

# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

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**H**erman Boone was head coach of a high school football team that won a state championship in 1971. And while there have been more state championships since then, this state championship was very special.

In 1971 racial tensions ran high in Alexandria, Virginia, as three schools were newly integrated to form the T.C. Williams High School. It was from this union that the Titan football team was created. The former rivalries between the schools, coupled with the strain between the black and white players, resulted in a team that was far from united.

Tensions only escalated when Herman Boone, assistant coach of the former T.C. Williams High School, was named the head coach of the Titans, passing over Bill Yoast, the local favorite and successful head coach of the white Hammond High. Yoast's supporters were angered by Boone's appointment, which was seen as a gesture of goodwill to the black community.

Remarkably, the two coaches were able to put aside their prejudices, and in doing so they unified their players to form a team whose common vision was to respect each other and win football games. At the same time, through the game of football, Boone and Yoast were able to help their small Virginia community put aside its intolerance and join together to support its children. The Titans became the best football team in Virginia, compiling a 13-0 record and winning the state championship.

This was the challenge of a lifetime for Boone, and his inspirational story was captured in the Disney film *Remember the Titans* starring Academy Award winner Denzel Washington. *Titans* screenwriter Gregory Allen Howard said in a *Washing-*



## Herman Boone to speak at Youth Awards Banquet

**former Alexandria, Virginia, high school football coach just wanted "to win football games"**

*ton Post* interview, “Herman is Shakespearean. The beauty of Herman and what he did was that it was sort of unconscious. If you’d asked Herman when he took over T.C. Williams, ‘Were you trying to make a point with these kids?’ he would have said, ‘No, I just want to win football games.’ He had to get the players to get along to win football games. And it worked for just that reason; because it wasn’t self-conscious. He did something quite beyond what even he realized.”

The Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission is proud to announce that Mr. Boone will be the keynote speaker at this year’s Youth Awards Banquet on Wednesday, October 31. Boone is now retired, but continues to motivate and inspire audiences with presentations on respect, teamwork, community involvement, and the importance of character.

## Pennsylvania represented at the Special Emphasis States Roundtable

Pennsylvania was well represented at the Special Emphasis States Roundtable held July 12-14, 2001, in Chicago. This roundtable was the fourth meeting of its type, which seeks to bring together the seven most populated states (Pennsylvania, New York, Colorado, California, Florida, Michigan, and Illinois) undertaking the implementation of the principles of balanced and restorative justice. The roundtable discussion was hosted by the Community Justice Institute of Florida Atlantic University and led by Dennis Maloney, Director of the Deschutes County Community Justice Department, and Sandra O’Brien Ph.D., Project Administrator of the OJJDP Balanced and Restorative Justice Project.

The roundtable gave leaders from the seven states the opportunity to share their experiences concerning balanced and restorative justice implementation. It provided a forum for discussion in several areas, including drug and alcohol treatment, mental health issues, and disproportionate minority over-representation. These topical areas will continue to be a focus for ongoing discussion and study, particularly as consideration is given to the integration of the principles of balanced and restorative justice.

In addition, several emerging issues were set forth regarding integration of the philosophy to practice. Areas which will command further attention include aftercare and reentry, engaging communities and developing partnerships, judicial and administrative tools, restorative practices in residential and institutional settings, victim satisfaction measurements, and Youth As Resources.

Participants from Pennsylvania included: Judge Arthur Grim, Administrative Judge for Berks County; Margery Miller, Balanced and Restorative Justice Coordinator for Montgomery County; Robert Liggett, Executive Director of New Castle YDC; Valerie Bender, Balanced and Restorative Justice Consultant for the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers; Susan Blackburn, Balanced and Restorative Justice Specialist with JCJC; and Marcella Szumanski, Juvenile Justice Program Analyst with PCCD.

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](mailto: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](mailto:nsweav@wharf.ship.edu)



## Seth W. Bloomquist joins CJJT&R staff

On September 4, 2001, Seth Bloomquist will join the Center staff as the Detention Monitoring Specialist. He will be responsible for monitoring compliance with the standards for secure detention, and providing technical assistance to county probation departments and detention facilities regarding these standards and alternatives to detention. Bloomquist replaces Michael McCalpin who accepted a position with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission.

Bloomquist has been with McKean County Juvenile Probation since 1992. He is presently the Assistant Director of Juvenile Probation. In this capacity, he serves as director of the "Boondoc's" program and school-based probation in McKean County. He is also a DUI instructor for adult offenders and head varsity wrestling coach for Kane and Bradford Area High Schools. Bloomquist was named Pennsylvania Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year in 1998. He holds a bachelor's degree from Clarion University and is a graduate of the Weekend Master's program at Shippensburg University.

## Annual Conference offers workshops, Thursday, November 1

At last year's Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice, a series of workshops was offered to provide participants the opportunity to sample from a wide variety of 90- and 180-minute presentations on innovative and diverse juvenile justice topics. This conference design received overwhelmingly positive feedback and is, therefore, being repeated this year. This fall, registrants may choose to attend any workshops from the following list:

### 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Community-based Responses: Youth Aid Panels/Community Justice Panels  
Erie County Residential Resource Management  
Effective Professional Development in Residential Care  
A Collaborative Approach to Treating Mental Illness  
VOJO: Making Justice Work for Victims  
Truancy Reduction Program  
Juvenile Case Management System (JCMS)  
School Resource Officers  
Evaluation of the School-based Probation Initiative  
Judicial Determinations and Orders: New Responsibilities in Dependency and Delinquency Cases (Judges only)

### 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

The Magic of Mastering Post-traumatic Stress Disorder  
Understanding I.Q. and Personality Testing (180 minutes)  
Anti-Violence/Victim Awareness Education Initiative  
Juvenile Drug Courts  
Non-traditional Approaches to the Mental Health Needs of Delinquent Youth  
Functional Family Therapy: An Integrated and Evidence-based Model  
PA Justice Network (JNET) & Juvenile Tracking System (JTS)  
Victim Impact Panels within Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System  
Understanding the Kids that Enter Our System  
S.T.A.R.S. Stop Truancy and Really Succeed

### 3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Effective Collaboration in the Treatment of Juvenile Sex Offenders  
Anger Dissolution-More Effective than Anger Management  
Parenting Today's Youth  
Operating a Competency-based Program in Juvenile Court  
Electronic Data Book/PA Easy Access  
Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Youth in the Juvenile Justice System  
Truancy and Delinquency Prevention Partnership  
Youth in Secure Care: Mental Health Status and Levels of Care

## Joint Conference on Juvenile Services comes to Pennsylvania

The Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh will be the site of the 7th Joint Conference on Juvenile Services, being held October 7-10, 2001. This annual forum began in 1995 as a collaborative effort by the Alliance for Juvenile Justice to provide state-of-the-art training to professionals in the field of juvenile justice. Five national juvenile justice associations and the Alliance for Juvenile Justice now sponsor this joint conference. This national conference typically achieves representation from 35 to 45 states. Participants convene for training and the opportunity to network and share innovative programming.

The choice to convene the conference in Pennsylvania provides us an opportunity to showcase how the principals of balanced and restorative justice have changed our juvenile justice landscape. Pennsylvania is uniquely positioned to contribute to the conference theme, "Representing America's Youth: Responding to the Needs of the Offender, Victim and Community". Speakers include Dennis Maloney, James Anderson, and Clay Yeager. Many workshops will feature trainers and programs from across the Keystone State.

While the conference itself begins on Sunday, October 7, pre-conference workshops will be offered on the preceding Friday and Saturday. Concurrent conference workshops will feature

topics related to Balanced and Restorative Justice, Juvenile Detention Services, Education of Youth, Juvenile Institutions, Community-based Programs, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Critical Management Issues, and Training. Other conference features include an Awards Luncheon, Networking Reception, Facility Tours, Exhibit Showcase, and Riverboat Gala Event.

Pennsylvania co-sponsoring agencies and organizations include, the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research, Juvenile Detention Centers' Association of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare/ Bureau of State Children and Youth Programs, Pennsylvania Association on Probation, Parole and Corrections, and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Registration material will be mailed to all Chiefs. Registration information is available by calling 589-622-6259, or visiting the National Juvenile Detention Association's website at [www.njda.com](http://www.njda.com). For reservations at the Omni William Penn Hotel ([www.omnihotels.com](http://www.omnihotels.com)) call 412-553-5100. You must mention the name of the conference (7th Joint Conference on Juvenile Services) to receive the discounted rate of \$129 (plus tax).

## Butler County juvenile offenders building a wetlands

by Michael S. Trego, Butler County Juvenile Probation Officer

Hip-deep mud. Sweltering heat. Snakes. These are just some of the obstacles with which Butler County juvenile offenders are dealing this summer. According to Dr. Michael E. Noyes, Director, Butler County Juvenile Court Services is doing its part to help restore the environment in an innovative project where youth are helping to build a wetlands to filter acid mine drainage and restore water quality.

Each week four to five youth go out to the Goff Station Restoration Project, which is on a rural site in Venango Township, Butler County. The area has been used for surface and deep mining since the Civil War era. Coal is abundant in the area and can be easily dug near the surface or found lying on the ground. The youth are participating as part of their



*Wetlands, continued on page 6*

## Rehabbing as part of rehabbing

### Adjudicated youths and Habitat for Humanity Rebuild Chester homes

(reprinted with permission from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 19, 2001)

After ripping down the exterior wall on the second floor of the twin house, the teenagers regrouped. With hammers, saws, and teamwork, the rebuilding began. It was their first attempt at rehabbing a house. And it was the first time juveniles adjudicated delinquent in the Delaware County Juvenile Court system had teamed up with a Habitat for Humanity construction project as part of the community service component of their sentences. About 10 youths worked side by side with more than a dozen juvenile probation officers and Juvenile Court supervisors in the rehab effort in Chester last week.

A 17-year old Boothwyn youth and Karyn Sweeney, a Delaware County juvenile probation officer, climbed onto the scaffolding and began to nail the new plywood in place.

"They're excellent," Chuck Drummond, construction manager for Habitat for Humanity said of the crew. "I'm keeping them busy. They're not afraid of heights."

Vernon and Lavonne McCommons, who will be moving into the home with their three children later this year, stopped by to thank the crew members for their efforts. "They looked like they knew what they were doing," Lavonne McCommons said later. "I was impressed."

"It's a blessing they came," added her husband, who is facilities manager for the Frederick Douglas Christian School in Chester. The juveniles can see what other people are going through, he said. "They'll have a little more respect for people's property. We see them on the highways," he said of the crews. "If we could see them more in the community, that would be great."

Mike Muchetti, supervisor for the Juvenile Court's community service, explained that every youth who goes through the juvenile system is ordered to perform some community service, with the average being 40 to 50 hours based on the offense and offender's age. Youths are often sent to nonprofit sites for their community service or to work with a township highway department. "We try to tailor it to the kid," he said.

A group of juveniles recently helped with a newsletter mailing for Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit volunteer group that helps lower-income families purchase homes with "sweat equity" and a no-profit, no interest mortgage. "It was such a good working relationship that the Juvenile Court staff wanted

*Rehabbing, continued on page 7*

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## The Chiefs' Association goes on-line.

The Virtual Community is a concept of much debate. One of the significant criticisms of on-line relationships made over the Internet is that they have no rules and no social controls.

However, a virtual community can also replicate a real community. It can be a community based not on geography, but on common interest. When the virtual community is based on a real world community, the virtual community will adhere to the same social rules and context.

It is in this light that the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers has established a WEB site, [www.pachiefprobationofficers.org](http://www.pachiefprobationofficers.org).

As of this writing, the site is not on-line, but may be by the time you read this. Like a real world community, it has many of the same features: Home: our 'front door' notes the major sections of the site, and introduces the Council. About Us: read Council history, goals, innovations in the field, officers and links. What's New: a 'newspaper' containing 'Headlines' and 'Hot Topics.' Events Calendar: a list of events of significance to Council. Members Library: a resource of materials to be downloaded. Public Forum: a place for interactive discussion on issues and ideas. PCCJPO Membership: a directory of members by name and by county. Please stop by, check us out and say 'hello'.

### *Wetlands, continued from page 4*

community service through the Juvenile Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Butler County's Balanced and Restorative Justice Program. BARJ Coordinator Angela Lamberto and probation officer Susan Daugherty are supervising the project.

Juvenile court is working alongside Quality Aggregates and Aquascape, two local companies from the Boyers area which help harvest and transplant wetlands plants, provide environmental support, and build filtration devices. The youth, who range in age from 14 to 17, transplant wetlands plants from state game lands, with Game Commission approval, and nearby sites, putting them into a "finishing wetlands." This wetlands, along with filtration devices built by several local companies, helps filter out acid drainage that seeps from

hillsides where mines were once located. This "cleaned water" then flows into Murrin Run, a stream at the headwaters of the Slippery Rock Creek.

The Slippery Rock Creek is used by some communities for drinking water. With all the acid mine drainage in the area of the Slippery Rock Watershed, fish and other wildlife find it hard to survive in the creek and its tributaries. Some of the hillside seeps from the mines are so contaminated that the water appears as a dark rust color before it goes through elaborate filtration.

Lamberto and Daugherty initiated juvenile court's involvement, and have been participating in the project since June. They report the youth not only enjoy the work, they are learning what it takes to clean up the environment and maintain it, and how all facets of the ecosystem work together. Juvenile court, the Girl Scouts, and other members of the community hope to participate in other restoration projects in the nearby area.

In addition to the wetlands, there are also nest boxes for ducks on the site and a bat haven. The site serves as a major environmental teaching tool for local high schools, colleges and universities, and anyone who has an interest in reclaiming former mining properties. Growing Greener grants largely fund the project. Additional grants have supplied funding for equipment for the youth such as boots, bug spray, and sun block, three must-haves in the muddy and hot wetlands area.

The wetlands project is just one of many of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, a volunteer group whose members have installed water treatment systems which treat more than 500 million gallons of mine drainage each year, preventing 150 tons of iron and 190 tons of acid from entering streams.



*Rehabbing, continued from page 5*

to do more,” said Vickie Innes, executive director for Humanity in Delaware County, explaining how the construction partnership began.

This is the seventh house that Habitat for Humanity has done in the county, she said. The youths, who are not being identified because they are juvenile offenders, also spent time last week grading the yard of a fire damaged rowhouse—another house being rehabbed by Habitat for Humanity in the Highland Gardens section of the city.

Juveniles will again work on the McCommonses house on West Ninth Street in August, Muchetti said.

As she stood in front of the porch of the 90-year-old twin home, Debbie Kain, a juvenile probation officer, said having the teens work in their community is good for them. “They can drive by and say, ‘I helped,’” she said. The house, which had its original plumbing and appliances, is being totally redone, Drumsta said. For the 17-year-old from Booythwyn, who wore a red construction hat as he hammered away on the second floor, “It’s something I could get interested in. It keeps me motivated. I have something to do.”

The youth, who said he had committed other juvenile offenses, was ordered to perform 24 hours of community service for assault, he said. Another 17-year old, who had previously cleaned up parks as part of his community service said, “I like this better because the probation officers work with you. They keep me motivated.”

Muchetti added that the staff also gets to “see the kids in a different light” and see more of their personalities.

Fred Pickett, who heads the Juvenile Court’s Chester community service program and is the boys’ basketball coach at Chester High said, “It lets the children see firsthand what hard work is all about. Maybe some will find this work suitable for them to get involved in. Hard work is rewarding when done the right way.” He added, “It’s great for the community. It’s rebuilding a house that was run down. You’re helping to put a family on its feet.”

A 17-year-old youth from Middletown Township, who said he was ordered to do the community service for a driving-under-the-influence charge, agreed. “It’s not just cleaning up the streets.”

## David Hartman appointed Chief in Armstrong County

**O**n July 1, 2001, David Hartman was appointed by the Honorable Joseph A. Nickleach, President Judge, as the new Chief Probation Officer for Armstrong County Adult and Juvenile Probation Services. He replaces Larry Lorigan, who recently resigned that position.

Mr. Hartman is a graduate of Indiana University, having earned both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in Criminology. His first employment in the field of juvenile justice was in the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice where he was responsible for intake and supervision. Hartman spent three years with that department before accepting a job with the probation department in his hometown of Armstrong, Pennsylvania, in 1977. His initial responsibilities in Armstrong County included engaging communities and community mentors for referred youth through a diversion program operated by the court. Hartman was a supervisor for the department prior to his appointment to the Chief Probation Officer position.

Hartman views his appointment as an opportunity to impact the probation system in Armstrong County. He is looking forward to providing effective leadership and to working with a great staff. He hopes to help them utilize their skills and enjoy their work.

David Hartman and his wife live in Armstrong County. They have two successful, grown daughters.

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