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Forest County agencies and individuals participate in Youth Field Day

This article appeared in the Forest Press on September 4, 2002

On August 24, 2002, probationers in Forest County demonstrated accountability through community service assignments at the annual Youth Field Day in Marienville, Pennsylvania. Juveniles assisted organizers of the event with parking, food service, and clean-up. According to Chief Probation Officer Steven T. Barnett, approximately 200 youth signed up to participate in this year's event. Staff and probation officers were present to assist and monitor the community service work assigned to each probationer.

The Forest County Sheriff's Department in conjunction with Forest County Commissioners Basil Huffman and Skip Cussins, the Forest County Probation Department, and the Forest County DUI Program, sponsored a booth for area youths who participated in the annual Forest County Youth Field Day in Marienville, at Buz-zard Swamp.

The first activity was a Lucky Duck Contest, where children ages one through nine were able to win various prizes by pulling duck decoys out of the water and winning the prize that was marked on the bottom of the ducks. The second activity was the Lucky Shot Contest. This contest, for those youths ages 9 through 17, had 15 contestants competing by shooting one time from a BB gun at a target. The target was marked with an X on the back and the contestant who was closest to the X for that round won a prize.

Every contestant who competed in the Lucky Duck and Lucky Shot contests was given the opportunity to enter a raffle. At the end of the day, ten names were drawn, five from each contest, for the grand prizes.

Thank you to the Forest County Probation Department community service for assisting with Youth Field Day.

MPOETC Training Schedule

The following courses will be offered in the MPOETC Computer Learning Center, 75 East Derry Road in Hershey. Course descriptions may be found at www.mpoetc.org. The training is free for probation officers. Questions may be directed to Vance Rosebush, vrosebush@mpoetc.org. Classes are 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Advanced Access 2000	December 17
Intermediate Access 2000	November 19
Intermediate Excel 2000	November 20
Intermediate PowerPoint 2000	December 10-11
Intermediate Word 2000	December 18
Internet Crime Investigation	November 6-7
Introduction to Access 2000	October 22
Introduction to Operating Systems	December 12
Introduction to Personal Computers.....	October 30
Introduction to PowerPoint 2000	October 24
Introduction to Excel 2000	October 29
Introduction to Word 2000	October 31
PA-LEMIS ** POC is Chris Braun, PA Chiefs	Oct 8- 10, Nov. 12-14, Dec 3-5

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University.

Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by email or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs, but we ask that these be mailed - we will be happy to return them to you.

P.J. Verrecchia is the editor. The address is CJJT&R, Shippensburg University, 1871 Old Main Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299 or email pjverr@wharf.ship.edu

Please send additions or changes to the mailing list to Nina Weaver at the same address or email nsweav@wharf.ship.edu

Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Officer's Week celebrated throughout the nation

As a result of the efforts of the American Probation and Parole Association, July 14-20, 2002, was designated as Probation, Parole, and Community Supervision Officer's Week across our nation. The American Probation and Parole Association also provided information on their web page (www.appa-net.org) concerning methods to publicize and celebrate this event.

Governor Mark Schweiker issued a proclamation marking the observance in Pennsylvania. As a result of the work done by Ken Robinson, the media consultant for the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, an article was sent out to news organizations and web masters throughout Pennsylvania. In his remarks for this story, Marshall Davis, Chief Probation Officer of Wyoming County and President of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, related that juvenile probation officers in our state are making a difference protecting the quality of life in our communities.

In Lehigh County, the County Executive, Jane Ervin, issued a proclamation to the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department for its ongoing dedication to the troubled youth of the region as well as its day to day contacts with clients, competency development programs, community work programs, and their efforts to hold youth accountable for past actions. The event was reported on local television stations and in local newspapers.

Through special arrangements by department secretary, Shirley Bartynski, with the Allentown Ambassadors Baseball Team, a public service announcement was aired before the start of the game. Chief Probation Officer Paul Werrell, and community-based probation officer Manuel Gomez, threw out the opening pitches. A public information stand was set up inside the stadium concourse, from which juvenile probation officers handed out literature and answered questions about the juvenile justice system.

Schuylkill County probation officer makes good choice

While some youth make bad choices with little thought as to the long-term consequences, a Schuylkill County probation officer is attempting to change that. Stacy Sawecki, a school-based probation officer, learned of a federal prison program offered to local schools which exposes youth to the harsh realities of bad choices and promotes individual responsibility and accountability.

Prison counselor Verel Flemming, of the Schuylkill Federal Prison in Minersville, Pennsylvania, developed the program several years ago. "Bad Choices, Harsh Realities" chooses low-security inmates to speak at high school assemblies. Ms Sawecki envisioned the youth under the supervision of the Schuylkill County Probation Office as a potential audience.

Sawecki contacted Verel Flemming to explore the possibility of presenting his program to youth on probation. On June 27, 2002, her vision became a reality. Three prisoners spoke to a private audience of probation youth and Schuylkill County Probation Staff at the Shenandoah Valley High School. The prisoners related their personal histories of the acts and factors that brought them into conflict with the law, the harsh realities of prison life, and the tragic consequences to their families.

Inmate participants included street-drug dealers as well as white-collar offenders. The inmates told the youth that bad conduct is not environmentally induced, but a matter of bad choice. They did not allow themselves excuses for inappropriate and unlawful conduct; but challenged the youth to recognize that there is no substitute for individual responsibility, and that ultimately, each individual must weigh the potential for serious harm resulting from unwise, thoughtless, or avoidably bad choices.

Stacy Sawecki reports that the program was well-received by both the youth and probation staff. She is already making plans for the program to be repeated in the summer of 2003.

Act 86 of 2002 increases civil and criminal statutes of limitations in childhood sexual abuse cases and certain sexual offenses

Governor Schweiker signed SB 212 (2153) into law as Act 86 of 2002 on June 28, 2002. This legislation amended 42 Pa. C.S. §5533(b) to provide that if an individual entitled to bring a civil action arising from childhood sexual abuse was under eighteen years of age at the time the cause of action occurred, the individual would have a period of twelve years after attaining eighteen years of age to commence an action for damages, regardless of whether the individual filed a criminal complaint regarding the incident(s). A new definition of "childhood sexual abuse" is added for these new provisions of Title 42.

Act 86 also added a new 42 Pa. C.S. §5552 (b.1) "Major sexual offenses." to provide that a prosecution for any of the following crimes must be commenced within *12 years* after it is committed:

1. 18 Pa. C.S. §3121 (relating rape)
2. 18 Pa. C.S. §3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault)
3. 18 Pa. C.S. §3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse)
4. 18 Pa. C.S. §3124.1 (relating to sexual assault)
5. 18 Pa. C.S. §3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault)
6. 18 Pa. C.S. §4302 (relating to incest)
7. 18 Pa. C.S. §6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children)

The impact of this new provision, when read in the context of the current exceptions for sexual offenses against minors, is that the twelve year limitation would be calculated from the time the minor-victim reached eighteen years of age.

The provisions of Act 86 became effective on August 27, 2002. Please contact Keith Snyder at 717-787-5634, or at ksnyder@state.pa.us, if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Review of research: A Literature Review of the Juvenile Boot Camp Phenomenon

by Jerry Tyler, Ray Darville, and Kathi Stalnaker

This study uses a literature review approach to examine the juvenile boot camp phenomenon. The number of juvenile boot camps has continued to increase despite a steady stream of studies which indicate that they do not reduce recidivism. Tyler and his colleagues found that simply exposing youths to a “shock incarceration” experience, without including any program components designed to increase their skills or motivation, will not produce lasting changes. Short-term interventions (some as short as one weekend) must be coupled with effective aftercare components to have any effectiveness. At best, juvenile boot camps have some potential to be effective if they include proven strategies for inducing change. At worst, these programs are expensive sentencing options whose objective is punishment rather than rehabilitation.

Virtually every state has juvenile boot camps, some only at the local level. Although Tyler and his colleagues’ state that these programs are ineffective and may even be harmful, they cite a number of methodological flaws in the existing studies. They are the small number of methodologically rigorous studies, varying descriptions of what constitutes a boot camp, and the lack of consistent definitions of recidivism. Nonetheless, studies that were methodologically strong did not yield favorable results for juvenile boot camps. The authors cite a 1997 study conducted by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the results of which demonstrated that after four years of operation, boot camp participants had recidivism rates ranging from 63 percent to 74 percent.

A 1998 study by the Koch Crime Institute reported that the average boot camp had an annual per resident cost of over \$33,000.00. This figure is roughly equal to the cost of confinement in juvenile detention and somewhat lower than the cost of care in a traditional juvenile correctional institution. All of these costs are several times as high as probation supervision, so it is crucial that boot camps serve offenders who would otherwise have been incarcerated in order for them to represent any kind of cost saving.

Adult and juvenile boot camps have traditionally included a military discipline and drilling compo-

ment. However, few programs have offered any theoretical rationale for why these activities should be expected to reduce recidivism.

One consistent finding from the boot camp literature is the importance of aftercare. Families and community-based agencies should be involved in release planning. Other essential elements of effective aftercare include assessment, individualized cases planning, and intensive supervision.

Tyler and his colleagues’ conclude that boot camps appeal to public and elected officials because they convey a message of getting tough with juvenile offenders. However, the authors contend that juvenile boot camps are likely to be ineffective both in terms of costs and recidivism unless they incorporate a program to give a delinquent the skills, motivation, and resources to avoid the environment and lifestyle that contributed to the delinquency in the first place. Simply exposing a juvenile to the “shock incarceration” experience is not enough.

Note: This research article was published in *Social Science Journal*, 38(3), 2001.

Juvenile Justice Scholarship Fund at Shippensburg University

The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research and the Shippensburg University Foundation established a scholarship program in 1986 to benefit undergraduate Criminal Justice students at Shippensburg University. From 1986 through 2002, more than \$14,000 in scholarship funds has been provided by graduates and friends of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Weekend Masters Degree Program at Shippensburg University. The money has been used to present a \$1,000 award in the form of tuition support to a worthy undergraduate student majoring in Criminal Justice with an interest in juvenile justice.

The Center plans to make a similar award in 2003. As usual, we are relying on graduates of the Weekend Masters Degree Program for their support. However, donations from any person in the Commonwealth's juvenile justice system will be gratefully accepted.

Past recipients of this scholarship have gone on to careers in Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system. Kassi Morgart, a Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Officer, Michelle Geib, who works for Perry County Juvenile Probation and is a graduate of the JCJC-sponsored Weekend Masters Degree Program at Shippensburg University, and Nichole Kunkle, a Franklin County Juvenile Probation Officer who is currently enrolled in the JCJC-sponsored Weekend Masters Degree Program at Shippensburg University, are just three people who have benefited from this scholarship.

The fact that past award winners have served or are currently serving as juvenile justice professionals in Pennsylvania attests to the value of the scholarship program. If you would like to contribute to the 2003 scholarship fund, please make your check payable to the SU Foundation/Juvenile Justice Scholarship and mail to:

Shippensburg University Foundation
Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg Pennsylvania 17257

Act 85 amends the Crime Victims Act to increase costs from \$15 to \$25

Governor Schweiker signed SB 380 (2060) into law as Act 85 of 2002 on June 28, 2002. This legislation, which became effective on August 27, 2002, increases the costs that are assessed to juvenile offenders who are adjudicated delinquent or who receive consent decrees from \$1 to \$25. All of the costs collected are used to support the Commonwealth's Crime Victims' Compensation Program.

Act 85 also includes the following amendments the Crime Victims' Compensation Program:

The time limit for filing a claim is extended from one to two years and, in cases involving a minor, extends the claim deadline until the victim reaches the age of twenty-three.

The definition of "out-of-pocket loss" is expanded to include the following expenses, that will be reimbursed at a rate set by the Office of Victims' Services: wheelchairs; canes; walkers; hearing aids; expenses related to the reasonable and necessary costs of cleaning the crime scene of a private residence; expenses resulting from the temporary or permanent relocation of a direct victim and individuals residing in the household of the direct victim when there is an immediate need to protect the safety and health of the victim and individuals residing in the household; and other reasonable expenses which are deemed necessary as a direct result of the criminal incident.

The maximum allowable emergency award is increased to \$1,500, or at a rate set by the Office of Victims' Services.

The list of individuals who are eligible to receive reimbursement for psychological and psychiatric counseling is expanded.

The cost of a forensic rape examination and medications prescribed to the direct victim may not be charged to the victim. The hospital or other licensed health care provider may submit a claim for reimbursement from the Crime Victims' Compensation Program if the cost is not covered by insurance, or if the victim requests that the insurance carrier not be billed.

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The costs assessed to an adult who pleads guilty or nolo contendere, is placed in a diversionary program, or is convicted of a crime are increased from \$40 to \$60.

The amount of the costs to be deposited into the Crime Victims' Compensation Program is increased from \$15 to \$35 in the case of an adult offender.

Victims now have the right to have notice and provide prior comment on a judicial recommendation that an adult participate in a motivational boot camp pursuant to the Motivational Boot Camp Act.

In personal injury crimes, where an adult is sentenced to a State correctional facility, victims now have the right to receive notice of, and to provide prior comment on, a recommendation by the Department of Corrections that an adult offender participate in a motivational boot camp pursuant to the Motivational Boot Camp Act.

In personal injury crimes where an adult is sentenced to a local correctional facility, victims now have the right to receive notice of the date of the release of the adult from a boot camp.

Please contact Keith Snyder at 717-787-5634, or at ksnyder@state.pa.us, if you have any questions or desire additional information.

