

# J *Texas Youth Commission* **Journal**

*News and information from throughout the agency.*

March 1998, Spring Issue

4900 N. Lamar, Austin TX 78765

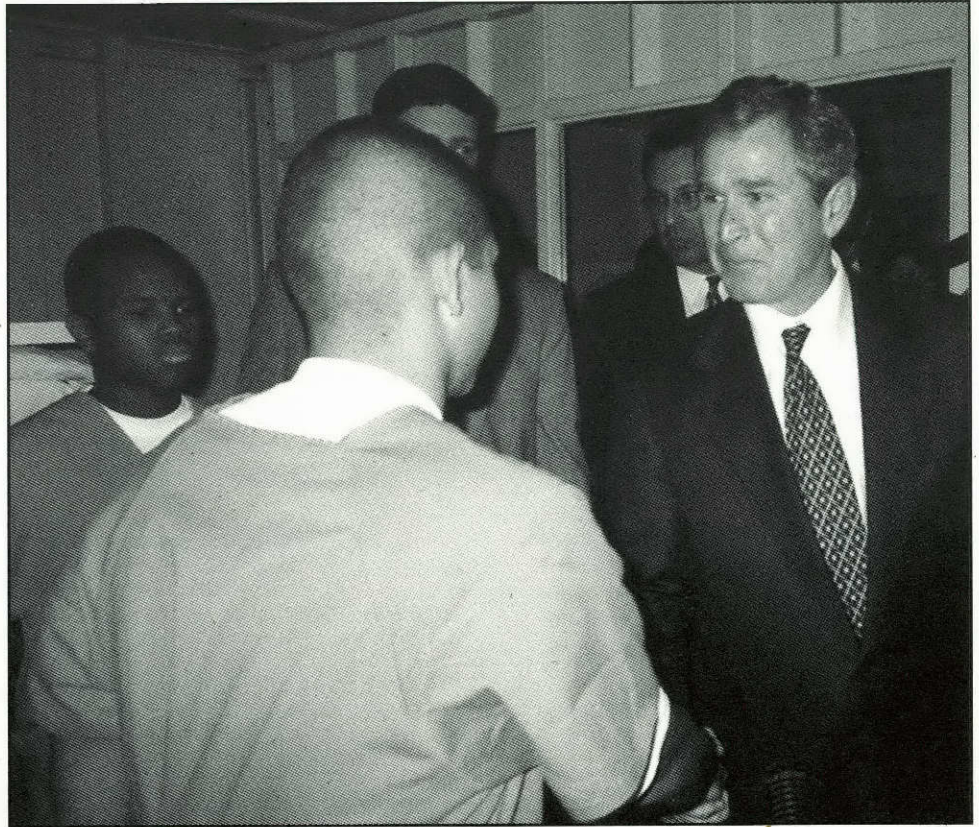
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***Sports Illustrated* article results in attention, donations**  
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*GOVERNOR BUSH greets group of TYC students during Marlin tour. Later he attended group sessions and held a press conference.*

## **Governor Bush tours Marlin; discusses program with youth**

Gov. George W. Bush toured the Texas Youth Commission's Marlin Orientation and Assessment unit on Feb. 18 for a first-hand look at how the state's tougher penalties and consequences for young offenders are being carried out.

Superintendent Alan Steen led the tour, which included five Texas television crews and an entourage of gubernatorial and TYC staff. The governor stopped to visit with staff and students along the way and sat

down with some offenders in Dorm 4 where he led his own informal "group."

Bush asked questions of the young men, and answered questions they had. The governor emphasized that in this state, "juveniles will face bad consequences for bad behavior."

But he also stressed that Texas has not given up on young offenders. He told the

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# TYC's centralized placement unit focuses on needs

*CPU's goal is to provide fair, efficient program assignment*

In order to coordinate the use of all placement resources available to the Texas Youth Commission and to afford the most use of the resources, TYC developed the Centralized Placement Unit eleven years ago.

All referrals for placement in community programs and/or contract programs, halfway houses, and Corsicana are made to TYC's Centralized Placement Unit (CPU) which operates in Brownwood and Marlin. The only exception is emergency shelter referrals which are coordinated by the district offices.

CPU was created to manage and oversee the initial placement of all newly committed youth and the subsequent movement of all youth within the Texas Youth Commission.

The goal of the process is to provide the most consistent, fair and efficient method of treatment program assignment possible for all youth without respect to whether or not the youth is a new commitment or already in the system.

In 1992, the CPU focus was changed from merely making referrals and placements or assignments, to evaluating resources and services available and how best to meet the needs of all youth needing placement. Over the years some of the principal tasks have changed, but the mission has not. Tammy Yanez has held the position of CPU administrator since 1996.

The CPU department is housed in both the Brownwood Sanction Unit and Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit. With only six staff in the entire department, more than four hundred placements are made each month by the six-member staff.

CPU reviews many more requests for placement than are actually granted. Placements are made only after careful consideration of the youth's needs and history and the resources available. Yanez and her staff work directly with the institutional placement coordinators at each facility to determine the most suitable placement for each TYC youth.

Yanez oversees the program through supervision of one placement specialist in Brownwood, Larry Isbell; two assistants, Karen Gibson in Brownwood and Carol



**TAMMY YANEZ**  
*TYC's centralized placement  
unit administrator.*

McDonald in Marlin; and two secretaries, LaNita Keas in Brownwood and Shirley Bush in Marlin.

Yanez also makes weekly trips to Marlin to oversee the placement of up to 300 youth out of the MOAU.

Although the youth's classification is the primary component considered, CPU must look at several other factors in determining the most suitable placement. The number of previous placements and prior escapes, the number of felony referrals and adjudications, along with their behavior while at Marlin are all carefully weighed.

Assessment caseworkers at Marlin assign a risk score for each student. Additionally, an assessment/reassessment form is completed by clinical and medical staff.

In short, CPU receives information regarding each student from several treatment sources within TYC before making placement decisions. The department utilizes proportionate distribution percentages to make assignments to TYC institutions.

Each student being released from Marlin is studied prior to initial placement. Also All subsequent placements are also the responsibility of the CPU department. This includes all level one and two disciplinary

hearing assignments.

The assignments are occasionally diverted to contract care programs when the BSU and other TYC institutions are overpopulated. In fact, the only placements not handled through CPU are emergency shelters and those youth going on parole status.

Yanez and her staff are responsible for a total of 4,700 beds in institutions, contract facilities and halfway houses. If a student goes on escape status at any of the contract care facilities, CPU has just three days before they must fill the open bed. Some contract beds are considered a "guaranteed paid bed" and time is of the essence to keep them all full.

Despite the large number of youth be-

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*Contributing information should be sent to the  
attention of Joan Timmons at the above address.*

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# Governor says he'll ask for 330 more beds . . .

(continued from page 2)

young men that he believes they can improve and that they are surrounded by well-trained staff who care deeply about them.

The young men displayed appropriate behavior and positive attitudes, and were able to explain the program and its effects on them.

They were able to explain "thinking errors," TYC's highly structured 16-hour day, and the aims of the agency's resocialization correctional therapy program.

Student A.H. of Ft. Worth later said, "I thought it was a good opportunity...I thought I was pretty fortunate to be one of the ones picked to talk to the governor. He was really stern. He wanted to know if we were really learning anything.

"I could tell that if we hadn't been learning anything, he would've been mad and probably made stricter rules, because he wouldn't want to waste the taxpayers money on something that didn't work."

Jesse C. from Houston said, "I thought it was good that we got the chance to talk to the governor, cause we might not ever get a chance to talk to someone so important again!

"It also gave our families a chance to see us and see that we're okay and doing good, and we're not hurt. They told me it was on Channel 2 there, so I hope my mom got to see it."

A.R. from Baxter said although he didn't have enough time to tell the governor everything that he wanted to, "I'm still glad he came because it was my first chance to meet someone so important. It was fun to be on T.V. with the cameras and everything. I hope I get to see it some time."

After the tour, the governor met with reporters and said, "This is not a place where young people want to come. It is not a child-care facility anymore; it is a correctional facility. There's no free time here, only serious time designed to give young people a clear message to straighten up and change their lives."

The governor announced that he will ask the legislature to fund 330 additional secure beds for TYC. The 330-bed McLennan County State Juvenile Correc-



*GOVERNOR BUSH held a press conference following his tour of the Marlin facility February 18. Also pictured are, left to right, Marlin Superintendent Alan Steen; TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson; Chief of Staff Judy Briscoe; Information officer Pamela Ward; and Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam.*

tions facility planned for Mart is being designed with the infrastructure to support an additional 330 beds.

After the press conference, the governor greeted staff members and even posed for photographs.

"It was really an honor for the governor to visit here," one staff member stated. "It makes me proud to say I work here at

Marlin - and for TYC.

"You know, you have some days when you wonder if anything you do for these kids is really going to make a difference in their lives. But seeing them on television answering questions from the governor of Texas and complementing the staff for doing a good job makes it all seem worthwhile somehow."

## Administrators meeting scheduled April 20-22

The new semi-annual administrators' meeting slated April 20-22 will include about 80 agency officials - in contrast to the large annual meetings formerly held each summer with more than 400 staff members attending.

The three-day session will be held at the George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University. .

The first day includes presentations by Executive Director Steve Robinson; agency strategic plan by Paul Reeves and Don McCullough; business plans, deputy executive director Sandy Burnam; finance busi-

ness plan briefing, Terry Graham; ACA update, Gail Graham; and managed care update, Charlene Laramey.

The Tuesday, April 21 session includes a presentation on the new TYC investigations unit by general counsel Neil Nichols and Ammy Jones, the new investigator; and reports from assistant deputy executive director Ed White, halfway house administrator Karen Turcotte and budget director Don McCullough.

Individual breakout sessions will be

(continued on page 4)

# Numerous factors result in population increases

Tougher parole policies add to projections; agency adding new private contract spaces

News reports in late January about Texas Youth Commission population increases likely came as no surprise to TYC employees. A report released by the Criminal Justice Policy Council to the media and legislature confirmed what the institutions already knew: TYC's population is surpassing projections.

We've been challenged lately to find ways to reduce populations that exceed bedspace.

The Policy Council now predicts that TYC will be over capacity by 249 youth by

August. The earlier projection, funded by the last legislature, predicted a population of 4,915 for August 1998. The new projection: 5,164.

Contributing to the situation are a number of factors, the Policy Council said. Juvenile justice reforms and tougher policies have led to higher populations at TYC. The counties are sending TYC an increased number of youth who have failed probation.

Likewise, TYC's own tougher parole policies along with judicial commitments are affecting the population growth.

The percentage of youth at TYC institutions who failed either probation or parole increased from 58 percent in 1995 to

71 percent in 1997, the Policy Council reports.

TYC once again is increasing its contract care beds, using available federal funds. If the population again exceeds budgeted levels, the agency plans to keep TYC-operated programs at their physical and budgeted capacities - one bed for one kid. TYC will use the unspent balance of a previous emergency appropriation to buy private beds, and if necessary, will ask the legislature for emergency funds.

The 330-bed TYC facility in McLennan County isn't scheduled to open until October 1999.

# New policies to provide consistency to TYC Web sites

The Texas Youth Commission has created new policies for producing Internet and Intranet Web projects as well as new standards for Web publishing.

These standards and guidelines have been established to provide a more stable Web publishing environment and to give our Web sites (both Internet and Intranet) a more consistent look. The goal is to ensure consistent Web page quality and to minimize errors and loss of data.

These standards and policies are not meant to stifle creativity nor to restrict access to the Web, but to guarantee that all Web content under the TYC banner follows minimum standards. The idea is to provide the best content for staff and the public, and to ensure the quickest, most secure, and most dependable access to that content.

These guidelines will also help TYC develop a Web style that will make our pages quickly recognizable and unique. To reflect the new standards and guidelines, current Internet and Intranet Web pages are being studied to ensure the existing content and appearance follow these parameters, and the pages will be revised accordingly.

A Web Oversight Committee has been created at Central Office to assist Web authors in developing their projects. The committee will help provide guidance during the development process.

Staff participation and input in the Web development process is encouraged. Here is the process for obtaining Web project approval:

- Staff member submits idea for Web project to immediate supervisor. (Please submit ideas on a Web Approval Form, available from John Alford, TYC Web Administrator, Central Office.)
- Supervisor approves and submits idea to the Information Policy Committee (IPC) for approval. Patricia Hayes or Jay Svinicki in Central Office can receive this form.
- IPC forwards project to Web User's Group (WUG). The WUG prioritizes the project, guides it through the development process and makes sure it meets agency standards. When completed, this committee returns the project to the IPC for final approval.

- IPC approves.
- Management Team approves.
- Web Administrator posts to the Internet or Intranet.

The new policies and other related documents can be viewed on the Intranet at <http://austin.tyc.state.tx.us/webproc/>. Questions can be referred to John Alford, Web coordinator, by email at [alford-j@tyc.state.tx.us](mailto:alford-j@tyc.state.tx.us) or by phone at 512-424-6103.

## Administrators...

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held Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. Sessions will be held for quality assurance supervisors, business managers, institution superintendents, halfway house superintendents and parole supervisors.

Jefferson County State School superintendent Marie Murdoch and Gainesville superintendent Jerry Day will report on the institution manual/standardization project.

# Brownwood tutors impact academic progress

Students at the Brownwood State School and Sanction Unit are meeting their educational goals through the volunteer tutoring program.

Community volunteers from local universities, churches and civic organizations are teaching TYC youth basic math and reading skills.

"Although the tutoring program has existed for quite some time, recent changes promise to make the tutoring program more productive and beneficial to all involved," said Tammy Vega, volunteer coordinator.

The staff and community volunteers demonstrate cooperation and teamwork in meeting the academic needs of the youth. Students are referred for tutoring services through their caseworker and/or teacher.

Referrals are based solely on academic need, rather than behavioral level. Students are restricted from the volunteer program only if they present a potential threat to a community volunteer.

The waiting list currently includes more than 70 names of youth who have requested this type of volunteer assistance.

Volunteer tutors in Brownwood come from all walks of life. However, the majority are university students who get involved in the volunteer programs for a variety of reasons. The most obvious motivation is the requirement for community service hours made by fraternities, sororities, and honorary organizations.

College students also become volunteer tutors to "get their feet wet" in the field chosen for their degree plan.

Recruitment presentations are made regularly within the social work, psychology, education, religious studies and criminal justice classes at Howard Payne University.

Several regular volunteers in the chaplaincy program have also gotten involved in tutoring. Despite these excellent resources, the need for tutors remains consistently high.

Volunteers are expected to spend a minimum of 45 minutes each week in individual instruction for a period of six weeks.

Tutors provide basic instruction in reading, math, spoken and written English, advanced math courses and even assist in

working through the resocialization workbook.

Qualifications include a willingness to work directly with an assigned student and an ability to observe personal boundaries and exhibit mature and responsible behavior. The volunteer tutor is also expected to have sound knowledge of the content area being taught.

In addition to the basic orientation and training that all TYC volunteers complete, volunteer tutors are expected to attend quarterly training specifically relating to teaching methods, student profiles and security issues.

Tutors receive guidance, instruction and specific training from the volunteer coordinator, classroom teachers, principals, and program administrators.

"The cooperation between TYC staff and the volunteer tutors has led to a successful partnership," said superintendent Dan Humeniuk. Before the volunteer/youth

Perhaps the most impressive manner in which teachers support the tutoring program in Brownwood is by providing workspace for the tutors in their classrooms during school hours, said Vega.

"The majority of the volunteer tutors serve during the school day and work at a desk in the back of the classroom. If the volunteer is unable to tutor during these hours, they will visit the student in the dormitory," she added. The tutor can receive assistance from the teacher at any time through classroom consultation.

Volunteers are supportive of the educational and treatment needs, as well.

A recent change to the Brownwood tutoring program is the limitation of the number of tutoring sessions given to each student.

"Rather than the volunteer and student working endlessly and becoming disinterested, tutoring sessions are now limited to six weeks," Vega explained. The sessions

*"Referrals are based solely on academic need, rather than behavioral level..."*

assignment is made, teachers complete a Tutoring Needs Assessment form, which provides specific and current information regarding the skill levels of the student.

The teacher describes barriers to learning in terms of the reading ability, general comprehension skills, behavior and social skills.

The current effort rating is also given and the teacher makes recommendations for activities, books or materials that could be used during the tutoring sessions. The teaching staff defines the educational goal for the tutoring sessions.

are centered on the educational goal determined by the teachers.

By completing a Tutoring Progress Report at the end of six weeks, the volunteer tutor determines whether the goal has been met and can either continue for an additional six weeks or end the tutoring sessions and receive another assignment.

The volunteer tutor's feedback is viewed as an important contribution to the overall rehabilitation of the student. The progress report is distributed to the principal, assistant superintendent, caseworker and the student's masterfile.

## Volunteer appreciation banquet held at Jefferson County

The volunteers of Jefferson County State School were honored at a Christmas banquet.

TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson and JCSS Superintendent Marie

Murdoch spoke to the volunteers and expressed their thanks for service to JCSS.

Neil Nichols, general counsel, also attended. Each volunteer was presented a certificate. Door prizes were also given.

## San Saba participates in Angel Tree project

Students and staff at San Saba, along with the San Saba County Child Protection and Family Advocacy Board and community volunteers, made Christmas better for area needy children.

A Christmas tree decorated with angel ornaments made by San Saba State School students was placed at a local bank.

Angels, representing needy children, were taken from the tree and gifts were purchased and delivered by staff and students.

## CPU...

*(continued from page 2)*

ing considered for placement each month, every masterfile or packet is reviewed by CPU staff.

Placement recommendations from caseworkers, program administrators, or quality assurance specialists are funneled through each institutional placement coordinator or quality assurance supervisor.

Youth placed in medium risk facilities are carefully selected due to increased liability. Medium risk resources include group home, child-placing agencies, vocational schools, level-four residential treatment centers and the Marine Institute.

High-risk placement resources include the TYC and contract care institutions and boot camps and level-five residential treatment centers.

"The most frustrating aspect of the CPU," says Yanez, "is that we do not have enough resources and beds for the females in our care."

The Centralized Placement Unit may be one of the least visible departments in the agency, but their responsibility is enormous, said Paula Morelock, director of contract and support programs, supervisor of the unit.

# AROUND TYC

## Aquatic center opened with fanfare at Corsicana March 3

The Community Advisory Council for the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center sponsored an open house and reception March 3 for the newly built aquatic center which encloses the campus swimming pool.

The event was held in conjunction with a Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on March 3.

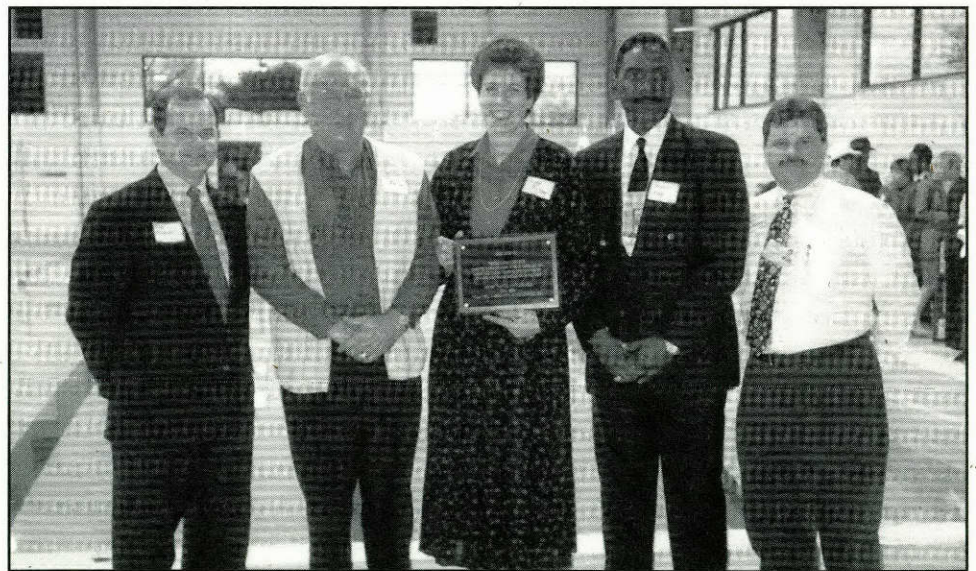
The Corsicana Area Chamber of Commerce holds these events monthly, sponsored by various community businesses and organizations. Folks from various businesses attend "after hours" to visit and learn

about the sponsoring organization.

The special dedication ceremony was held in the gymnasium and tours were conducted in the adjacent Aquatic Center. Campus students were involved.

More than \$200,000 to enclose the pool was raised by the volunteer council over several years and during numerous fund raising activities.

State council chairman Bob Frisby, a member of the Corsicana volunteer council, served as chair for the fund raising committee.



*CORSICANA'S AQUATIC CENTER was officially opened and dedicated March 3 with speeches, refreshments and door prizes. Shown at the event are, left to right, State Representative Clyde Alexander, volunteer fund raising chairman Bob Frisby, TYC Deputy Executive Director Sandy Burnam, Corsicana Superintendent Chester Clay, and volunteer council chair Darrell Beachamp.*

## Del Price named superintendent of new TYC state school

Delbert Price, PhD, formerly an assistant superintendent at Hamilton State School at Bryan, has been named superintendent of the agency's newest state school, to be located in Mart.

The McLennan County State Juvenile Corrections Facility at Mart should open in October 1999.

"I'm pleased to have someone of Delbert's experience and qualifications moving into this position," said TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson.

Price, who is a licensed psychologist, previously served as administrator in multiple capacities at Travis State School, a Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TXMHMR) facility.

He also worked at (TXMHMR's) Brenham State School where he was in charge of community services, and started his professional career at the Burton Independent School District, where he taught in a rural secondary school.

Price said he is eager to get to work helping to bring the McLennan County facility at Mart on-line. The facility will be a secure, fenced 330-bed institution with the infrastructure to grow to 660 beds.

Architects currently are consulting with TYC staff on the facility design. The TYC board voted to build the facility in Mart af-

ter a statewide competition.

The structure is being planned with three or four buildings with a "compartmentalized" structure enabling youth to move from one building to another.

The design will include facilities for males and females in single rooms, double rooms and open bay areas.

It's anticipated that 300 employees will be needed when the facility reaches its 330-bed capacity, but hiring will not begin until sometime close to the October 1999 opening.

Price has spent nearly 23 years working with youth who have special needs. He holds a doctorate in educational psychology from Texas A&M, a master's degree in speech communication from the University of Houston, a bachelor's in secondary education from Houston Baptist University, and completed a post-doctoral internship of 3,920 hours.

Some 4,780 juveniles currently are in TYC custody at 14 institutions plus contract care programs across Texas. Another 2,550 are in parole/aftercare.

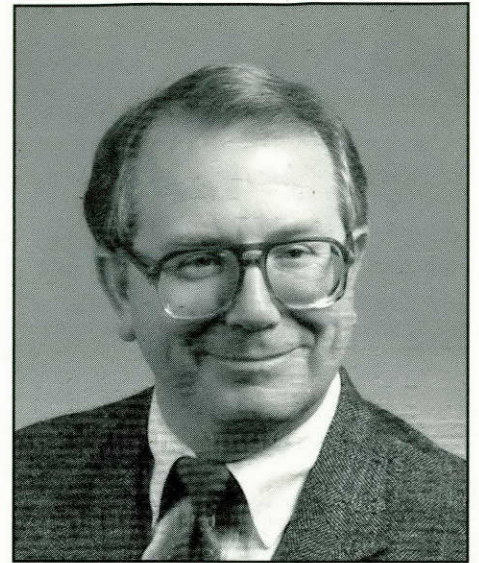
From fiscal year 1993 to 1997, commitments to TYC increased 84 percent. The average daily population increased 104 percent, with longer lengths of stay contributing to that increase.

## New dormitory opened in Brownwood

Construction is over and the doors have been opened on the new 96-bed dormitory at the Brownwood State School.

The additional bed space has relieved the overcrowded conditions at the facility. Population is near capacity and staff and students are adapting to the open-bay quarters on the dorm.

The added beds bring the total budgeted population to 328 youth. A recent community job fair proved a success and the dormitory is fully staffed. Frank Vega is the program administrator.



*DELBERT PRICE  
Named superintendent  
of Mart facility*

## Brownwood hosts first victim impact panels

Brownwood's first victim impact panels were held at the state school in January.

Three simultaneous panels of victim presenters spoke to groups of ten students each. Presenters included Herbert and Emma Jo Snyder from Van Vleck.

Each shared their personal experiences as a victim of violent crime.

Shirley Poyner, a new presenter to TYC, also shared her story of victimization. Poyner is a crisis counselor with the Assault Victim Services in San Angelo.

All three panels had a great response from the students participating. Pre-treatment groups were led by primary service workers, Gene Hartin, Lisa Williamson and Velre Boyd.

Tammy Vega, volunteer coordinator, coordinated the panel presentations with assistance from program administrators Eduardo Martinez, John Newton, and Pete Kennemar.

Following debriefing exercises, the youth demonstrated increased empathy for their own victims as evidenced in their letters to the panel presenters.

## Victim rights week set April 19-25

For the third year, Texas state agencies and statewide nonprofit groups serving crime victims are combining resources to kickoff Crime Victims Rights Week April 19-25 with a special celebration.

This year's event will be Sunday, April 19, on the south steps of the State Capitol. The ceremony will begin at 3 p.m. and will feature music by the Austin Girls Choir and speeches by victims and victim-advocates.

A reception will follow at 4 p.m. in the Capitol Banquet room.

For more information, contact Shirley Cochran, planning committee chair, at 512-424-6073

## University chancellor writes Governor to express admiration

January 30, 1998

Honorable George W. Bush Jr.  
Governor, State of Texas  
State Capitol  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Bush:

During my almost 40 years in higher education, I have been privileged to speak for hundreds of commencement exercises for high schools and universities, and even a few times for elementary school students "graduating" into high school. Providing the most joy, however, have been several speeches made in the past few years to men who have completed GED requirements while services in youth detention facilities at Brownwood State School, and others who are incarcerated for drug/alcohol abuse at the Havins Unit here.

On these occasions, it has been a joy to watch the audiences, numbering from 100 to 200 people; some of whom have traveled great distances to see loved ones accomplish something very positive. In most cases I suspect these occasions mark

the first times in years that they have noted clearly positive steps in the lives of these honorees.

They are not compelled to participate in GED classes. It is their choice. And, while on the topic of joy, this again is the word to describe the expressions on the honorees' faces. They are pleased to receive these diplomas, and the gratitude they express to their counselors and teachers is genuine and evident.

I cannot adequately express my admiration and gratitude to all those who work with these men, nurturing, encouraging, training. This, I realize, is but a small vignette of what is being done to rehabilitate men to become participants in society, rather than being detractors.

Thanks for your interest in education for all. May the importance of education continue to be underscored - to everyone.

Sincerely,  
Don Newbury  
Chancellor  
Howard Payne University

## Graduation ceremony held at Corsicana

One student from the Corsicana Stabilization Unit recently received her high school diploma, and eighteen additional students from the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center received their GED's during a recent campus graduation ceremony.

Adrian Johnson, Director of Operations with the Corsicana Independent School District, was the guest speaker.

Johnson presented several illustrations of people who had overcome obstacles in order to achieve. "Overcoming Obstacles" was the theme of the graduation.

Johnson closed with these remarks to the graduates and student body, "You can do anything you want to do in life, you just have to want to do it bad enough."

The diplomas were presented by Judy Huffty, TYC superintendent of schools; CRTC superintendent Chester Clay, Jr.; and Carolyn Webb, principal.

This graduation was sponsored by the education department. Students and Principal Webb performed the songs "Mama" and "Hero", respectively, and Mary Standly presented remarks.

Plaques were presented to the valedictorian and salutatorian. All students received monetary gifts from the Community Advisory Council, who also sponsored the graduate's cakes and flowers for each to present to a family member or other significant person.

## 37 Evins youth receive GED's

Thirty-seven youth at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg, received their GED certificates during graduation ceremonies.

TYC Board vice chairman Edna Tamayo gave the commencement address. She assisted Butch Held, ERJC administrator, and Dr. Ignacio Guerra, principal, in awarding the certificates.

Ramon Carrillo was announced as valedictorian and Bryan Swann was named salutatorian.

A reception for the graduates and 100 family members was hosted by the volunteer council.

## Graduation held at Hamilton facility

One Hamilton State School student received his high school diploma at graduation ceremonies in December and 44 additional students received their GED certificates.

Guest speaker for the event was local businessman, Tom Archer. The Hamilton State School Choir premiered at the ceremony by providing a selection of inspirational music.

Dr. Judy Huffty, TYC superintendent of education, and Robert E. Woods, Hamilton superintendent, presented diplomas to the graduates.

A reception for the students and their families followed the ceremony.

## Hemphill cadets recognized during graduation ceremony

Hemphill County Juvenile Boot Camp, a TYC contract program in Canadian, held a graduation ceremony for seven cadets in January, three of whom were TYC youth.

Two TYC cadets took portions of the GED and are awaiting the results of those exams. David New successfully completed all portions of the exam.



## Brownwood vocational program undergoes changes, expansions

The Brownwood State School vocational program is back in full swing after several months of being interrupted due to overpopulation and other constraints.

Students are now standing in line waiting to be enrolled in the two-hour vocational tracks. High school students can choose from auto technology, building trades, welding or computer applications/business support systems.

Tony Sanchez, Brownwood principal, is pleased to see the vocational program fully instituted again. Sanchez remarks, "This is a necessary education program for the students because not everybody is college bound. This will enrich their lives; these skills will pay off."

The vocational program employs four teachers: Jackie Burks, auto technology; Garry Yielding, building trades; James

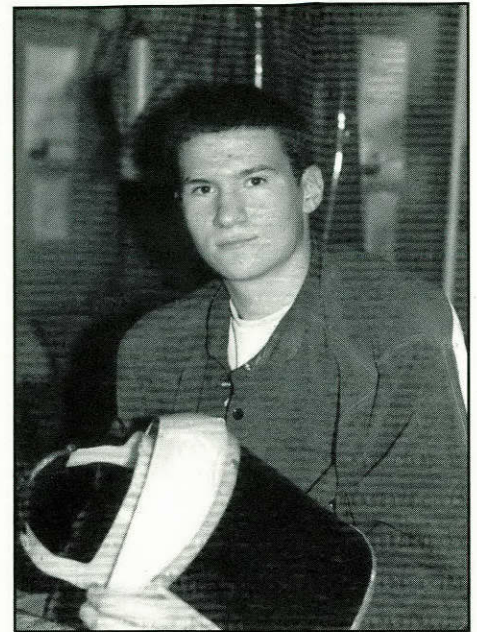
Burnett, welding; and Julie Scott, computer application/business support systems.

Student enrollment in the programs is based upon a vocational interest survey routinely given to all Brownwood high school students.

The vocational program will continue to improve as it undergoes additional changes and expansions, said Sanchez.

The welding program has recently been certified by the American Welding Society. Director James Burnett is a certified instructor in the AWS Educational Program Visual and Welding Inspection Technology Service.

These accreditations will enable the program to provide students marketable certificates and place graduates onto a nationwide database for employers to use when recruiting.



*STUDENT KYE DEVOLL is learning welding skills in the vocational program at Brownwood State School which could secure him a job upon his release from TYC.*

## Hamilton students prepare for vocational classes, college courses

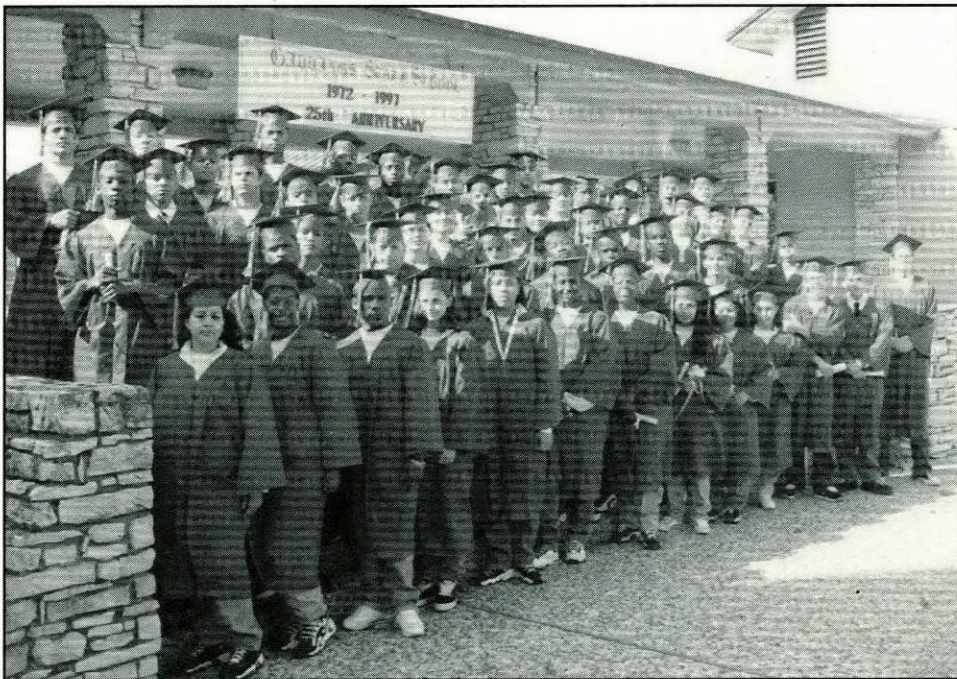
Hamilton State School is busy preparing for the facility's vocational program which will offer students the chance to receive instruction and training in the operation of heavy equipment.

Principal Gradyne Sennette reports that the process of selecting students to participate in the program has begun. Many of the recent GED graduates will be applying for acceptance into the vocational program.

Another option that is offered to graduates is to enroll in college courses during their stay at the Bryan facility. Hamilton's contract with Blinn Junior College affords students the opportunity to enroll in college level courses through a telecourse program.

Sixteen Hamilton students each registered for six college hours last semester, with two students actually completing their first college semester with a 4.0 grade point average

Twenty-three students are enrolled in the college program this semester, with one student registered for nine hours.



*A RECORD NUMBER OF 54 students received GED certificates during the November graduation ceremonies at Giddings State School.*

## YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

### Schaeffer residents help improve customer service at hospital

Patients waiting to be admitted to Columbia Medical Center-West in El Paso have seen an improvement in customer service in the past year, and some of that improvement can be attributed to Schaeffer Halfway House residents, who volunteer there from 9 am to 3 pm, Monday-Saturday.

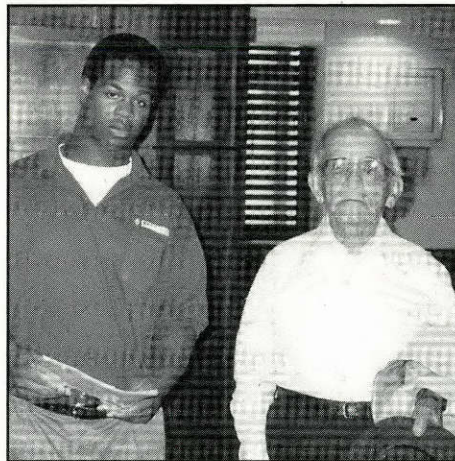
Through their work of xeroxing all necessary admissions documents, paperwork is always readily available. The youth pick up needed lab specimens and deliver them to their respective departments, and transport patients by wheel chair for further testing and diagnosis, according to Sandra Guevara, patient registration clerk.

Having Schaeffer youth transport them to the proper location in a timely manner really helps to ease and calm patients' fears and anxieties when they are first admitted to Columbia West, she said.

Currently, Schaeffer residents Deshrick Lewis, Jose Ticas, Robert Hawkins and Salvador Hernandez can be seen delivering specimens, escorting patients to their designated locations, and xeroxing and ensuring all needed paperwork is available in the admissions department.

Vicky Moreno, admitting manager, Rosa Garcia and Esther Labrado, ER/OP coordinators, can think of only one way for Schaeffer House residents to exceed their current performance-work on Sunday when they are severely short on volunteers!

Hospital staff are not only interested in



*SCHAEFFER HOUSE STUDENT Deshrick Lewis assists a recently admitted patient at Columbia Medical Center; West in El Paso. Four youth currently provide of community service work six days a week at the hospital.*

Schaeffer residents performing their assigned duties in a satisfactory manner, they are also interested in nurturing and encouraging their growth, potential and self-esteem.

Garcia has observed that TYC youth initially are very quiet and keep to themselves, but as their confidence improves and they start trusting staff, their self-confidence soars.

The community service work at the hospital was arranged for and is frequently supervised by TYC volunteer Dick Robinson, himself a hospital volunteer.

### Hemphill cadets provide over \$40,000 in community service

Cadets from Hemphill County Juvenile Boot Camp, a TYC contract program, contributed more than \$40,000 in community service hours to various agencies in the community of Canadian.

Cadets performed 8,535 hours of community service from January-November 1997, providing an estimated total of \$42,677.50 in manpower efforts.

Canadian area agencies benefitting from the work of Hemphill Cadets include Texas Parks and Wildlife, the National Forest Service, the Edward Abraham Memorial Home, the Fifties Plus Club, the River Valley Pioneer Museum, the Rodeo Association, the Junior Livestock Association, and the Hemphill County Hospital.

According to vocational instructor Shayne Sanders, community service projects have included remodeling, setting up for organizational programs, landscaping and helping with Christmas decorations.

"Cadets have maintained the trails at Lake Marvin and have done some fence clearing and rebuilding at the Gene Howe Wildlife Refuge. They also laid all the sod at the hospital and worked on flower beds at the Abraham Home."

Another beneficiary was the 4-H Project Center, where they painted the rodeo arena. Cadets also remodeled the inside of the Fifties Plus Club. Cadets spend two days each week working for Texas Parks and Wildlife and for the City of Canadian recycling center.

Besides the tremendous savings to the community, Sanders said community service work provides hands-on training for Hemphill cadets.

Sanders said all of the work performed by Hemphill cadets is educationally-based. "They're learning as they're doing - whether they're identifying different types of plants, learning how to lay carpet or learning how to paint properly."

## Ranger Gary Horton speaks to San Saba students

Ranger Gary Horton, representing the American Freedom Assembly, spoke to students at San Saba with the theme that America's strength and future lies in each citizen, including every young person.

Horton, a Florida native who now lives in Alabama, is a graduate of Miami Christian College and travels the nation speaking to young people.

Ranger Horton served in the U.S. Army Airborne Rangers and has spent time helping in juvenile rehabilitation programs and prisons.

He expressed the opinion that America's attitudes are often no longer reflective of the traditional American values that have allowed us the freedom and success we have enjoyed in the past.

## Evins hosts 'Leadership Edinburg' class

Evins Regional Juvenile Center hosted the January meeting of Leadership Edinburg (Class IX), sponsored by the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce.

The nine-month program features ten 6-8 hour meetings on various topics. The Evins volunteer council provided dinner.

The course is set up to identify existing, emerging leaders and potential leaders from the community and to form a network of cooperation and communication.

Raul Arredondo, Evins volunteer coordinator and a graduate of the program, said the event makes it possible to provide accurate, complete information about TYC principles and objectives to members of the class.

## Students panel presents gang information

Students from JCSS gave a presentation on gang activity to Spring Branch Independent School District counselors.

The panel of students answered questions on how to detect gang activity among young children, why they became involved with the gangs and what they were doing to stay out of the gang activity life style.

The counselors of Spring Branch were very impressed with the students presentations and the program at Jefferson County State School.



*EVINS REGIONAL JUVENILE CENTER, Edinburg, students show their winter garden crop of tomatoes, peppers and cilantro. Not only do they learn about planting, growing and cooking their crops, they also determine market values. Shown also is their horticulture teacher Ruben Trevino, left.*

## Sex offender program involves families in treatment of youth

The sex offender treatment program at the Brownwood State School is involving families in the treatment of youth during bi-monthly "multi-family support groups."

The program consists of a three-hour meeting involving family members, caseworkers and program administrators. Families travel from all over Texas for the intense support group.

Families are given detailed information regarding the program and the participation expected from their sons. Director John Newton coordinates the program.

"We have developed a very powerful support group," reports Newton. The group originally met for two hours on a quarterly basis; but after the parents attending requested more time, the group was lengthened and scheduled every other month.

Parents share their personal feelings

regarding having a son convicted of a sex crime. They are provided a safe place to explore these feelings and talk openly with others with whom they can identify.

The meetings are limited to adult family members only. A two-hour visitation between the family and the student follows the support group. Caseworkers attend each multi-family support group and provide counseling and support during the visitation between students and their families. The program caseworkers are Gene Hartin, Eddie Harwell, Ralph Harris and Joe Tom Childs.

Typically, fifty percent of the families commit to participating in the group sessions. The community advisory council often helps low income families participate by providing financial assistance with travel arrangements.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

## New Administrators named

**DEBBIE DICK** has been named superintendent of Valley House, TYC's halfway house in Harlingen. Dick formerly was assistant superintendent at York halfway house in Corpus Christi.

**ROSS C. ROBINSON** has been selected as the second Corsicana Residential Treatment Center assistant superintendent - with responsibility for the stabilization unit at the state school. Robinson, who has a master's degree in psychology and an MBA in health care administration, has ten years' experience managing programs for the TXMHMR system and has provided direct care and clinical services in numerous programs.

New assistant superintendent of West Texas State School is **MARY TAGGART**, formerly program administrator for intake and assessment at the Marlin Orientation and Assessment Unit. Taggart holds a BS in sociology/psychology from Mary Hardin Baylor University and a master's degree in criminal justice from American Technological University. She began her employment in TYC as a YAS in Brownwood in 1980, and later became a caseworker, youth program supervisor and program administrator at the reception center, when it was located in Brownwood.

**JEFF BERRY**, who has been employed at Giddings, Corsicana and San Saba,

has been named director of security for Brownwood State School and the Sanction Unit. He holds a BA in criminal justice from UTSA, and is currently working on his master's degree.

**SCOTT RYDZESKI**, formerly program administrator at the Gulf Coast Trades Center Buda shelter, is the new assistant superintendent at Turman House.

**LORETTA SMITH**, who has 14 years experience with TYC's fiscal department, has been named claims manager in a newly renamed claims department - formerly the accounts payable department.

**HOWARD HICKMAN** has been hired as a hearings examiner in the central office legal department. He holds a JD degree from the University of Texas at Austin law school, and has worked for the committee counsel to the House energy resources committee.

New human resource officer for Victory Field Correctional Academy, Vernon, is **STEVE WILSON**. He holds a BS in occupational education with a major in business.

Two new quality assurance specialists have been selected to work at the Coke County Juvenile Justice Center, Bronte, a contract program for TYC female students

## Agency investigator position created

Ammy Jones has been hired for the new position of chief of investigations in central office, according to Neil Nichols, TYC general counsel.

Jones had been senior investigator examiner in the Attorney General's Medicaid fraud control unit for the past ten years. Prior to that she was an investigator with DHS, and a trainer at TXMHMR's Mexia State School.

She will oversee all investigations conducted in the agency to help ensure that they are conducted in accordance with the highest professional standards and result in reliable factual determinations, said Nichols.

"A number of policy and procedural changes will have to be made before the new activity is operational," he explained. "Until that time all current policies and procedures regarding the conduct of investigations will continue to be implemented."

When the new investigations program is fully operational, matters to be investigated will be forwarded to Jones by the executive director, the general counsel, the youth rights administrator, or the employee grievance administrator.

Investigations may involve alleged abuse or neglect of youth; allegations of discrimination or sexual harassment under equal employment opportunity laws; claims for workers compensation benefits; allegations of employee theft, fraud or other misconduct; or other matters involving possible violations of law.

Jones, who will conduct some investigations herself, will assign an investigator to each matter referred to her and be responsible for the general supervision, guidance and training of the investigator.

She attended Blinn College and Sam Houston State University and has a BS degree in criminology and corrections.

(continued on page 19)

## Hall named state chairman of intercultural committee

Floyd Hall, director of the TYC training academy and conference center in Corsicana, has been appointed by Executive Director Steve Robinson as chairman of the statewide intercultural awareness committee.

Hall, who has been with TYC 16 years, has served as community resource specialist at Cottrell House, Dallas; administrator of TYC's former boys' group home, Austin; administrator of TYC's former girls' group home in San Marcos; assistant superintendent at Willoughby House, Fort Worth; and superintendent at York House, Corpus Christi.

He was elected administrator of the year for 1995 and 1996 at Corsicana Residential Treatment Center.

Hall attended Grambling State University and Bishop College, and has a BA in sociology and an MS degree from Abilene Christian University in personnel relations and management. He also has diversity trainer certifications from the U.S. Justice Department, Sam Houston State University and the Hazelden Training Academy.

## Piney Woods Fine Arts

Ten youth from the Crockett State School worked as stage crews and technical crew for singer Tammy Wynette's concert at the Crockett Civic Center.

The 'first lady of country music' had her production manager and sound engineer to present a lecture demonstration on concert production, sound and lighting for the ten students.

For several years the students at Crockett State School have worked with Piney Woods Fine Arts, serving as ushers, stage hands and setting up for events.

On February 12, Carol Fran and Clarence Holliman famed Texas blues duo presented two workshops at Crockett State School celebrating "Black History Month".

With discussions and mini-performances, they underscore the importance of blues tradition and its roots in African American culture.

# CULTURAL EVENTS

## Native American teaches traditional art, stories, music

Willborn Hill, a Native American artist brought to the Corsicana schools by the Navarro Council of The Arts, returned to TYC's Corsicana Residential Treatment Center to teach students a class in traditional stories and music.

The program included a unique blend of traditional stories, flute and songs of the diverse cultures associated with the deserts, plains, woodlands, mountains, and seas.

Students learned about the history of the five civilized tribes spanning from the

early 1800's to the present.

Attending a December program by Hill, and Kevin Longhorn of the Great American Indian Dancers, were members of the Texas Youth Commission intercultural task force who were meeting in Corsicana at the time.

Statistically, arts programs appear to reduce more violence in institutions and reduce recidivism better than other correctional programs, said Sylvia Bonin, Navarro arts council director.



*WILLBORN HILL, Native American artist, included Corsicana youth in his presentation as he told traditional stories to the TYC Intercultural Awareness Task Force, students and staff.*

# VOLUNTEERS

## 14th annual volunteer conference slated May 1-3 in College Station

The 14th annual TYC volunteer conference will be held May 1-3, 1998, in College Station.

The event, to be held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, will be hosted by Hamilton State School volunteers and the TYC State Volunteer Resource Council.

A highlight of the annual event is the presentation of statewide awards to outstanding TYC volunteers, nominated from all institutions, halfway houses and parole areas.

TYC board members and administrators present the awards at the Sunday May 3 brunch.

"Connect Texas" is the theme for this year's conference.

A national survey done for the Points of Light Foundation determined that "more than 80 per cent of us agree that disconnection is an underlying characteristic of many of our social problems."

And more than 90 per cent believe that "connecting with others and working together through volunteer service can bridge the differences that separate people and help solve community problems."

The Points of Light Foundation is sponsoring the "Connect America" Presidents' Summit.

Among the Summit's five goals are these:

- 1) *An ongoing relationship with a caring adult or mentor; and*
- 2) *An opportunity to give back through community service.*

TYC staff and volunteers are actively working toward these goals.

Twelve workshops are scheduled on Saturday, May 2, and numerous round table discussion groups will be held Sunday following Catholic and non-denominational religious services.

Workshops include a presentation on parenting by Dr. Lynn White of the Texas A&M Extension Service; the

STRAIGHTTALK program of the Don Dennis Ministries; a gang prevention program in Harlingen; successful volunteer tutoring programs; and a faith-based dorm in TYC.

Keynote speakers are Rep. Sylvester Turner of Houston, and Robert Hickerson, executive director of the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service.

Three tours will be available Friday afternoon: The Bush Presidential Library; the Messina Hof winery; and TYC's Hamilton State School in Bryan.

The annual meeting of the State Volunteer Resource Council is slated at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 1. Local councils will present reports on their activities and state council officers will be elected. Bob Frisby, state council chair, will conduct the meeting.

Arrangements for the event are under the direction of Joan Timmons, chief of volunteer services, and Nancy Jo Kuder, Hamilton volunteer coordinator, with assistance from TYC volunteer coordinators Denise Kennedy, Houston; Virginia Lewis, Crockett; Jane Parker, San Antonio; and Lucy Humbert, Corsicana.

## San Saba State School adopts highway

San Saba State School has adopted two miles of highway from the Texas Department of Transportation as part of the "Don't Mess With Texas" campaign to keep Texas highways litter free.

Students and staff recently picked up litter for a two mile stretch that passes in front of the School. Classes in school that day were centered around keeping our environment litter and pollution free.

## Brownwood Council benefits from grocery shopping

The Brownwood Community Advisory Council has received \$506.13 from the Kroger Company through the Kroger Cares Card Program.

The contribution comes as a refund on grocery purchases using a Kroger Cares Card. Members of the volunteer council, along with staff and community supporters, simply show the card to the grocery clerk when shopping.

The Brownwood council receives a 2% rebate on all purchases made at the Kroger's grocery store when the card is used.

## Corsicana students provide community service

Youth from TYC's Corsicana Residential Treatment Center were involved in various community projects during December.

They assisted the downtown area with Christmas preparation by helping wrap trees with lights on "main street."

Several youth participated in the Christmas parade by riding on a vintage TYC fire truck. Youth also prepared and delivered 25 gift bags to senior citizens in personal homes or local nursing homes. Assisting with these services were staff from the recreation departments and business office.

During the January meeting of the Corsicana Community Advisory Council, students from the school drama class presented the choral reading, "The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus," by Ogden Nash.

Volunteers, students and staff assisted with decorations for the Corsicana Chamber of Commerce banquet held in January. Decorations which were prepared by volunteers and students for the campus Spring 1997 Recognition Banquet were used to decorate the Chamber banquet.

Assisting with the decorating prior to the county-wide banquet were staff from the education department and students.

In turn, these same decorations are being used by a community group for a fundraising event for the Children's Medical Center of Dallas

## 'Celebracion' banquet honors Crockett supporters

The Crockett State School Advisory Council sponsored a 'Celebracion' of the accomplishments that come from working together in January at the Crockett Civic Center.

Honorees included Houston County law enforcement officers, victims, volunteers and contributors.

Fiesta decorations centered and flanked the tables, and a Mexican buffet, along with special music by Mr. and Mrs. Ramero Romo, contributed to the 'celebracion.'

Crockett State School Superintendent Rey Gomez welcomed the honorees and guests in Spanish and English.

Other greetings came from TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson and State Representative Jim McReynolds.

Judge Lynn Markham sang "The Star Spangled Banner" a cappella to climax his tribute to the Houston County law officers. Judge Markham is an active member of the Crockett State School volunteer council.

Billy Hyman of the volunteer council presented a plaque and check to patrolman Bobby Bowlin, president of the Houston County Law Enforcement Association.

Speaker for the celebracion, humorist Bob Murphey of Nacogdoches, had his chance to pay homage to the law enforcement officers and congratulated the volunteers. Dale Clark, of East Texas Medical Center and volunteer council member, introduced the keynote speaker.

Youth at the school presented Murphey a mini-barbecue cooker they made for him.

Other recognition and awards followed. Steve Macias recognized Emma Jo Snyder and Cecil Jamerson for their dedication to the Victims Empathy Program. A donation was made to the Victim Impact Programs Inc.

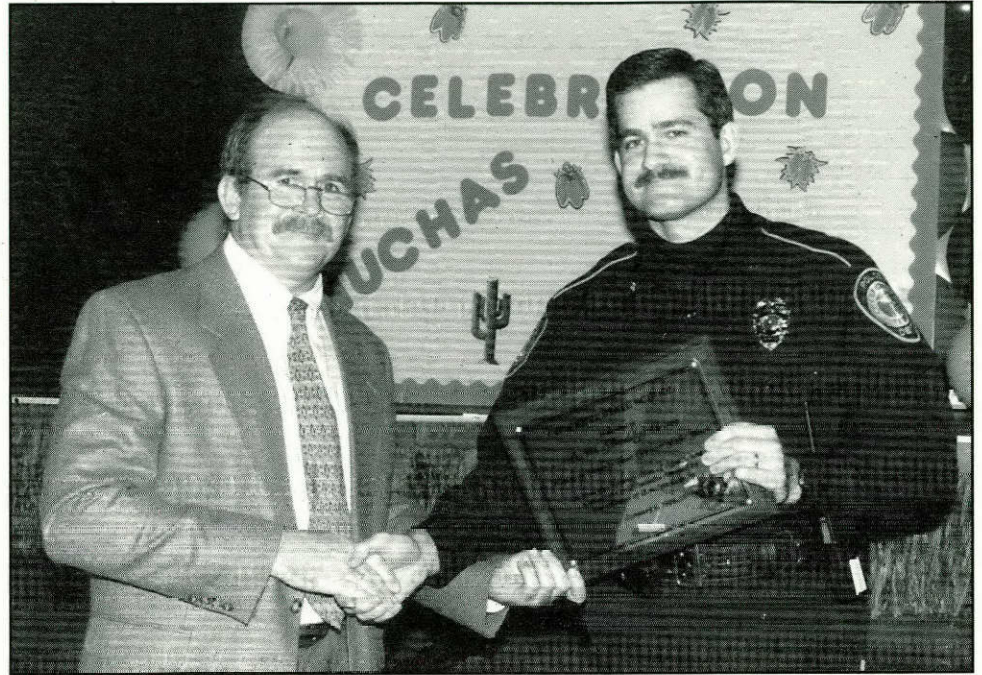
Virginia Lewis, volunteer coordinator, presented the volunteer service awards.

Theresa Bobalik was named community volunteer of the year. She volunteers at least 120 hours a month serving as a mentor, tutor, operating the canteen, providing clerical support, and helping with community service projects.

Other top awards went to Bryan Lake

of Piney Woods Fine Arts; Kathy Hollis for her music ministry; Jerry Vickers, Dorothy Harris, Rev. Steve Holloway, Heart of Gold Award.

Other awards were presented in the following categories: religious, community service, civic, and staff volunteers.



*BUDDY CROSS, City of Crockett policeman, was named law officer of the year at the Crockett recognition banquet, 'Celebracion.' Here he receives a plaque from volunteer council member Bill Hyman.*

## Corsicana volunteers win awards

Two Corsicana Community Advisory Council members, Sylvia Bonin and Gioia Keeney, were the recipients of two 1998 Corsicana Area Chamber of Commerce awards. Bonin received the Lin Warthan Award, which recognized her outstanding work in bringing the arts to the Corsicana area through her work as director of the Navarro Council of The Arts.

Keeney received the Citizen of the Year Award for her services to many areas of the community, including her active role in raising funds for the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center's newly enclosed campus aquatic center through the advisory council.

Bonin is a longtime member of the council, and has brought multiple art pro-

grams to this TYC institution. The Navarro Council of The Arts received the TYC Outstanding Statewide Volunteer Group Award on two different occasions while under her leadership.

## San Saba participates in parade of lights

Four students rode a float in the annual San Saba Parade of Lights to kick off the Christmas season on November 29. The float, built by students with the theme of Santa's workshop, received honorable mention.

## Giddings youth receive parenting education

Through the cooperation of the Giddings Independent School District and a grant from the Barbara Bush First Lady Family Literacy Initiative, a parenting program for both male and female students at Giddings State School began in January.

The four-month-long program, which includes 13 sessions, is conducted by Amy Weems, parent educator. Weems received training through the Practical Parent Education Program, certified by the Texas Association of School Boards.

Thanks to Giddings ISD superintendent Robert French, a long time Giddings volunteer council member, Weems is be-

ing allowed to conduct the parenting classes on campus.

One hour each week she teaches two separate sessions, one for boys and one for girls. Topics covered include understanding our role as parents; child development; basics of child care; building self-esteem in the family; and communication skills with the family.

As an adjunct to the parenting classes, the Giddings volunteer council purchases a "Baby-Think-It-Over" infant simulator for use in the classes and cottages. The life size, computerized baby simulates an infant's need for attention through random, un-

predictable crying intervals.

The attentiveness and care of the "temporary parent" can be determined by a computer read-out that tells if the simulator was abused or neglected, and the total time the "baby" was allowed to cry.

"I'm very excited," Weems said. "At first I was a little nervous about conducting the classes on campus, but administration, infirmary and child care staff have made me feel welcome.

"The students are very respectful and open and genuinely seemed glad to learn how to become better parents," she added.

## Harlingen gang workshop: April 4

The Harlingen TYC parole office is coordinating a gang awareness workshop April 4 at Gutierrez Middle School April 4, with the expectation that more than 700 parents, educators and counselors will attend.

The event is being set up specifically for parents - to give them prevention and intervention strategies that are realistic

and that they can take home and use that very day with their children, said Luis Lopez, parole supervisor.

"Our emphasis is on empowering parents to regain control of their families," he explained.

This workshop is a result of several smaller sessions with parents in several elementary and middle schools in Brownsville, Harlingen and Elsa.

Also helping to put on the day long event is the Harlingen ISD, the City of Harlingen youth services department and Cameron County Juvenile Probation.

Various intervention/counseling program representatives will make presentations and will be taking referrals at the conclusion of the day. Most of the services will be made available at no cost.

## 43 San Saba students enter youth fair

Forty-three students with thirty-five entries participated in the San Saba County Youth Fair sponsored by the local 4-H Program Development Board.

A pencil drawing of "Birds of Prey" was the overall winner in the poster category.

Other entries in the science projects, history/social studies, poster, art, multi-media and miscellaneous categories received twelve first, nine second, five third and five fourth place awards. More than 230 entries from San Saba County Schools were judged at the fair.

## Christmas baskets delivered through ministerial alliance

Students at San Saba assisted area churches in the annual Christmas basket program sponsored by the San Saba Ministerial Alliance. Students prepared and delivered food baskets to needy families in the community.

## Kmart donation ensures that morning "fix" for training center occupants

The Kmart Distribution Center of Corsicana generously has agreed to furnish coffee for the TYC Training Academy in Corsicana.

This is sponsored by the Community Advisory Council for the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center through the contribution of Kmart Distribution Center.

Coffee for TYC staff may not be purchased with state funds, and therefore, has not been available at the training academy. Trainees and staff across the state who attend training sessions in Corsicana may now enjoy a free cup of coffee due to this generous donation.



*CORSICANA STUDENTS prepared and delivered 25 gift bags to senior citizens in their homes and in nursing home during the holiday season.*



## Don Dennis Ministries continues STRAIGHTALK Bible study programs

Three TYC institutions, and the contract institution for females at Bronte, are hosting STRAIGHTALK Bible studies by volunteers with the Don Dennis Ministries (DDM).

Ministry volunteers are provided ten-hour orientation and training sessions under the direction of Shirley Orr Smith, DDM trainer

Gainesville State School held training in January for 32 volunteers with DDM, and the six-week session began February 7. That session ends April 4 with 200 students taking part in the three-hour Saturday afternoon groups.

Gainesville coordinators are Benjamin and Ann Ramsey, and alternate Nathan Benke. More than 150 Gainesville students attended the 1997 session.

At Corsicana, volunteer leadership training was held January 31 for 18 DDM volunteers, with the Thursday evening sessions scheduled February 5 through April 2.

The ministry program began in September 1997 in one dorm at Corsicana, and has expanded to three dorms. Coordinator at Corsicana is Wanda Eckeberger.

STRAIGHTALK Bible studies are held every Tuesday evening at the Marlin Assessment and Orientation Unit. More than 250 Marlin youth participate weekly. Sherri and Dean Lessman coordinate activities at Marlin

A winter session is planned at Coke County Juvenile Justice Center (CCJJC) soon. The fall session there ended in early January, with an average attendance of 65 girls at the weekly sessions.

Bob Johnson coordinates the volunteer teams at CCJJC. The unit, located at Bronte, is a TYC contract institution operated by the Wackenhut Corporation.

## CHAPLAINCY SERVICES



*LIVE NATIVITY SCENE* was enacted at Gainesville State School by members of the Youth Everlasting Support (YES) youth group of the Church of Jesus Christ of Gainesville. Animals were donated by the school's cultural awareness committee. State school students walked past the nativity as Christmas music was played. The event was coordinated by volunteer coordinator Pamela Wiebe, now Gainesville chaplain.

## Bill Glass ministries presents Weekend of Champions at Evins

In their first visit to TYC's Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg, the Bill Glass Ministries presented their "Weekend of Champions" to youth recently.

Among the speakers were Bruce Colie, seven-year national football veteran who earned two Super Bowl rings with the San Francisco 49er's.

Also Cindy McMullen, the 1995 Ms. Harley Davidson; basketball star Tanya Crevier, who presented a display of basketball wizardry; Sandi Fatow, who lived in the

fast lane of the 60's; Rich Garza, a football standout who played with the Philadelphia Eagles and the Denver Broncos; Jack 'Murf the Surf' Murphy, who did prison time for stealing the J. P. Morgan gem collection.

David Sitton, who has competed in eight Ironman distance triathlons and the New York City marathon, also spoke.

In addition to the speakers, 17 counselors spent the weekend talking and counseling with youth.

## Christmas observances in TYC institutions range from elaborate to austere

With increased awareness of accountability and the '16-hour-day,' the elaborate youth Christmas parties and gift-giving of years past have been toned down in some TYC institutions.

Despite some austere observances (no gifts), funds for gifts and parties totaled more than \$50,000 in contributions provided by volunteers, church groups, civic and service clubs, businesses and individuals.

Numerous programs also assisted TYC youth with the opportunity to provide gifts, food and volunteer work to residents of their

communities, rather than receiving parties and gifts.

One gift which was received by youth throughout the agency was 5,000 Hallmark Christmas cards - which were distributed to youth in all institutions (two each) to send to parents and relatives.

Gifts generally included such items as toboggans, gloves, stationery, candies and fruit, activity books, crossword puzzles, personal hygiene items, table games, socks, photo albums, journals, calendars, makeup, sports equipment and postage stamps.

Contributions for parties and gifts in-

cluded the following: Brownwood, \$6,600; Corsicana, \$9,600; Crockett, \$5,600; Gainesville, \$5,500; Giddings, \$6,000; Hamilton, \$1,775 (gifts purchased with state funds); Evins, \$1,400; Jefferson County, \$1,750 (no gifts); San Saba, \$1,700; Victory Field (Vernon), \$4,900.

Also Ayres House, \$1,400; McFadden Ranch, \$4,000; Schaeffer House, \$800; Turman House, \$1,100; Valley House, \$900; Willoughby House, \$900; and Houston, \$500.

(Several programs did not report).

## News Briefs...

Eligible youth at Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg, may now attend sporting events at the University of Texas - Pan American, Edinburg, thanks to season passes provided by the university.

JIMMY REYES, recreation supervisor, has also been supervising youth with community service projects; among those are the "Adopt-A-Highway" cleanup; and serving low income community people at the 'Feast of Sharing' sponsored by HEB food stores.

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JO ANN BOSWANK, secretary in the Waco parole office for the past 19 years, retired Dec. 31, 1997.

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BOBBY DAVIS, Corpus Christi parole officer, was chosen as "Role Model of the Year" at Corpus's Fourth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. 'Living the Dream' Award ceremony in January. The award is presented to a person from the community who has made a positive impact in the life of youth from the community and is an active role mentor in the area.

\*\*\*

Schaeffer House resident RODERICK SKINNER was chosen to be a youth presenter at the Community Resource Coordination Groups of Texas conference held in Corpus Christi in February.

A student at El Paso's Cesar Chavez Academy, Skinner was selected by Principal Lilia B. Limon, following the recommendation of Joe Lopez, CIS coordinator, who also served as Roderick's chaperone at

the conference.

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Nominations for outstanding TYC employee at all TYC facilities is underway.

The outstanding staff member from each institution, halfway house, quality assurance service area, parole service area and central office will be honored, as well as an outstanding contract program from each service area.

Formerly, the outstanding staff members were recognized at the summer annual administrators' workshop. Since that annual workshop will not be held, a ceremony will be held elsewhere, with winners being recognized in the JOURNAL. Deadline for sending in the information is May 25.

\*\*\*

GARY TICER, a student at Mel Matthews Boys Ranch, a TYC contract program, made the A/B honor roll for the second straight grading period.

\*\*\*

JEFFERSON COUNTY STATE SCHOOL held a graduation of 67 young men on December 6 - one with a high school diploma with 25 credits. Sixty-six received their GED certificates, according to Principal Elaine Murdock.

\*\*\*

Schaeffer House (El Paso) residents JAMES PATILLO, JONATHAN WILLIAMS and SALVADOR HERNANDEZ are attending classes at El Paso Community College during the spring semester. Each is enrolled as a full-time student with 12 hours of course work.

## Giddings football team finishes with 7-2 season

The 1997 Giddings State School Indians began their season last fall with a victory over St. Anthony's of San Antonio 24-21; and entered district competition with an unbeaten record.

But they lost two key games in district play to Trinity Christian Addison (a game covered by Sports Illustrated magazine - see article, page 19) and Bishop Lynch, both of Dallas.

Either Addison or Lynch have won the 5A state championship every year this decade. Both have over 60 players, compared to Giddings' roster of 25 players. These teams compete in a league with private and church-sponsored schools.

The Indians won their remaining games, including a close victory over Gainesville State School 20-16, finishing with a 7-2 season and qualifying for the playoffs.

Coaches are Sandy Brown, Lester Ward and Claude Mathis.

## Harlem Globetrotters tickets donated at Jefferson County

Four Alarm Productions, Inc. of Beaumont, Texas donated tickets for four JCSS students to attend the Harlem Globetrotters game held at the Montagne Center. The four students chosen—based on their positive attitude and leadership qualities—were Sheon Washington, Andres Barello, Rodney Lee and Ruben Torres.

## Sports Illustrated article results in media attention; donations to Giddings program

The public spotlight is on Giddings State School these days, with particular media attention focused on the institution's athletic program and its participation in a league of private Texas schools.

The buzz hit big starting in December with a lengthy Sports Illustrated story. The author crafted a sympathetic portrait, explaining that sports participation is hard to earn and that there have been no negative consequences in the program's history.

The response to the article was overwhelmingly positive, said Giddings superintendent Stan DeGerolami. Giddings received calls from around the United States. Most notable: a gentleman from Florida called to commend TYC for its work with juveniles in Texas. He said that Florida "gives up" on violent youth and throws them into prison, and he said that he and his circle of friends had discussed the article, were impressed, and were going to include Giddings on their "prayer list."

It was a nice call - "very personal, and very emotional," DeGerolami said.

The coaches also received calls and letters. Some enclosed donations. Examples: "This isn't much, but put it towards some ripped jerseys or burgers on the way home from a game next year...Good luck to the Indians in the future."

Another, from Chicago: "I write to tell you that your story inspired me...I have promised myself to get more involved in the community that I now reside, and be there for kids that might need a hand."

"Thanks for what you are doing. You are, in my judgment, a true Texas hero!" Signed, State Sen. Steve Ogden.

In addition, a few of the kids who were mentioned by name in the article received letters of encouragement.

In all, more than \$300 arrived in the mail along with references to the team's torn jerseys, some to buying a meal for the players, and one said "...or other equipment, or to be used in any way you see fit, for their benefit. Just keep on truckin!" It was signed "A friend," and contained a \$50 money order.

The article's author, John Ed Bradley, has sold the rights to his story to 20th Cen-

tury Fox.

Meanwhile, ABC news out of New York is scheduled to follow the Giddings track team for a feature to run later in the year. Fox Sports Network out of Los Angeles produced a generally positive report on the sports program, focusing on the basketball team. That report led Fox's new magazine show, *Goin' Deep*, on Feb. 15.

### Parent/family conference held at Ayres House

Ayres House held its first parent/family conference in January, with family members and relatives of more than half the residents attending.

Ayres staff discussed the independent living training program. Others who presented were Leslie Moreau, contract therapist, and parole officer Juan DeLeon.

Parents reviewed ICP's and participated in a "Thinking Errors" exercise.

Conference were held with parents by caseworker Patrice Miles-Garcia and group leaders Stuart Perryman and Erick Barrera.

The San Antonio volunteer council assisted with funds for hotel accommodations for family members, and shared the cost of lunch and dinner with Ayres House.

On non-sports topics, a documentary filmed at Giddings, and titled *In Search for Law and Order* is in the final editing stages and is scheduled to run on PBS in April. (possible run dates: April 10, 17 or 24).

Finally, a New York production company plans to produce a one-hour documentary at Giddings that will focus on TYC's resocialization and rehabilitation efforts.

### New Administration...

(cont. from page 12)

operated by the Wackenhut Corporation. They are **LINDA BURGIN** and **MICHAEL LUKOWIAK**.

Two new central office staff members in the health services department are **CAROLE WILLIAMS**, administration, and **LYNNE DURRENBERGER**, nutritionist. **LORY ALEXANDER** is a new research specialist in the CO research department, and **KELLY MASON, Ph.D.**, is a new research specialist for staff development.

New staff members in the San Antonio district office include parole officer **PATRICK WILLIAMS**, who has transferred from Houston; **JOHN RUBALCAVA**, a new parole officer who was program coordinator for the Patrician movement; **CATHY MARTINEZ**, parole officer whose most recent position was program director for Southwest Key Tracking; **ABEL GONZALES**, formerly a parole officer, now a quality assurance supervisor; **DAN COLLINS**, formerly a parole officer, now a quality assurance specialist.

New staff in the Austin district office includes **TRENT BANKS**, former assistant superintendent at Turman house, now youth rights specialist for community programs; and **EDNA MARTINEZ**, educational liaison.

**PAMELA WIEBE**, formerly volunteer coordinator at Gainesville, has been selected as chaplain. **CATHY CASON** has replaced her as volunteer coordinator.

## Corsicana celebrates Black history month

The youth in the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center provided the majority of the program, under the direction of the campus education department, during the recent campus black history program.

The program began with four students performing the black national anthem under the direction of principal Carolyn Webb.

The theater arts class, under the direction of teacher Ginger Mullenix, presented biographical sketches on black heroes, past and present, and recited several poems by Langston Hughes.

Students were also part of a jeopardy game show which was hosted by teacher Robert Roberts. Three teams of students answered questions on black heroes. The prize for the winning team was pizza.

Community youth, Ashley Richard, beautifully performed praise dances throughout the program.

The program was sponsored by the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center Intercultural Awareness Committee who presented an award to Warner Redus as an outstanding African American for her significant and vital contributions and service to the welfare of the community and through

her volunteer work for the campus education department.

Redus was the musician for this black history program as she has been for previous campus graduations and programs sponsored by the school.

The Corsicana intercultural awareness committee also provided a "soul food lunch" for the TYC statewide intercultural awareness task force committee during its February meeting as an extension of the celebration.



*MARLIN STAFF enjoyed meeting and taking photos with Governor Bush during his visit there February 18.*

### TYC JOURNAL

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

