

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

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Arkansas Community Correction

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Second Quarter 2017



Learning how PTSD impacts addiction

Story on page 2



Pope County Drug Court presents training for counselors

Pope County Drug Court staff hosted a training event in May for counselors that featured a overview of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Addiction from a counselor who specializes the disorder.

Tracy Tullos, shown on the cover, is a licensed clinical social worker for the Department of Veterans Affairs and was one of the featured speakers at the event.

PTSD, Tullos notes, is a severe, lasting response to a trauma and while it is most often associated with military service, it can also be found among those who have survived hurricanes (like Hurricane Katrina) and can even be vicarious (such as someone traumatized by an event that was publicized such as the 9/11 attacks).



A common element of PTSD is substance abuse, she told the class with as many as three-fourths of all PTSD sufferers turning to legal and illegal substances to cope.

People, she said, who have PTSD usually have poor coping skills that often stems from a unstable upbringing. "What you grew up with you are likely to duplicate."

PTSD can be avoided if children have good parenting and are taught good coping skills and are not subject to trauma (such as abuse), but since that is not always possible, the noted ways to work with substance abusers who also suffer from PTSD.

Part of that is to deal with the root of the problem and help the person develop coping methods that are socially acceptable.

Tullos also provided a booklet to the class that listed other ways to ease PTSD and lead to better treatment for addicts, including counseling because talking about a traumatic experience is preferable to keeping those

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Community Spirit
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Pope County Drug Court presents training for counselors

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feelings bottled up.

Other tips in the booklet include eating right, learning to develop inner peace, exercising and staying involved.

In addition to Tullos, the training included a segment from Kayla Beck, BA, ADC, Pope County Drug Court who spoke about changes in Drug Courts; Agent Lisa Wells, Pope County Drug Court (shown at right); and Michael Chumley, ADC, Pope County Drug Court. Wells and Chumley addressed assessments and diagnosis in Drug Courts.

Pope County Drug Court Judge Dennis Sutterfield spoke of the courts and the staff who work in the courts.

“This is what makes Drug Court work,” he said when referring to employees.

“It is a privilege for the judges of this state to work with you.”



Recognizing law enforcement & corrections



During May, ACC employees across the state observed Correctional Employees Week and Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and Police Memorial Week. The photo above shows Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan after presenting staff at the Northwest Arkansas Community Corrections with a proclamation of National Correctional Employees Week. Shown in the photo are gift bags for each Center staff member. The bags were donated by Ladies of Grace, which is a volunteer group that comes to the facility. Each bag contained candy and a \$25 Walmart gift card. This was very unexpected and very appreciated.

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Area 1 Officers run in special torch run

Area 1 officers recently participated in a Northwest Arkansas Torch Run by local law enforcement for Special Olympics.

In the photo at left, Officer Rose Rojas gives a thumbs up. In the photo below, Officer Josh Bowen is giving a smile as he begins his section of the run.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) is held in 50 states and in 35 countries raising \$20 million annually and recruiting more than 15,000 law enforcement officers from all over the world.

The Arkansas Secret Service is the founding law enforcement agency for Arkansas' Torch Run for Special Olympics.

What began as a 30-mile run is now a four-day relay that covers more than 1,200 miles and has 700 runners. Now more than a run, the Law Enforcement Torch Run is a campaign to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics.



Area 11 Officer speaks to students at community college

Officer Seth Borchert, shown at right, spoke to the criminal justice class at Phillips County Community College in Stuttgart. Officer Borchert spoke on the requirements and roles of a Parole/Probation Officer.



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A time to show appreciation ...

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Proclamation 5187, creating “National Correctional Officers Week.” Each year, the first full week in May is recognized as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week, commemorating the contributions of correctional officers and personnel who work in jails, prisons, and community corrections across the country.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy declared May 15 as Peace Officers’ Memorial Day, and the week following as National Police Week.



Area 7 delivered donuts to the Bryant (above at left) and Shannon Hills (above at right) police departments.

Area 7 staff passed out boxes of donuts to law enforcement offices throughout Saline County as seen in the photos below and at right.



Area 3 Agent takes part in panel discussion at Ozarka College

Parole/Probation Agent James Irvin, shown at right, was recently invited to sit on a panel at the first Annual Criminal Justice Employability Workshop at Ozarka College in Ash Flat.

The workshop was designed for students to be able to interact with criminal justice professionals and explore possible careers within the criminal justice field, learn about available training and certifications and make connections with those already in the field who may provide valuable insight into their employability.

Agent Irvin was asked to give a short presentation on his job title and requirements as part of the presentation.



Area 7 staffers help with Drug Take Back program at UALR



Area 7 Area Manager Shawanna Reynolds, Detective Sharon Houlette (UALR PD), Officer WJ Tobias and Officer Cameron Rhinehart, all shown above, volunteered their time to work during the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's Prescription Drug Take Back.

Area 6 staffers hear about domestic abuse and violence from survivor



An Area 6 staff meeting with the Conway, Russellville, Morrilton and Danville offices featured Laura Abbott as guest speaker. She spoke about Domestic Violence and Victims' Rights. Laura Abbott, along with Laura Aceves, who was killed by her ex-boyfriend, were the inspirations for Laura's Law and Laura's card which provide new resources to victims of domestic violence.

Laura Abbott survived being run over twice by a truck that her husband was driving, which left her badly injured, her heart stopping twice and her right lung collapsing and both kidneys being shut down. She is truly an amazing woman and very passionate about her cause.

Two graduate from West Memphis Drug Court

The West Memphis Drug Court celebrated the April graduation of April Fourthman and Floyd Johnson (shown at right with gift baskets) as they completed the Drug Court Program.

Shown below is Fourthman with Judge Cindy Thyer; Johnson shown with Judge Thyer and ACC's Kenneth Walker, a West Memphis Staff Development Specialist who spoke at the graduation.

Also speaking was ACC Agent Cameron King and Parole/Probation Officer Tiffany Moore-Townsel (not shown).



Saline County Drug Court program embraces softball



Saline County Drug Court has two softball teams, Arrested Development and 10-52s. Players on each of the teams are Drug Court participants, along with family members and community support groups.

Area 7 staff sort and stack books to benefit local school

Area 7 staff donated their time to sort books at the Goodwill Resource Center in Little Rock and for their effort they were able to receive books that were donated to the David O. Dodd elementary school.



Russellville Officers honor fallen officers at event



Russellville Officers (Area 6) are shown above attending the Pope County Police Memorial ceremony during National Police Week.

Assistant area manager facilitates counseling group



Area 1 Assistant Area Manager Tracy Crews, shown in both pictures at left, facilitates behavioral changes groups in the Fayetteville office.

She is shown with James Welch and Maria Gomez who completed the program.

Reentry Week celebrated across state

STATE OF ARKANSAS EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: More than ninety percent of Arkansas prison inmates eventually are released into the community, and it benefits all Arkansas citizens to increase public safety and reduce prison costs by lowering the number of former inmates who later return to incarceration with new convictions; and

WHEREAS: Reentry assists offenders transitioning from incarceration to a productive, law-abiding life in the community by helping remove barriers through expanded opportunities for employment, housing, healthcare, transportation, and education; and

WHEREAS: A strong and supportive reentry system benefits individual offenders, their families, and their communities; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas reentry efforts depend on a working partnership of governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and volunteers to provide consistent and sustained services, support, and guidance to returning inmates; and

WHEREAS: All Arkansans are encouraged to work together to promote public safety by supporting reentry efforts that offer opportunities, assistance, and hope for individuals returning home from incarceration;

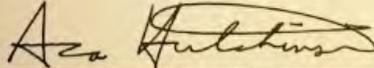
NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 23rd through April 29th, 2017, as

REENTRY AWARENESS WEEK

across the State, and I encourage all citizens to realize the significance of reentry efforts in Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 17th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2017.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Reentry Week celebrated across state

Area 1 (Parole/Probation in Benton, Washington and Madison Counties)

Reentry Officer Kris Eglin helped individuals update their resumes and search for jobs on the DWS Mobile Workforce Unit. The event was held at the new Returning Home Resource Center in Springdale (shown at right).



It was a resource-filled day in Bentonville on June 29. Numerous vendors were at the Northwest Arkansas Community Correction Center in Fayetteville ready to meet with individuals about jobs, education, and other resources available in the area (shown at left). Special thanks to Dunkin Donuts and Walmart Neighborhood Market for providing donations for breakfast and lunch for the vendors.

Area 2 (Parole/Probation in Carroll, Boone, Marion, Baxter, Fulton, Izard, Stone, Searcy, Newton and Van Buren Counties)

Area 2 staff hosted a Reentry Week event in partnership with the local Workforce Services to help offenders with job search skills. DWS taught interviewing techniques and held mock interviews. Reentry Officer Cody Stafford taught offenders how to use The Good Grid. More than 20 offenders participated in the event and were able to not only complete resumes, but also applications for current job openings in the area (shown at right).

Area 3 (Parole/Probation in Randolph, Sharp, Lawrence, Independence, Jackson, Cleburne, White and Prairie Counties)

There was a big crowd in the Searcy parole office for reentry week. The office held a cooking class, and there were health and wellness vendors, Harding University, adult education, Workforce Services, and Jacob's

(Continued on page 12)



Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 11)

Place. Mayor David Morris and ACC Assistant Director Carrie Williams spoke to the providers and thanked them and the P/P office for all they do for the city. There was donated food and door prizes for those in attendance. Lunch was provided by Simmons Bank and New Horizons ministry. Successful Reentry programs take the entire community, and it is clear that the community of Searcy understands that (photos below).



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Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 12)

Area 4 (Parole/Probation in Clay, Greene, Craighead, Mississippi and Poinsett Counties)

Area staff and Goodwill hosted a resource fair for offenders in Jonesboro. More than 20 providers offered employment options, nutrition, legal aid services, medical services, mental health, TANF, DWS, volunteer opportunities, education options, budgeting, substance abuse treatment and the Good Grid. In fact, both the providers and the participants got some valuable lessons on using the The Good Grid. Pictured at right is Stephanie Barker of Goodwill Career Center, Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin, ACC Re-Entry Officer Christa Eldridge and ACC Employment/ Good Grid Specialist Richard Perry.



Area 5 (Parole/Probation in Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Sebastian, Scott, Polk and Montgomery Counties)

Offenders in Fort Smith took advantage of the Job Fair hosted by Goodwill Industries. There was a great turnout, and representatives from Goodwill TEO and Department of Workforce Services and employers such as Twin Rivers and Pro Clean Janitorial were on site to answer questions and discuss current job openings. (shown in the photos at left).

Area 6 (Parole/Probation in Pope, Yell, Conway, Perry and Faulkner Counties)

Offenders in Conway attended a Good Grid Resume Class held at the AETN building. Everyone who attended the
(continued on page 14)

Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 13)

class left with a completed resume, a goodie bag of hygiene products, and they were all given a full tour of AETN's building and operations (shown in the photos at right).

“Congratulations, you have a job interview!” But now, what do you wear? For offenders at the Conway P/P office, they can utilize the Hope Closet to find a professional outfit for a job interview. All participants at the resume class left with an interview outfit and hygiene products. The first 2 photos are of PPO Griswold speaking to offenders about appropriate dress for job interviews.

This clothes closet has clothing for children and adults. It is well organized and well maintained (shown below at left).



Area 8 (Parole in Pulaski County and Parole/Probation in Lonoke County)

Area staff hosted an all-day Good Grid class at the Central Arkansas Library April 26. Those who attended this completed resumes in preparation for the Job Fair hosted at Our House the next day (Picture on page 15).

The area partnered with Our House Shelter to put on a job/resource fair for Arkansas Reentry Awareness Week. They received a lot of support from local employers and service providers. The Good Grid team also held an

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Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 14)



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The Good Grid is a network of service providers that connects organizations like yours to resources & opportunities that help you do what you do better.

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- Manage a microsite for your organization

CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

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3. Click Sign up in the Right corner
4. Complete the Sign up process

1

CONFIRM YOUR ACCOUNT

1. Look for the APPROVAL email within 24 hours of signing up.
2. Click [Confirm](#)
3. Create your password and sign in.

2

QUESTIONS?

Once you sign up, if you have any questions contact us by phone, email, or a help desk ticket.

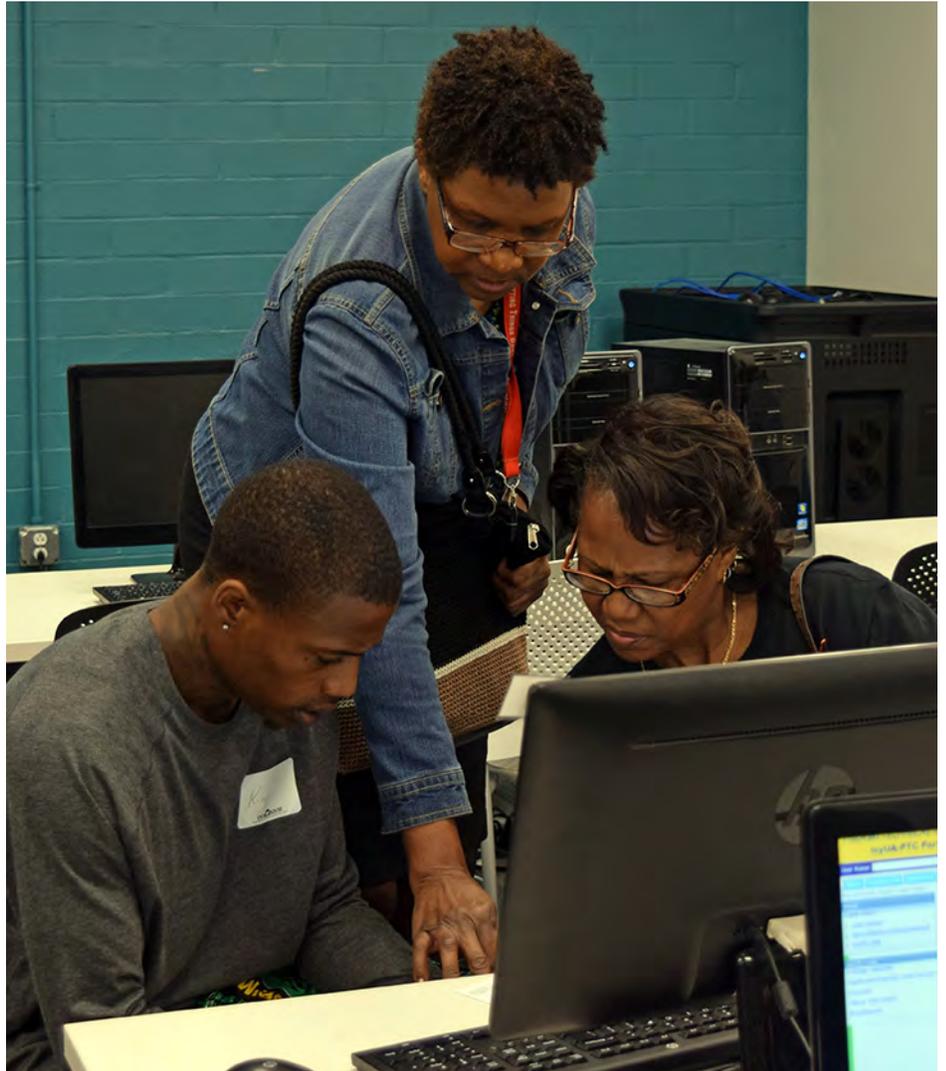
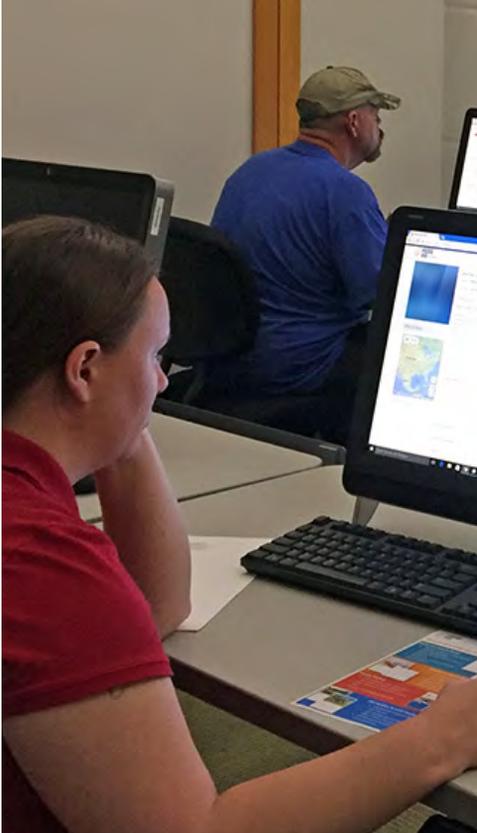
team@goodgrid.com or
(501) 687 2346

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Reentry Week celebrated across state

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all-day resume class the day before the resource fair. The photos at right and below show offenders working on resumes.



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Reentry Week celebrated across state

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Convent Recovery Residents earn driver's license

Residents at the Covenant Reentry Facility in Pine Bluff took a huge step forward by getting their driver's license. To obtain any form of identification is a definite stumbling block for most offenders leaving incarceration because you must present some form of identification to obtain a driver's license or ID card. ACC has worked closely with the DFA to create programs and improve access to identification documents before someone even goes on parole. We have seen some amazing success stories because of this collaboration. The four individuals pictured at right are some of those success stories. Damien White, John Jackson, Horace Pruitt, and Preston Cole all now have some form of ID for when they are back in the community.



Convent Recovery truck giveaway

Covenant Recovery Reentry in Pine Bluff and its residents recognized one of its own this spring - Daniel Hill - who was presented with a truck. All of the residents of the reentry facility had an opportunity to nominate someone to be the recipient of a 1990 Chevy Pickup. Hill's peers nominated him. Hill is shown at right receiving the title to the truck from the Executive Director Jeremy McKenzie.



A second chance

Jessica Burns was put on probation in 2012, but Jessica didn't do well on supervision back then. Her rule-breaking led to revocation, and in February of 2016, Jessica found herself in state prison. She spent the eight months locked up, which gave her time to re-evaluate her life choices. Jessica had been using drugs and alcohol since she was 12. Fifteen years later, Jessica decided that enough was enough. It was time to be different. She went into a faith-based life skills program at ADC, and when it was time to be released

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Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 17)

in October, she moved into the Hope Rises Reentry Center to continue her journey. And she's done very, very well. She has a job she loves, and her family life is going great.

But the good things didn't just happen; Jessica had to work hard for them. She's proud of how far she's come and where her life is headed.

And when she leaves reentry for the first time in a long time, Jessica, shown at right, will be on the right road.

Northwest Arkansas

Community Correction Center (Fayetteville)

Residents at the Northwest Arkansas Center learned about nutrition and healthy eating and then learned about effective job search practices during reentry week (shown below). These residents also heard from numerous other resources in the community, including Northwest Arkansas Community College, Dress for Success, and employers.



Area 11 (Parole/ Probation in Jefferson, Arkansas, Cleveland, Longcoln, Desha, Drew, Bradley, Ashley and Chicot Counties) Reentry Officer Jeffery Little and Administrative Assistant, Amanda Wooldridge are shown in the photo on page 18 with Covenant Reentry residents. The group is celebrating these five Reentry residents who completed 180 days at Covenant Recovery (continued on page 19)

Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 18)

Reentry Center in Pine Bluff. Reentry may not be for everyone, but for those wanting to turn their lives into something positive with employment, housing and living a crime free lifestyle, it is the greatest reward. Congratulations graduates and good luck.

Tie'Ara Tate sees success

This is what reentry looks like (photo below). It's not some vague concept or a theory in a book or an abstract idea. Reentry is people. Living, breathing people. Offenders who've strayed from the path and people who are helping guide them



back to it. Tie'Ara Tate is an offender. She's been on probation and locked up in a community correction center. The convictions were for theft of property and forgery; crimes often committed by drug users. She started using at 19. By 22, her use "had spiraled out of control." Tie'Ara says she's clean now thanks to ACC's six-month reentry program, "I was lucky. I went to Hope Rises reentry center. "I had to work. I had to show effort. I had to change and keep changing." She graduated the program with a full-time job, which she still has and loves. In December, she moved into her own place. Things are going well including re-uniting with her son and the rest of her family. "I have a great relationship with them. They can rely on me to do what I say I'm going to do."

Stacy Cox, Clinton School

A reentry exhibit at the State Capitol was a real eye-opener about reentry and the difference it can

make for offenders. Everything centered around a master's thesis by Clinton School student Stacy Cox, who spent three months researching the needs and taking pictures of female offenders at the Hope Rises Reentry Center for her project, Images of Women in Reentry.

Her photos are excellent, and large blow-ups of them circled the rotunda on April 24 (photo on page 19). Plus, there were inspiring words from ACC Assistant Director Carrie Williams, the governor's chief of staff and the

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Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 19)

Hope Rises director. But the most captivating addresses were delivered by Jessica Burns and Tie'Ara Tate, two former inmates who completed the six-month program at Hope Rises. Their struggles and successes will really make you think.



Earth Day clean up at Convent Recovery

ACC Assistant Director Carrie Williams, Reentry Officer Jeffery Little and Covenant Recovery Director Jeremy

McKenzie, along with 10 residents and staff from Covenant Reentry program, participated in an Earth Day event on Saturday morning at First United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff (the group is shown in the photo below).



Weather was rainy and dreary outside, but the atmosphere inside was warm and friendly. There was a huge turn out by students and residents from the area. The project was The Pack Shack where they repackaged dry food to assist in feeding the homeless. There were more than 21,000 packages prepared, and the food will stay in Pine Bluff. Great volunteer opportunity for the residents of Covenant Recovery Reentry.

Area 9 (Parole/Probation in Woodruff, Cross, St. Francis, Crittenden, Monroe, Lee and Phillips Counties)

A job and resource fair was held in Forrest City during Reentry Week. There were multiple interviews on site, and at least two people left with a new job. The employers were fantastic; the turnout was great; and the host; the Department of Workforce Services, was phenomenal. ACC couldn't ask for better partners in the community. Photos of the event are on page 21.

Reentry Week celebrated across state

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Reentry Week celebrated across state

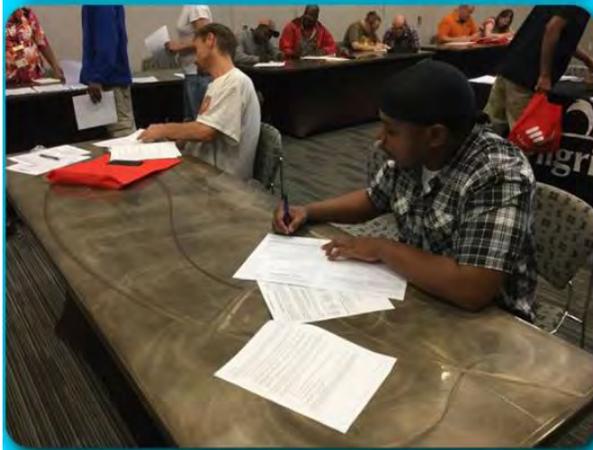
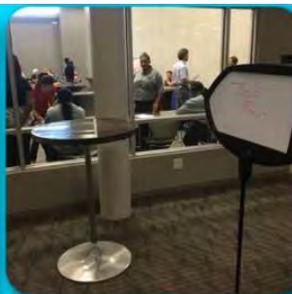
(Continued from page 21)

Area 11 (Parole/Probation in Jefferson, Arkansas, Cleveland, Loncoln, Desha, Drew, Bradley, Ashley and Chicot Counties)

A reentry Resource Fair was held in at the SEARK Adult Education. There was a large turnout, and multiple vendors were onsite to help individuals get signed up for services or discuss current job openings. Residents from the Covenant Recovery Reentry Facility and Community Transitions Transitional House all attended, along with individuals who are on probation or parole in Area 11.

Area 12 (Parole/Probation in Lafayette, Miller, Little River, Sevier, Howard, Pike, Nevada and Hempstead Counties)

ACC held a job fair at the UofA Community College at Hope campus for offenders (shown in the photos below). People were



lined up to talk to potential employers and to get started writing their resume to take with them on interviews. Work Force Services attended with one of its mobile units, which is connected to the Good Grid, ACC's on-line employment portal for offenders. To make sure as many offenders as possible have access to the job fair, ACC provided vans to transport them.

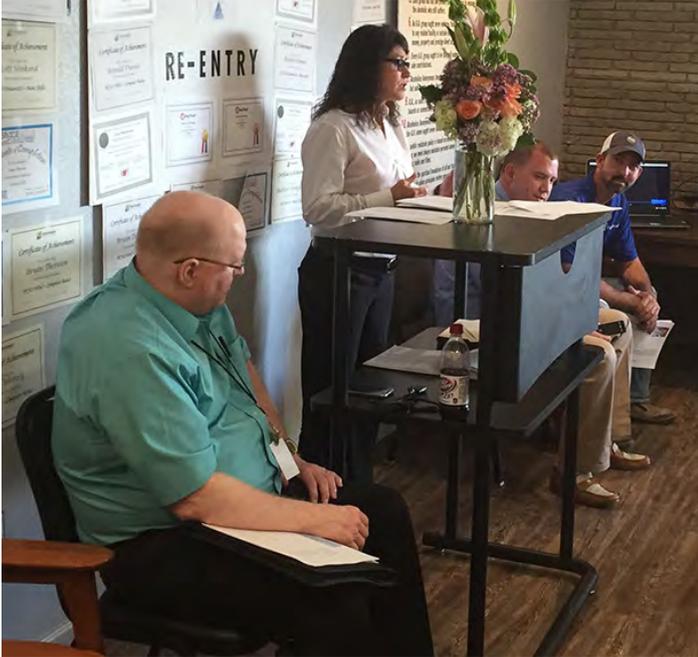
Pine Bluff Reentry Coalition

On May 24, Jeremy McKenzie, Covenant Recovery Director, launched the Pine Bluff Reentry Coalition. Chief Deputy Director, Kevin Murphy and Assistant Director Carrie Williams were the featured speakers. ACC Mentor Coordinator, Ardella Bearden, was integral in coordinating the first meeting and gathering the partners to participate.

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Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 23)



Jeremy Mckenzie will serve as the first chairperson for the coalition. The photos above are from a coalition meeting.

Michael Jackson succeeds in Pine Bluff

After many long years Michael Jackson (shown at right) received his driver's license! He was very happy man! He also gained employment at Highland Pellet a few weeks ago! Everything is headed in the right direction for a very productive future! Thanks Amanda Wooldridge at Covenant Recovery in Pine Bluff.



ACC officer teaches class

Reentry Officer Kris Eglin teaches a Mental Health First Aid class during ACC's Residential Services Basic Training (shown below).

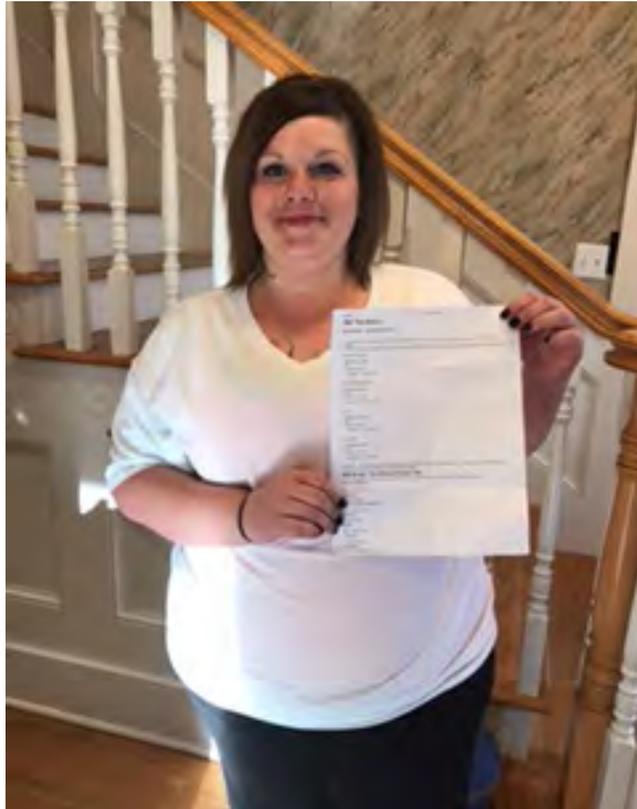


Reentry Week celebrated across state

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Barbara Craig regains license

Barbara Craig, at right, just received her driver's license for the first time in eight years. She completed the Reentry Program on May 8, 2017.



Jerri Wheeler earns GED

Pictured at left is Reclamation House resident Jerri Wheeler. Jerri entered reentry on March 9. With hard work and determination, Jerri received her GED on March 27.

Technical Violator Program at the Omega Center in Malvern

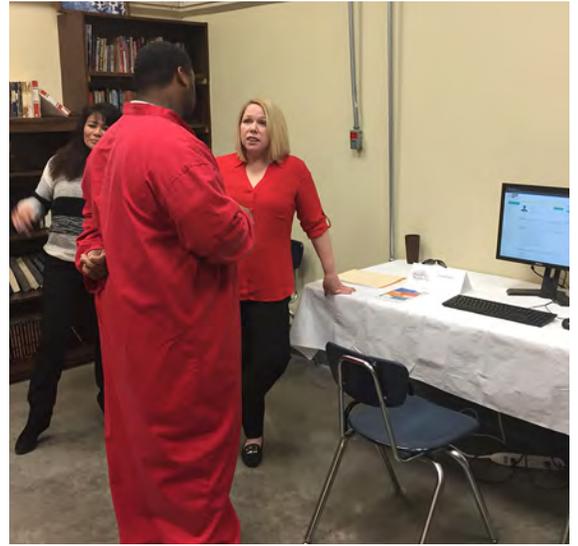
Several activities were held during the month, including a Resource Fair, a Good Grid Class taught by Richard Perry, and events held by Workforce Services and Child Support. Photos of the events are on page 25.

Cornerstone Mentor Training

Ardella Bearden completed a Mentor Training with 10 ladies for the Cornerstone Transitional House in Newport (shown below). These ladies will serve as mentors for the women residing at the Cornerstone Transitional House.



Reentry Week celebrated across state



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Reentry Week celebrated across state

(Continued from page 25)



The Central Arkansas Center in Little Rock recognized Reentry Week with a variety of programs - Motivational Speaker David Coleman, and presentations from Express Agency, Good Grid, Workforce Goodwill, UALR TRIO, Sober Living-Chem Free and Quapaw House Director Gracie Ambetter.



Residents learn nutrition and budgeting



West Memphis Drug Court continues to see graduate



In May, Richard Kirk, shown above with Judge Cindy Thyer, graduated from the West Memphis Drug Court.

Residents at the Northeast Center in Osceola are provided with nutrition classes taught by the Mississippi County Extension Office.

Through the class, residents learn how create meals featuring nutritious food on a limited budget with limited resources.

The residents learn about portion control as well as supplementing bad food choices with good food.

Arkansas Community Correction hires professional staff throughout the state for positions ranging from Correctional Officer to Counselor to Probation Officer.

**For information about applying for a job at ACC, go to:
www.arstatejobs.com**

Center in Osceola promotes opportunities

The Northeast Community Correction Center in Osceola held activities throughout Reentry Week to educate residents about resources they have access to once they are released.

Some of those activities included speakers like Trey Johnson, an Area 4 Parole officer and Dough Echols and Desmond Hammett (shown at right) from the Arkansas Northeastern College Work/SUCCESS Program.

Other speakers included Christy Eldrige, an Area 4 Re-Entry Officer; Michelle Williams, from the Mississippi Co. Health Department; and local entrepreneur Vernal Gillespie.



Symbolic torch shows increased responsibilities

Northeast Arkansas Center resident Clarence Baker is shown at left taking a symbolic torch from resident Cordal Wheedly.

The torch is presented to residents who are elevated to coordinator status.

Coordinators take care of issues in their designated area of the Center and are expected to be a leader among the residents in their area. When one resident leaves the Center, another resident is elevated to coordinator status.

Area 6 Drug Court enjoys spring barbeque



Drug Court in northeast sees graduates



Misty Grubbs and Robert Berry graduated from the Paragould Drug Court this spring. Shown above are ACC Counselor Chrystal Timm, Gruggs, Judge Brent Davis, ACC Administrative Specialist Scott Rogers, Berry, ACC Assistant Area Manager Daryl Aikman, ACC Parole/Probation Agent Amber Vanaman and Arkansas State Representative Jimmy Gazaway.



Northeast Center residents earn trip to local theater

Residents who have earned the status of coordinator at the Northeast Community Correction Center in Osceola were able to attend a showing of *Alice in Wonderland* at the Ritz in Blytheville.

The Ritz Civic Center in Blytheville was the venue for the Arts Council of Mississippi County presentation of Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre with their giant puppet musical "Alice In Wonderland."

East Central Center celebrates reentry week



The East Central Arkansas Center in West Memphis celebrated its first Annual Reentry Week with events that included community awareness and a pep rally during which the community was invited to take a look at the facility. To get the week off to a great start, the residents held a rally, a Dress 4 Success Fashion Show (photos on page 32) and a How to Dress 4 Success Seminar in which residents were provided with a visualization and education on how to dress for interviews. Other activities included a resource fair that featured various community service organizations with information about resources available upon release. During a presentation on What to Expect Next While on Supervision, residents met with field services agents, the local Re-Entry Officer, and parole/probation treatment staff for insight on the services and programs available to them in the community. A volunteer luncheon also was held to show appreciation to the people and organizations who volunteer their time to provide services to the resident population.



Reentry fashion show at the East Central Center



East Central Center holds its first ever GED graduation

The East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center celebrated its first GED graduation on May 16. The guest speaker was Haven Crutchfield, who was very instrumental with the GED program at the former SEC Center in Pine Bluff. There were more than 20 graduates who participated in the festivities. Former graduates from the program were allowed to attend, as well as the family members of the graduates.



Cleburne County Drug Court holds Outrageous Olympics

The Cleburne County Drug Court held the Drug Court Outrageous Olympics on May 27 in honor of National Drug Court Month. The event featured a live band in Spring Park and was attended by dignitaries such as the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Drew Smith, Judge Tim Weaver, Public Defender Tammy Harris, Tommy Land, The Land Commissioner, Mothers Against Meth, Sgt. Lloyd White, Sheriff Chris Brown and Chief Justice John Dan Kemp. The Olympics featured three teams, pink, blue and green and offenders were the participants in the games. Recovery groups from surrounding counties were there to cheer on participants. Trophies and medals were presented to winners.



Cleburne County Drug Court holds Outrageous Olympics

