and even impossible. You found a way around those obstacles which once were so daunting. You found a way because you had enough desire to find it. You found a way because you had the commitment to find it and to make it work.

When you need to, or want to, or must, you can find a way to move past whatever is blocking your path, toward whatever you desire. The difficulty of the challenge is not nearly as important as the strength of your commitment.

What do you sincerely intend to do, and what do you truly expect to do? These are the things that will get done, because you will find a way. The efforts probably won't be comfortable, convenient or easy, but then nothing of value ever is. That's why commitment is so crucial, because it will get you through what you must get through.

You're going to get knocked down. With enough commitment you'll get back up. You're going to become sidetracked and blown off course. With enough commitment you'll quickly get back on track.

Your previous priorities and commitments have brought you to where you are right now. Commit to the best, the brightest, the most positive future you can sincerely imagine. Make the commitment, and you'll find the way.

— Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...

PPO3 Jessica Southern, Tallulah Regional Office



"My calling in life is to be a mother, and being a probation officer is like an extension of that," said **PPO3 Jessica Southern**. Having just celebrated her fourth anniversary with Tallulah OJJ, Jessica said she can't imagine working any place else.

"I am delighted to spotlight my newest (and youngest) probation officer," said **RM Ruth Stephens**. "Jessica came to OJJ from the Franklin Parish Sheriff Office where she was employed as a POST-certified deputy sheriff, until she left for the birth of her twin boys. Jessica is very enthusiastic about her job, often going beyond the required to help a troubled youth. She is always upbeat and willing to pitch in whenever asked. She is a team player in the truest sense. All assigned tasks are completed with diligent attention to details."

"My boys are my life," Jessica said. Her sons are Jayson, 9 and 5 year old twins Jameson and Jackson. "What motivates me is my children; being a great role model and living by example for them," she said. "I live for them." That attitude spills over into her work, as she does the best job she can to provide a good example for the youth on her caseload.

"I love helping others," Jessica said, "and I grew up in a law enforcement family. Growing up in that environment is what led me to major in criminal justice."

"Like every other probation officer, I try to leave work at work when I go home," Jessica said. "But you do think about some of the kids on your caseload – you wonder if they are going to bed hungry or if they are cold. Or

if they're in where they're supposed to be. There's a few on our caseloads that we do worry about."

A native of Winnsboro in Franklin Parish, where she still lives, Jessica started her career with the Franklin Parish Sheriff's office when she was a senior at Winnsboro High School. After graduation and while she attended ULM (Monroe) Jessica continued to work part time at the sheriff's office, holding a number of different positions, from clerical to working at the detention center, to serving in the Triad department, which provides for the welfare of the elderly. After earning her Bachelor's degree in criminal justice from ULM, Jessica remained with the Sheriff's Department, becoming POST-certified.

Among her assignments at the Sheriff's Department was working with the Attorney General's task force on internet crimes against children, experience that would serve her well later as a probation and parole officer. "That work was interesting and fun," Jessica said. "We still see a lot of child victims, with predators contacting children, and I teach the kids not to take that lightly." Jessica said she talks to the youth on her caseload about internet safety, especially about posting too much personal information on Facebook.

One of the exercises she learned through the task force was to have people think about making a poster with all their personal information on it, then displaying the poster while standing alongside the highway so everyone could see it. "Of course, people are very uncomfortable showing all their personal information to anyone," Jessica said. "You ask them, 'so, why would you put all that information on Facebook?' and they really get it."

After her twins were born, Jessica went to work for another agency, doing undercover narcotics investigations. "I learned to appreciate the narcotics profession" she said. "That experience has helped me as I work with juveniles who have substance abuse issues."

"Jessica's approach to working with juveniles is mission-driven. 'I hope to be able to teach them that another life exists for them other than crime and substance abuse. The services we provide make a difference and help change their lives towards a positive direction.'"

Later Jessica applied for a position with Tallulah OJJ, and she said she was fortunate to be chosen for the job, especially since it's in her home parish. When

she visits her old high school it's like a walk down memory lane when she gets to see her old teachers. "It works to my advantage that I'm known in this parish," Jessica said. "There's an advantage to working in your home town. I have a good relationship with the city police and with the parish sheriff's office. If they arrest a juvenile they will call me to check on the youth's status. It's very nice to have a good working relationship with the law enforcement people."

Jessica's approach to working with juveniles is mission-driven. "I hope to be able to teach them that another life exists for them other than crime and substance abuse," she said. "I just hope to be able to do my job effectively. The services we provide make a difference and help change their lives towards a positive direction."

"A lot of it has to do with a person's perspective," Jessica continued. "I'm very optimistic and inquisitive. I try to learn everything that I can. I told my supervisor that when I know everything, it's time to go home. Every day is different. I keep a to-do list, but things come up every day that you have to deal with. It's never boring."

Jessica notes that "successes with some youth can keep you going." She recalls a youth sent to secure care, who started college after his

release, where he is now doing well. A young lady on her caseload told Jessica that when her probation was complete, she would not even remember Jessica. “Yes, you will,” Jessica told her. “You will never forget your time on probation.” Jessica sees the young woman often and she always gets a hug.

“I have a great support system...I have a wonderful supervisor and an amazing regional manager. I just can’t imagine working anywhere else... it’s like a family.”

Those experiences make it all worthwhile. “I have a great support system at Tallulah OJJ,” Jessica said. I have a wonderful supervisor and an amazing regional manager. I just can’t imagine working anywhere else. I love this office, it’s like a family. We laugh together and we cry together. We help one another whenever needed.”

“I’m enthusiastic. If I can’t come ready to do my job every day, it’s time to do something else,” Jessica said. “Like anyone, there are mornings....when I wish I didn’t have to get out of bed, but I love my job and the people I work with. I know that if there’s ever a time when I need something, I’m not just an employee number. I have a real work family. People here know all the stories about my mischievous children, and I’ve received a lot of parenting advice. And the other employees all say ‘you will NOT believe what my child did, or said.’ We share happiness and tears, sadness when there’s a death in the family.”

“Our youth look at us and they see our attitudes,” Jessica continued. “If we go to them with a negative attitude, the kids are not going to be as receptive to what we are saying and what we are trying to do. We have to be aware of this and be positive. We have to recognize that every youth is different and comes from different circumstances.”

“I try to provide the best services possible for our kids so they will be rehabilitated,” Jessica went on. We have to listen to our gut feelings about the needs for each youth. If we ignore those gut feelings, we may not be doing that youth justice regarding the services that are needed.”

“I like to stay busy and stay motivated,” Jessica said. As well as being POST-certified, Jessica is a certified PPCT instructor, and she is practicing marksmanship to prepare for the spring tryout for OJJ POST instructor. If she passes the tryout she will go on to instructor school, to be able to teach OJJ staff the skills needed to be successful.

“I think I’m no different from any other officer, we all have busy lives,” Jessica said. In her spare



time, Jessica spends time with her children. “My kids are very involved in sports all year round,” she said. “They play baseball, soccer, basketball and tennis. They fish in the summer and hunt in the winter.”

Jessica notes that she is often in contact with PPOs from other OJJ offices that she has never met. “We email each other, but seldom actually meet. It’s great to go to the Governor’s Conference (on Juvenile Justice) where we can see one another. It’s very nice to put a face with a name. I love meeting new people, and we have a blast getting to know each other.”

“We all have the same mission.”

She compliments Dr. Livers and the group from central office who attended the Probation and Parole Week event at Tallulah OJJ. “It’s so nice to meet people from central office,” she said. “We all have the same mission.”

Agency News

OJJ Is Awarded the Rare, Coveted ACA Golden Eagle Award

OJJ joins only two other state juvenile justice agencies



Staff enjoy the accreditation luncheon at the annual Congress of Corrections.



Deputy Secretary Dr. Livers, left, and ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie accept the ACA Golden Eagle Award.

The American Correctional Association (ACA) presented the Golden Eagle Award, its highest honor for commitment to excellence, to OJJ for achieving ACA accreditation in all of our units, including all secure care facilities and 11 regional field services offices, and central office.

OJJ is only the third juvenile justice system in the nation to win the ACA Golden Eagle Award, joining Kentucky's and Ohio's Departments of Juvenile Justice. The award was presented at the ACA annual Congress of Corrections in Washington, DC. in August.

"Staff throughout OJJ worked tirelessly to achieve accreditation of all units," said Dr. Livers. "The credit goes to staff in every location, who worked together and supported one another. The award reflects our staff's

dedication to excellence and commitment to our mission."

The Community-Based Field Services (CBS) Unit has been accredited since 1994. Accreditation is valid for three years and CBS was most recently re-accredited in June 2011. ACA auditors found the unit 100 percent compliant on 202 mandatory and non-mandatory standards.

For secure care facilities, 38 mandatory and 329 non-mandatory standards cover all aspects of each facility, including treatment, safety, medical and mental health care, as well as environmental factors. Both Swanson/Monroe and Jetson were accredited in 2011. Jetson's audit found the facility 100 percent compliant on 367 separate standards. Swanson was 100 percent compliance on 38 mandatory standards and 97.45 percent compliant on 329 non-mandatory standards. Bridge City was accredited in 2012, after ACA auditors found the facility 100 percent compliant on 38 mandatory standards and 99.3 percent compliant with 331 non-mandatory standards.

Central office was first accredited in 2009 and re-accredited in 2012, with 100 percent compliance on two mandatory and 138 non-mandatory standards.

Two New Regional Managers Take the Reins in Alexandria and Natchitoches

Two regional offices have new leaders. **Clay Dupuy** of the Alexandria office has assumed management of the Natchitoches office, while **Simon Sarpy** of Natchitoches has taken the reins of the Alexandria office.

"I am very pleased to announce that two of our regional offices have new leaders," said D. Livers. "Our two new acting Regional Managers are swapping offices, and I am sure that each will bring their own experience and expertise to both offices, where they will share their own unique perspective," said Dr. Livers. "It's important to recognize that

people see things differently, and grow from their experience. I'm sure that staff in both offices will benefit from exposure to different leadership perspectives. Congratulations to Simon and Clay – I have the utmost confidence that both of them will prove strong leaders.”

Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton and **Regional Directors Johnny Qualls** and **Carolyn Lewis** also expressed their confidence in the two new regional managers. “We have promoted not one, but two people who bring extensive experience to the management team,” said Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton. “We are confident that Clay and Simon will both provide outstanding leadership. We believe that promoting from within is the right thing to do when we have the right person on board. We are delighted to find such a wealth of talent, professionalism and leadership ability within our ranks.”



Simon Sarpy III has served as a supervisor in Natchitoches for 4½ years, with a total of 12 years in the office, rising from PPO1 through the levels to PPS. He is a graduate of Natchitoches Central High School and attends Northwestern State University in Natchitoches.

“I will bring a different perspective to the Regional Manager position,” Simon noted. “The two offices are very close together and we all know each other, because we have worked together often. So I think it will be a smooth transition. I am looking forward to the new challenges and the new responsibilities – we all look forward to advancing in our careers. I am grateful to Asst. Secretary Sean Hamilton, Regional Directors Carolyn Lewis and Johnny Qualls and of course, Dr. Livers, for the opportunity.”

Simon spent a number of years in the military, stationed in Hawaii where he served aboard a guided missile frigate. He grew up in a military family, and because of his own military service, he has lived in many places, but he chose to return to his home in Natchitoches when he left the Navy.

Simon has always worked with kids, even in the military, where he was often called to an adolescent psych unit as a security officer. He raised a son as a single parent, and he adopted his wife's son. Simon's wife, Frances, teaches school in Natchitoches.

Simon grew up with horses, and he noted that where there are horses, there are always kids. He lives in rural Cane River country where he still rides Quarter horses, minds cattle and rides fence. Simon is also a national competitor in team penning, a competition in which three riders have to cut specific cattle from a herd and get them into a pen.

Simon is a big believer in continuing education and training. “You have to keep up with all the changes, especially in technology,” Simon stated. “You are left behind and you get stale when you are not learning anything new and when you fail to take advantage of the training opportunities that are available.”

“As a supervisor, I am realistic and I teach my people to focus on how they can make a difference,” Simon said. “My job is to try to keep kids out of the adult system. That is what I do. I enjoy my work,” Simon said. “It's all about the kids. This job will always be about the kids.”



Clay Dupuy has worked in the Alexandria office since August 2000, coming from the Department of Revenue and Taxation where he served as a sales tax auditor. He wanted to make a big

career change that would impact children and families in his community and found that opportunity with OJJ.

“I was with Revenue for 18 years, and I was ready for a change,” Clay said. “This agency was next door to the Revenue office and I saw an opportunity there to help the youth in our community. I really admired the guys next door that did that and I wanted to be one of them. I realized that I had to go through some changes to make that happen. I had to completely resign from my job and did not become permanent again until after I completed POST training later that year. I started as a PPO1, and progressed to PPO3. Back then, PPO3s served as placement specialists.”

Promoted to supervisor, Clay has supervised staff for 10 years. He is also a firearms instructor and a former PPCT instructor. Clay said he is delighted with the career progression to the Natchitoches office as a Regional Manager.

A native of Marksville, in Avoyelles Parish, where he and his family still live, Clay graduated from Marksville High School and attended Louisiana Technical College in Cottonport, where he received a diploma in business management. He later returned to the vocational school to become a certified residential real estate appraiser. Clay said he is going back to school once again, working toward a degree in criminal justice at LSU–Eunice.

“Our two offices have often worked together,” Clay said. “We do case transfers often, and I have also served as transport coordinator, so we talk to arrange transportation. We also train together for PPCT and firearms training.”

“Moving to the Natchitoches office as Regional Manager is a welcome challenge and will be a great new experience,” Clay said. “I look forward to seeing new ways of doing things, and I plan to observe how things are done there. I want to make the transition

as smooth as possible. One of the things you should do prior to making changes when you are in a new situation, is to get to know your team, observe, analyze and review procedures for a period of time before any changes are made.”

“You also have to communicate with people and get to know how they think,” Clay continued. “Then when you look at things, if you are focused in one direction, and someone is coming at it from a totally different perspective, you are able to understand their viewpoint. I’m a hands-on person, and I believe in modeling the way.”

“New challenges bring new opportunities,” Clay said. “I appreciate the opportunity that Dr. Livers, Sean Hamilton and Regional Directors Johnny Qualls and Carolyn Lewis have given me to move up and I hope to live up to their confidence in me.”

CQIS Policy Updates

- A.1.11 Polygraph Testing of Employees 7/19
- A.2.6 Requirement of Physician's Certification for Sick Leave Usage 7/19
- A.7.3 Facility Design/Space Management 7/9
- B.2.12 Fast Track Program 7/22
- B.8.4 Religious or Faith-Based Programs and Services 7/29
- B.8.17 Polygraph Testing of Youth 7/29
- C.1.5 Research 7/1
- D.1.2 Internal Quality Assurance Review 7/1
- D.7.1 Intake Services 7/1
- D.9.5 Service Delivery/Case Management 7/1
- D.9.12 Participation in the Title IV-E Program 7/1
- D.10.17 Probation and Parole Violations 7/1
- D.10.34 Pending Secure and Non-Secure Placement-Provision of Services While In Detention 7/1
- C.1.8 Firearms Training 8/08/13
- A.3.8 Budget and Fiscal Management Activities 8/08/13
- C.2.11 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) 8/08/13

A.2.67 Management of Tuberculosis-Employees 8/08/13
 A.1.5 Channels of Communication 8/16/13
 C.4.9 Sale of Vocational Goods and Hobby Craft Items 8/16/13
 C.2.10 Safety and Emergency Management 8/19/13
 A.2.23 Position Descriptions 08/19/13
 D.10.12 Use of Interventions-Community Based Services 08/19/13
 A.2.42 Leave Approval for Employees Prior to Retirement 8/21/13
 A.3.3 Requests for Statistical Information; Collection of Fees for Reproduction of Public Records & Statistical Reports 8/26/13
 B.8.11 Secure Care Youth Orientation 8/26/13
 A.2.27 Selective Service Registration 8/30/13
 A.2.36 Recoupment of Overpayments 9/3/13
 A.2.40 Probationary Period 9/3/13
 A.2.50 Flexible Work Schedule 9/3/13
 A.2.55 Time and Attendance 9/3/13
 A.2.58 Crisis Leave Program 9/4/13
 A.3.13 Office of Telecommunications Management (OTM) Land Lines 9/4/13
 A.3.14 Contract Providers Financial and Performance Reporting 9/4/13
 B.2.16 Secure Care Sex Offender Direct Admission & Assessment 9/4/13
 A.2.26 Hiring and/or Promotional Interviews 9/13/13
 A.2.32 Certification of Compliance and Internal Controls for all Personnel Actions 9/13/13
 B.2.15 Substance Abuse Treatment Program 9/13/13
 A.2.39 Solicitation by Vendors Relative to Payroll Deductions 9/16/13
 A.2.45 Performance Evaluation System (PES) and Performance Adjustments 9/16/13
 D.1.5 Cooperation with Other Agencies 9/16/13
 A.1.5 Channels of Communication 9/20/13
 A.1.9 Public Records Management 9/20/13
 A.2.5 Telecommuting and Alternative Work Site Policy 9/20/13
 A.3.8 Budget Fiscal Management Activities 9/20/13
 A.3.16 State Liability Travel Card 9/20/13
 B.2.20 Non-Discriminatory Services to

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Questioning (LGBTIQ), and Nonconforming Youth 9/20/13
 A.2.3 Outside Employment, Second Jobs 9/24/13
 B.9.1 Youth Welfare Fund 9/25/13
 A.1.13 Influenza Preparedness, Response and Recovery 10/04/13
 A.2.61 Pre-Employment Health Screening /Physical Examinations for Direct Care Positions 10/04/13
 A.2.28 Return to Work 10/07/13
 A.3.11 Financial and Property Loss Prevention Program 10/07/13
 A.5.10 Information Technology (IT) Technical Support 10/07/13
 D.9.10 Placement in Psychiatric Facilities 10/14/13
 B.7.1 Education Policy 10/29/13
 B.8.10 Access to Computers and Certain Office Equipment by Youth 10/31/13
 C.1.12 Leisure/Recreation Activities 10/31/13
 C.2.9 Correspondence and Packages 10/31/13
 C.2.17 Youth Hunger Strikes 10/31/13
 C.2.24 Electronic Monitoring Program (EMP) 10/31/13



Photo by Central Office Attorney Revettea Woods' husband Danny. The family recently explored Dinosaur National Monument and Yellowstone National Park.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences go out to members of the OJJ family who have recently lost family members. Please keep these staff members in your thoughts and prayers.

Bridge City

Administrative Asst. (Staff Development) Lynetta Robinson's father, Lloyd Henderson, passed away in September.

Central Office

Director of Health Services Kelly Smith recently lost her mother-in-law, **Ms. Ollie Tillery Smith.**

Jetson

Jetson staff member **Gwendolyn Varret,** who staffed the Control Center on the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift, passed away unexpectedly in September.

JJS3 Gail Price recently lost her husband, **Lawrence Price.**

Swanson-Columbia

SSCV Patren King's mother recently passed away.

P&P Offices Recognized During Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week

With the theme "**Changing Lives, Building Futures,**" all OJJ Field Offices paused to recognize the contributions of probation and parole officers (PPOs) to public safety and the wellbeing of at-risk youth and their families, in observance of the American Probation and Parole Association's (APPA) Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week.

Each office invited elected officials, judges, district attorneys, law enforcement

representatives, community partners and providers, and other stakeholders to join in recognition of our PPOs, dedicated and caring people who work tirelessly to make neighborhoods safer by assisting juvenile offenders in becoming productive citizens.

PPOs are "changing lives, building futures," one child at a time. Local officials attended the programs to learn about the services our PPOs provide and how those services impact public safety. PPOs provide an array of services to adjudicated youth placed on probation or ruled in need of services. PPOs supervise youth on their caseloads, holding them accountable for meeting the requirements of their probation, assist their families in accessing needed services and ensure that youth receive appropriate, individualized services.

Many people don't realize that PPOS have extensive training and often are called upon to provide crisis intervention in high risk situations such as hurricanes. All PPOs are POST-trained, having completed a Peace Officer Standards and Training curriculum.

The work our PPOs do directly impacts youth and families. They are responsible for helping to keep the number of youth placed in secure care at an all-time low in Louisiana. Our state was recently cited nationally for having one of the largest decreases in the number of youth placed in secure care, and Dr. Livers has said she attributes that in large part to the dedication and professionalism of our probation and parole officers, who are so vital to building strong communities.



*American Bison at Yellowstone National Park.
Photo by Danny Woods.*

Alexandria Regional Office

Staff recognized Probation & Parole Employee Appreciation Week with a treat each day and the community program attended by Dr. Livers and other central office staff.

On Monday the staff enjoyed homemade ice cream and cake. Tuesday, **Dr. Livers, Deputy Secretary Sean Hamilton, Johnny Qualls, Regional Director of the Central-Southwestern Region**, as well as Lake Charles (temporarily Alexandria) **Regional Manager Ann Vick**, attended the recognition program held for the staff. During the program, **PPS Clay Dupuy** received the **Employee of the Year** award and **PPO2 Mekensie Maxwell** received the **Probation & Parole Officer of the Year** award.



Above, PPS Clay Dupuy, left, receives his award as Employee of the Year, and below, PPO2 Mekensie Maxwell, left, receives the Probation & Parole Officer of the Year award.



On Wednesday the staff enjoyed a full breakfast, and on Thursday they were treated to a lunch that included chicken fricassee, bacon wrapped, cream cheese-stuffed pork loin, purple hull peas, potato salad, green salad and rolls. On Friday, Monique Little, Director of Phoenix Family Life, along with some of her staff, provided lunch and joined the staff for the meal.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Baton Rouge OJJ recognized P&P Appreciation week a number of activities. Monday the P&P staff was treated to a full breakfast by the supervisors, clerical and social service staff. On Tuesday, the staff received notes of encouragement from **RM Jacqueline Page** and they began their message to the stars, a board created so that they may encourage one another. Wednesday the staff celebrated with "dip day" - we dipped fruit in chocolate and caramel, and we had chips with spinach dip, rotel dip, ranch dip and salsa. On Thursday we celebrated with "Sundae." We ended the week on Friday with a luau themed fish fry and staff recognitions



Awards were presented to our **Employee of the Year, Social Service Counselor Jennifer Anderson**, and our **Probation & Parole Officer of the Year, PPO3 Keelen**

Robinson, pictured left.

Guests at our Probation and Parole Appreciation program included **Baton Rouge Police Chief Carl Dabadie**, representatives from the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, the Livonia Police Department and the East Baton Rouge Juvenile Detention Center. We

also were honored with members of the staff from central office and Jetson.



Monday breakfast for P&P week.



Luau themed fish fry celebration



Wednesday, Dip Day for P&P week.



PPS Rickey Cannon, SSC Jennifer Anderson and PPO Taleisha Johnson at the themed Party.



Sundaes on Thursday



The gorgeous cake



A Message to the Stars for P&P week.



Hammond Regional Office

Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers, Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton, Regional Director Susan Miller, Undersecretary Connie Percell, Deputy Assistant Secretary Beth Morgan, the Honorable Judge James Lamz, Representative Stephen Pugh, and other community providers and stakeholders joined us at our P&P Week event to recognize the work done by our PPOs at Hammond OJJ.

We were pleased to have these dignitaries join us in recognizing the hard work and accomplishments of our staff. **Chef Ron Sonnier** and the youth in the Culinary Arts program at Bridge City set up and served delicious food. Hammond **Regional Manager Sue Larisey**, **Dr. Livers**, **Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton**, **RD Susan Miller** and **Representative Stephen Pugh** all spoke and praised the work being done by the probation officers.

Awards for Probation and Parole Officer of the Year and Employee of the Year were given out at the event. Hammond OJJ staff voted and the recipients of the awards were selected by the ballots. **PPO3 Christy Ford** was selected **Probation and Parole Officer of the Year** and **AC4 Courtney Pegues** was selected **Employee of the Year**.



The audience at the P&P recognition event.



From left, Representative Stephen Pugh, DAS Beth Morgan and RM Sue Larisey.



From left, Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers, RM Sue Larisey, Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton and RD Susan Miller.



From left PPO3 Kasey Wall, AC4 Courtney Pegues, PPS Dawnita Hodge, PPO3 Amy Johnson, PPO3 Leigh Calmes and PO3 Penny Buniff.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

The Lafayette Region Probation and Parole Officers were honored at an appreciation banquet, with guest speakers including **Dr. Mary Livers**, **Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton** and **Regional Director Johnny Qualls**.

PPO George Hebert was honored as **Officer of the Year** and **Cassandra Griffin** was chosen **Employee of the Year**.

To begin Probation & Parole Officer Appreciation Week, the supervisors treated the officers to a freshly prepared breakfast on Monday.



PPOs enjoying breakfast, above and below.



On Tuesday the office participated in team-building activities before the monthly staff meeting. After the staff meeting, lunch for the office was catered.

On Wednesday the staff and residents of AMIKids-Acadiana participated in a Fun Day with the Lafayette OJJ staff. A softball game was played between teams from AMIKids and OJJ (the game ended in a 14-14 tie). A lunch of barbecued burgers and hotdogs was served, and everyone ate until they were stuffed! The staff at AMI were gracious hosts, and the kids were very well-behaved and had a blast playing softball.



Staff from AMIKids and Lafayette OJJ after their softball game.

On Thursday, MST provider Phoenix Family Life Centers, brought and served lunch to the Lafayette Region staff. Phoenix Family Life Centers has served many clients in the Lafayette Region, with very positive results, and they were most gracious in providing lunch for us!



We appreciated our lunch with the staff from Phoenix Family Life Centers.

To end the week, on Friday the staff participated in a game day. The officers formed teams and played each other in bowling on the Wii, and in Pictionary. It was a fun-filled way to end a great week.

Thanks to all the supervisors who helped to put on a fantastic week of activities to show the officers how appreciated they really are, and a **special thanks to PPS Tracy Flores for spearheading the event!**

Pictured below are some of our Game Day activities, a great way to end our week.



Lake Charles Regional Office

Lake Charles OJJ recognized its officers with a recognition program at their office, and were honored with a luncheon hosted by area judges at one of their homes. **Judge Martha O'Neal** and **Judge Kerry Anderson** of the 14th JDC, along with **Judge Anderson's wife, Erica**, co-hosted a Probation & Parole Appreciation luncheon at the Andersons' home on the Friday afternoon of P&P Week. The judges invited both adult and juvenile PPOs who serve their court. The court staff cooked and entertained the guests, who felt welcome and honored. It was an amazing invitation.



Officers enjoy lunch at the home of Judge Kerry and wife Erica Anderson.

PPO Stefanie Krygowski was awarded **Probation Officer of the Year**, pictured below with **RM Ann Vick**.





PPS Melissa Cross was awarded P&P Employee of the Year. Pictured above are RD Johnny Qualls, Deputy Secretary Dr. Livers, Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton, PPS Melissa Cross and RM Ann Vick.



"Gratitude" – three red, heart-shaped balloons as a little informal thank you presented to PPS Melissa Cross by her unit.



Above and below, Lake Charles OJJ officers and staff at their P&P Week recognition event.



PPS Ken Vidrine, below, was our generous chef for a delicious barbecue for the office. Staff are pictured enjoying his barbecue.



Red roses adorned the registration table.

Monroe Regional Office

The PPOs at Monroe OJJ enjoyed an awesome week of fun, activities, and yummy treats during Probation & Parole Officer Appreciation Week. On Monday, we enjoyed ice cream at the office, and on Tuesday, we gave back to our communities by collecting canned foods for the Food Bank of Northeast Louisiana. We relaxed with pizza and games on Friday afternoon.

We would like to express our gratitude for all of the effort put into this week by our supervisory staff: **RM Patty Newman, PPS Jennifer Bible, PPS Orlando Davis, PPS Karl Wallace and PS Walteree Barnes.**



Our luncheon for Probation & Parole Officer Appreciation Week was held on Thursday. Representatives from several local agencies attended, along with community stakeholders and elected officials. Special guests included **Monroe City Court Judges Tammy Lee and Larry Jefferson, Assistant District Attorneys Donielle Staten and Johnny Sanders, Senator Robert Kostelka, Senator Mike Walsworth, Representative Frank Hoffman, and Representative Marcus Hunter.** Major Don Bartley, Major James Freed and Detective Stephanie McDaniels from the Monroe Police Department MPD attended.

Our guests also included from SCYM **Director Vickie Shoecraft, SCYC Deputy Director Kim Rushing and SCYM Deputy Director Germaine Simon. Kenneth Hall**

from the Cognitive Development Center joined us, and we were, of course, pleased to host **Dr. Livers, Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton and Program Manager Angela Arabie** from central office.

We enjoyed a lovely catered lunch and lively conversation with our guests, as well as a presentation of awards for Probation & Parole Officer of the Year and Employee of the Year. While we only officially offer our appreciation one week per year, we know that our PPOs meet and exceed expectations every day, whether it is volunteering for early morning transports or providing Christmas dinner for families in need.

Employee Awards

Monroe OJJ recognized two outstanding employees at our Probation & Parole Officer Appreciation Week luncheon.

AC3 Kashka Flintroy was honored as the Employee of the Year. AC Flintroy was hired at Monroe OJJ as a WAE clerical in 2007, and she advanced to her present position in 2008. She has an Associate's Degree in Administrative Office Technology, and she is the office "Payroll Lady." Kashka stays busy with her three children and indulging interests such as fashion and good food. When asked about her professional goals, she advised that she wants to "use my education, skills, and experience, enhancing and contributing to the growth and image of the agency."

*From left,
AC3 Kashka
Flintroy, RD
Carolyn
Lewis, Dr.
Livers and
Asst. Sec. Sean
Hamilton.*



PPS Karl Wallace, Kashka’s supervisor, noted that she “has an awesome personality to go along with her great work ethic. She likes to stay as busy as possible, and will look for extra responsibilities should it get slow around here. She accompanies PPOs to court and often volunteers to assist with tranports.”

PPO3 Willie Hunter commented, “Kashka is very organized and professional. We are very fortunate to have her here!”

PPO3 Steve Pelfrey was honored as **Probation & Parole Officer of the Year**. PPO Pelfrey came to OJJ in 2008, with a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies from Ambassador College. Prior to arriving at the Monroe office, PPO Pelfrey worked for about two and a half years in the Florida Department of Corrections as an adult Probation & Parole Officer. He also worked in the Florida Office of Juvenile Justice for about five years. He is currently working in Morehouse Parish in the 4th Judicial District.



From left, RM Patty Newman, PPO3 Steve Pelfrey, Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers, RD Carolyn Lewis and Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton.

RM Patty Newman said that PPO Pelfrey’s coworkers noted his professionalism and willingness to help others in nominating him for this award. **PPS Karl Wallace** commented, “Steve is diligent, detailed and hard working. Judge Sharon Marchman in Morehouse Parish has twice told me how she

appreciates having such a great officer in her court.”

Below are photos from our recognition luncheon.



4th JDC ADA Johnny Sanders and Dr. Livers.



Sen. Mike Walsworth and RM Patty Newman.



PPO3 Hannah Dozier and PPO3 Patrick Cooper.



From left, ADA Donielle Staten, PPO3 Garner Brass, Detective Stephanie McDaniels, PPO3 Gary Hunter; back row, PPO3 Joel McNair.



From left, AC3 Kashka Flintroy, Monroe City Court Judge Tammy Lee and PPO2 Reginald Chaptman.

Natchitoches Regional Office



PPS Jennifer Bible and PPS Karl Wallace



A luncheon was held at the Natchitoches Office in recognition of our Probation and Parole officers. Representatives from several local law enforcement agencies, judges' offices and community stakeholders attended. Employees of the Year were recognized and received awards.



PPO3 Willie Hunter and AC3 Kashka Flintroy.



PPO of the Year Deanna Williams, center, pictured with former RM Randall Hill and RD Carolyn Lewis.



Administrative Employee of the Year Monica Breedlove-Achord, left, with RD Carolyn Lewis.



10th JDC Judge Dee Hawthorne, pictured with RM Randall Hill.



PPS Simon Sarpy pictured with Swanson Director Vickie Shoecraft.



Yellowstone National Park; photo by Revettea Woods.

New Orleans Metro Regional Office



In recognition of Probation, Parole and Supervision Week, the New Orleans City Council honored the New Orleans Metro Regional office. The Council presented the office's two Employees of the Year with proclamations honoring their achievements. **PPO3 LeMoyne Reine** recognized as New Orleans OJJ's 2013 **Probation Officer of the Year**, and **Administrative Supervisor 2 Earnessa Moncriste** was honored as the **Employee of the Year**. **Councilwoman Susan Guidry**, center, poses with staff from the New Orleans office.

LeMoyne Reine: Probation Officer of the Year 2013

PPO LeMoyne Reine is an outstanding probation officer. He is always professional, striving to be proactive, with the intent to minimize any possible office crisis. He often works well past his regular office hours, with no complaint! PPO Reine is a team player, who often volunteers well beyond the scope of his job duties. His



take-charge demeanor has given him an edge with leadership skills. He has gained well-deserved respect from judges, court personnel, co-workers, providers, most importantly, the youth he supervises and their families.

The New Orleans City Council recognized all of the New Orleans Metro Office's probation officers for their dedication to the city by promoting OJJ's mission, protecting the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.

However, **PPO LeMoyne Reine** was graciously presented with something exceptional, a Proclamation from the City of New Orleans, honoring his accomplishment of being named New Orleans OJJ's 2013 Probation Officer of the Year.

LeMoyne shows great pride in providing individualized services to the youth. His loyalty, dedication, and continued accessibility to OJJ's youth have landed him our office's probation officer of the month numerous times. PPO LeMoyne Reine was recently recognized in *The Inside Scoop*, and as it was stated then, it is repeated, "He has shown himself, much approved, as he is dependable, loyal, and conscientious. He is a true ambassador for the families which whom he serves."

His awesome character, dedication to the youth, and many other job contributions, have made him a valuable asset to the Office of Juvenile Justice. The proud staff of New Orleans Metro OJJ applaud PPO LeMoyne Reine for receiving the distinguished honor of being Office of Juvenile Justice, Region-1 Officer of the Year, 2013.

We would like everyone who reads this story to show LeMoyne how much he is appreciated for working so hard to fulfill OJJ's mission, by letting him know "Job Well Done!"

AS2 Earnessa Moncriste: Employee of the Year



Administrative Supervisor 2 Earnessa Moncriste was honored as the New Orleans Metro **Employee of the Year** at the P&P recognition program. Her recognition is well-deserved, as voted by her co-workers.

Earnessa has contributed to OJJ for 21 years and has helped many staff members along the way. According to her colleagues, her knowledge and assistance benefits everyone in the office. She arrives each day with a smile and ready to lend a hand. As this year's "Employee of the Year," Earnessa was also recognized with a proclamation by the New Orleans City Council.

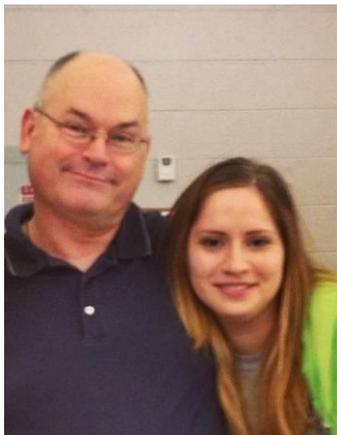
Shreveport Regional Office

We celebrated P&P week in a big way. We recognized our employees of the year and presented awards to **PPO3 Jennifer Dingler as Probation Officer of the Year**, and **Administrative Coordinator 3 Niki Anderson as Employee of the Year**.

Monday the PPOs received special thank-you notes from **RM Kristi Nelson** and supervisors with breakfast from the Kennedy Center. Tuesday, the office had a staff meeting and the PPOs were served breakfast by the supervisors and regional manager. On Wednesday we received breakfast from provider John Gianforte, and we also had a luncheon at JGJYS, with guests from central office who joined us. On Thursday we went bowling and returned to the office for pizza and play trivia games. Friday we enjoyed leftovers. Special thanks to all those that helped to make this week awesome for our Shreveport PPOs. Below are photos from our recognition events.



Above, PPO3 LaTonya Marshall, PPO3 Brandy Stratton and PPO3 Fabrecia Roberson. Below left, PPS Rick Ladner and PPO3 Jessica Flores. Below right, PPO3 Todd Carlisle.



PPO3 Brandy Stratton, Administrative Coordinator 3 Niki Anderson, Goodwill Specialist Atejia Williams and PPO3 Latonya Marshall.

Tallah Regional Office

OJJ Tallulah honored all officers and staff in recognition of Probation and Parole Week. **Regional Manager Ruth Stephens** and **Supervisors Johnnie Bowman** and **Margo Corulla** started off the week with cinnamon rolls for breakfast on Monday. On Tuesday, everyone enjoyed a breakfast casserole. Wednesday was taco salad day. On Thursday, everyone joined in on the birthday celebration with cake and ice cream for our birthday honorees **PPS Johnnie Bowman** and **PPO LaJuana Harrell**.

On Friday, OJJ Tallulah held a luncheon reception. Like all regions across the state, we honored our officers and staff for the work that they do. The luncheon was held in the fellowship hall of St. Edward's Catholic Church in Tallulah. Guests included area judges, district attorneys, sheriffs, senators, and representatives from the parishes that Tallulah OJJ serves. The parishes include East Carroll, West Carroll, Richland, Franklin, Madison and Tensas. Everyone enjoyed a lunch of sandwiches, chips and dips, and a decorated cake in honor of Tallulah OJJ.

Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers addressed the guests. **Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton** and **Regional Director Carolyn Lewis** also presented remarks.

RM Ruth Stephens introduced the officers and presented each one with a certificate of appreciation. In addition, RM Stephens along with Dr. Livers, Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Lewis honored the Officer of the Year and Employee of the Year.

Honors for **Officer of the Year** went to **PPO Kim Green** and honors for **Employee for the Year** went to **AC3 Martha Hattaway**. Congratulations to each on their honor.

Tallah OJJ would like to express our appreciation to all those who work every day to meet our mission.



Madison Parish Sheriff Larry Cox, left, Dr. Livers and Richland Parish Sheriff Lee Harrell visit.



Honorees are PPO of the Year Kim Green, left, and Employee of the Year AC3 Martha Hattaway.

Thibodaux Regional Office

We were overjoyed to see how many of our community stakeholders came out to show appreciation to our Probation & Parole Officers for a JOB WELL DONE at Thibodaux OJJ's Probation & Parole Officers' Day recognition event.

Also, a huge kudos goes out **Chef Ron Sonnier** and his team of **Bridge City Culinary Arts students** for preparing a fantastic, delicious meal for this event.

We honored our **Employees of the Year - Congratulations to Probation & Parole Officer of the Year PPO3 James Percle, and Employee of the Year PPS Andi Ford.**

Please enjoy the pictures taken during the event.



RM Angela T. Koenig conducts opening remarks. Seated from left, Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton, Deputy Sec. Dr. Mary Livers and Regional Director Susan Miller.



We had a large audience with guests and staff.



Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers gives the keynote presentation. Seated from left are Dep. Sec. Sean Hamilton, RM Angela T. Koenig and RD Susan Miller.



Left, PPO of the Year James Percle accepts his award from RM Angela T. Koenig, with RD Susan Miller and Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton looking on. Below, James Percle with RD Susan Miller, Dr. Livers and Sean Hamilton.



PPS Andi Ford, second from right, accepts her Employee of the Year Award from RD Susan Miller, Dr. Livers, Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton and RM Angela T. Koenig.

Regular News

Alexandria Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO3 Heath Wallace celebrated 7 years with OJJ.

Cassaundra Conston, who has been with OJJ for 18 years, was promoted to Administrative Coordinator IV.



PPO3 Robert Harris attended a graduation ceremony at Renaissance Home for Youth. **Youths Colby D. and Edrian J. (pictured left)** received their GEDs from the Special School Program, Renaissance On-Campus School. Special speakers

included 9th JDC **Juvenile Court Judge Donald Johnson, Harry Ingalls**, Special School Program Regional Coordinator, and **PPO3 Jamie Oertel** from Hammond OJJ.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

Congratulations Employees of the Month



Transportation Officer Gerard Landry was selected **July Employee of the Month**. Gerard is always willing to go above and beyond to get the job done.



PPO Tina Roach began the Capital Area Regional Training Authority Post Academy, and she passed the firearms part in July. Go Tina, your caseload awaits you!!!!

Bridge City Center for Youth

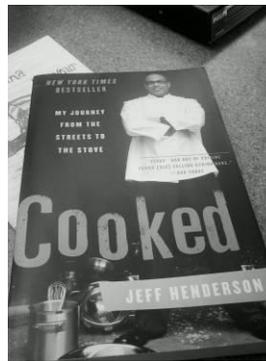
Nationally acclaimed Chef Jeff Visits Bridge City

By Donna Bowie, Family Liaison

First, many thanks to Interim Director **Nadira Ricks** and Admin Asst. **Sharonda Smith** for going above and beyond to make last minute adjustments and navigations in the effort of making the evening a success when **Chef Jeff** came to visit. It was really challenging, marrying schedules (the filming schedule for Chef Jeff's TV series on the Food Network and facility schedule) but Director Ricks and staff (**Robby Ragas in IT, Deputy Director Darrell Foster, many dorm leaders** and more!) made it happen. They "Modeled the Way" for a common purpose!!

Chef Jeff Henderson is an award-winning chef, bestselling author and popular, passionate and powerful speaker. He is also an ex-offender, having served nearly a decade in prison on drug charges.

He served as Executive Chef at the renowned Café Bellagio and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, and become one of the most inspirational African-American chefs in the country. Chef Jeff made history when he became the first African-American "Chef de Cuisine" at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.



Chef Jeff's story of finding his passion for cooking while incarcerated, and turning his life around, was captured in his bestselling book, **Cooked**. He autographed a copy of **Cooked** to be kept in each of the dorms. His story is now being turned into a movie.



Chef Jeff addresses the youth at Bridge City.

Chef Jeff told the youth “he didn’t get arrested, he got rescued!” He told them that he was “rescued” as an adult - they are juveniles and can put negative experiences behind them and move on with life in a positive manner.

Chef Jeff reiterated how important it is that the youth take this time to reflect on what they want out of life. He told them that he received his GED while incarcerated, and that acquiring an education is very important. He stressed that they should truly use this time wisely.



Family Liaison Donna Bowie, Chef Jeff Henderson, BCCY’s Chef Ron Sonnier and Director Nadira Ricks.

Chef was so impressed with our youth that he personally purchased subscriptions to the New York Times for each dorm at Bridge City.

Bridge City Youth Rescue Injured Night Heron

By Samantha King, Case Manager, Destiny Dorm

An injured night heron was rescued by youth **Melvin R.** and **Denzel W.**

Early in the summer, youth and staff at Bridge City started seeing an unusual-looking bird walking around campus at night. It was a medium size bird, with long legs and a short neck. We later found out that it was a night heron.



The photo is the Bridge City resident night heron on campus.

Night herons are nocturnal birds, known for building their nests high up in trees. This night heron was no exception. In June it built a great big nest high up in the branches of an oak tree on campus. Typically night herons lay 3-8 eggs. We don’t know how many this bird laid, but at least 2 of the eggs hatched. The young birds seemed to be doing pretty well, until one day in late July when one of the birds fell from its nest and broke its leg.

I was walking with **Youth Denzel W.** when we first saw the injured bird. It looked like it was in a lot of pain so we decided to take action and see if we could help it. After a few failed attempts, we enlisted the help of **Shift Supervisor Damon Deal** who helped Denzel get the bird into a cardboard box.



That night, I took the bird to an animal hospital in Metairie where it was treated for a broken *knee*. Yes, a broken knee. Once the bird has been rehabbed, it will be brought to the Zoo or released back into the wild.

Destiny Dorm's Youth Council Member, **Melvin R.**, sat down with Denzel and Mr. Deal for an exclusive interview. Here's what he found out:

Melvin: What were you thinking when you saw the bird?

Denzel: I was thinking that it needed help and I should be the one to help it.

Mr. Deal: My first concern was for the bird's safety and the safety of youth and staff at the facility.

Melvin: What was wrong with the bird?

Denzel: Its leg was messed up.

Mr. Deal: To my knowledge, its leg was injured.

Melvin: How long did it take for you to catch the bird?

Denzel: 30 or 40 minutes.

Mr. Deal: 20 seconds.

Denzel: Once Mr. Deal helped we got it really quick.

Melvin: What color was the bird?

Denzel: I really can't describe the colors. It was a beautiful bird though.

Mr. Deal: It was black and grey.

Melvin: What did you feel towards the bird?

Denzel: I placed myself in the bird's footstep and I realized that if I was in that predicament I would want someone to rescue me. So, I had to help that bird.

Mr. Deal: I did not want the bird to be injured.

Melvin: Were you scared?

Denzel: I was scared it was going to bite me. I was also scared that I was going to hurt the bird.

Mr. Deal: No, sir.

Melvin: How did you catch it?

Denzel: Mr. Deal made it run in one direction and I trapped it with the box and scooted him in with my glove.

Mr. Deal: With the help of Denzel we slid a box in front of him and scooped him in.

Melvin: How did you feel after you rescued the bird?

Denzel: I think I was the bird's superhero that day.

Mr. Deal: I felt pretty good because we were able to secure the bird and Ms. King was able to take it to the vet where it was treated for a broken leg.

Central Office

Congratulations



OJJ Attorney **Revettea D. Woods** was named parliamentarian for the Baton Rouge Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., a historical African American organization that provides social, cultural and educational opportunities for youth between the ages of 2 and 19. Since 1938 the organization has dedicated its resources to improving the quality of life for children, particularly African American children. The Baton Rouge Chapter's philanthropic efforts have included the donation of new and gently used books to the library at Jetson Center for Youth.

Program Manager

Melba Oubre received her Masters degree in Social Psychology from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Walden is an on-line university for working professionals seeking



advanced degrees without leaving their jobs. It is a leader in distance higher education, and specializes in providing education that helps its students have a positive impact on their communities and in their professions.

CO Staff Have Hearts for Others

We received a thank you note from the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, for collecting 202 pounds of food, equivalent to 168 meals. Way to go, OJJ!

Welcome Aboard

There are several new faces at central office. Some are familiar, coming from other OJJ locations, others are new to the agency. Welcome aboard, everyone.



Toya Pierce, LCSW, is the new Director of Treatment-Facilities. She comes to central office from Jetson, where she served as treatment director.



Trenisha Stanislas is the Acting District Education Coordinator for the secure care facilities. She has served at Bridge City since 2006, as an instructor, the Student Records Coordinator, SBLC/504

Chair Person, School Test Coordinator and Back Up District Test Coordinator.

Katina Broden is the new Deputy Interstate Compact Administrator, working alongside **Suzie Durrett**, who plans to retire soon. Katina previously served as a probation and parole officer at Baton Rouge OJJ.



Executive Staff Officer Dr. Rachel Young Thomas, Ph.D., recently joined the Intergovernmental Relations, Communications and Training section. She comes to OJJ from the

LA Department of Education.

Not long after coming on board, Rachel ran off to her hometown of Pensacola, Florida to get married. Her new husband is **Mark Thomas**, a licensing analyst at the Louisiana State Board of Nursing in Baton Rouge. The wedding ceremony was held at Emerald Coast Community Church, with a gorgeous reception at the Mustin Beach Officer's Club at the Pensacola Naval Air Station. The couple then embarked on a honeymoon cruise to the Bahamas.



ESO Dr. Rachel Thomas with her new husband, Mark Thomas, and their little flowergirl, niece Jordyn Thomas. Below left, the wedding cake, right, the bride's bouquet of white hydrangeas.



Update on a Former Staffer

We were delighted when a former longtime OJJ administrative assistant paid a visit to central office. **Anne Carter**, who has served at Jetson, Bridge City and central office, left the agency in the spring to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a nun (sister) and living a religious life of service to others.



She was accepted at the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters' Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She is now going through the process of becoming a sister. In order to become a nun and live a life of service to others, Anne must live and study for several years, going through a lengthy process before taking final vows.



During her first year at the convent, Anne's contact with friends and family is very limited, and she was allowed a home visit after her first six months. Anne visited central office to have lunch with former colleagues, and is pictured above with **Chief of Operations Elynn Toney**.

Mrs. Smith Goes to Washington



when she attended the annual Congress of Corrections. Kelly is pictured center, (in red) with other delegates to the congress.

Director of Health Services Kelly Smith visited the American Correctional Association's headquarters

Morale Committee Keeps Staff Smiling (and Gaining Weight)



The Morale Committee hosted a tailgate party, pictured above, to kick off football season, and like any other tailgate party, lots of yummy food was served. Morale Committee members are **Receptionist Jean Buffington, Program Consultant Katie Justice, Dep. ICJ Admin. Katina Broden, Adm. Asst. Marvel Adams, Adm. Asst. Shaeki Shanklin** and Dr. Livers' assistant **Nita Shanklin**.



The Morale Committee also hosted a fabulous breakfast for Bosses Day, pictured above, that everyone was able to



enjoy. Supervisors were gracious in their thanks to the committee for taking the time and effort to put together such a wonderful breakfast. As one said, "It was thoughtful and very much appreciated by all. Words are just not enough for the appreciation I feel personally." A special thanks to **Receptionist Jean Buffington** for adding that home cooked touch to everything – she cooked all the wonderful food.

New Arrivals in the Central Office Family

Attorney Marston Fowler and his wife Jennifer welcomed **William Charles** on October 8. William weighed in at 7 lbs., 15 oz. and was 20.75 inches long. **Big brother Henry** is delighted with his new baby brother, and Marston reports that all are doing well.



Just ahead of the baby's arrival, the Legal Division hosted a baby shower for Marston and his new son.



Above, Marston Fowler learns the ropes - shower-gift-opening 101 - while Attorney Steven Farber observes. Below, Marston reads a gift card, encouraged by Dr. Livers and Steven Farber, while Paralegal Orshelle Roberts records the gift information.



It's Grandbaby #4 for **Administrative Assistant Gwen Brinkley Jones. John-Clinton Ned, Jr.** arrived July 25, weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz., and 20.75 inches long. John-Clinton's parents are **Gwen's daughter and son-in-law John and Tehrie Ned. Big sister Lauryn** recently celebrated her second birthday.

Another of **Gwen Brinkley Jones'** grandchildren is four year old **Elijah Barrow**, who started taking piano lessons at SuperMusic in Baton Rouge just a few months ago. He is showing amazing results, according to his teacher, Lawrence Burgess, and he was cited as the November SuperMusic Student of the Month.

Calling him a talented young artist, the school's newsletter said "There is no doubt that Elijah's astonishing progress is a result of serious commitment and outstanding discipline, as well as great musical talent. His ability to focus and work towards the goal is just unbelievable...with the great support and help of his wonderful parents he has shown amazing results." **Elijah's parents are Wendel and Tiffany Barrow.**



Woods Family Treks Through Western Parks in Search of Dinosaur Bones

“Traversing the hot deserts, scaling tall mountains, pounding hard rocks, a diggin’ we did go,” said **Attorney Revettea Woods**, of her family’s vacation trip to Yellowstone National Park and Dinosaur National Monument. Seven year old **Danny R. Woods II**, son of **Revettea** and **Danny R. Woods**, an Administrative Law Judge for the Division of Administrative Law, is an aspiring paleontologist.



The Woods Family – Danny, Danny II and Revettea - at Yellowstone National Park.

Danny dragged his parents off to Utah to search for dinosaur bones. The Woods family explored the Dinosaur National Monument and traveled to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.



Danny and his family unearthed numerous treasures hidden by millions of years of rock and stone. The trilobites unearthed by the Woods family are a fossil group of extinct marine arthropods that existed from 540 to 251 million years ago.



Danny’s fossil collection includes trilobites, a dinosaur claw, a dinosaur tooth, coprolite (fossilized dinosaur poop), geodes, and petrified wood.

How to Coyote-Proof Your Dog



Coyotes seem to be on the prowl. **Engineer Curtis Badon** has observed coyotes in his neighborhood and decided to coyote-proof his dog run and his dog. **Hardy** is officially a Parson Russell Terrier (the long-legged version of the Jack Russell Terrier), and although he is only about 13-14" tall, and weighs in at 21 pounds, he is a fireball! Curtis installed several strands of barbed wire above his wood fence. He said, "Hardy now wears a spiked stud collar every day, just in case he gets attacked by coyotes. It only takes being wrong once with this, for it to be a tragedy."



Our Port Hudson correspondent reports sighting several coyotes along the highway in the country about four miles north of Jetson. Seems they are getting more bold and coming out of hiding.

Treats on Our Streets

Central Office celebrated Halloween with our annual "Treats on Your Street," where an assortment of goodies is put out to share with everyone. We were able to trick or treat along our hallways, which are named Action Court, Juvenile Justice Junction, Livers' Lane, Saints Drive, Vision Road, Mission Boulevard and Takin' Care of Business Turnpike. Staff decorate tables and doors with creepy creatures and fall colors and share treats of every description, as long as they are yummy and not good for you. (Except for the fresh fruit brought by one curmudgeon, which does get eaten up every year.)



Hammond Regional Office

Congratulations

Employees of the Month

PPO3 Leigh Calmes was selected **August Employee of the Month**. Leigh's supervisor, **PPS Roy Wittorf**, didn't need to be asked twice why he nominated Leigh for employee of the month. He said, "PPO Calmes is one of the most organized PPOs within the Regional Office. She is very conscientious about her paperwork and frequently assists in developing and updating checklists to help her and others stay on task. She works diligently to keep up with agency policy. She has demonstrated her ability to adapt to the demands of the job. She typically maintains one of the higher and more demanding caseloads in the unit. In discussing unit and area caseload demands with her, she openly volunteered to accept and work the caseload despite the increase in numbers. Additionally, she has worked with me in lowering those numbers and reducing the amount of youth that were coming into custody and on supervision from the area. It is evident that PPO Calmes cares about the youth she serves. She takes her job seriously, and has staffed her cases in an effort to meet the youth's needs."

The entire Hammond OJJ team is proud to work with someone so dedicated to the job and to the mission of OJJ. Thank you for all you do, Leigh!

PPO3 Penny Buniff was chosen as the **September Employee of the Month**. Penny has a positive attitude, goes above and beyond, looks for ways to make the workplace run more efficiently, volunteers to help, and is willing to help on weekends and after hours. Thank you, Penny, for all that you do!

Shout Out!

The September **Shout Out** went to **PPO3 Dana May**. She was recognized by **PPO3 Leigh Calmes** for getting a motion signed by the judge for her.

Welcome

Hammond OJJ is growing! We recently welcomed a group of new probation officers to our team. We said hello to **Christina Frught, Colin Harrison, Neka Kendrick, Sevyn Maryland** and **Briton Myer**. Also, former Transport Officer **Anthony Percell**, was hired as a Probation Officer. Welcome aboard!

POST Academy

PPOs Robert Penn and **Parker Boyd** began the CARTA academy during the summer.

You're HOW OLD???



When **PPO Tyrone McClendon** turned 40, staff in the Hammond OJJ office helped him celebrate by decorating his door and office!



Substance Abuse Education and Prevention Group

SSCIV Lori Wagner said the Substance Abuse Education and Prevention group completed the second round in August.

Twelve youth were served through this group. Our focus was on identifying different groups of drugs, their physical effects, slang names, warning signs, and prevention skills. The youth were provided with pizza and wings on the last meeting of the group. They are now armed with knowledge and skills to remind drug free.

What's Going On

From PPO Penny Buniff's Caseload

A youth on Penny's caseload recently received her GED and enrolled in Delta Community College where she will be majoring in graphic design.

Youth C.B. attended Troop L's State Police Leadership Camp. The goal of the camp is to have a positive influence on children who may be underprivileged or disadvantaged due to economic, social, or other conditions that exist in their homes, which are beyond their control. While participating in the program, C.B. was able to visit the State Capitol, State Museum and the LSP Training Academy. The youth were also able to visit the National Weather Service Center in Slidell. While participating in the camp, the youth were able to see the bomb robot and learned about homeland security. They were also able to meet one of LSP's narcotics dogs. They had outings at the water park, played cabbage ball, dodge ball, and went to the Pearl River to go fishing. C.B. was chosen by his peers to be the team leader. Overall this program helped him increase his leadership skills and build his self esteem.

From PPO Truett Glass' caseload:

Truett Glass has been working with **Youth D.P.** who recently completed probation supervision. Early this year, D.P. removed himself from negative peers and negative social activities they have been working to identify. D.P., his father, and Truett worked together to enroll him in Job Corps in Baton Rouge where he received his GED. He

completed Job Corps and graduated with certifications from the American Petroleum Institute (API) Roustabout program. He had two job offers and he is considering enlisting in the military. D.P.'s decision to enroll in Job Corps and walk away from negative aspects of his life opened up numerous possibilities. D.P. now has a future that one year ago he could not imagine.

From PPO Jamie Oertel's caseload:

Jamie attended **Youth E.J.'s** graduation ceremony at Renaissance Home for Youth in Alexandria. E.J. has been in OJJ custody since she was 10 years old. She has grown up with OJJ and has become close with our staff. She has been through a lot of hardship for being as young as she is. E.J. achieved a major accomplishment by getting her GED. She gave a speech at the ceremony, thanking everyone that has helped her. She thanked Jamie in her speech and became emotional. E.J. thanked Jamie for being there for her when she didn't have anyone else. This made Jamie proud of what she does. Then Jamie gave a speech at the ceremony about how far E.J. has come from the young child OJJ first met. Jamie told E.J. all the things she knows she can accomplish, starting with what she achieved by getting her GED, and encouraged her to tell her story and help other youth.

Jamie included a quote from poet **Maya Angelou**, *"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, and how you can still come out of it."*

Also from Jamie's caseload, **Youth Z. L.** received her GED, and **Youth C.B.** received his GED and graduated from the Youth Challenge Program.

From PPO Jonathan Varnado's Caseload:

A youth was granted an early release from secure custody so that he could attend the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program.

From PPO Amy Johnson's caseload

Four youth graduated the 21st JDC Drug Court program and were successfully closed from probation. **Youth C. C.** successfully graduated the Youth Challenge Program and obtained his GED while there. Due to this success, he earned an early release from drug court and probation.

Youth T. A. was released from Drug Court and probation early at the Court's order because he found full time employment with his father working for an environmental services agency.

Hammond City Court Opens a Program To Ensure Educational Plans for Youth

By PPS Dawnita Hodge

The Hammond City Court has opened a court school program to help ensure that all youth under court supervision have an educational plan. **Judge Grace Gasaway** of the Hammond City Court, **Guy Recotta**, Hammond City Court's Clerk of Court, Tangipahoa Parish School Systems staff, **RM Sue Larisey** and **PPS Dawnita Hodge** worked together since April to develop a Court School Program for youth who need an alternative educational plan.

All youth in this program are under OJJ's supervision and have gone through a selection process to be considered eligible for the program. Currently, the school will enroll up to 8 students, with future plans to enroll up to 24. Two teachers and paraprofessionals have been hired to work with the students. There will be a compliance officer from the FINS office, and a resource officer from the 7th Ward Marshal's Office on site daily. Probation officers will make periodic visits to the school to make personal\face-to-face contact with the youth they supervise.

Jetson Center for Youth

By Director Angela Sutton

The Central-Southeastern Region Directors meeting was held at Jetson. Our guests included our Regional Managers, **Michelle Thomas, Lafayette-Opelousas OJJ, Jacqueline Page, Baton Rouge OJJ** and **Ann Vick, Lake Charles OJJ**, along with **Adm. Asst. Sharon Graham** from Alexandria OJJ.

We discussed different ways that the facility and Probation and Parole staff can work together to enhance the services we provide to the youth that we serve. I can say that I really enjoy the company of the Regional Managers. We get a lot accomplished during our meetings and we get to share the issues that we are experiencing in each of our areas. We have become a closeknit group as a result of regionalization.

On the same day of the meeting, we hosted a facility tour for **Dr. Craig Coenson** and **Dr. Richard Dalton** from Magellan. Magellan provides the treatment services to OJJ youth once they are released from the facility. Dr. Dalton is not new to Jetson, as he used to work here when LSU was the medical provider. Both Dr. Dalton and Dr. Coenson were very impressed with what they observed. Dr. Dalton commented on how much Jetson has evolved since he was last here. That is a tribute to the hard work that our staff puts in day after day with the youth. Great job!

We hosted a visit from staff of the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), which is responsible for determining what the budget will be for the different agencies. **Dr. Livers, Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton** and **Undersecretary Connie Percell** were also here for that visit. Dr. Livers discussed the need for building a new Jetson Center for Youth here on this land. In doing so, we would save OJJ and the state more money in the long run.

Jetson hosted the first Community Liaison Council meeting for the Central Southwest Region. Council members included retired Louisiana **Supreme Court Justice Kitty Kimball, Adelle Brown of the Southern University Ag Center** and **Dr. Girard Melancon** from Baton Rouge Community College. The meeting went very well and we were able to share the mission and vision for the Office of Juvenile Justice and the purpose of Council as well as future endeavors for Jetson and the region. We also enjoyed an excellent salad feast provided by **Food Service Director Zelma Jones** which included fruit salad, chicken salad, green salad, strawberry shortcake and fruit punch.

The Central Southwestern Region held a supervisory training that focused on family engagement. Supervisory staff from Jetson, Bridge City, the regional offices and central office attended the training. This training encouraged everyone to think critically about areas of concern such as visitation, mental health issues, education and staffings. We were split into 6 teams and assigned an area of concern to discuss, and to evaluate new alternatives to the problem. We enjoyed coming together as a team and reporting to the rest of the class our solutions to the problems that we all face. Dr. Livers and Mr. Hamilton took time to discuss new and future plans about for Jetson, the horse program at Jetson and the future of OJJ.

Youth Attend SU Ag Center Back to School Summit

In September, in Lafayette, the Southern University Ag Center welcomed students, faculty and staff from schools in Avoyelles, Evangeline, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, Vermilion Parishes and Jetson, to its 13th Back-to-School Summit for 8th-12th graders at the Blackham Coliseum.

Three young men from Jetson were able to participate, **Greg J., Joseph V. and Javante R. Director Angela Sutton** and **Deputy**

Director Ashley Taflinger, along with several staff from P&P, escorted the youth.

The theme for this year's event was "Reach for the Star in You!" **Danna Andrus, aka "Dr. Truth"** was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included **Kwame I. Asanté**, attorney and mentor and **Byron Starks**, coach and mentor. Motivational speaker **Den Hussey** served as MC.

Highlights included a surprise visit by **Minnie and Mickey Mouse**, and a zydeco performance by recording artist **Leon Chavis**. Also prominent at the event were welcome greetings by **Senator Elbert Guillory**, LA State District 24 and **Chancellor Leodrey Williams** of the SU Ag Center.

Michael D. Jackson, retired NFL (Baltimore Ravens) wide receiver, stated in his presentation that "wisdom is the application of acquired knowledge." He further emphasized to the students the importance of listening to teachers and applying the information they learn to set goals, aim high and reach for the stars.

Almost 3,000 student attendees received informational brochures along with school supplies from various agencies, while learning from motivational speakers and video presentations. Topics of discussion included a wide range of healthy living tips, from sexual conduct to drug abuse. The goal of the program is to give young people healthy alternatives and choices in life. The program targets eighth-graders because they are on the edge of becoming teenagers. Also in attendance were participating agencies and programs from surrounding parishes that turned out to show their support.

The Jetson youth who attended the summit participate in the Young Men's Garden project, through a grant received by the Southern University Ag Center, funded through NIFA. The program gives the young men an opportunity to learn hands-on agriculture skills and life skills and gain work



experience. All the produce grown in the Jetson garden, pictured left, goes to the cafeteria and is prepared in different dishes for the campus

to enjoy. **Program Director Christie Monroe** also tries to give the young men different life experiences relating to her program.

This annual summit is organized by the Southwest Center for Rural Initiatives, the satellite arm of the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, under the leadership of **Dr. Wanda Burke**. Its mission is to improve the socioeconomic wellbeing of citizens in rural communities within a 10-parish region of Southwest Louisiana. The Center, located in Opelousas, performs functions consistent with the SU Ag Center's mission of conducting basic and applied research and disseminating information to the citizens of Louisiana.



Above and below are photos from the SU Ag Center Summit.



Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

Going the Extra Mile for our Youth

The Lafayette region worked to prepare a new dad for the birth of his daughter. **Peyton P.** is in OJJ custody at a residential center, has completed his GED, and prepared to take his ASVAB. He is exploring options as young adulthood approaches. Peyton is receiving supportive counseling from **Licensed Clinical Social Worker Claude Devillier**, focused on healthy masculinity and fatherhood.

As his resources are limited, Peyton was given support for his first visit with his daughter with a nice selection of gifts, donated by Lafayette OJJ staff. Claude teamed up with **Karen Hebert** of The Extra Mile in Lafayette to prepare three large boxes of baby care items and clothing. **RM Michelle Thomas** assisted in Claude's endeavor, and officers, social services and support staff enthusiastically jumped on board. This teen dad showed interest in learning how to be a good father and continues to seek out resources to help in this lifelong journey with his child.

Staff Participate in Several Community Fundraisers

Miles Perret Cancer Services in Lafayette is devoted to helping families struggling with cancer. The center provides services such as counseling, use of a state-of-the-art gym, wigs, nutrition assistance and mastectomy items, and helps to meet so many other needs of members of the community struggling with cancer, all free of charge. The center relies on donations and fundraisers, the biggest of which is the annual Games of Acadiana, an all-day fun-filled event held at the Cajundome in Lafayette.

Donations can be made at the Games, and companies from all over the Acadiana area

donate money, supplies and time to benefit the Games. OJJ was well-represented, as many of the officers volunteered to help work the Games. **PPS Robert Guirard** and **PPO Jamie Baronet** worked the Minute To Win It booth, while **PPOs Chase Cappel** and **Nick Landry** worked the Spider Jump. **PPO Kevin Broussard** was the liaison for the Angry Birds game, and this was his fourth year volunteering at the Games. **PPO Cassandra Brown** helped with Angry Birds. It's wonderful to know that when the community needs people to step up, OJJ can be counted on to answer the call.

Faith House provides housing and services to battered women and their children. The Lafayette Region participated in a school supply drive for the children at Faith House. School supplies were donated and collected, and then were distributed to the children prior to the start of the school year.

PPOs Jimmy Guidry, Andre Harrison, Chris Leblanc, Jeff Soileau and Wanda Sylvester, and Adm. Asst. Christie Thomas helped out the St. Landry - Evangeline United Way in its "Stuff the Bus" campaign. All of the school supplies that were collected were brought to the St. Landry Parish School Board office, where our staff helped other volunteers divide the school supplies, box them up, and then load them onto 35 pallets. Each of the 35 elementary schools in the area received a pallet of supplies.

PPOs Tashana Boyd, Jeff Edwards, Monisha Fruge, Jason McCraney, Jody Osmer and Brian Simpson, and PPS Courtney Holderman participated in a school supply drive at Bluecliff College, where donated school supplies were stuffed into donated backpacks, and distributed to needy school children from the Acadiana area.



Omega Psi Phi fraternity held its 11th annual "Kuts for Kids" at Bluecliff College. The event provided free haircuts to 500 kids to start the school year, along with backpacks filled with donated school supplies. The event was a tremendous success.

Director of Education Theresa Rice thanked **RM Michelle Thomas** for allowing Lafayette OJJ staff to participate in the event. Officers representing OJJ with pride were, pictured left, **Adm. Asst. Cassandra Griffin**, **PPO Tashana Boyd**, **PPO Brian Simpson**, a member of Psi Phi, and **PPO George Hebert**.

Lafayette Staff Tour Columbia



Lafayette OJJ staff visited the new Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia. Officers were given a tour of the campus, and were able to talk with many of the youth housed there. The facility was very neat and clean, and all youth the staff encountered were very respectful and polite.



Yellowstone National Park. Photo by Danny Woods.

Lake Charles Regional Office

Congratulations on a Special Anniversary

RM Ann Vick celebrated **42** years of service to OJJ in August. She has dedicated a lifetime of service to our agency – a truly phenomenal accomplishment.



Good Fortune for RM Vick

In September **RM Ann Vick** received a "Scratch your number for a chance to win" opportunity in the mail from the Lake Charles Kia dealership. As luck would have it, Ann had the winning number. Her prize was a NEW, FREE, 46-inch flat-screen television! She learned that the odds of having a local winner are **one in 55 million**.



While at the dealership to collect her prize, pictured above, the winnings kept coming. The salesmen bargained and bargained. Eventually, they found a deal "too good to refuse." Ann drove away from the dealership as the proud owner of a fully-loaded, shiny, new 2013 Kia Sorentowith her brand new TV safely stored in the back! We are so happy for the stroke of good fortune for Ms. Ann Vick!



Youth Places in Art Contest

Youth Delmond R. received an Honorable Mention Ribbon for his entry into the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest. His duck drawing demonstrated incredible talent. His probation officer, **PPO Fred Fontenot**, received the drawing and ribbon in the mail and was very proud of the youth's accomplishment. Fred shared the honor with the staff.



Delmond R.'s winning duck drawing.

Thanks for Going Above and Beyond

PPO Rebecca Harmon demonstrated generosity. In times when the OJJ budget requires us to become creative, Rebecca bought school uniforms for probationer **Amorian H.** out of her own pocket.

PPO Angie Stevens contacted a local church and was able to obtain some Youth Challenge Program clothes for a young lady in need.

We've had to get inventive, but our probation officers are dedicated to doing what it takes.

Thank you to all PPOs who routinely do transports at odd hours. Recently, many of our officers worked late in transporting a young lady for safety. **PPOs Monet Newman, Rebecca Harmon** and **Fred Fontenot** made after-hours mental health hospital eval transports to assist Baton Rouge OJJ. **PPOs Ronald Gilchrist** and **Hollie**

Comeaux had a late Friday night to assist the same youth.

PPO Monet Newman had a young man in custody placed at Harbour House. She made several after-hours visits to sooth him and help him through a transition and in efforts to preserve his placement. His mother's financial instability and housing instability created stress for him; this stress showed in his behavior. PPO Newman communicated to him that he was still capable of good things and kept him focused. He is now doing much better.

PPO Jeff Haley is commended for meeting the mission. During supervisory observations in Beauregard court, Jeff advocated to keep two youth out of custody in Beauregard Parish. Jeff was successful in presenting a plan that allowed the youth to remain in their homes.

What's Going On

Youth Joey M. (R.H.'s caseload) but supervised by **PPO Rebecca Harmon**, graduated from Camp Beauregard Youth Challenge Program, and also earned his GED.

PPO Angela Stevens was overjoyed to celebrate the YCP graduation of **Youth Corey C.** Corey obtained his GED in the program. He was an outstanding YCP cadet and is now considering a military career. Best of luck to Corey and we are so glad Angie was able to have a celebration moment to keep her motivated to reach these kids. We all need those moments! These kinds of successes are what prevents burn-out!

PPO Monet Newman continues to present our Shoplifting Prevention Program Course in Deridder. The most recent class was held in August.

CPR Instructor PPO Rebecca Harmon presented a CPR class.

One of our probation officers writes monthly personal goals to guide self-improvement. She shared her present month's goal and then shared some past goals. She writes a small note in her planner, such as "Be cautious with my words" or "Exceed all deadlines" or "Do something nice for others this month." They are written monthly for the workplace and to benefit children we serve. We were very impressed by her silent efforts and are encouraged to do the same. She is a motivator!

PPS Melissa Cross and **PPO Monet Newman** remain very involved with our office's Working Together for Families (WTF) Committee meeting. We are interested in upcoming legislation and collaboration. Melissa was asked to present the benefits and challenges of our grassroots collaboration during a conference call with OJJ and DCFS leaders.

Our training coordinator, D.C. and her trainee, **PPO Monet Newman**, recently attended a meeting for OJJ Unit Training Officers in Baton Rouge. They learned a lot and realized how valuable their organizational skills will be. This is a lot of work and we appreciate those willing and able to do this task well.

Our office had a beneficial JIDS training with **Deputy Interstate Compact Administrators Suzie Durrett** and **Katrina Boden**. We appreciate their efforts to present this was a worthwhile training.

Kudos to all who attended the CPTP Diversity Training: **PPOs Jeff Haley, Monet Newman, D.C., S.K., Rebecca Harmon, Fred Fontenot, and PPSs Melissa Cross and PPS Ken Vidrine**. We laughed and learned!



Program Specialist Karli Pullard and her workout group participated in the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk in Sulphur.

Thank you to **PPOs Monet Newman, D.C., Hollie Comeaux** and **Rebecca Harmon**, who volunteered their time to conduct the Fall Career Fair at McNeese State University for collaboration with our local universities. We meet this ACA Standard routinely, due to these awesome volunteers.

Our office went above and beyond (all week) for Boss' Day. We had breakfast on two mornings, snacks on two afternoons, and a big lunch that Wednesday. Through this, we have seen beautiful collaboration throughout the units. They are truly working together and putting forth a lot of effort. We've seen laughs and they have yielded amazing results as a team. The supervisors are honored and are very proud!



Monroe Regional Office

Celebration of Change Attended

Monroe OJJ was delighted to attend the Celebration of Change at Swanson Center for Youth in October. The office was represented by **RM Patty Newman, PS Walteree Barnes, PP03s Hannah Dozier, Gary Hunter, Jeremy Keyes and Joel McMair, and PPO2 Reginald Chaptman.** As always, guests were treated to a delicious lunch and energetic program.

Training Presented

We would like to thank **Program Manager Jan James** from Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia for presenting annual mental health training at Monroe OJJ in October, as well as **PPS Karl Wallace**, who presented a lively field officer safety refresher course.

Staff Move into Leadership Positions

We would like to offer our support to **PPS Orlando Davis**, who has been detailed into the Assistant Director position at Swanson Center for Youth in Monroe, and to **PP03 Gary Hunter**, who has assumed Orlando's supervisory responsibilities at Monroe OJJ. We know we will see outstanding leadership from both gentlemen in their new positions.

Outreach Efforts Acknowledged

The Monroe office was touched to receive a thank-you postcard from the Sandy Hook Elementary School PTA. Sandy Hook Elementary School suffered devastating losses in 2012 after a school shooting, and communities nationwide contributed to the Snowflakes for Sandy Hook project, including Monroe OJJ. The postcard read:

“Thank you for your heartfelt, generous, and thoughtful contribution to Snowflakes for Sandy Hook. Because of your efforts and many others, we received snowflakes of all shapes, sizes, and forms from schools, PTAs,

community centers, and families across the country and around the world. Sandy Hook students, staff, and families have been the recipient of a blizzard of love and support in the form of snowflakes, and we could not be more thankful! Our community has taken great comfort in the global outpouring of support from wonderful people like you. We will always treasure our blizzard of love.”



Monroe OJJ's Snowflake for Sandy Hook

PPO3 Joel McNair assisted the local juvenile justice system by participating in the Ouachita Parish Cadet Academy, sponsored by the Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office. PPO McNair taught classes on the juvenile justice system and courts. Also participating were 4th Judicial District **Assistant District Attorney, Johnny Sanders**, and **Jason Stewart** of Green Oaks Detention Center.

Congratulations!

PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom's youth, Waylon P., recently earned his GED, and is enrolled at Delta Community College in the welding program.

Jobs for America's Graduates

Monroe OJJ would like to extend congratulations to **Youths Keith M. and Ken R.**, both residents of Johnny Robinson's Boys Home in Monroe. Keith and Ken recently participated in the awards ceremony for the Donna Contois Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana (JAG-LA) at Wossman High

School. The program is an affiliate of the national Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG), the nation’s largest model of school-to-career transition for at-risk and disadvantaged youth. Goals include delivering unique services to at-risk and disadvantaged high school, middle school, and out-of-school youth; providing follow-up services to assist in the pursuit of postsecondary education and assisting in workforce entry into quality jobs. Ken also recently took the GED and is hopeful to learn good news soon!



Youth Ken R. a recent graduate of the Jobs for America’s Graduates Program.

Congratulations! Monroe OJJ Baby Fever Continues!

When PPS Jennifer Perkins Bible, along with her son Kohlson, celebrated their birthdays, Kohlson received what he called “the best present ever!” – news that he will be a big brother next April.

PPO3 Hannah Dozier and her husband, Ron, are pleased to announce the addition of their upcoming bundle of joy to what is now an epidemic of baby fever at Monroe OJJ! Baby Dozier will join **big sister, Payton,** in May 2014.

For those of you keeping score, Monroe OJJ is now expecting four babies in 2014: **Miss Baby Keyes, Miss Baby Fox, Mister Baby Bible and The-Yet-To-Be-Determined Baby Dozier.** We anticipate that 2014 will be a delightful year of chubby cheeks and sleep-deprived officers!

Staff Activities

PPO3 Mark Miller and his wife participated in the 200th commemoration of the massacre at Fort Mims, 30 miles north of Mobile, Alabama. The actual massacre occurred on August 30, 1813, where over 1,000 Creek Indians, known as Red Sticks, attacked the fort, which had about 535 inhabitants, the majority women and children. Only about 34 of them survived, most of them men. Below are photos from the re-enactment.



Natchitoches Regional Office

We Welcome a New Regional Manager



In September we welcomed **Clay Dupuy** as our new Regional Manager. We are so glad to have him aboard!



PPO3 Ashley Ward-Meacham flew to Washington State to board a cruise to Alaska. This is Ashley as she stepped off the boat into Canadian soil. Now she can say she was there!

Congratulations!

PPO3 Ieisha Beasley and **Demetry Caldwell** were married August 3 at Natchitoches Country Club. The couple honeymooned in Arkansas. Congratulations to the happy couple!



Precious Moments



Adm. Coordinator Monica Breedlove-Achord's beautiful granddaughter, **Maddison Elizabeth Breedlove** was born July 16, weighing 7 lbs., 13 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long.



Transport Officer Rachel Martin's granddaughter, **Lynnle Johnette Griffith**, was born June 26, weighing 5 lbs., 13 oz., and was 19 inches long.



Yellowstone National Park. Photo by Danny Woods.

New Orleans Metro Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month



Congratulations to **PPO3 LeMoyne Reine**, July Probation Officer of the Month.

LeMoyne works tirelessly for OJJ's youth. He has proven to be dependable, loyal, and conscientious. This man of God, as he is referred to by many of his co-workers, is a true ambassador, for the families he serves.

His professionalism, kind heart and leadership skills have gained him much respect from his co-workers and others he meets daily. LeMoyne is truly an asset to OJJ and very deserving of this recognition. Kudos to you, LeMoyne!



PPO3 Austin Johnson was chosen October Probation Officer of the Month for many reasons, but ultimately for his hard work and dedication to his clients and to OJJ. He is the New Orleans Metro

region's firearms instructor, managing the firearms training responsibility and the armory.

Austin is a member of the Emergency Response Team and is actively involved as the liaison with the St. Bernard Detention facility. He volunteers when needed, maintaining a positive, supportive attitude. Austin is a valuable asset to our team in New Orleans and to the OJJ. Congratulations Austin!

Supporting Youth Who Strive to Improve

PPO3 Daryl Dunn, left, is pictured below with **Youth Delnisha W.**, center and **PPS Nikita White**, right. Daryl has been working to support Delnisha, who has been making great strides to improve.

As a result of her hard work, Delnisha was allowed to select two items from the Positive Incentive Room. She has vowed to continue to make monthly strides in hopes of earning other items.

It is a pleasure to provide rewards to youth who strive to improve their behavior through positive affirmation and tangible rewards.



Bringing a Message to Youth

PPO3 Stanley Schofield had the opportunity to speak at our third annual back to school program. Mr. Schofield received rave reviews, as the students were excited to hear his words of encouragement.

Treats and Festivities

PPS Nikita White tells us that on October 31 **RM Kelly Clement** and the supervisors in the New Orleans Metro Office held a mini-carnival that included Halloween festivities. Staff was able to visit the supervisors' offices throughout the day to play games, answer trivia questions, dance, sing, and participate in physical challenges. The staff really enjoyed

the tricks, treats, food and quality time spent together. Below are some photos of the day.



Left, PPO3 Roosevelt Johnson and PPO2 Nakia Harris. Right, Adm. Asst. Bridget Dillon and PPS Ralph Jones.



From left, PPO3 Evalina Lestrick, PPS Daphne Johnson, PPO2 Kimberly Dickerson and PPS Justine Aguiar.



From left, PPO3 Evalina Lestrick, PPS Lydia Johnson and Adm. Asst. Ramona Julien.

Enrichment Activity at Audubon Zoo

An enormous thank-you to our partners at Audubon Institute for supplying the New Orleans Metro Office with 20 passes each to the Aquarium and Audubon Institute, for the youth we serve. The partnership has grown by leaps and bounds over the years, as an

initiative of **Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit, LMSW**. We are thankful that they are only a phone call away to assist in meeting the needs of youth in the New Orleans and Jefferson Parish area. Enjoy the photos below from our trip to the Audubon Zoo.



Congratulations



New Orleans OJJ would like to congratulate **PPO3 Daniel Mingea** on his recent nuptials. To refresh your memory, on October 31, 2012, Danny, with the assistance of **Hugo**, the Hornets mascot, proposed to his fiancé **Casey Littlejohn**. On September 14 Danny and Casey tied the knot. Danny is from St. Bernard Parish and decided to celebrate his roots with a non-traditional groom's cake from Gerald's Donuts. The office was excited to be part of the celebration and danced the night away with the bride and groom.



Above left, the gorgeous wedding cake, and right, the decidedly non-traditional groom's cake. Below, members of the New Orleans OJJ team celebrate with Danny and Casey Mingea.



Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations Employees of the Month

June: PPO3 Brandy Stratton
July: PPO3 Jennifer Dingler



Shreveport OJJ hosted a team building and training presentation on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Attendees pictured are Rosemary Davis, Delores Dyer, Dot Thibodeaux and Brenda Swanigan, all of the Council on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren; Family Liaison Donna Bowie; Shreveport RM Kristi Nelson and Natchitoches OJJ SSC Nelda Graham.

Congratulations

PO1 **Jacquelle Jackson** and her husband **Clark** are the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl, **Brooklyn Rose**, born July 7.

Swanson Center for Youth - Monroe

Employee Appreciation

Swanson staff were shown how much they are appreciated earlier this year. A tent was set up beside the baseball field for the festivities. We were pleased to have as our special guests West Monroe **Police Chief Jerry Stansberry**, **Caldwell Parish Sheriff Steve May** and representatives from the Monroe City Police, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office, Ouachita Parish District Attorney's Office and Caldwell Parish District Attorney's Office.

Employees of the Year were recognized, including **Support Employee: JJS3 Sharon Jackson**; **JJS Employee: JJS2 Donnie Adams**; **Social Services Employee: Social Services Counselor 3 Charles Kline** and **Supervisor Principal Will Lee**. The Swanson choir performed, accompanied by **Chaplain Rev. Ricky James** and **JJS Britaria Williams**. A wonderful meal was enjoyed, thanks to our resident grillers, **Program Coordinator "Coach" John Preston** and **JJS6 Vernon Foy**.



RD Carolyn Lewis, Dr. Livers, Caldwell Parish Sheriff Steve May, Asst. Sec. Sean Hamilton and Director Vickie Shoecraft.



Supervisor of the Year Principal William Lee, center, flanked by Director Vickie Shoecraft, left and RD Carolyn Lewis, right.



Support Employee of the Year JJS3 Sharon Jackson, right, receives her award from RD Carolyn Lewis.



Director Vickie Shoecraft, left, congratulates Social Services Employee of the Year Counselor 3 Charles Kline, center, pictured with RD Carolyn Lewis.



“Soul Sisters” Director Vickie Shoecraft, RD Carolyn Lewis and Bridge City Interim Director Nadira Ricks “performing” while we were setting up under the tent.

RD Carolyn Lewis congratulates JJS Employee of the Year JJS2 Donnie Adams.



Northern Region Probation and Parole staff turned out to help serve the meal under the tent.

Congratulations to our Graduates

Congratulations to the Swanson graduates! Forty-four youth received their GEDs during the 2012-2013 school year. Out of those, 33 youth participated in the graduation exercises. Special guest speaker was **Representative Katrina Jackson** from District 16.



The graduates in their cap and gowns prepare to walk to receive their diplomas.



Gift bags were presented to all graduates.

Track Team Shine at Meet

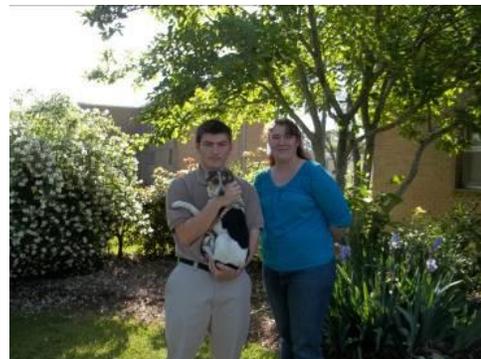
This year, the Swanson Track Team competed in track meets at West Monroe High School and University of Louisiana at Monroe, where they placed from 1st to 3rd place in several events. Our youth have never really participated in organized track before, and they practice for just a short time on a very subpar field, but nonetheless, with the equipment we've been able to purchase and the dedication of some really special staff, like **Coach John Preston**, **Coach Jerome Dixon**, and **Coach Dexter Jackson**, our small team has developed into a powerhouse package of dynamite on the track field.

Success at Second Chance Kennels



Dakota W. with his special friend Becca.

During his detail with the dogs at Swanson's Second Chance Kennel, **Youth Dakota W.** decided he could give the terrier mix **Becca** a good home. Upon completion of Becca's stay at the kennel, Dakota adopted her and Becca was sent home with his sister until Dakota completes his stay at Swanson.



Dakota W. with his sister and their newest family member, Becca.

Swanson Center for Youth – Columbia

SCY at Columbia: Just Two Months

By Program Manager Jan James, LMSW

There are a number of positive events and programs going on at Swanson-Columbia. Everyone is excited about the progress being made and the wonderful work environment. We take pride in our campus, the school, dormitories, staff, and of course, our youth, who are responding so well to the new environment.



Swanson-Columbia campus

Their focus and progress in programming shows every day, and we are pleased with the positive results so far. By August, we had one youth pass the GED, and eight more took the test that month. This is one result of our youth and teachers having a good rapport and a spirit of partnership.

Sometimes we are reminded of how important faith is to so many of our youth by their participation in religious activities. **Reverend Ricky James** took on the challenge of organizing a Vacation Bible School, which was attended by 32 of the 40 youth on our campus. Their behavior indicated that they took the lessons seriously, and they seemed motivated to apply the lessons to their own lives.

Challenger Dormitory **Group Leader Patricia Harris** and her staff honored their youth's outstanding behavior and progress in programming by hosting a surprise luncheon where the youth were treated to many of their favorite foods. The luncheon ended in a card playoff between staff and youth. A good time was had by all.

The youth at Swanson-Columbia understand that a positive attitude and behavior, along with progress in school performance and treatment programming, can result in privileges such as escorted leaves, furloughs and early release. Three of our youth were granted early releases in August, four youth enjoyed successful furloughs, and two youth experienced escorted leaves with their families. Several more of our youth have

been recommended for early release consideration. To achieve these accomplishments, our youth and staff have been working together on Life Skills and preparing our youth for the future.

The staff came together recently to raise money to help with expenses for **JJS Robert Reed's grand-daughter**, who is undergoing medical treatment. We held a luncheon social with excellent participation from staff; donations were accepted and all had a wonderful time socializing.



Swanson-Columbia campus

Six of our staff were selected to participate in "Thinking For A Change" (T4C) facilitator training. The program consists of 40 hours of instruction, 24 hours of Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT) and 16 hours of face-to-face training in Baton Rouge over the course of six weeks. Thinking For a Change teaches social skills, cognitive self change and problem solving to our youth.

Our staff and youth at Swanson-Columbia take pride in our unique campus. It is located in a rural setting outside the small town of Columbia. The surroundings are peaceful and relaxing, and allow everyone to focus on meeting the mission of OJJ. We have had visits from the Lafayette probation and parole office and look forward to visits from the Hammond, Thibodaux, and New Orleans offices.

We encourage all of OJJ's staff to come and visit us and see for yourselves how our youth are progressing at Columbia.

Tallah Regional Office

OJJ Tallulah has been busy keeping up current training requirements. OJJ policy reviews were completed as required.

PPO Robert Johnson attended and completed the Glock Armorer Course, scoring 100%. The class was held by the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office in New Iberia.



Recent birthday honorees PPO LaJuana Harrell, left, and PPS Johnnie Bowman.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations Employees of the Month

PPO3 Jaime Hebert, August.

Administrative Coordinator 3 Kim Foret, September.

Administrative Coordinator Doddie Picou, October.

PPO3 Josef Nguyen, November.

Thanks to these outstanding employees – they are all valuable assets to our team here in Thibodaux.

Giving Back to the Community

PPO3 Herman Matherne was invited to “Lafourche Pride,” an awards banquet for the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, where he was presented the “**Humanitarian Award**” by



Parish Sheriff Craig Webre, for his involvement with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life. The event was called “Carnage for a Cure” and has raised over \$12,000.00 over the years.

Thibodaux OJJ Honors Our Veterans



PPO3 James Percle served in the U.S. Army from 1988-1991. He was a 96R Ground Surveillance Systems Operator. James took his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and he attended the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. The picture was taken when James was stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska with the U.S. Army.

Thanks for a Tour of Columbia

PPOs Eddie Fannin, Josh Becnel, Keith Kotoski, Peter Pobocik, Heidi Brown, Summer Ferriera, Rachel Loupe and Allison Lirette took a trip to tour Swanson-Columbia. We were all very impressed with the campus and the overall operations. Thanks to the Swanson-Columbia staff and youth for welcoming us to the facility.

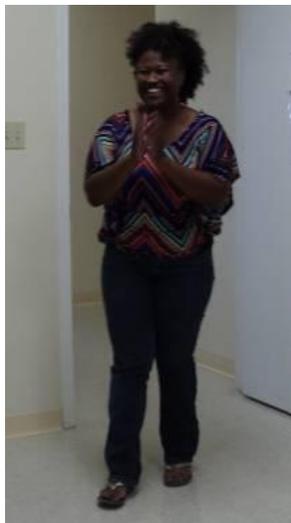
Thanks to our RM and Supervisors

We would like to thank **RM Angela T. Koenig, PPSs Robert Duet, Andi Ford, Lorraine Thibodaux, and Administrative Supervisor Cindy Oubre**, for a delicious meal of lasagna, shrimp fettuccine, buttered corn and garden salad, served for all our PPOs in appreciation for their hard work and dedication to OJJ.

Farewell

Thibodaux OJJ bids farewell to two special people, **PPO Peter Pobocik** and **Social Services Counselor Reshonn Saul**.

Peter, below, moved on to our New Orleans OJJ office. We miss him and wish him well.



Reshonn moved to St. James Parish, where she is now helping our youth and families in the capacity of FINS Coordinator for St. James Parish. We will surely miss her and wish her well in the next chapter of her journey with helping our youth and families.



Well, unfortunately, we also have some sad news.....**Foghorn Leghorn** has officially left the building. We surely enjoyed him and loved him while he was here. We are not sure what happened to him or where he went on his next adventure.

We would like to share some of the memories that he left us with (along with the sounds of him crowing during the day)... **We truly miss him.**



Foghorn Leghorn liked to greet us in the morning by the door. He also liked to hop up on our window sill to say hello from one of his favorite resting spots...



Foghorn Leghorn's second favorite spot...right by the door where he liked to sleep.

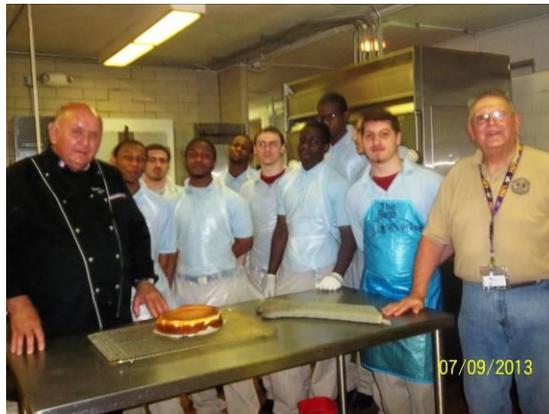


BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations



**Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC
Recipe of the Month**

I invited the owner of Desserts First from Baton Rouge, **Chef James Window**, to come to Bridge City and spend the day with the students, and demonstrate the way he puts together his cheesecakes. He was very impressed with the students' interest in cooking and he asked if would be able to come back and do it again. Of course I said he would be welcome any time. Chef James, left, is pictured below with our students.



Pictured from left are Donna Bowie, Chef Jeff Henderson, Bridge City Chef Ron Sonnier and Director Nadira Ricks.

Family Liaison Donna Bowie was able to get **Chef Jeff Henderson**, a Food Network celebrity, to come to Bridge City and talk to the students about his experiences. Jeff had a troubled adolescence; he was thrown into jail multiple times and stabbed in the chest when he was 16 over a gang-related dispute. After moving to San Diego, Jeff became involved with a drug dealer and began selling drugs. In 1987, Jeff was arrested by the San Diego Drug Task Force on a narcotics charge. He spent the next decade

in a state prison, which changed his life. Jeff developed a relationship with a fellow inmate who mentored Jeff in the prison kitchen. Jeff discovered his passion for cooking while in prison, and once he was released, moved to Las Vegas to pursue his dream of becoming an executive chef. Without any formal cooking instruction, Jeff went on to become the first African-American executive chef at the Bellagio in Las Vegas, and a New York Times bestselling-author for his memoir *Cooked*.

The students were excited to get the chance to get out to some of the probation and parole offices and cater the receptions for the recent events in Hammond, Baton Rouge, Thibodaux and New Orleans. To say the least it was a lot of work, but we met the challenge every day to get it done. I was very pleased with their performance, even though it was rough getting in the mood to work as early as we had to start. One Monday we had to be in the Hammond office at 8 a.m. to deliver food for the Baton Rouge and Hammond offices, so that meant getting ready to leave Bridge City by 6 a.m. - that was the roughest day of the week.

After that big week, we took a field trip to the Louisiana Restaurant Association's annual Food and Hospitality Expo at the Convention Center in New Orleans where we had a great opportunity to network with many purveyors. The connections we made were met with enthusiasm, leading to offers to visit their plants and warehouses. The students were really receptive to the opportunity to see, taste and learn about the many products that are made in Louisiana, and the produce that is available from around the world.

It was a great two weeks and then we were back in class, helping out the cafeteria to process food for the campus. Pictured below are some of our experiences.







LOUISIANA FRIED STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

2 large onions, finely diced
 1 clove garlic, finely diced
 2 ½ sticks butter
 1 ½ lbs. shrimp
 1 lb. fresh white lump crab meat
 4 cups bread crumbs
 1 tbsp. salt
 1 tsp. pepper, black
 ½ tsp. red pepper
 1 cup green onions and tops, finely chopped

½ cup parsley, chopped
 5 large bell peppers

BATTER:

2 eggs, beaten
 6 oz. milk
 1 cup cracker meal
 1 cup fishfry (Zatarain's)
 cooking oil

In a heavy iron pot, sauté onions and garlic in butter until wilted and transparent. Add shrimp and crab meat. Cook 5 minutes. Add bread crumbs, salt, pepper, green onions and parsley. Cook another 15 minutes. Let stand until cool. Cut bell peppers into 3 parts, lengthwise. Remove seeds and stems and parboil for 3 minutes. Mound cold stuffing on each 1/3 bell pepper and form into a ball.

Make batter by beating eggs and milk together in bowl. Mix cracker meal and fishfry together in a separate bowl. Roll stuffed peppers in the meal mixture, then in the egg mixture, and back again in the meal. Fry in oil at 375 degrees until golden brown and hot throughout. Freezes well. Serves 15.



Mexican Pork and Eggplant



3 country-style pork ribs, cut into cubes
 1 large eggplant, peeled and cubed
 1 15-oz. can black beans, drained
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1 green bell pepper, chopped
 1 14.5-oz. can stewed tomatoes, Mexican style
 1/4 cup freshly grated or shredded Parmesan cheese

Put pork, eggplant, beans, garlic and bell pepper into slow cooker. Pour stewed tomatoes over all. Cook on Low for 6 hours. Remove from cooker and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Serves 6.

Have a great month, and remember, if you have any requests for recipes or food questions, please let me know at ronald.sonnier@la.gov

C'EST SI BON!

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published on-line monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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