



In This Issue

Pg. 2



GDC Staff hoop it up in Relay for Life Basketball Tournament

Northwest Day Reporting Center graduates 33

Pg. 3

GDC staff win big at Quad Meeting

Page 4

Around the Agency

Have a great story Idea?

Send to

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Northwest Probation TACT Squad takes home Commissioner's Cup in TACT Challenge

Photo by Gwendolyn Hogan



Director of Probation Operations Mike Kraft, Asst. Commissioners Timothy C. Ward and Greg Dozier, FOM Susan Phillips and members of the Northwest Probation TAC Team hold up the Commissioner's Cup after taking first place in the 5th Annual Commissioner's TACT Challenge April 25.

The Northwest Probation Office TAC Team was all smiles as they were handed the Commissioner's Cup and Overall Team Marksmanship Champion plaque in the 5th Annual Commissioner's TACT Challenge on April 25th. The competition tests the physical and mental endurance and teamwork of tactical teams throughout the state of Georgia with obstacle course, shooting and leadership events. In addition to the trophies and a year's worth of bragging rights, the Northwest officers also received a \$750 bonus.

Second place went to K9 and third place went to Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison.

Around the Perimeter with Lisa Maye

Content contributed by Susan Megahee

On February 3, Lisa Maye was appointed as the new Mental Health Deputy Director of Operations, Planning and Training Division. Let's take a trip around the perimeter with our newest leader in Central Office.

Q: Educational background.

Associates degree in Applied Science: Social Science, from Suffolk County Community College; Bachelor of Science: Social Welfare, from Adelphi University; Master of Science: Social Work; Practice, Programming and Supervision, from Columbia University.

Q: Previous positions.

Permanency Program Director: Fulton County DFCS (Foster Care and Adoptions); Regional Resource Development Supervisor: Henry, Fayette and Clayton County DFCS; Director: All His Children Early Learning Center: Middle Island, NY; Adjunct Professor: Suffolk County Community College: Health Services Careers Department.

Q: Why did you want to pursue a career in Corrections?

My entire career thus far, has centered on Children and Families, however, it did not start out in that field of practice. I had a strong interest in adult Mental Health, and contemplated pursuing a joint Masters in Social



Work/Juris Doctorate degree. Entering Corrections at this time my career is coming full circle.

Q: What do you find most rewarding about working in Corrections?

What is most rewarding for me
(See MAYE Pg. 3)

Calendar Events

Thursday May 1

Building Dedication to honor Charles D. Hudson, Sr.

Monday, May 12

Mountain Judicial Circuit DRC Lite Commencement

Tuesday, May 13

Griffin DRC Commencement

Tuesday-Friday, May 13-16

GEMA/HS MVC Exercise

Friday, May 16

GPWA Golf Tournament

Tuesday, May 20

Gainsville DRC Commencement

Monday, May 26

****HOLIDAY****

Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 27

Rome DRC Commencement

DRC Lite Commencement

Thursday, May 29

Atlantic Judicial Circuit DRC Lite Commencement

Friday, May 30

Military Job Fair
Robins AFB
Warner Robins, GA



GDC Probation and prison staff raise cancer awareness, money during Relay for Life Basketball Tournament

Content contributed by Timothy Jones and William C. Hall

Johnson State prison staff and a combined team of Americus Probation and Albany Probation suited up and took to the basketball court April 12, to compete in a charity basketball tournament at Telfair County High School to raise money for Relay For Life.

Relay For Life is a community based fundraising event of the American Cancer Society. Today, more than 5,000 Relay For Life events take place across twenty countries.

Events are held in local communities, campus universities and in virtual worlds. As the American Cancer Society's most successful fundraiser and the organization's signature event, the mission of Relay For Life is to raise funds to improve cancer survival, decrease the incidence of cancer, and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers.

Officer Kevin Holmes from Albany Probation and offi-

cers: Jasmine Roper, Chad Norton, Jeffrey Jolly, Jeffrey Paulk, and Victor Dydell all from the Americus Office teamed up for this event. Johnson State Prison officers participating were Unit Manager James Jackson, Mental Health Counselor Shirleace Archer, Reginald Fordham, Lt. Bryon Hall, Sgt. Kenneth Rogers, CO Melvin Johnson, CO Jason Hurst, CERT Officer William Scott, and CO Rataj Whitfield. The Johnson State Prison team was coached by DWCT Timothy Jones and DWS Larry Butts.

These officers represented their respective offices, facilities and the Georgia Department of Corrections very well in their hard play and willingness to give back. The teams put forth a tremendous effort and played with all they had, but came short of victory. Despite the losses in the tournament, all of the officers realized this event was for a worthy cause, which made them all winners.

The officers were especially appreciative of Chief Kimberly Persley and Chief William C. Hall for their support in making this event a success.



The Johnson State Prison team (pictured above) and Albany and Americus Probation staff participated in the Relay for Life Basketball Tournament held at Telfair County High School April 12.

Northwest Day Reporting Center graduates 33

Content contributed by Rosalyn Davis

The Northwest Day Reporting Center celebrated their eighth commencement ceremony on April 15. The ceremony was held at Rock Bridge Community Church, in Dalton, Ga. Northwest Day Reporting Center honored 33 graduates. The keynote speaker for this wonderful occasion was the Honorable Gale Buckner, Chief Magistrate Judge of Murray County. There were approximately 350 guests in attendance at this ceremony.



The 33 proud graduates of the Northeast Day Reporting Center gathered to celebrate their achievement during a commencement ceremony April 15, at Rock Bridge Community Church.



(MAYE from Pg. 1)

about working in corrections is that I feel that it is an opportune time to not only build on the skills I have developed in social work and leadership, but to also make a significant difference and lasting impact in a different area of practice. It is an exciting and historical time for GDC, and the challenges facing the institution of Corrections in Georgia and nationally, provide clear opportunity to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and humane quality of practices that impact corrections and to earnestly address public concern.

Q: Proudest accomplishment.

My proudest accomplishment is raising four beautiful, thriving, productive, self-respecting, children.

Q: What are some of your goals as Mental Health Deputy Director of Operations, Planning and Training Division?

Several goals that I have in my new role include, assisting leadership in improving organizational accountability, and facilitate the team towards critically formulating goals, strategies and outcomes that will lead to best practices and program improvement. When working within public macro industries, the theory of holding all levels of staff accountable for commitments to action, tends to be overcome by the daily whirlwind massive systems tend to become engulfed in. My initial goal is to assist staff to acknowledge reality, own action commitments, find solutions, and make it happen. Hope is great, but it's not a plan.

Q: What are some of the major challenges facing corrections and our facilities?

I believe that some of the major challenges facing corrections and our facilities include areas surrounding security, and maintaining safe and secure institutions, the increase in the number of inmates with mental illness, and workforce retention. The reevaluation of the agency's mission to include a focus on reducing recidivism - the impetus behind our reentry initiative, presents balancing inherent challenges of protecting the public, with the needed cooperation, resources, and support of various state agencies and key community stakeholders.

Q: What do you look forward to most working in management?

What I look forward to most working in management is the opportunity to apply and implement my vast organizational skills and talent in program design and program planning. You tell me what you want the program to look like, and I will develop a concrete, structured, operational product/program. I utilize a global, strengths-

based, solution-focused, approach. Sound decision-making is key to the success of any program, and the capacity to critically evaluate a program's effectiveness, and to possess the courage to change practices for the better, are the ingredients for continuous quality improvement.

Q: What is your favorite quote?

One of my favorite quotes is "All things work together for the good, to those who love God, to them who are called according to His purpose." I have so many, but if I had to choose, this would be it.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

I love to garden; well I used to! I have yet to figure out how to keep plants alive and flourishing in red clay!

Q: What is your favorite movie?

Sweet Home Alabama

Q: What music/artists are on your iPod?

Third Day, Mercy Me, Big Daddy Weave, Yolanda Adams, Hezekiah Walker, Jamie Grace

Q: What was the first concert you attended?

U2

Q: What was the first record/album you owned?

Billy Joel – The Stranger

Q: What's your favorite website?

I don't know if I have one. I just enjoy surfing the web.

Q: What's your favorite app?

Bible Gateway

Q: What's your favorite book?

The Bible

Q: If you could be a fictional character, which one would it be and why?

Tinker Bell – Why? Because she flies. Plus she sprinkles pixie dust all over people and makes them happy, and then everyone gets along.

Q: Do you have a celebrity look-a-like?

None that I have agreed to yet ☺.

GDC staff win big at Quad Meeting

Content contributed by CPO Jay Worsley

Staff from the South Georgia Judicial Circuit attended the 3rd Annual Quad meeting held at the Albany Civic Center on Thursday, April 10. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Southwest Traffic Enforcement Network (SWTEN) as well as other traffic enforcement networks throughout south Georgia. Meetings

are held monthly and probation officers regularly assist other law enforcement agencies with safety checks along area roads and highways. This year, of the nine officers from the South Georgia Circuit who attended the meeting, five of them won door prizes, including SPS PO Chan Strickland, who won a Smith and Wesson AR-15 rifle.



GDC staff who attended the Quad meeting with the prizes won on April 10.



Around the Agency...



On April 5th, Metro Transitional Center hosted an Easter egg hunt for residents and their families as well as Metro TC staff and their children. The hunt was a perfect activity for family reunification.



The six latest graduates of the Colwell PDC Rescued program's Cold Nose University, including "Stewie" pictured above giving his trainer a high five, and "Oreo" (inset photo) will be available for adoption in mid May. All of the dogs have been vetted and are housebroken and crate trained. The dogs are a variety of breeds and temperments, but one is sure to be a perfect new pet. For more information on the dogs available please contact Tri-State Pet Rescue at (706) 633-7282.



On Jan. 19, Georgia State Prison lost a loyal and dedicated employee, Officer David Palmer. Mr. Palmer was a Corrections Officer at Georgia State Prison from February, 16, 1999 until his passing this year. On Mar. 31, Mr. Palmer's family, friends and co-workers were invited to participate in a ceremony to retire his badge. His wife, Mrs. Eloise Palmer was also presented with a \$500 check from the Correctional Peace Officer's Foundation. Officer Palmer's smiling face and his jovial personality will surely be missed at Georgia State Prison.

Retirements

Celeste Jones 30 years

Maria Primas 25 Years



Thank you for your many years of loyal service to the Georgia Department of Corrections and best of luck in all your future endeavors!

Like us on Facebook Check out our YouTube channel at GACorrections Tweet us at @GA_Corrections

MISSION

The Department of Corrections creates a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change.

VISION

To be recognized as the best corrections organization in the nation.



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Commissioner

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