

NON-CIRCULATING

# Texas Youth Commission Journal

News and information from throughout the agency

September 1996, Fall Issue

4900 N. Lamar, Austin, TX 78751

SEP 27 1996

## Commitments rise; budget requests increase

### In this issue:

**Bob Woods named  
superintendent at Bryan**

*Story on page 2.*

**Agency reorganization  
continues**

*Story on page 3.*

**Outstanding staff  
members honored**

*Story and photos on pages 6-10.*

### Commitments, population up

**T**exas Youth Commission (TYC) commitments were over projected levels by 16 percent for the months of May through August. There were 949 commitments during this period, exceeding the projected number of 819. Commitments for the year were over the projected level by 9 percent (2,529 vs. 2,316 projected) including an all-time high of 262 in August, 21% over the 217 projected. Commitments from the vast majority of Texas counties were near, at, or

***The facilities bearing the major brunt of the high number of commitments have been institutions, which are collectively operating at more than 100 above their budgeted level.***

below their yearly target, which is set by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission. Only thirteen probation departments exceeded their target by at least ten commitments, namely Dallas (+115), Harris (+71); Bexar (+69), Travis (+63), Jefferson (+42), Nueces (+37), Galveston (+25), Cameron (+26), Angelina (+15) and Nacogdoches (+11); Hidalgo (+15); McLennan (+11); and Lubbock (+10) counties; nine probation departments committed at least 10 fewer than their target, namely El Paso (-50), Collin (-27), Denton (-23), Tarrant (-16), Williamson (-13), Webb (-12), Ector (-11), Fort Bend (-10), and Johnson (-10). While both Dallas and Harris counties are significantly over their commitment target, commitments from *(continued on page 5)*

### Agency requests \$407 million

**T**he Texas Youth Commission (TYC) has submitted its budget request to the Legislature for the 1998-99 biennium to reflect a need for a 63 percent increase in bed capacity — from 3400 beds in 1996 to more than 5500 beds at the end of FY 1999.

Instructions from the budget office directed all state agencies to keep their budget request at the current level of funding, which will be the average of the FY 1996 and 1997 budgets, said John Franks, assistant deputy director for financial support.

The Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Office of Budget and Planning allow agencies to request funding above the current level, he explained. TYC Board Chairman Dr. Leonard Lawrence made a request for higher funding, and received an affirmative response.

The additional request is referred to as "supplemental information" regarding exceptional items, which represent a total request for the next biennium of \$409.62 million — compared to \$314.44 million for the current biennium.

The request is based on our projected population, and considers the longer terms of youth committed under determinate sentences, said Franks.

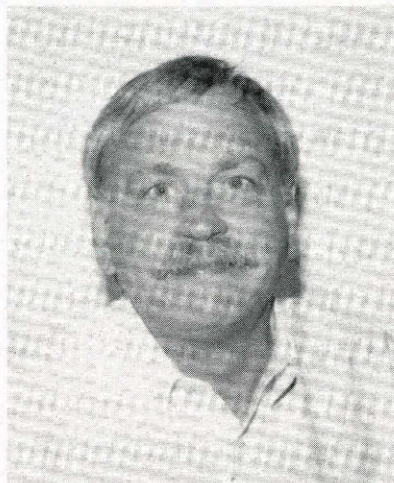
The agency is asking for funds to construct two new 500-bed institutions at a cost of \$12.5 million each; funds to construct a security building at Brownwood and a multipurpose building at West Texas; and funds to make extensive repairs at seven facilities. The total construction request is \$35.3 *(continued on page 2)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

Staff Development	
Advisory Board .....	17
Management Support Update ..	18
Tenure recipients .....	20
Patton farewell .....	22

### SECTIONS

Around TYC .....	2
Programs .....	11
Volunteers .....	13
Cultural Events .....	14
Youth Spotlight .....	15
Human Resources .....	17



*Robert E. 'Bob' Woods has assumed duties as superintendent of the J. W. Hamilton Jr. State School in Bryan, which TYC is scheduled to open March 1, 1997. Woods has been assistant superintendent of Crockett State School since June 1995. Prior to his employment with TYC, he served as director of Smith County Juvenile Services for over 13 years. Woods holds BS and MA degrees in criminology and corrections from Sam Houston State University.*

## AROUND TYC

### Briscoe testifies regarding emotionally disturbed youth

The Texas Youth Commission (TYC) was asked to testify before the House Committee on Criminal Justice and People with Mental Disabilities concerning emotionally disturbed youth committed to the agency.

TYC Chief of Staff Judy Briscoe, representing the agency, reported on the dramatic increase in the number of juvenile offenders with mental impairments.

She said that for many years the percent of youth requiring psychotropic medications at Corsicana (the agency's facility for emotionally disturbed delinquents) had been about 50 percent; and only about 6 percent of other youth in TYC required psychotropic medications.

"Today, however, nearly 90 percent of the youth at Corsicana and between 17 and 20 percent of the youth in TYC's general population require psychotropic medications," Briscoe told the committee.

Briscoe emphasized that such medications are not used as a means of behavior control, but are given after clinical diagnosis of mental illness.

She also pointed out that recently the majority of youth are being committed with-

out current psychologicals or psychiatric evaluations—especially from smaller counties.

"This has changed from the past where 50 per cent of new commitments came in with current assessments," she said.

Briscoe also told the committee that the current Memorandum of Understanding with the Texas Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation is being modified to more clearly define the roles of the two agencies in providing services to children with mental illness or mental retardation.

She also updated the committee on TYC's treatment for mentally retarded offenders.

"Last session the Legislature gave TYC the statutory authority to serve juvenile offenders with mental retardation.

"But no additional funds were provided," she reminded them. "We contracted with a 16-bed program in San Marcos, but we will need more beds in the future—and we currently have no transitional placements for these teenagers with mental retardation." ★

### Agency budget request

*(continued from page 1)*

million. Included in this request are funds to operate the new facilities in Bryan and Vernon, and another Texas Department of Criminal Justice facility site, yet to be determined. More specifically, 31 new MIS positions; 13 additional psychologists; 16 case aides to assist parole officers with transportation and casework duties; 15 additional caseworkers; eight new restitution officers in aftercare; one new grievance officer and four hearings examiners; four new auditors; three new trainers; four new apprehension specialists; three new interstate compact positions; and five new resocialization treatment specialists, have been requested.

Also included in the request is \$2.46 million for career/workplace technology and seven additional halfway house staff—one each at seven halfway houses.

The agency requested and received permission from the Board to submit \$150.5 million over the baseline budget level of funding established in budget instructions.

In addition, funds are being requested to expand the youth advisor program in aftercare; to add two court liaison positions to perform due process functions.

"Without the additional funds, and with the projected increase in commitments, our minimum length of stay would need to be reduced from nine months to four months," said Franks.

The budget request includes an additional 191 youth activity supervisors to increase staff-to-youth ratios during the night and morning shifts.

The TYC Board approved the budget submission at its August 1, 1996, meeting.

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### Briefly noted...

◆ The staff development/media department has announced the release of a new Executive Director briefing video dated July 19. The video series is designed to keep TYC staff informed of agency issues. Copies have been sent to each field office.

## New opening date for Victory Field

**B**ecause inmate labor has been diverted to convert another facility in Bryan, Texas, Texas Youth Commission construction plans have been temporarily postponed at the TYC Victory Field Correctional Academy in Vernon, said Dwight Harris, TYC assistant deputy executive director for juvenile corrections.

The new target date to open the facility is June 1, 1997, he said. The original opening date was September of 1996. Capacity at completion will be 336 youth.

"We expect to open a management office in Vernon by December 1996, under the supervision of Commandant Lemuel (Chip) Harrison," Harris explained.

Inmate labor will be used to convert the buildings for the TYC facility — the south campus of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Vernon State Hospital. The Texas Legislature, in House Bill 2278, authorized the Texas Board of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to lease the 195-acre south campus to TYC and appropriated \$2 million for the conversion.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice inmates are currently renovating the prison unit near Bryan which TYC is scheduled to open March 1, 1997 as the Hamilton State School. The Bryan facility will house 720 TYC youth.

Lemuel Harrison, currently serving as commandant at the TYC boot camp in Sheffield, was selected as Victory Field's commandant last February. That boot camp was the first of its kind run by TYC and was patterned after the Sergeant Henry Johnson Youth Leadership Program in New York State. ★



*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Steve Robinson shares a light moment with TYC board members Edna Tamayo of Harlingen, left, and Lisa Saemann-Teschner of Dallas, right, during the annual administrators workshop. (See story and photos on pages 6-10.)*

## Regions realigned into service areas

**P**hase III of TYC's reorganization has realigned the state's five regions into three service areas.

A major strategy will be the reallocation and concentration of parole resources in four major counties (the "big four"): Dallas, Tarrant, Harris and Bexar.

"These four counties contain 49 percent of the youth on parole and account for 52 percent of all rearrests," said Dwight Harris, assistant deputy executive director of juvenile corrections.

"In addition, we are establishing a comprehensive quality assurance department to ensure quality program performance and public accountability," he explained.

This is not just a structural change, but a realignment of agency resources and philosophy to reduce recidivism, he said.

"We believe we can reduce the current 47 percent recidivism rate through intensive surveillance and supervision of youth on parole," Harris said. "In fact, it is our goal to reduce recidivism to ten percent by the year 2000."

Phase II of the agency-wide reorganization, announced in May, created Harris' position and three director positions under juvenile corrections.

Those three directors are Paula Morelock, director of contract and support

programs; Tom Tye, director of juvenile corrections and halfway houses; and Alex Escarcega, director of juvenile corrections and aftercare.

Tye now directly supervises Gainesville State School, Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Corsicana Residential Treatment Center, Giddings State School, Jefferson County State School, Crockett State School and J. W. Hamilton Jr. State School. Karen Chalkley-Turcotte, halfway house and independent living administrator, supervises all TYC halfway houses, and reports to Tye.

In addition to aftercare supervision, Escarcega will have supervisory responsibility for Brownwood State School, Brownwood Sanction Unit, Sheffield Boot Camp, West Texas State School, San Saba State School, Coke County Juvenile Justice Center and Victory Field Correctional Academy.

Harris will directly supervise the three directors, the Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit, Project RIO, volunteer services, chaplaincy services and the department planners.

"We look on the formation of three service areas as an evolution of our regional system," said Tom Tye, with efforts made (continued on page 4)



**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER** Steve Robinson, TYC executive director, speaks with graduate Pedro Hernandez during graduation celebrations at Corsicana Residential Treatment Center. Twelve students received GED's. The Community Advisory Council presented monetary gifts to each graduate.

## Briefly noted ...

◆ Thirty-nine West Texas State School staff members donated the 'gift of life' in a blood drive sponsored by the WTSS clinic and Permian Basin Blood Institute in Odessa, according to **Michelle Provence**, RN, who spearheaded the drive.

◆ **Lisa Pasholk** has been named assistant principal at San Saba State School. She has been an education department employee at San Saba since January, and formerly was a teacher at Giddings State School for five years.

◆ The first "Family Day" at McFadden Ranch was held in June. Families traveled from all over the state to participate in seminars, group sessions, and family fun.

## Reorganization

(continued from page 3)

toward creating more equitable workloads."

The Northern Service Area is a merger of the former north and west regions; the Southern Service Area includes the former central and south regions; and the Eastern Service Area is the former east region.

The service areas are expected to create a greater parity, based on the number of youth served, number of staff employed, number of dollars allocated, and the number of programs in the area, said Escarcega.

Escarcega emphasized that parole officers will be concentrating on keeping TYC youth involved in a forty-hour structured week after they are released from residential programs.

"We will also require increased surveillance and expect curfew compliance from youth on parole, in keeping with our responsibility for public protection," he added.

Jules Franklin, aftercare administrator, supervises parole supervisors in the service areas.

Major objectives of the new quality assurance department, under the direction of Morelock, are to move contract programs toward more autonomy; contract for more parole services, and develop and implement a quality assurance process.

Quality assurance administrators are Helen George, Adrian Moore and Linda Ross. They will supervise contract specialists, volunteer coordinators, educational liaisons, system support specialists and quality assurance supervisors.

Also reporting to Morelock will be Title IV-E administration, the centralized placement and statewide transportation unit.

All three department directors emphasize that they intend to be accessible when questions arise from field offices — and all three will serve as final decision makers concerning problems — regardless of which department head would normally be considered the oversight supervisor.

Phase IV of the reorganization is underway and will detail responsibilities in the newly-defined service areas. Numerous changes are being made regarding job re-

sponsibilities, and job descriptions are being rewritten.

"This reorganization is expected to increase cooperation between all programs," said Harris. "The intent is to create an updated, single integrated juvenile corrections system from beginning to end; to link residential and parole programs in order to provide optimal correctional services and reduce recidivism."

Organization charts and lists of after-care staff and quality assurance staff were distributed August 8, 1996, to all staff members through electronic mail.

For further information, contact Joan Timmons, division communications officer.

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# In Gainesville, it's the 'greenhouse effect'

Some positive things are "cropping up" at the Gainesville State School, especially in Dennis Westerlin's agriculture classes.

Despite the drought, plenty of produce has popped out of the ground next to the school's greenhouse, where Westerlin teaches students how to wrestle food out of nature.

"We sell it to staff here pretty much at a wholesale price... it helps the kids and the staff both," Westerlin said.

Money from sales goes into student accounts, depending on how long they've been in the class, their effort and behavior.

"I'm trying to make it as real-world as I can," he said. Students in his classes voted to spend money they earn for new plants — a fact which surprised Westerlin.

"These kids are poor — and generally want instant gratification," he explained. Fresh produce also goes to the school cafeteria, he said.

When Westerlin started working at the school 6 1/2 years ago, students were offered only traditional vocational classes, such as welding and woodshop.

"The ones that really seem to have the kids interested gave them something that was theirs," he said "and all kids want to eat." He admitted that all the strawberries they've grown have been eaten — not sold.

The harvests include squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, cilantro, garlic, chives, watermelons, cantaloupes, spinach, dill, peppers, beans and flowers.

Westerlin's program is as self-sufficient as possible. Flowers are donated by school staff members or come from leftover seeds

from the year before. Pots are reused and there is a discount for customers who return them. Compost piles from cafeteria supplied scraps and raked leaves provide mounds of enriched soil. Excavated rock from the campus will be used for part of a new greenhouse.

The planned 30 by 40-foot structure will double greenhouse space. The existing greenhouse was built in 1947 and was first used as a maintenance shed. Water lines and electrical wiring were re-done and new fixtures installed. An additional greenhouse room was added later.

Students do all the basic work themselves. They use natural pesticides and all-natural fertilizers. Most planting and harvesting is done by hand.

The class does major projects in the spring, during which one part of campus is improved. This year's project was to landscape and plant flowers outside the cafeteria. The project cost less than \$200, but might have cost as much at \$2,000 if done by professionals, said Westerlin.

Incoming students avoided his classes at first because much of the work looked like hard labor, he said. The classes have gained in popularity over the years, however.

Classes include 10-12 students between ages 14 and 19.

"I think gardening is a real benefit for our kids. Whatever they do comes back to them. If they don't perform, they won't see results. The State calls it high order thinking. I just call it 'hands on,'" he concluded. ★

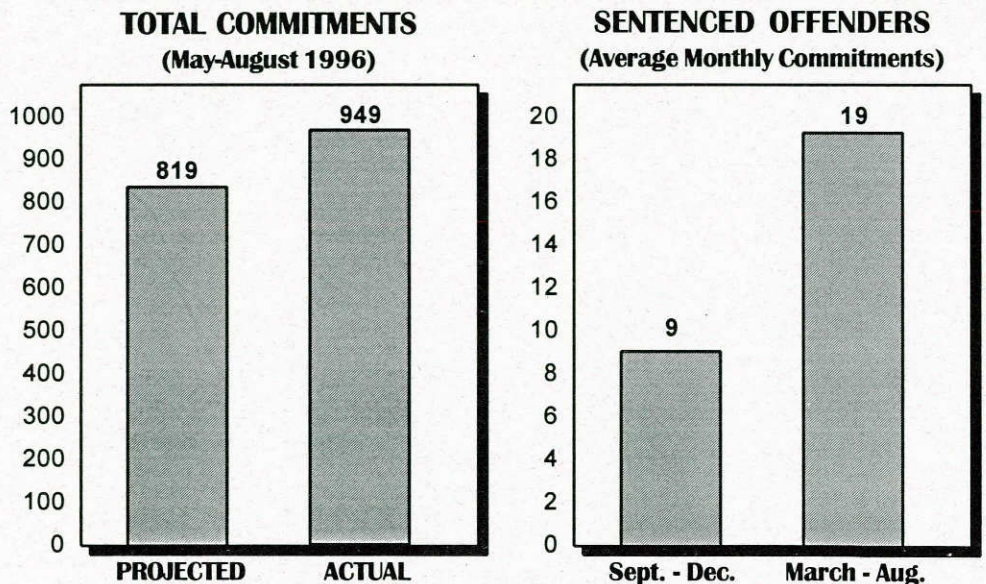
## Commitments up *(continued from page 1)*

Dallas County were especially high before January, when they averaged 49 commitments per month compared to 24 per month since that time and compared to their monthly target of 22. Conversely, commitments from Harris County have been especially high since March, during which they have averaged 49 commitments per month, compared to 30 per month prior to March and compared to their monthly target of 33. Chuck Jeffords, TYC's director of research and planning, indicated that staff from the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission (TJPC) had been working with Dallas County and other high committing counties to find alternatives to commitment to TYC. He also indicated that Harris County, which had kept commitments at or below their targets for several years, was committing more youth because they had consciously decided that the length of stay in their local residential programs was becoming intolerably low due to the

population pressures of keeping so many youth locally rather than committing them to TYC.

The major change in classifications of youth committed to TYC throughout the year has been sentenced offenders, who

have gone from averaging 9 commitments per month, or 4 percent of the commitments from September through December, to 19 commitments per month, or 8 percent of the commitments from March through August. *(continued on page 24)*



# TYC is 'Taking Care of Business'

The Texas Youth Commission held its annual administrators' workshop July 1-3, at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin. The theme for this year's workshop was "Taking Care of Business."

Executive Director Steve Robinson presented various awards including outstanding staff member awards in the categories of institutions, community services, central office, and contracts. He also presented the executive director's award to Judy Briscoe, chief of staff and director of prevention; and the administrator of the year award to Ron Arnett, director of business services.

Dr. Leonard E. Lawrence, TYC board chairman, served as master of ceremonies for the awards program and also provided the keynote address. Other board members who attended the workshop were Pete Harrell of Austin, Lisa Saemann-Teschner of Dallas, Edna Tamayo of Harlingen, and John Odum of Houston.

The annual safety award was presented to the following agency programs: Cottrell House in Dallas; McFadden Ranch in Roanoke; Willoughby House in Fort Worth; and the Crockett State School (see "Safety" article at right). Robinson also presented tenure plaques to 15-20-25 year staff who were present.

Sharon Hambrick, chairman of the statewide intercultural awareness task force, presented the annual award to the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center. Their local chairman, Floyd Hall, Jr. accepted on behalf of their facility.

The University of Texas at Austin's head basketball coach, Jody Conradt, kicked off the workshop by providing a motivational address on Tuesday, July 2. She shared her experiences and ideals, emphasizing the importance of staff cooperating across departmental boundaries, while remaining focused on the agency's goals.

Highlighting the program on Tuesday, July 2 was a session titled "Accountability and Empathy," which was a panel discussion. The moderator was Karen Kalergis, public information officer in the Attorney General's Office; who is responsible for outreach and public relations for the Crime Victims' Compensation Division.

Panelists included Raven Kazen, director of victim services for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Thomas Ann Hines, state chairman for the organization, People Against Violent Crime; and Judy Brumbelow, a murder victim's mother who has initiated legislation that changed juvenile laws for the State of Texas.

Dr. Linda Reyes, assistant deputy executive director of rehabilitative services for the Youth Commission, coordinated the presentation and also provided the three Giddings State School youth who participated on the panel. Panelists shared their personal tragedies, addressed their personal involvement and their views on crime victims, and then responded to questions from the audience.

Tuesday workshops began with a ses-

sion entitled, "The Art of Staying Professional Under Fire," presented by Robert Williams and Michelle Iaquina with A-Step, Inc. This presentation was followed with a demonstration of oleoresin capsicum (pepper spray) by Lieutenant Erwin Ballarta with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

A presentation was also held on "Control Systems," with participation from Colleen Waring, director of internal audit, Jay Svinicki, research associate, and Paula Morelock, director of contract and support programs.

Ian Martin with MVP Group consultants made a presentation during breakfast on Wednesday, July 3. Robinson concluded the program by addressing TYC's capacity and the future. ★

## 1996 safety awards presented

Eric Young, director of human resources and staff development, presented the safety awards for 1996 during the annual administrators' workshop in July.

Three halfway houses and one institution were honored: Cottrell House, McFadden Ranch, Willoughby House and Crockett State School. Both Cottrell House and Crockett State School were winners in 1995.

In the halfway house category, Cottrell House, McFadden Ranch, and Willoughby House were presented awards due to their zero Injury Frequency Rate (IFR). Crockett State School, which was last year's winner in the institutions category with an 11.28 IFR, was this year's winner with a 6.81 IFR.

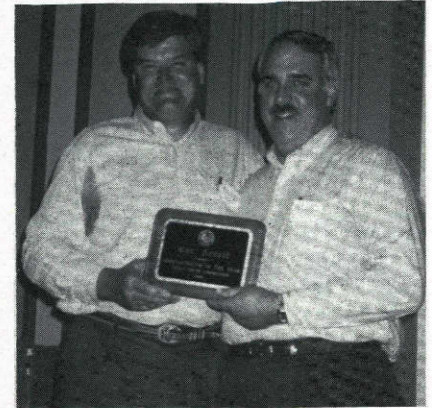
The Marlin, San Saba and Jefferson County facilities were not included in this year's consideration since they were not open for 12 months when calculations were completed. All calculations were based on the time frame of May 1, 1995 - April 30, 1996. ★

## Briefly noted ...

◆ The annual special education transition program at the Brownwood State School featured local agency representatives and TYC educational liaisons to familiarize students with the service organizations available to them upon release. Participants included TYC education liaison coordinator **Rodger Wiley**, liaisons **Clyde McClatchey**, **Tom Luce** and **Vernon Broussard**, and representatives from MHMR, TEC, DHS and the Department of Health.

◆ Brownwood's Community Advisory Council chair, **Vicki Smith**, was named "Outstanding Woman of the Year" by the Brown County Chamber of Commerce during its 90th annual banquet in Brownwood. Smith has served as CAC chair for the past year and as a member for three years.

**RIGHT: THE ANNUAL ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARD WINNER** this year was Ron Arnett, director of business services, right. Executive Director Steve Robinson presented the award (selected by vote of administrators throughout the agency) based on the outstanding service his department has provided in ordering and delivering necessary supplies to open three new institutions this year.



**CENTER LEFT: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS** women's athletic director and head basketball coach Jody Conradt, center, general session speaker for the workshop, is flanked by TYC Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam and TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson.

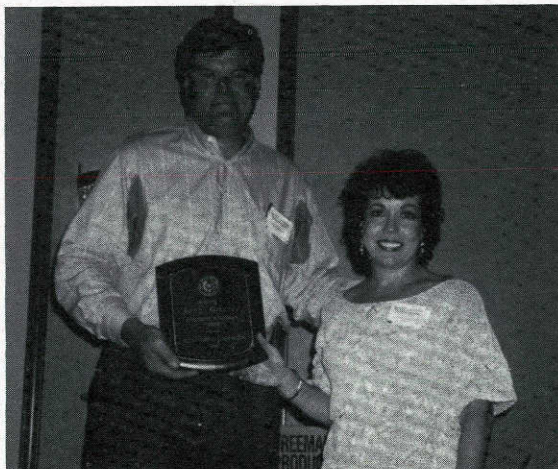
**CENTER RIGHT: DR. LEONARD LAWRENCE** of San Antonio, chairman of the TYC Board, was keynote speaker for the workshop. He was introduced by Board member Edna Tamayo of Harlingen.

**LOWER CENTER: JUDY BRUMBELOW**, right, the mother of a victim of a youth committed to TYC, speaks during a training session at the annual administrators' workshop in July. At left is Thomas Ann Hines of Dallas, director of the People Against Violent Crime (PAVC) organization, and Raven Kazen, center, state director of victim services with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.



**BOTTOM LEFT: THE ANNUAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AWARD** was presented by Steve Robinson to Chief of Staff Judy Briscoe for her outstanding service while filling in during the vacancies of the deputy director and the director of community services positions. Briscoe also serves as director of delinquency prevention.

**BOTTOM RIGHT: AGENCY-WIDE SAFETY AWARDS** were presented by TYC Risk Manager Richard MaCuk, left, and Human Resources Director Eric Young, back. Regional recipients were the three halfway houses in the North Region: Willow House, represented by Superintendent Luann Pellegrini, second from left; McFadden Ranch, represented by Superintendent Lynne Parra, center; and Dallas House, represented by Dwight Harris, right. Crockett State School received the safety award for institutions, represented by Superintendent Rey Gomez, second from right.



# 1996 Award Winners

## Institutional outstanding employees

Ten staff members in institutions were honored as "Outstanding for 1996" during the awards presentations at the Renaissance Austin Hotel in July. The following announcement of their awards were made by Board Chairman Dr. Leonard E. Lawrence of San Antonio and Board Member Pete Harrell of Austin.

In making the presentations, both board members emphasized that these employees were committed, dedicated, and stood as role models for the rest of the agency.

### LAWRENCE THOMAS, Brownwood Sanction Unit

Thomas is an example of the TYC employee who has worked hard to be creative in meeting the needs of the youth with whom he works. As supervisor for the Diversion Dorm when Brownwood functioned as the statewide reception center, Thomas initiated the facility's first formal group counseling program. This group was designed not only to address behavioral issues, but also to deal with the anxiety of youth waiting for community placements.

Thomas' experience in running the facility's first formal group program was invaluable as Brownwood made the transition from a reception center to a sanction unit last summer. He has been employed with the agency for nearly 11 years.

### AARON HASTINGS, Brownwood State School

Aaron Hastings has been the recreation program director at Brownwood for almost two years. In this position, Hastings has made impressive changes in the recreation program, establishing a year-round intramural program consisting of 13 different recreational sports and several different club sports.

Hastings began arts and crafts, basketball and weightlifting clubs to encourage self-worth, accomplishment of positive behavior and pride for TYC youth. He has modeled flexibility for staff on campus to assist other programs, and his ability to change and work with all other departments has been a major asset in the treatment, 16 hour schedules, physical training, and other operational changes implemented by the agency. He has been employed with the Youth Commission for almost two years.

### FLOYD HALL, JR., Corsicana Residential Treatment Center

Employed with the Youth Commission for 14 1/2 years, Floyd Hall has been involved in many various activities on his campus.

The following are just a few of the programs that were mentioned during his presentation as outstanding staff member of the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center for 1996: chairman of the Corsicana Intercultural Awareness Task Force; chairman of the Corsicana state employees charitable campaign; chairman of the annual March of Dimes Walk America event; chairman of the annual Great American Smoke Out Day; secretary of the staff work action team; and member of the State Intercultural Awareness Task Force. Hall is truly an example for all of TYC due to his commitment to social responsibility and people-oriented management.

### LARRY YOUNG, Crockett State School

Young has been an employee at Crockett State School since 1990 and became a YAS III in 1991. He is dedicated to helping the youth of Crockett State School, encouraging them to look for alternative ways to deal with negative behavior, and challenging and encouraging them to better themselves.

He is described by others as having that magical blend of strength and caring that brings out the best in people. Young is a role model to all with his genuine care for TYC youth. He always has a positive attitude toward any task he is assigned, and approaches any job with a "we can do it" outlook.

### JAMES LEWIS, Gainesville State School

Lewis is one of the most respected youth activity supervisors at the Gainesville State School. Employed with the Youth Commission for over eight years, he is a strong advocate for teamwork and is always supportive of new ideas and mandates.

Those who nominated Lewis stated that his strong work ethic made him an employee that a supervisor would like to "clone." His positive and upbeat attitude has made him an excellent role model to fellow employees. His constant respect for youth, while remaining firm and fair, makes him a role model to TYC youth.

### FRANCISCO SOTO, Giddings State School

In November of 1984, Soto drove 650 miles round trip from Harlingen, Texas, on three separate occasions to interview for a youth activity supervisor position at Giddings. On the third interview, he was given the job and he has demonstrated the same determination and optimism ever since.

In his current position as a caseworker in the chemical dependency treatment program, he is often assigned some of the most difficult students. His quiet confidence and constant optimism becomes infectious and encourages his students to make major improvements. Many students remain in contact with Soto long after they have passed through the treatment program and leave campus—both out of love and respect that he has earned through the years.

### JACK PATTON, Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit

Patton has served TYC for almost 30 years in a variety of capacities, and was most recently the assistant superintendent at Marlin, until his recent retirement. His dedication to the agency is quite clear. He has always remained an enthusiastic supporter of TYC's mission and philosophy regardless of the changes it has undergone. His fellow employees are appreciative of his vast knowledge of the TYC system, and he is always willing to share his experiences and wisdom with newcomers. Known throughout Marlin as a 'good guy,' Patton always does more than his part to foster excellent community relations for TYC.

### NINA WIGGINS-SMITH, San Saba State School

Wiggins-Smith is noted for always going above and beyond the call of duty at San Saba. She has headed numerous projects and committees, and is always able to come up with innovative solutions and ideas to help staff and students alike. She is always willing to do something extra for the benefit of TYC.

In her role as principal for over two years, she has made sure that the educational needs of TYC youth are not only met, but *exceeded*. Under her leadership, San Saba State School had more honor students than any other school in San Saba County. Her civic leadership is outstanding, her dedication to TYC is infallible, and her support of TYC youth and staff is exemplary.

### SERGEANT CHARLES CALDWELL, TYC Boot Camp, Sheffield

Sergeant Charles Caldwell truly understands the leadership philosophy behind Sheffield Boot Camp, and he knows that to be a leader he must also be a team player. He is more than willing to tend to the needs of the facility as well as the youth and his fellow staff members.



He devotes much of his extra time to the Sheffield Boot Camp Advisory Council, and he is always ready to assist youth in any areas where they require guidance or motivation. He provides a positive role model for all those who work with him and the cadets, demonstrating that no matter how bad things seem, you still have to keep going and eventually reach your goal.

**GLORIA VILLARREAL,  
West Texas State School**

Villarreal fulfills her role in the most efficient manner possible. As the Head Cook II at West Texas, she provides a positive role model for her fellow staff and for student workers, treating everyone with respect and courtesy. She always maintains a positive attitude, and is more than willing to take on extra responsibilities to ensure that her services are timely, nutritious, and very cost-effective.

She is a leader who works at fostering mutual admiration among her peers. She is active with her children and her community as well, making her a great asset to the TYC organization. Ms. Villarreal has been employed for three years with the Youth Commission. ★

*BOTTOM RIGHT: OUTSTANDING STAFF MEMBERS from each TYC institution were presented during the annual agency administrators' workshop. They include: (left to right, front row) Gloria Villarreal, WTSS; Larry Young, Crockett; Floyd Hall, Corsicana; James Lewis, Gainesville; Jack Patton, Marlin. (Left to right, back row) Nina Wiggins-Smith, San Saba; Lawrence Thomas, BSU, Sergeant Charles Caldwell, Sheffield; and Francisco Soto, Giddings. Not pictured is Aaron Hastings, Brownwood State School.*

*BOTTOM LEFT: OUTSTANDING REGIONAL STAFF MEMBERS were also presented during the workshop. They include, left to right, Leaner Singleton, Willoughby House, North Region; Delphine DeCuir, parole officer, East Region; and Elda Arrieta secretary, West Region. Not pictured are Trent Banks, director of operations at Turman House, Central region winner; and Jerry Chavez, Beto House, South Region winner.*

**Regional Awards**

The Texas Youth Commission honored the following "1996 Outstanding Staff Members in Community Services" during the awards presentations in July in Austin. Announcement of their awards was made by Board Member Edna Tamayo of Harlingen.

**ELDA ARRIETA, West Region**

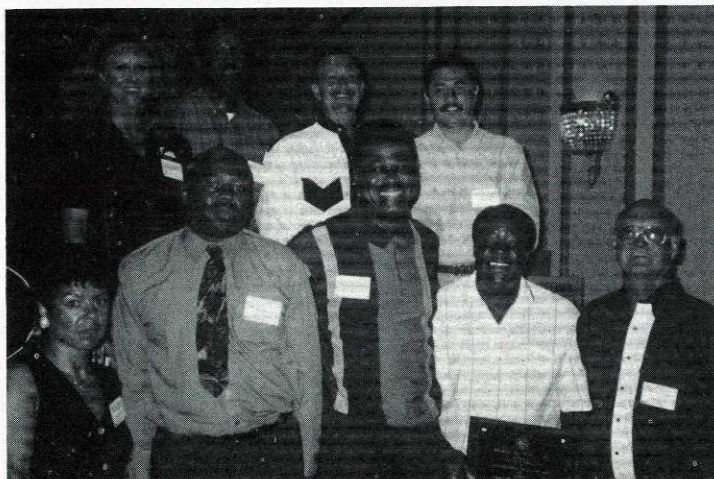
In her position as Secretary III in the El Paso parole office, she is the first to greet youth and their families. With a few meaningful words, she is able to foster trust and positive communication between community correction staff and TYC youth. Arrieta has far exceeded her role in El Paso.

Her work is exceptional, and she is consistently able to complete a full-time quantity of work on a part-time schedule. She has proven to be a lifesaver to West Region staff on more than one occasion, whether by assisting Schaeffer House during a difficult time or by solving all manner of crises at the El Paso parole office. Arrieta has been employed with TYC for nearly six years.

*(continued on page 10)*

*TOP LEFT: DR. LEONARD E. LAWRENCE, chairman of the TYC Board, presented the Employee of the Year Award for Central Office to Melissa Headrick.*

*TOP RIGHT: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Sandy Burnam orchestrated the drawing of numerous door prizes during the annual administrators' workshop. She is shown here with one of the prizes — a Mickey Mouse pinata.*



## Regional Winners

(continued from page 11)

### JERRY CHAVEZ, South Region

Jerry Chavez from Beto House has proven his dedication to TYC and to its youth by adding a personal touch. His efforts to assist and support youth at Beto House, either through allowing a youth to call him on his time off, or through his personal intervention with a youth and his family, have demonstrated that, above all, the kids are what matters.

Chavez' involvement with his community is also a testimony to his dedication to the youth of Texas. TYC is fortunate to have him as an employee. Mr. Chavez has been employed with the Youth Commission for over two years and is currently a youth activity supervisor II.

### LEANER SINGLETON, North Region

Singleton serves as the resource specialist at Willoughby House, and her devotion to TYC is demonstrated by her attitude and actions. She spends a great deal of time establishing a positive relationship between TYC and the local community. She goes out of her way to continue to support ex-TYC youth in addition to exhibiting a personal interest in the lives of current residents.

Employed over seven years with the Youth Commission, Singleton is extremely active in all Willoughby House functions, and also devotes much of her time to other community activities.

### DELPHINE DECUIR, East Region

As a parole officer III, DeCuir has her plate completely full. However, she is often the first to take on responsibilities above and beyond her own. When a fellow employee needs assistance, whether in training or in covering a caseload, DeCuir does not wait to be asked - she just does it.

Through it all, she maintains a positive and professional attitude and consistently provides a positive role model for her fellow employees. Employed with the agency nearly six years, DeCuir is an active member of her community, devoting her time and effort outside of work to activities with other youth in the community and with her church.

### TRENT F. BANKS, Central Region

Banks is noted among his co-workers for his dedication as director of operations at Turman House. He is often found working beyond his regularly scheduled hours to ensure that both staff and residents are receiving the support they need.

Banks is responsible for many innovative ideas at Turman House to assist in the development and education of its residents. He is dedicated to opening doors of opportunity for youth at Turman House, and providing guidance and encouragement to assist them in the community. ★

### MELISSA HEADRICK, Central Office

This year's outstanding staff member for Central Office is Melissa Headrick. Headrick is known for being a loyal and conscientious staff person. Staff, other service agencies and families of TYC youth often specifically ask for Ms. Headrick when calling for assistance, due to her willingness to be as helpful as possible.

In addition to being a helpful TYC employee, Ms. Headrick is known for being a team player,

striving to bring TYC staff together, whether through work or extracurricular activities. Many of the special events that take place at Central Office are successful thanks to her involvement. Her willingness to go the extra mile to get the job done and her ability to remind us that we can have a good time while we're at work are assets to the agency. ★

## Five contract programs honored

The following five TYC contract programs were named outstanding during the annual administrators' workshop in July. The award presentations were made by Board Member John Odam of Houston.

**Alpha & Omega Home, Inc.** of Marshall is a neighborhood-based program which has contracted with the Youth Commission since 1993. The program is known for accepting youth who otherwise would have to remain in an institutional setting due to difficulty in past behavior management. The program provides youth unique and positive opportunities within a rural area to find their own self-worth and a sense of community.

Recently, Alpha & Omega sponsored a childcare workshop for all childcare providers in Marshall, demonstrating their commitment to doing what is necessary to make sure that youth receive what they need. Lee Jones, executive director, accepted the award on behalf of the program.

**KIDS in Development Service**, of McAllen (formerly known as Nueva Vista Development Center), has provided residential treatment services to the youth in South Texas since 1986. This program is an example of a program that will go out of its way to serve the children of this state. Using innovative approaches, KIDS Inc. has been able to provide treatment for chemical dependency at no cost to the families of TYC youth.

Recently, they established an Early Intensive Program designed to provide short-term residential treatment to youth who are chemically dependent and are most at risk of not complying with the terms and conditions of their parole. KIDS Inc. is an example of putting youth first. Don and Suzanne Herzing, administrators of the program, were present to accept their award on behalf of the program.

**Texas Mentor** of Houston has been a licensed child placing agency in Texas providing individual residential treatment for TYC youth since 1990. Texas Mentor holds a sense of pride with regard to the creative planning that is demonstrated in each client's individual service plan.

Their non-traditional approach to working with TYC youth and their families can be viewed daily through the direct care 24-hour contact youth have with mentors. An example of the wonderful relationship formed between mentor and youth is the recent mentor and youth pair that obtained their GED's together; another example is the mentor who assisted a youth to begin a small business venture. This program and the participating mentors go the extra mile to make a difference. State Director Iovanna Lopez-Diaz and Program Manager Ann Reed were present to accept the award on behalf of their program.

**Avalon Center** of Eddy has been a leader in developing creative and effective services for young females since 1986. An example of this innovative programming is the "Reflection" therapeutic entertainment group that combines skits, singing and testimonial type interactions and whose audience includes high schools, other residential facilities, civic groups and professional organizations.

Another example of Avalon's creative resources to treating this population is the development and building of two efficiency apartments on the grounds of the facility, allowing for the young women to experience a less restrictive environment and practice independent living skills. Administrator Dr. Thomas O. Burdig was present to accept the award on behalf of his program.

**Hemphill County Juvenile Boot Camp** of Canadian has been in operation since 1995 when they accepted the first group of Youth Commission youth. Their mission is to provide a structured program that motivates the cadets to change their whole being and produce rewarding experience for self growth. In order to achieve this, participation in the surrounding community is at the core of the Hemphill program.

The boot camp cadets recently refurbished and renovated a community meeting building. In addition, the cadets cleaned up the parks. The community is so supportive of this program that over 150 residents of Canadian, four other platoons of cadets and boot camp staff were present for last fall's graduation ceremony. Administrator Les Brown accepted the award. ★

## Brownwood staff ROPES certified

Employees have become certified and students are swinging into action again on the ROPES course on the campus of the Brownwood.

The obstacle course made up of cables, telephone poles and ropes up to 35 feet in the air was first constructed in 1988, but has not been used in several years.

Brownwood employees certified are Aaron Hastings, Eduardo Martinez, Fred Bastardo, Jimmy Chancellor, Eddie Harwell, Jackie Galloway, Lanay Bien, Karen Coughlin, Terry Evers and Val Hernandez.

The ROPES course will become fully implemented within the treatment program. It is one of two such courses used by the Texas Youth Commission, with the other being at Gainesville State School. ★

## Garden project underway

The Evins community nutritional project is underway at Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg. The project mandates the use of state property for community gardens that benefit needy families.

Evins youth are gardening an acre of land and donating excess harvest to the community. The project is being developed under a task force comprised of representatives from numerous state agencies.

Community volunteers, including master gardeners, have contributed expertise to develop curriculum and training in horticulture, nutrition, gardening, landscaping and related topics. Nutrition classes are already being taught to Evins youth who will work in the garden.

The pilot program is one of three currently in the state. ★

## Briefly noted ...

◆ Former New York Jets wide receiver **Bill Buckley**, now with the Mississippi Fellowship of Christian Athletes, visited with youth at West Texas State School, and encouraged them to commit themselves to law abiding behavior.

## Giddings recognized by victims' group

Giddings State School and the Giddings Community Advisory Council were recently recognized at the statewide annual meeting of People Against Violent Crime (PAVC) for the council's donation to PAVC, and Giddings' dedication to providing services to victims.

Thomas Ann Hines, PAVC executive director, and Raven Kazen, state director of

victim services, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, have been instrumental in providing assistance in the development of comprehensive victim services programming at Giddings State School, which includes victim participation in the release/review process, a victim-offender mediation program, and a victim impact/empathy program. ★

# PROGRAMS



*HOUSEHOLD ITEMS for 'New Start' boxes to be presented to successful Ayres House graduates are displayed by Marcia Lalky, president of the Alamo Life Club of the Telephone Pioneers of America, San Antonio.*

## 'New Start' boxes aid independence

Ayres House youth moving to independent living status have some tangible household items to get them off to a "new start" courtesy of the Alamo Life Club of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Marcia Lalky, club president, became interested in the needs of the young men there when she distributed Christmas stockings to each youth at the house during the volunteer council Christmas dinner last year. Following that holiday visit and tour conducted by students, Lalky began asking questions about the residents' on-going needs.

Soon afterward, she persuaded members of the Alamo Life Club to purchase enough supplies for 12 graduates. Each young man who successfully completes the program and is moving to an apartment now receives a "new start" box.

Items include colorful dishes, a set of glasses, a 12-piece place setting of flatware, a frying pan, spatula and can opener for cooking, and sponges for clean-up. A large bath towel and wash cloths complete the box.

In addition to purchasing and packing these items in 12 individual cartons, Lalky gift wraps them in colorful paper. A letter for each youth congratulates him and tells him 'never to stop dreaming.' ★

## BSU students make restitution

Students from the Brownwood Sanction Unit (BSU) participated in the sixth annual Parents Anonymous "Take Steps to End Child Abuse" walk for families. This was an effort to make restitution to the community by raising pledges to benefit the organization.

Curtis Simmons, BSU program administrator, helped organize the event. Students in groups of four ran a total of 200 miles — raising nearly \$300.

Community Advisory Council members Vicki Smith, Dann Barger and Cliff Re-pass participated in the event and served lemonade and cookies. ★

*BROWNWOOD SANCTION UNIT students run to prevent child abuse in the Parents Anonymous "Walk for Families."*



*McFADDEN RANCH RESIDENTS have spent hours in their vegetable garden planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting produce throughout the spring and summer.*

## Gardening project "nurtured" at McFadden Ranch

The Texas Youth Commission's McFadden Ranch sits on 25 acres, surrounded by rolling cow pastures and farms near Roanoke, Texas.

"Each spring brings new calves, wild flowers, nesting birds and 'spring fever' to staff and residents of this TYC halfway house program," said Superintendent Lynne Parra.

"This year, thanks to staff, residents, volunteers and benefactors, the ranch has started a one-acre garden complete with two large greenhouses.

"Creating the garden took a lot of planning and cooperation, including our very own 'garden angel,' who donated a new tiller, two greenhouses and covered the cost of plowing and disking the garden," she explained.

The next step was acquiring seed and plants through donations.

Although 'mother nature' caused a few set-backs with surprise freezes, the garden finally reflected all the love and care that it has been given. Potato plants popped up through the soil, seedlings swayed in the wind, and a compost heap grew.

"The garden is a perfect way to learn lessons in horticulture, teamwork and nurturing," said Parra. The greenhouses will be used to 'plan for the future' by starting seedlings and cuttings. Besides the lessons in biology, excess plants may be sold to a local nursery.

Fresh vegetables have been enjoyed by all, and what is not eaten or shared is used in skills modules.

Proceeds from sales go toward funding family involvement programs. Families have been encouraged to work in the garden with their sons and take home some fresh vegetables. ★

## Youth rally held at Evins

A non-denominational religious youth rally was held recently at Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg, with more than 100 family members joining youth for the event.

The rally included guest speaker Jay Perez, an ex-gang member, and music by the "H.E.A.R.T.S.," a band of local youth.

The Evins volunteer council assisted with transportation for out-of-town family members and provided lunch for all volunteers and guests. The event was organized by Evins volunteer Pam Whitworth. ★

## Volunteers raise funds to enclose pool

Construction on the building to enclose the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center swimming pool is scheduled to begin in September.

With the help of Texas Youth Commission Wende funds, the Community Advisory Council concluded its fund raising efforts and construction began in order to enable the pool to be used year-round for physical training activities for the students.

Funds raised include \$50,000 from the Navarro Community Foundation, \$30,000 from the Wolens Foundation, in-kind donations of glass from Guardian Industries and the use of an overhead crane and operator from Carmack Watkins, \$5,000 from Judge Robert Calvert (deceased,) an ex-student of the Corsicana State Home, \$26,000 from Council fund-raisers, and the balance in miscellaneous donations and Wende funds.

Council members began the project during the 1980's when the Legislature did not approve funds to enclose the swimming pool.

"The Corsicana volunteer board and staff are excited about bringing closure to this project, and anticipate the completion of the aquatic center," said Bob Frisby, council chairman for the project. ★

# VOLUNTEERS

## Giddings staff, volunteers appreciated

A staff/volunteer appreciation day was held at Giddings State School in June.

Eighteen teams made up of various departments and cottages competed in several categories during the day.

Barbecued chickens were supplied by the volunteer council. A panel of community volunteers judged the best barbecue and the best desserts made by staff; a professional auctioneer sold them to the highest bidders.

The council also purchased gold pins for those who had volunteered throughout the year and provided trophies to the winners in the various baking and barbecue categories.

Superintendent Stan DeGerolami recognized staff and volunteers during an awards ceremony. Staff were presented safety awards for years of accident-free service: for 20 years, staff members received jackets; 15 years, pen and pencil sets; 10 years—plaques; five years—mugs; and two years—pen light flashlights.

Staff and community members who served as volunteers in the Friends program or did tutoring in the academic program, received gold pins. ★

## Gainesville plans chili cookoff

The Fourth Annual 'Cookin' For Kids' chili cookoff, sponsored by the Gainesville Volunteer Council and VFW 1922, is slated for September 20-22, 1996 at the VFW Post, located at Highway 372 and Old Highway 77.

The CASI-sanctioned event gets underway Friday night with a hospitality dinner and Karaoke entertainment.

The top ten chili cookers and top three entrants in showmanship will receive award.

Tasting of the chili entries can be done by purchasing a bowl and spoon for \$1. Proceeds benefit educational and recreational programs sponsored by the volunteer council. ★

## 'Freedom, responsibility' theme of July 4th event

Crockett State School celebrated the Fourth of July with a program entitled "Freedom and Responsibility." Reverend Ed Hogan, pastor of First Baptist Church, echoed the theme in his remarks.

Volunteer Kathy Hollis and the Crockett State School choir led the audience in singing of the national anthem, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The choir also performed two patriotic selections.

Superintendent Rey Gomez gave the closing remarks. The program was coordinated by cultural awareness chairman Carolyn Jones and volunteer coordinator Virginia Lewis. ★



*COTTRELL HOUSE (Dallas) residents participated in an extensive workshop on cultural diversity under the direction of Patti Bates, right, of the Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission.*

## Cottrell House residents take part in diversity training

**Y**outh at Cottrell House, the Youth Commission's halfway house in Dallas, experienced an eight-week course on cultural diversity training, sponsored by Patti Bates of the Greater Dallas Community Relations Commission

The course included defining, analyzing and finding solutions to issues pertaining to racism, prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination.

The training involved the use of movie clips, videos, cassettes, poems and many exercises that engaged youth in understanding how these issues affect people and society in adverse ways. ★

# CULTURAL EVENTS

## Hispanic heritage celebration broadens Corsicana program

**C**orsicana Residential Treatment Center honored the broad spectrum of the Hispanic culture during a program which was sponsored by the Intercultural Awareness Committee, adding to the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration.

The education department and students produced the Super Jeopardy game show "Fenomenal Peligro" in which teams made up of three members each answered questions about Mexican history and famous Hispanic people. The three top scoring contestants received prizes.

Dick Aldama, news director for Northland Cable TV and KAND radio, presented an overview of minorities working in the media, noting that he began broadcasting he was the only minority person present at most functions and broadcasting meetings.

Interspersed throughout the program was the presentation of the Mexican flag, Hispanic reflections, a poem in Spanish and English, and a musical tribute to Selena. ★

## Juneteenth event held in El Paso

**S**chaeffer House, El Paso, hosted a 'Juneteenth' celebration, organized by the West Texas cultural awareness task force committee.

Refreshments provided by the local volunteer council included southern fried chicken prepared by community corrections officer Benny Martinez, and black-eyed peas and watermelon. A representative of the El Paso Million Man March organization was the featured speaker. ★

## San Saba cultural group formed

**T**he newly formed Intercultural Awareness Task Force at San Saba State School celebrated July Fourth in a big way. A bulletin giving historical information on the holiday was distributed prior to the holiday, and announced a poster contest and a special luncheon.

Independence Day posters submitted by students were judged by San Saba County Judge Harlen Barker, San Saba Mayor Mark Amthor, and City Manager Joe Ragsdale. The top six entries received a pizza party.

The awards were presented at the red, white and blue-decorated cafeteria.

A second event celebrated the spirit of the Olympics and was sponsored by the taskforce and the recreation department. The event consisted of a drill team competition and basketball playoff with TYC's Sheffield Boot Camp drill team.

Youth who had obtained appropriate treatment levels were treated to hot dogs and hamburgers outside following the activities. ★

## Workshops bring culture, arts to Corsicana

Five summer arts workshops brought creative expression in a variety of ways to the students at the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center. The projects were funded by Texas Youth Commission Wende Funds and sponsored by the Navarro Council of The Arts and the Community Advisory Council.

Grady Hillman returned to conduct workshops in creative writing and poetry which included writings about different types of dreams and poetry.

Julio Suarez brought a visual art program which taught that the Olympic rings, the symbol of the Olympic games, are linked together to represent the friendship of the peoples of the world. Suarez led students to create drawings using particular motifs and styles found in six different cultures.

Musician, actor and Australian storyteller Paul Taylor brought history, stories and culture from his native Australia. He taught students to make and play didgeridoos, the musical instruments of the Aborigines.

Tina Marsh, composer and vocalist, taught that the discipline and organization of musical patterns involves division of time and basic math concepts.

The Shakespeare Troop de Jour — Hall Evens, Wane Bailey and Amy Niger, taught students interactive explorations into Shakespeare and his world.

Besides conducting workshop in the campus school, artists also taught and/or performed for students in the acute care unit and the psychological stabilization unit (formerly AIMS). Hillman also conducted a workshop for Corsicana Residential Treatment Center teachers. ★



## Food bank donates bikes to Schaeffer House

Schaeffer House residents regularly provide community service hours at various sites in El Paso. They have provided nearly 4,000 hours at the El Paso food bank.

The relationship has resulted in a donation to the El Paso halfway house of

eleven 10- and 12-speed bicycles through the efforts of Dolly Neff, executive director, and Gerda Green, program director. They hope to provide 24 bikes to the program.

The bicycles will provide transportation to and from Schaeffer House and various job sites. Two residents currently employed by a construction company ride bikes to work. Bikes are also being introduced into the organized physical training and recreational activity program. ★

# YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

## Graduation ceremonies

### High school diplomas conferred at Brownwood

High school diplomas were conferred last spring on Danny Freeman, Seth Honesto, Chris McNeily and Robert Scott at Brownwood State School by Superintendent Gaylon Garrison and Principal Les Plagens. These are the first diplomas earned at Brownwood in the last four years.

In addition, 43 GED recipients were honored during commencement exercises.

Community Advisory Council member Lawyer Jolley delivered the keynote address. Special music was provided by volunteer Diane Brando. Williamson Photography donated graduation pictures of all the students. A reception followed, hosted by the volunteer council.

### Twenty receive GED's at Crockett ceremony

Sixty family members, 20 volunteers, staff and students attended the Crockett State School GED graduation ceremony last May, honoring 20 students who completed the requirements.

The program was directed by teacher Jane Richmond and principal Dr. Willia Wooten. Valedictorian address was presented by Shaun Welch and the salutatorian address was by Armando Maestre. The keynote speech was by attorney Waverly Nolley, Houston.

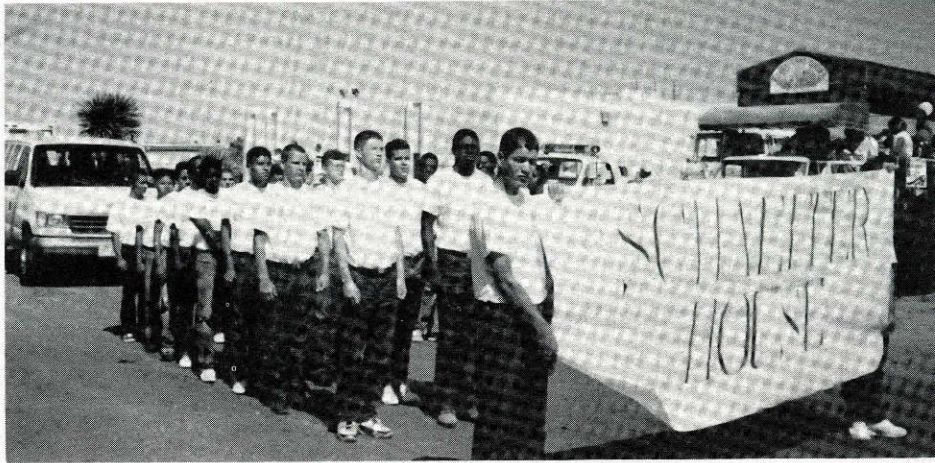
The community advisory council provided refreshments and presented each student with an 8 X 10 framed photograph.

### JCSS holds first graduation; two receive diplomas

Thirty-three students became the first graduating class for Jefferson County State School, with TYC Board Member Pete Alfaro of Baytown as guest speaker and 150 family members and other guests attending.

Two GED recipients also completed all requirements and received their high school diplomas — Rudy Criner and William Rutten.

"Practically everything used for the event was donated or loaned to us," said volunteer coordinator Vicki Holcombe. A volunteer donor provided funds for dress shirts and black ties worn under each graduate's gown. ★



TOP: SCHAEFFER HOUSE (El Paso) residents participate in Anthony, Texas, Fourth of July parade.

BOTTOM: SAN SABA STATE SCHOOL students and staff watch members of the Sheffield Boot Camp drill team during field day activities.

## Annual track meet and cookout at Gainesville

Gainesville businessman Jim Klement provided the youth at the Gainesville State School with an annual track meet and cookout for the sixth straight year.

The meet featured four running events, and was followed by a hamburger cookout.

Klement presided over an awards ceremony with units with the highest overall points awarded first, second and third place prizes (compact stereo and disk player, super Nintendo and a sport Sega game gear).

Individual prizes were awarded to students who placed in the relays and 100-meter dash (watches, wallets and Walkman radios).

All food and prizes were provided by Klement. ★

## JCSS students showcase writing talent

Jefferson County State School, Beaumont, students recently participated in an essay and art and poetry contest conducted by librarian Janice Heger.

Students watched a video of "Babe," and then wrote a five-paragraph paper on a theme of the movie, such as value of believing in oneself, persevering to build relationships, or overcoming prejudice.

The art and poetry work was based on themes of love, life, teen problems, friends, and feelings or pride, anger, joy or sadness.

The top ten essay winners and the top three art and poetry contest winners were treated to a special barbecue on campus, sponsored by the Beaumont Jaycees. ★

## Briefly noted ...

◆ Two students at the Brownwood State School, **Pedro Sifuentes** 18, and **Shaun Killian**, 17, have been awarded certificates of training in Oxyfuel, Gas and Arc Welding Operations, a competency based training which requires 154 lessons.

Pedro plans to study underwater welding and Shaun will return to the business he previously worked for in Houston, according to teacher Jim Burnett.

◆ Turman House, Austin, hosted its first career dinner in July with several attorneys, judges and TV reporters joining the staff and youth to speak about their work.

◆ **Michael Christopher**, TYC student at Corsicana High School, residing in a foster home, participated in a week long Junior ROTC leadership camp in July. He was named top cadet and was one of three element leaders at the camp, according to quality assurance specialist **Shelley Hoernke**.

◆ Staff and students from Ayres House, San Antonio, and personnel from Austin and San Antonio parole offices spend the Juneteenth holiday participating in a cultural diversity awareness workshop. The regional cultural awareness committee planned the event and arranged for a group called the National Conference to present the workshop.



## Crockett holds staff awards ceremony

Crockett State School held its annual awards ceremony in June, honoring its employees for tenure, departmental, team awards and departmental employees of the year.

Five, ten and fifteen-year tenure awards were presented.

Departmental nominees for employee of the year were Thomas Phillips, George Perry, Virginia Lewis, Lela Wheeler, Charles Barton, Franklin Wade, Carolyn Jones, Ronnie Thomas, Ida Turner, Lois Burns, Robert Cummins, Rodney Jolly and Willie Kitchen.

Larry Young was recognized as the Crockett State School's Employee of the Year during the ceremony.

A team award was presented to the caseworkers for work performed in May and June with the student population increase. They include Larry Hart, Tina Bateman, David Johnson, Steve Macias, Jennifer Ridge, Gary Johns and Carolyn Banks.

Warehouse staff Janet Kennedy and Matt Wells were recognized for their teamwork. Regina Delorge and Thomas Phillips also received recognition for their contributions. ★

## Briefly noted ...

◆ **Frank Schultz** has been selected as a resource associate in the research and planning department. Formerly with DPRS, Schultz has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. He previously counseled delinquent offenders referred by the Williamson County Juvenile Court.

◆ **Deborah Dick** has been named Title IV case analyst. She began her professional career as a YAS at York House in 1983 and held various positions in counseling programs and group homes before returning to TYC in 1993 as a case manager in San Antonio.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## Staff development advisory board

The staff development division in Central Office created the staff development advisory board (SDAB) in 1992 to get agency-wide input on training needs and other staff development related issues.

The SDAB meets quarterly at the Texas Youth Commission Training and Conference Facility in Corsicana. There are 18 voting members of the board, three administrative members from the staff development division; Sandy Burnam, deputy executive director, is the chairman of the SDAB. Members are listed below:

John Blankenship	West Texas State School	Director of Security
Rey Gomez	Crockett State School	Superintendent
Carlos Gonzales	Brownwood State School	YAS III
Frank Garcia	Gainesville State School	Caseworker
Krista Whitehead	Coke County Juv. Justice Ctr.	Community Corrections Officer
Maria Salinas	Valley House	Superintendent
Patrice Miles-Garcia	Ayres House	Caseworker
Leaner Singleton	Willoughby House	YAS III
Cindy Ximenes	Central Office	Contract Program Specialist
Elizabeth Vilar	Austin Parole	Community Corrections Officer
Stephanie Borel	Jefferson County State School	Human Resource Officer
Murray Smith	Austin Parole	Community Corrections Officer
Beverly McLester	Dallas Parole	Community Corrections Officer
Cathleen Tredaway	Evins	Human Resource Officer
Kaycee Pollock	Northern Service Area	Volunteer Coordinator
Sharon Hambrick	Tyler Parole	CCP/STATF Chairperson
John Thomas	Central Office	Chief of Substance Abuse Services
Don Brantley	Crockett State School	Psychologist

At every meeting, the members of the board discuss and make recommendations to executive committee about existing training programs, training needs, and other issues related to staff development. Some of the board's accomplishments include the development of the 80 hour preservice and the basic supervision courses, implementation of a competency based training program at TYC, and an OJT program for primary service workers. This board has been one of the most successful work groups in the agency, especially when it comes to getting programs implemented or changed.

If you have a training concern or need that you would like the SDAB to consider, contact one of the members listed above or the staff development division in Central Office. The member you contact will see that your item is on the agenda for the next meeting or let you know the status of that item if it was discussed in the recent past. To find out the results of the group's discussion, contact the person you conveyed the issue to or see the SDAB minutes. Minutes are available from administrators, SDAB members, or the staff development division. ★

## Management support update

The management support division consists of the departments of human resources, management information systems (MIS), and business services. The questions most commonly asked of these departments during the past quarter are answered below. If you have specific questions, please contact Jean Story in central office at 512/483-5282.

### BUSINESS SERVICES

#### Q What is a HUB?

A The General Services Commission (GSC) defines it as an Historically Underutilized Business, certified by GSC as being a corporation, sole proprietorship, partnership or joint venture in which at least 51 percent is owned, operated, and actively controlled and managed by a person or persons who are socially disadvantaged because of their identification as members of certain groups who have suffered the effects of discriminatory practices or similar insidious circumstances over which they have no control.

#### Q What is the purpose of using HUBs?

A The purpose of having such a program is to promote fair competition for all companies wishing to participate in the bidding process for goods and services. Being HUB certified by the state offers minority and women owned businesses the opportunity to be listed on the GSC automated HUB directory. The directory is accessible and utilized by all state agencies to identify HUBs state-wide. Each state agency is required to make a good faith effort to utilize HUBs in the following categories: heavy and building construction contracts, special trades, professional, other services and commodities.

#### Q How does a vendor become certified?

A A vendor must contact GSC to request an application. It must be filled out completely and a two-year maintenance fee of \$100 must be submitted along with the application.

#### Q How often are central office supply catalogs printed?

A Central office supply catalogs are printed each February and September.

#### Q How do I go about receiving a supply catalog from central office?

A When new catalogs are printed, a list is compiled of each location. When an order is placed for supplies, a copy of the catalog is sent with the order.

#### Q How do I locate an item in the catalog?

A Items are listed alphabetically in the catalog.

#### Q There seems to be some confusion about when Monthly Summary Vehicle Use Reports are due at the business services department in Central Office. When are they actually due?

A Data from the Monthly Summary Vehicle Use Reports is statutorily required by the General Services Commission (GSC) twice annually. Reports are due at the business services department of Central Office from **halfway houses** and **Central Office** personnel by the **5th** of each month. Summary reports from **institutions** should be submitted by the **10th** of each month.

Some reports received by the Business Services Department are difficult to read, mostly because of a lack of copy and or fax machine quality. So that accurate data is provided, print as legibly as possible.

Most TYC vehicles operate on unleaded fuel. Some, however, are diesel-powered. Please specify diesel fuel by circling "diesel".

The price of fuel, which is purchased at a retail pump, includes federal tax of \$0.183 per gallon. State agencies are exempt from federal taxes for on-road vehicular fuel. Therefore, we ask that you exclude (deduct) \$0.183 per gallon from the "total cost of gasoline/diesel" value on your summary reports.

Some summary reports and invoices from Voyager and Diamond Shamrock indicate that fuel of higher than 87 octane is being purchased by some TYC personnel. Fuel with an octane rating of 87 is recommended by all manufacturers for all vehicles operated by TYC, including our Ford, Crown Victoria, Police Interceptor vehicles. According to evaluations performed for the General Services Commission, operating vehicles on fuels with higher than 87 octane rating increases harmful emissions. Therefore, for environmental and of cost-effective reasons, it is recommended that only 87 octane, unleaded fuel be used in all TYC vehicles.

If you have questions about summary reports or vehicles in general, please call Terry Bonds at (512) 483-5265. (continued on page 19)

## New clinic opens at West Texas



Medical services at West Texas State School, Pyote, have taken on a new look and a new efficiency with the medical staff's move into their new clinic on the west side of the campus, said Barbara Jones, director of nurses.

The new 3,900 square-foot building serving the medical needs of the more than 275 youth is user friendly, functionally efficient and supplied with upgraded medical equipment, she added.

The old clinic area is being renovated for use as staff offices. ★

## Briefly noted ...

◆ The El Paso Parks and Recreation Department through the El Paso Senior Citizens Multipurpose Center promoted an activity for the handicapped at El Paso Wet n'Wild in July. Twelve Schaeffer House residents and staff served as volunteers to assist.

◆ The Houston Community Volunteer Youth Council sponsored its annual educational banquet for 21 youth who were recognized for their educational accomplishments. Also attending were parents, council members and staff.

◆ YAS IV Loretta Marlin has been named the first employee of the quarter by other staff members at West Texas State School, Pyote. Marlin has been employed 14 years at WTSS. She and subsequent employees of the quarter will receive an award plaque, a designated parking spot on campus, and a complimentary meal provided by an area restaurant.

# MANAGEMENT SUPPORT (continued from page 18.)

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**Q** How do I find out about current positions within TYC?

**A** Call the TYC job line at 1-800-OUR-JOBS-(1-800-687-5627) for agency-wide postings. The job line is updated every Monday.

### Risk Management

**Q** Can approved extension cords be used?

**A** UL approved extension cords can be used only for temporary use and not as permanent wiring, per National Fire Protection Association code.

**Q** How much income will I receive if I am injured on the job and off work drawing workers compensation benefits?

**A** An employee can expect to receive approximately 70 percent of his salary.

### Staff Development & Training

**Q** How do I find out what training I'm required to have?

**A** TYC provides job-related training to all employees and volunteers to enhance their ability to provide effective care, security, and treatment to youth. The TYC training requirements manual identifies the training requirements for each job classification within TYC. Each job title is placed under one of the five job classification categories based on annual training hour requirements. These requirements comply with TYC training policies and ACA standards. A brief description of each training program is provided. Meetings of professional associations are considered training when there is clear evidence of learning objectives.

**Q** How do I know which software training classes are available to me?

**A** Software training schedule calendars are distributed to superintendents, assistant superintendents, institution trainers and system support specialists. Ask your supervisor, institution trainer, or local system support specialist about available software training. All training is subject to supervisor approval.

S A M P L E						
1	2	3	4 Corsicana Intro to Windows 1:30-4:30	5 Corsicana Beg. MS Excel 9:00-5:00	6 Corsicana MSMail/Sched. 9:00-12:30	7
8	9	10	11	12 Central Off. Beg. MS Word 9:30-4:30	13 Central Off. MSMail/Sched. 9:30 - 12:00	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Corsicana Beg. MS Word 9:00-5:00	26 Corsicana Beg. Powerpoint 9:00-5:00	27	28
29	30					

♦ Register for classes using either the Microsoft Mail or the SYSM electronic mail system.  
 ♦ Send messages to Cynthia Park (c.park on SYSM), or Carolyn Rogers (c.rogers on SYSM) in Central Office.  
 ♦ If registering for a class at the Corsicana facility, please indicate if you will need overnight lodging. There is reduced per diem of \$11.00 per day for overnight stay in Corsicana due to the availability of a cafeteria for breakfast and lunch. Rooms are dormitory-style, double-occupancy, and must be reserved in advance. If you request an overnight stay, an information packet will be mailed to you.  
 ♦ Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. "Class Full" notices will be issued if you have software training needs that are not addressed on this calendar, please contact Cynthia Park by electronic mail or by phone at (512) 483-5335.  
 \*\*\* ATTENDANCE IN ANY TRAINING PROGRAM MUST BE APPROVED BY SUPERVISOR \*\*\*

Current software training classes include Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Mail/Scheduler, and an Introduction to the Windows environment. The majority of software training is held in the Central Office computer lab and the TYC Training and Conference Facility at Corsicana. Special arrangements can be made for software training to be held at individual facilities.

### Benefits

**Q** What is deferred compensation?

**A** Planning for the future is important, but saving for the future can be hard. To help build financial security for your future, you may want to take advantage of the voluntary Deferred Compensation Program, administered by the Employee's Retirement System (ERS). There are two plans from which to choose. You may sign up for one or both depending on your needs.

- ☞ 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- ☞ 401(k) Texa\$aver Plan

(continued on page 21)



*DR. JERRY TREVINO, right, principal at West Texas State School for nearly six years, was honored at his retirement May 31. Superintendent Johnny Williams presented him an award for outstanding service to the WTSS academic program, and teacher Tony Ontiveros presented him a commemorative watch and pocket knife from the faculty and staff.*

## Briefly noted...

♦ Three hundred guests attended the Cottrell House, Dallas, 12th annual Memorial Day picnic at Kleberg Recreation Center to honor volunteers, corporations, agencies and other youth groups from the Dallas area. Dallas Police Chief **Ben Click** was guest speaker.

♦ Eleven honor roll students at San Saba State School's education department were recognized for the third eight-week academic grading period with an "A" average in all subject areas. Fourteen students have achieved their GED at SSSS.

♦ Ten Brownwood State School students were selected to design t-shirts with their artwork for the local domestic violence shelter's silent auction fund-raiser under the direction of **Wanda Drew** and **David McCraw**.



*BROOKHAVEN YOUTH RANCH near Waco celebrated its tenth anniversary in June with ceremonies and presentations, including a keynote speech by Adrian Moore of Austin, left, quality assurance administrator for the Central Service Area. Also pictured is Bobbie Shelton, second from left, community corrections officer assigned to Brookhaven; Dorothy Drake, co-founder and widow of Bob Drake, and Wayne Money, Brookhaven director.*

## TENURE RECIPIENTS

*Tenure plaques have been presented to Texas Youth Commission employees who have reached milestones in their service to the agency. Many of the plaques were presented by Executive Director Steve Robinson during the annual workshop in July. Recipients include the following:*

### CENTRAL OFFICE/REGION

Cynthia L. Ellis	15 Years
Jesus "Chuy" Ozuna	20 Years
Joyce Bird	20 Years
Stacy Wendlandt	15 Years
Rita Zapata	20 Years
Christi Mallette	20 Years
Dwight Harris	15 Years
Tom Tye	20 Years
Tilford Pike	25 Years
Alex Escarcega	20 years

### CENTRAL REGION

Bobbie Shelton	20 Years
Jo Ann Boswank	15 Years
Fabian Martinez	15 Years
Jesusa O. Reyes	15 Years

### EAST REGION

Carolyn D. Rogers	15 Years
Robert B. Johnson	20 Years

### NORTH REGION

Henry B. Frayre	20 Years
Joyce Hines	20 Years
Betty Smith	15 years

### BROWNWOOD STATE SCHOOL

Fidel Barrera, Jr.	20 Years
David Morrison	15 Years
David Moore	15 years
Harold Dixon	15 Years
Sarah Camacho	20 Years
Beulah Couch	25 Years
Thomas Stewardson	25 Years

### CORSICANA STATE HOME

Alma Reese	25 Years
Gladys Bassham	25 Years
Don Freeman	15 Years
Willie Brown	20 Years

### CROCKETT STATE SCHOOL

Glen Vaughan	15 Years
Harold Daniels, Jr.	15 Years
Gregory Griffin	15 Years
Carolyn Jones	15 Years

### GAINESVILLE STATE SCHOOL

Tommy L. Thomas	20 Years
Don L. Estes	20 Years
Rudy M. Summers	15 Years
James M. Hughes	15 Years
Ronald D. Banks	15 Years
James D. Bryan	15 Years
Martha M. Hardin	20 Years

### GIDDINGS STATE SCHOOL

Gary M. Coston	20 Years
Marshall Francis	20 Years
Charles Etta Francis	20 Years
Judy Westbrook	15 years
Silmon Ray Hooper	15 Years
Albert Punchard, Jr.	15 Years
Angelina Wiederhold	15 Years
Charles J. Barker	15 Years
Debra Sanders	15 Years
Dwain Harris	15 Years
Frank D. Brown	15 Years

### WEST TEXAS STATE SCHOOL

Donna L. House	20 Years
Jerry E. Creel	15 Years
John E. Blankenship	15 Years
Albert R. Garcia	15 Years
Claudette Moore	20 Years

### MARLIN ORIENTATION & ASSESSMENT UNIT

Trudie M. Asbury	25 Years
Ronald Brown	20 Years
Carl "Dick" Clark	20 Years

### JEFFERSON COUNTY STATE SCHOOL

Kelly Tyson	20 Years
Marie Murdoch	15 Years
Allen Wallace	20 Years

### EVINS REGIONAL JUVENILE CENTRAL/SOUTH REGION

Elita Ellison	15 Years
Butch Held	20 Years

### SAN SABA STATE SCHOOL

Thomas Winkfield	15 Years
------------------	----------

### BROWNWOOD SANCTION UNIT

Boyce Newton	15 Years
Oliver Hair	15 Years
Karen Gibson	15 Years
Melva June Zink	15 Years
Ernest Kirk	15 Years
Nasheed Dalleh	20 Years



## MANAGEMENT SUPPORT *(continued from page 19.)*

The federal government allows these tax breaks to encourage people to save for retirement. Here are some of the highlights:

- ☛ Since contributions are made on a before-tax basis, your current income taxes are reduced.
- ☛ Your contributions and investment earnings are sheltered from taxes until distribution.
- ☛ You decide how you want to invest the money and have several investment options from which to choose.
- ☛ You may change your contribution amount of investment elections at any time.

If you decide to take advantage of the tax breaks authorized by Sections 457 and 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code, contact Vicki Benson-Walker in the Central Office Benefits Section of Human Resources. She can be reached at 512-483-5130, extension 5135.

### *Management Information Systems*

**Q** There is so much information in various locations throughout the agency, how can we get it all in one place?

**A** Sandy Bumam has formed a group, the information resource design team, co-chaired by Jay Svinicki and Patti Hayes. The purpose of this team is to analyze the information needs of the agency and to recommend to upper management an approach that will best utilize technology and agency information to fulfill agency goals.

**Q** How can I make a request for a new application or a modification to an existing application?

**A** Fill out the EFORM on SYSM called 'DIR\_CARE'. This form is automatically sent to Patti Hayes, the ChildCare Customer Sponsor. Patti logs your request and presents it to the Direct Care group which meets twice per month. The voting members of the group (Institutions, Community Service, Education, Rehabilitation Services, the Deputy Executive Director's Office representing child care administration and Research and Planning) will then prioritize your request. MIS programs requests in the order prioritized by the Direct Care group.

**Q** When will the Local Area Network (LAN) installations begin again?

**A** After the "hold" on MIS procurement was lifted in late November, a current needs assessment has been completed and approval has been received to begin to purchase and install. By the time you read this article many will have been completed.

**Q** What about future enhancements?

**A** Internet and Intranet access will be added after your site has been converted to the WAN, allowing authorized staff easy access to both agency external (inter) and internal (intra) information and electronic mail from sites outside of TYC.

**Q** A lot of new equipment and software has been installed recently at many locations; what plans are underway to train everyone?

**A** Over the last several months, a large amount of hardware and software has been installed around the state at various facilities, and will continue to be installed until TYC is totally onto a Wide Area Network (WAN) technology. Completion is scheduled for September 1996.

The first phase at these facilities is the initial installation of the hardware, followed by local staff learning to use the new equipment and software to access "just" their usual basic systems. The expanded capability of being on a Local Area Network (LAN) and a WAN plus new versions of software will take more time for staff to both discover and to receive proper instruction and training on how to master its use.

As installations are completed, each facility is being very basically trained by the installing MIS staff on how to log on to their LAN and access the mainframe. However, all of the many new features and tools available in a LAN/WAN environment will not be able to be covered.

When your LAN/WAN and/or personal computer is installed, the local manager is requested to notify the TYC human resources staff development division to discuss and schedule specific training needs. To completely train staff to utilize all of the new technology will take a lot of time and resources; please be patient and schedule training as soon as possible. ★

### **Briefly noted ...**

◆ Anthony Mayor **Art Franco** invited Schaeffer House youth to participate in the town's Fourth of July parade. Later he hosted the staff and residents for refreshments, hot dogs and hamburgers at a local park.

◆ The Brownwood Intercultural Awareness Committee hosted special celebrations for Cinco De Mayo and Juneteenth Day.

Following a special lunch, **Salvador Trevino**, a local minister, spoke during an assembly on the importance of Cinco de Mayo. Juneteenth was observed with a barbecue and presentation made by P.R.I.D.E. students of Brownwood High School, an intercultural awareness group for high school students.

◆ Eastern Service Area director **Helen George** was recently appointed to serve on the Board of The Girls and Boys Prep Academy of Houston — one of the first 20 Texas Charter Schools being funded by the TEA.

◆ The Piney Woods Fine Arts Association sponsored a workshop for Crockett State School youth on "Tools of the Trade." Youth had the opportunity to interact with the presenters to observe the tools they use to create drama.

## Briefly noted ...

◆ Turman House hosted its first cultural awareness training workshop in August. "Understanding and Appreciating our Difference" was the theme. The event was held at the Parker Lane United Methodist Church, Austin. The Austin volunteer council donated funds for refreshments.

◆ Cottrell House held its first annual New Orleans Tex-Mex Festival fund raiser called the "Taste of Cottrell" to raise money for the student benefit fund. Highlight of the evening was Chef **Cassandra Armstrong**, owner of The Dining Table restaurant and catering. Armstrong is also a Cottrell House food service instructor for the basic living skills class.

◆ For the past 22 years the youth at the Gainesville State School have gone to Bonham to watch the Kuekelham Rodeo. This year was no exception. Twenty-one youth attended this year and also enjoyed a chicken fried steak dinner.

◆ Home Builders Institute students from Giddings State School and their teachers spent time in July at Turman House completing renovations to the facility. The students put up a new fence around the Austin halfway house, installed gutters, and fixed the porch in the recreational area. These HBI youth graduated and were transferred to Turman House in August.

## Jack Patton retires after 30 years

Through the years, Jack Patton was on the TYC staff at Gatesville, Brownwood, Gainesville and finally, Marlin. He was honored as Marlin's 1996 Outstanding Staff Member at this year's administrative workshop.

July 31, 1996

### *To All TYC Employees*

*This is my last day with TYC and as I leave I wanted to tell all of you that I really believe that the best people in the world work for this agency. Because of you people, TYC is a great agency and continues to get better and better. Because of the many, many wonderful friendships I have formed over the years, I can honestly say that you are very much like family. Over the years, we have dealt with many crises. Often, a crisis presents an opportunity for bonding that produces a level of camaraderie that you can always depend upon. I could not begin to mention all of the names of people with whom I have enjoyed that level of friendship. As you read this, you know who you are. Each of you has that with others, or you soon will. These crises are simply opportunities for growth. May you all grow tall.*

*I have had the opportunity to work in TYC during three different eras (before and after the Morales vs. Turman lawsuit, and now in the "Changing Course" era). I want to emphasize that I believe that we are on the right course.*

*As you approach this new century, you have a great challenge; to learn from our past history and to provide that delicate balance between treatment and control. You are fortunate to have Steve Robinson, who knows the importance of that balance, as your leader. I worked with him in the trenches and he understood it back then. He is wiser now and he always uses good common sense. Follow his lead and you will be able to "keep it between the fences" this time.*

*Thank you for all the "good times" that I have had in TYC. May the best of everything come your way.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jack Patton*

*Assistant Superintendent*

*Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit ★*

## Ninety TYC participants in Southwest Key Olympics

The Southwest Key Program, Inc., a Texas Youth Commission (TYC) contract program, hosted the Third Annual Kirk Baptiste Key Olympics at the University of Houston in June.

Over 220 youth participated from six Texas cities, Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

All Southwest Key clients were eligible to participate, but were required to earn their trip to the Olympics through academic and athletic excellence and appropriate behavior. The events include both academic and athletic competitions for boys and girls.

The Texas Youth Commission had more participants in this year's Olympics than any other Southwest Key funding source, with a total of 90 competitors.

In addition, Jefferson County State School, Beaumont, also fielded a team of ten which took home many medals, including the silver in basketball and the gold in the 2X400 relay.

TYC students claimed a total of 81 medals, including 36 gold medals, 22 silver medals and 23 bronze medals.

Southwest Key also presented four \$1000 scholarships this year to youth who have demonstrated outstanding performance in their programs, and who are eligible to attend a university, community college or vocational school.

Three of the four scholarships went to TYC youth in Southwest Key programs: Cindy Rodriguez, Harlingen day treatment program; Brandon Eason, Dallas residential treatment center; and Shawn Watkins, Houston independent living program.

The most coveted prize of the Key Olympics is the Carl Lewis Award, a traveling trophy that goes each year to the team which scores the highest number of points per participant. The Dallas Residential Treatment Center took home the award with a total of 52 points and nine participants.

Previous winners were the Rio Grande Valley Outreach & Tracking and S.T.A.R.S. programs in 1995, and the Houston Day Treatment Program in 1994.

Carl Lewis, nine time Olympics gold medal winner in track and field, is honorary chair of the Southwest Key Olympics, and gives generously of his time and money each year, providing all participants with uniforms for the competitions. He attended the awards banquet and assisted in presenting the medals.

The Kirk Baptiste Key Olympics were named after Southwest Key staff member Kirk Baptiste, an Olympics silver medalist in track and field in 1984. He was instrumental in establishing the Olympics as an ongoing event for the benefit of Southwest Key youth. ★



*OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST Carl Lewis was a sponsor and keynote speaker for the Southwest Key Olympics. At left is Dr. Juan Sanchez, executive director of Southwest Key. More than 220 youth participated in the event.*

### NOTICE

If you want to continue to receive the *Texas Youth Commission JOURNAL*, Texas law requires that you request it in writing annually. Your name will be removed from the mailing list if you do not respond. To remain on the mailing list, return this page with your mailing label to:

## TYC JOURNAL

4900 North Lamar  
P.O. Box 4260  
Austin, Texas 78765-4260

I wish to continue receiving the *TYC JOURNAL* at the address/corrected address on my mailing label. (Please attach.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Texas Youth Commission employees, contract programs, and juvenile probation departments are exempt from this requirement.

## Satellite installed at Giddings

The T-Star satellite installation was completed at Giddings State School in July. This satellite dish will allow the school to access over 30 satellites with a variety of programs, ranging from distance learning classes, which enrich the courses of study for the student in foreign languages and advanced math, to field trips in other countries.

The courses will be for credit toward high school diplomas as well as college credit hours ★

## Gainesville Olympics

Gainesville State School students participated in the annual junior and senior Olympics at the Gainesville Convalescent Home.

Twenty-one students were paired with seniors, with eight juniors and seniors to a team.

Events included horseshoes, frisbee toss, modified basketball, ring toss, modified bowling and pillowcase stuffing.

The top three teams received medals. After the awards ceremony, the group enjoyed a hamburger cookout and visiting. ★

## Commitments up

*(continued from page 5)*

This is due to the expansion of offenses eligible for determinate sentencing as passed by the last legislature and effective for offenses on or after January 1, 1996.

The facilities bearing the major brunt of the high number of commitments have been institutions, which are collectively operating at more than 100 above their budgeted level. TYC's institutional average daily population has risen from 1,850 on September 1, 1995, to 2,562 on September 1, 1996, with the major changes being at the Brownwood Sanction Unit (from 36 to 149), Jefferson County State School (from 36 to 138), Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit (from 133 to 341) and San Saba (from 0 to 231). The TYC aftercare population has also risen dramatically, from 1,584 on September 1st, 1995, to 2,019 on September 1st, 1996. ★



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