



# THE PROBATION REPORTER

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February 2009

## Message from the Chief

by Doug Rasines

“Budget” continues to be the buzz word of the day, as the President and Congress try to stabilize our national economy, the Governor and Legislature attempt to balance the state budget, while the Board of Supervisors and department heads try to make sense of it all and try to develop strategies for how the County can meet its service demands in the face of diminishing resources. At the department level we have been very proactive in managing our FY 2008-09 budget and project ending the year within our net target. With proposed county budget instructions for FY 2009-10 including status quo, 5% and 10% budget reduction scenarios coupled with anticipated losses in state and specialized grant funding, the Department will once again be called upon to be creative and “work our magic” in sustaining core services while minimizing impacts to personnel.

Implementation of the PACT juvenile risk/needs assessment tool continues at full speed throughout the juvenile division. Although there have been expected “bumps in the road”, staff have been very

resilient and determined in seeing that this new way of doing business continues to progress. Thank you all for your hard work! I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the additional efforts of our PACT liaisons Dore Haws, Beverly Ford, and Petrina Fennel in helping to support this important initiative.

Consolidation of our adult and juvenile services divisions was completed in November. The juvenile services division is now located at our main office on Harrison Avenue, while our adult services division has been consolidated at 555 H Street in Eureka. Efficiencies have been realized and staff appear satisfied with the service consolidation. Everyone’s assistance in helping facilitate the relocations is much appreciated. Special thanks to Karen Suiker for coordinating the consolidation project.

In December the Board of Supervisors authorized submission of a state construction grant proposal, which if selected for funding, will allow for the replacement of the existing juvenile hall with a new 30-bed juvenile detention facility. This would provide a facility which would be in compliance with current building, fire, and health/safety codes while at the same time providing additional support space for enhanced rehabilitative programming. Competition for the construction grants is very rigorous with many counties applying for the limited funding. The decision as to which counties have been selected for conditional grant awards is scheduled to occur March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Many uncertainties lie ahead as we continue to operate on a continually changing political, economic, and fiscal landscape. That said, those agencies that stay true to their vision, mission, and values will be in the best position to succeed. I believe we are one such agency. We have been through tough times before, and in some cases have been made stronger for it.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Jody Green  
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# HUMBOLDT COUNTY

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ANNOUNCES AN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR:



## PARENT

Final Filing Date  
Open Until Filled

### JOB DESCRIPTION

Long term, team players needed, for challenging, permanent work in an often chaotic environment. Candidates must possess excellent communication and organization skills and be willing to work variable hours, which will include evenings and weekends and frequent 24 hour shifts on call. Some overnight travel required, including trips to primitive camping sites on rainy weekends and endless sports tournaments in far away cities! Travel expenses not reimbursed. Extensive courier duties also required.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

The rest of your life. Must be willing to be hated, at least temporarily, until someone needs \$5. Must be willing to bite tongue repeatedly. Also, must possess the physical stamina of a pack mule and be able to go from zero to 60 mph in three seconds flat in case, this time, the screams from the backyard are not someone just crying wolf. Must be willing to face stimulating technical challenges, such as small gadget repair, mysteriously sluggish toilets, and stuck zippers. Must screen phone calls, maintain calendars, and coordinate production of multiple homework projects. Must have ability to plan and organize social gatherings for clients of all ages and mental outlooks. Must be willing to be indispensable one minute, and embarrassing the next. Must handle assembly and product safety testing of a half million cheap, plastic toys, and battery operated devices. Must always hope for the best but be prepared for the worst. Must assume final, complete accountability for the quality of the end product. Responsibilities also include floor maintenance and janitorial work throughout the facility.

### POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT & PROMOTION

None. Your job is to remain in the same position for years, without complaining, constantly retraining and updating your skills so that those in your charge can ultimately surpass you.

### PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

None required unfortunately. On-the-job training offered on a continually exhausting basis.

### WAGES AND COMPENSATION

Get this! You pay them! Offering frequent raises and bonuses. A balloon payment is due when they turn 18 because of the assumption that college will help them become financially independent. When you die, you give them whatever is left. The oddest thing about this reverse-salary scheme is that you actually enjoy it and wish you could only do more...

### BENEFITS

While no health or dental insurance, no pension, no tuition reimbursement, no paid holidays, and no stock options are offered; this job supplies limitless opportunities for personal growth, unconditional love, and free hugs and kisses for life if you play your cards right.

\*\*AND A FOOTNOTE: THERE IS NO RETIREMENT – EVER!!!

*In appreciation for everything parents do on a daily basis.*

# PACT Facts

by Jody Green

We have now been conducting PACT assessments since November 3, 2008. 104 full assessments and 130 pre-assessments have been completed. Verna McGaughey has completed the most assessments - 56!

## full assessments (104):

Risk Level/Score	Percent
High	25.3
Low	44.4
Moderate	19.2
Moderate-High	11.1

## pre assessments (130):

Risk Level/Score	Percent
High	2.3
Low	75
Moderate	14.8
Moderate-High	7.8



The following information was derived from full assessments. While our initial training ensures inter-rater reliability, as we continue to implement PACT, our reliability and the reliability of the data will also improve.

- ✚ 43.3% of respondents have a father or male caretaker with a history of incarceration
- ✚ 74% have a consistently supportive family member
- ✚ 93.3 % reported current or past alcohol use (35.6% reported it contributed to criminal conduct)
- ✚ 95.2 % reported current or past drug use (46.2% reported it contributed to criminal conduct)
- ✚ Of respondents currently using drugs - 71.6% use marijuana or hashish and 8.1% use methamphetamine

## WHITE CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY COOKIES

Submitted by Anna Josephson



### Ingredients

- 8 oz. white chocolate baking bar (or white chocolate chips)
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 2 eggs
- 2-¾ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup raspberry jam
- 3 oz. white chocolate baking bar (or chips)
- ½ tsp. shortening



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Holcombe

### Directions

Grease a cookie sheet; set aside. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Chop 4 ounces of the white chocolate baking bar (or use white chocolate chips if preferred); set aside. In a heavy, small saucepan, melt the other 4 ounces of the white chocolate baking bar (or chips) over low heat while stirring constantly; set aside to cool slightly. In a mixing bowl, cream the butter, sugar, salt, and baking soda until fluffy. Add eggs and melted white chocolate; beat until combined. Beat in flour. Stir in the 4 ounces of chopped white chocolate (or chips). Drop dough from rounded teaspoon 2 inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 7 to 9 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned around the edges. Cool for 1 minute. Just before serving, melt the raspberry jam (can be done in microwave, just make sure you cover it!). Spoon a little jam into the center of each cookie. In a small saucepan, melt the 3 ounces of white chocolate baking bar with the shortening, stirring constantly. Drizzle each cookie with some of the melted mixture. If necessary, refrigerate cookies for 10 to 15 minutes to set the chocolate.



## Sunshine Snippets

by Jennifer Holcombe

“Kind hearts are the gardens, Kind thoughts are the roots, Kind words are the flowers, Kind deeds are the fruits, Take care of your garden and keep out the weeds, Fill it with sunshine Kind words and Kind deeds” – *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

It is that time of year again folks; where we collect donations from those who would like to spread a little sunshine to their fellow co-workers. We suggest twelve dollars for line staff and twenty dollars for management. If you would like to contribute you can drop your donation off at the main department or contact a Sunshine member. Current Sunshine members include: Jennifer Holcombe, Barbara Robie, Megan Gotcher, Kim Sousa, Pam Johnson, Cheryl Kaska, Paula Swihart, Tim Toste, Nikki Kriger, and Kathleen Ellion.

Since the last newsletter, Sunshine has sent gifts to two of our fellow co-workers who had surgeries. In addition, Sunshine would like to welcome two new employees: Jesika Bradley who is working in Adult Field, and Justin Nadigoo who will be working in Juvenile Field. Welcome aboard to the two of you!

Have we had any fun lately? Follow the chocolate trail through the main department to find the answer. On February 5, 2009, the main department was filled with the aroma of chocolate. A chocolate fountain poured a steady stream of chocolate and provided ample dipping opportunities for the many potluck items. Apparently, even potato chips are fabulous dipped in chocolate. By the end of the event, consensus was that everything tastes good dipped in chocolate. The Chocolate Extravaganza was a huge success!

The Sunshine Committee will be meeting on April 14, 2009 at 12:15 p.m. at the main department if you would like to come and share what is happening in your department.

A warm thank-you to those who contribute to spreading a little sunshine around.

*Photos courtesy of Jennifer Holcombe*



A PARTIAL SAMPLING  
OF THE  
CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA  
SPREAD



OUR FAVORITE FOUNTAIN!!



PAM JOHNSON IS VERY HAPPY!!



## Detention Mentions

by Tim Toste

Following a difficult fall with our Juvenile Hall population averaging approximately 31.5 minors in our 26-bed facility, we've averaged 21 minors since December 1, 2008. Though we've had some spikes exceeding our rated capacity, we have been in better shape overall in the past three months.

The Regional Facility New Horizons program population has had its swings as well. We seem to be on a four to five resident cycle where we have new participants arrive in the same month then have them leave in the same month. The cycle tends to mean feast or famine for program staff where we have 18 residents filling all program beds, and then suddenly in one month we're down to 13 for a short period of time. We have had several out-of-county referrals this year and currently have one resident from Sutter County and one from Mendocino. Mendocino County has committed to using New Horizons year round by entering into a "reserved bed" contract where they would have the exclusive use of one bed at their disposal for their wards.

I would be remiss if I didn't also mention some new Mental Health staff who have recently made the transition to New Horizons. In our last issue, I noted we added clinician Becky Buegler-Hurst, but I failed to mention our new on-site Supervising Mental Health Clinician Launa Olson. Launa has been a great addition to our team and has helped

relieve Bill Nichols of his supervision duties of the program Mental Health staff. Mental Health has also added clinician, Marian Vasilevich, and case manager, Mary Spier. We bid farewell to case manager, Tammy Rogers, who recently transferred to another assignment after years in New Horizons. We very much appreciated all of Tammy's hard work and dedication to our residents and program; she will be missed very much.

Since our last newsletter, Detention Services have added some badly needed new extra help staff. To the extra help juvenile corrections officer ranks we've added Teri Gartner, Kathleen Krohn, Cindy Mowry, Brian Corning, and Johnny Terrell. To our ranks of extra help correctional cooks we've recently added Tina Mederios, Daniel Hughes, Wendy Perez, and Elsa Ortega. We recently lost extra help correctional cooks Kathy Combs and Tina Mederios to Humboldt State University, where they are employed full time in their kitchen.

We also added some full and part-time new hire JCO I/II staff since our last newsletter. They are Sammy Gentle, Amber Smith, and Jessica Kalis assigned to the Regional Facility, while Jon Terry and Kyle Mayr were added as regulars to the Juvenile Hall. Congratulations and welcome to all of our new staff!

I'll be putting together another department Bowling Bonanza, scheduled for April 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.. Keep an eye out for an e-mail with the details coming to you all soon!!



**NEW!**

Justin Nadigoo - PO  
 Jesika Bradley - PO  
 Jon Terry - JCO  
 Amber Smith - JCO  
 Kyle Mayr - JCO  
 Jessica Kalis - JCO  
 Sammy Gentle - JCO

**WELCOME**

**GOODBYE!**

Gabe Charlton - PO  
 Fonda Kirkpatrick - PO

### YEARS OF SERVICE

The following employees had, or will have had, an anniversary for the time period of November 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009.

1 Year

Dore Haws  
 Jennifer Holcombe  
 Marie Johnson  
 Anna Josephson  
 Fonda Kirkpatrick

3 Years

Terry Coddington  
 Sharon Erickson  
 Steve Schmidt

9 Years

Paula Sargent

19 Years

Tammy Robison

11 Years

Pam Johnson

4 Years

Kathleen Ellion

14 Years

Jim McCue

23 Years

Cate Halliday

6 Years

Julia Terrini

2 Years

Jennefer Butler  
 Duane Smith

8 Years

Dayna Wilcox

17 Years

Sherri McKenna

# Recognition Awards

by Barbara Boerger



Each year at the holiday time, probation officer members of the Humboldt Deputy Sheriff's Organization (HDSO) are invited to select co-workers as "Probation Officer of the Year" and "Rookie Officer of the Year." These honors are given by member officers to member officers who are seen by their fellows as having put forth outstanding effort and teamwork, as well as exemplifying the highest level of integrity, work ethic, and an ongoing support of the fraternal and unifying philosophies behind membership in an employee labor association.

This past December, the Awards were presented at the Annual HDSO Holiday Party, held at the Baywood Country Club. I was pleased to present the Rookie of the Year Award to Jennefer Butler, a Juvenile Intake Officer, who had only recently taken over the Home Detention caseload. It was equally an honor to announce Darren Ghisetti, from the Adult Field Unit, as the Officer of the Year. In addition to acknowledging their able performance on the job, I would like to personally thank both Jen and Darren for their upbeat and cheerful presence in the face of ongoing stress.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to congratulate your very deserving co-workers for this honor.

*Photo courtesy of Kevin Bayless*



Jen Butler (right) with her Rookie of the Year Trophy, and HDSO Executive Board Member Barbara Boerger (left) pretending that isn't Darren's name on the Probation Officer of the Year Trophy, basking in the winter wonderland of Baywood Country Club.

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## Holiday Happenings

by Jennifer Holcombe

For those of you who were unable to attend this past year's Holiday Party, you missed a wonderful event. Record numbers turned out at the Humboldt State University Aquatic Center in Eureka for a catered meal by Mazzotti's and an opportunity to win some of the many raffle items available. With such a great turn out this past year a larger venue needed to be secured for this year's event. The 2009 Holiday Party will be held at the Wharfinger Building in Eureka on December 5, 2009. The event again will be catered and we hope to have the same amount of amazing raffle items. More details will come as the Holiday Planning Committee is working away to ensure that this year's party is even better than last years. A reminder that everybody can do their part to contribute to the success of the Holiday Party by playing 50/50 on payday Fridays. Look for the reindeer antlers circulating the building. Not only do folks get a chance to win some cash, they also get an opportunity to contribute to the success of the Holiday Party. Mark your calendars. More details will follow.



Bill Damiano announcing raffle prize winners.



Rebecca Younger and her husband Kevin were a perfect purple match.



Retirees Bill Holbrook, Earl Moranda (yes, Brett's dad), and Gary Lozensky.

*Photos courtesy of Kevin Samsel*

# What is the JJDPC?

by Steve D'Agati

Enquiring minds may wonder: what is the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) and what does it do?

The Juvenile Justice Commission is authorized by the State Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) with mandated inspection responsibilities. The Delinquency Prevention Commission was created by an ordinance of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The Juvenile Justice Commission was requested to also serve as the Delinquency Prevention Commission. All commissioners are appointed and serve voluntarily under the direction of the Juvenile Court Judge. The Commission hears, reviews, evaluates, and makes recommendations on a wide variety of issues and concerns regarding juvenile justice matters in the community, working on behalf of youth, their families, and their communities.

The direction and purpose of the JJDPC is best expressed in our mission statement: "to exercise the powers and duties set forth in the Welfare and Institutions Code and to improve the quality of life for children, youth, families and the community. The Commission will promote and sanction programs for the prevention of delinquency and monitor services to youth within the County. The Commission will actively advocate, in collaboration with others, for grass roots community support systems and a full range of coordinated and cost effective services."

Commissioners meet, discuss, and collaborate on related juvenile agendas in a public setting with a variety of important, local agencies participating: the Juvenile Court Judge, the Chief Probation Officer, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Health and Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch of DHHS, Mental Health Branch of DHHS, the Probation Department, Humboldt County Office of Education, and the Youth Services Bureau. Guest speakers have included representatives from the above agencies, Teen Court, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Arcata Police Department's Juvenile Diversion Program, and the District Attorney's and Public Defender's offices.

Encompassing a broad range of experiences ranging from foster care, education, juvenile corrections, school psychology, research and criminal justice, law enforcement, administration and other fields, the current

JJDPC Commissioners are: Dave Douglas, Chair; Dr. William Daniel, Vice Chair Administration; Maureen Johannsen and Antoinette Martin, Vice Chairs Community Relations; Rose Baker, Vice Chair Delinquency Prevention; Peggy Hobbs, Dr. Joshua Meisel, Morgan Douglas, Nestor Domingo, Barbara Redner, and Steve D'Agati. The Vice Chair Juvenile Justice position is currently vacant. Our secretary is Matthew Daniel. The Commission is currently seeking youth members and those with an interest concerning Native American issues.

The JJDPC has a colorful history of developing and supporting related juvenile justice matters within the community. Recently, Commission members gave a letter of support and public comments before the Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2008, in support of the Probation Department's grant proposal to construct a new Juvenile Hall, and completed state mandated formal inspections of the Regional Facility and Juvenile Hall on January 26, 2009. The Commission regularly recognizes youth completing the in-custody, first four phases of the New Horizons program at the Northern California Regional Facility.

Historically, the JJDPC has engaged in a wide variety of tasks ranging from the development of the Community Switchboard; the New Horizons Regional Facility; and the creation of the Community Congress, a series of town hall meetings held throughout Humboldt County addressing juvenile issues. The JJDPC has addressed many areas of concerns, training, studies, sponsoring, and development of other juvenile justice related matters and programs throughout the years.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission meets every second Wednesday of the month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Potawot Village, 1600 Weot Way, in Arcata. All interested members of the community are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our next meeting is March 11, 2009. More information about the JJDPC can also be found at our web site: [www.humboldt-jjdpc.org](http://www.humboldt-jjdpc.org).



# Your Lunch Hour

by Stacy Reyes

There are those that have stood strong on their New Years resolutions, those that have made adjustments to them, and others that simply just didn't make them. For lack of better definition, New Years resolutions can be the hardest promises to keep. Many studies have been conducted, hypothesis made, as to WHY can't we keep them. It usually comes down to one thing...too easy to make an excuse. "I don't have time," "I was injured," "It just wasn't realistic," or "Hey, I don't want to do that anymore." As for what those resolutions are...well usually along the lines of getting fit, staying healthy, and taking care of ourselves. After all, it is a new year and a clean slate.

How do people keep those resolutions? How do REAL people..the ones that work all day, have families, obligations, are starting at square one to "get fit" or "take better care of themselves," do it? How do we do it? I sent out an email to my co-workers to find out how the everyday person, who doesn't have all day to spend at the gym or visit spas, stays healthy and stays fit. The responses were ingenious, creative, and real life suggestions you could start doing today.

Here's how your co-workers stay healthy, take care of themselves, and keep the stressors of life and work from getting the better of them during their lunch hour.

- Go home (just relax/spend time with family/time with pets)
- The carnap (taking a snooze in your car)
- Office nap (snooze in the office)
- Walking with a co-worker or alone
- Yoga workout on a mat in the office
- Lunch out with spouse or friends
- Quick gym workout
- Backgammon game with a co-worker



In addition to what our own co-workers do during their lunch hour, more ideas came in of what can be done and other things our co-workers have heard of from friends and family.

- Share the price of a physical training and have him/her take you and a co-worker through a workout at the office.
- Bring in a Wii and hook it up to the t.v. in the conference room
- Put on a DVD workout in the conference room

In conclusion, there are people out there fulfilling New Years resolutions and having fun with it. Good Luck to all, and it is still early in the year to pick those resolutions back up and dust them off. There's a lunch hour waiting to give you time for yourself.

## An Honorable Request: Name that Acronym Contest

by Cate Halliday and Steve D'Agati

(originally suggested from "the Honorable Bench")

How quickly we may forget...or remember! Name these new and old Probation acronyms used by department staff. The first 10 correct entries returned to Cate Halliday by March 20, 2009 will receive a Venlo/Jacques chocolate bar (answers and winners will be in the next issue of *The Probation Reporter*).

Example: DPO = Deputy Probation Officer

### Acronyms:

FIT	CSW	ART	PNL	APS	SWAP
PACT	CWS	CFMG	RCRC	GTF	JAWS
MIOCR	PEPP	MAB	SNF	FAST	
TDM	JCO	MI	EBP	PACE	