

# HRC NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 6, Issue 5

May 2010

## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER IS ....

The Employee Recognition Committee recently awarded Mike Valenzuela, Youth Counselor I, the distinction of Employee of the Quarter for April, May and June 2010. Mike received the award amongst his peers during a Youth Counselor Meeting in April.

The nomination submitted contained the following remarks: "Mike does a great job helping youth who are struggling on a daily basis. He provides time to sit and talk with them during times they are upset or angry. Mike

is always willing to be helpful and listens to staff concerns about a youth. He then will meet with the youth and monitor them to assure they are doing ok. He takes the extra step to make them feel comfortable. Mike is someone I feel I can get to assist me with a troubled youth."

Mike's supervisor shared the following, "Mike has been in the program for 8 months. Mike is always professional in his interactions and is a positive role model for the staff and youth he serves. Welcome to the team and great job on the recogni-



tion!"  
Congratulations, Mike!



## ALWAYS READY TO HELP! BY CORINNE JENSEN

In addition to her tasks with payroll, Diann Schmidt has been a valuable resource for so many employees. During Open Enrollment, it was not unusual for a question to come up, and who would we call? Diann. When we lost the email address for

Wellness Options, who did we call? Diann. If we were uncertain of how to complete on-line enrollment, Diann held our hand. These are just a few of the situations that Diann has handled lately, but we just couldn't forget to say

**THANK YOU** for your patience and understanding when we couldn't figure it out. There wasn't a time when she wasn't pleasant or willing to stop what she was doing to look something up. We greatly appreciate all you have done to assist us during Open Enrollment.

OPEN  
ENROLLMENT  
ENDS  
5-14-10  
@ 5:00pm  
DON'T MISS  
OUT!



## SPRINGTIME CLEANUP BY MARJ COLBURN

Spring has arrived, and most of us are outside, cleaning up our yards, working in flower beds and taking care of outdoor things that need to be addressed following our wonderful winter of cold and snow. It's time for us to start sprucing up HRC as well. The Maintenance staff is working hard on the lawns, weed control, getting flowerbeds put back together and replanting where needed. We are in the process of getting some of the dead and dying trees on campus removed.

We also need to be looking at the interior of the buildings. We have had a lot of gang-involved youth, and there are taggings springing up in the bathrooms and hallways. It isn't looking very nice in some of those areas. As a facility, we need to be sure that the environment reflects the quality of the work we do with the youth. Some of the writings on the walls don't reflect well on the program, or on our ability to manage the youth. Youth are assigned to teams, and staff are responsible for the whereabouts of the youth on their team. We need to know where the youth are and what they are doing in order to keep them and others safe.

We are in a window of opportunity for Joint Commission to arrive for a survey. Joint Commission no longer gives notice that they will be arriving at the facility for the survey – they are unannounced surveys. We aren't going to have a lot of time to spruce things up once the surveyors are on campus.

At this point, we have closed some restrooms until Maintenance has

the area painted to cover the graffiti. Once they are open, it will be staff responsibility to check bathrooms prior to the youth using them and when the youth leave the area to be sure that there is no graffiti in the area. We need to hold the youth accountable for their actions in the program and stop the tagging.

One of the reasons the tagging goes on in hallways is that the youth are not staying with staff. We must be assertive with them and remind them they must stay with staff and not run ahead. Continued problems with that can be addressed by the YCs and Learning Committee.

It's going to take all of us to help with this issue. If you see youth in the building who don't appear to have any staff with them, we need to stop them and ask where their staff person is and have them wait until staff is with them. If you see graffiti in areas, be sure and let Heather, Russ or Sherry know so we can work on that area when the youth are completing Community Service. If there are walls that are looking rather beaten up or shabby, let Jim or Gary know that there is an area that could use some work. Again, it's an opportunity for the youth to work on some Community Service.

Remember when HRC was in the newspaper and described as "antiquated, decrepit, and run-down"? Keeping the interior of the buildings looking good and reflecting all of the positive remodeling that has been completed deflects

some of that criticism. We need to work together to keep the youth safe and accounted for and manage the environment in which they live and we work. We have the reputation of being a good, solid substance abuse program for the youth. We want to look that way environmentally too. First impressions are important, and we want others to know we take the work we do with the youth very seriously and that the environment supports our mission.

*HJCDP redirects the lifestyles of the young men in our custody and promotes skills to live substance free and successful lives.*

### MAY RECOGNITION DAYS

May 2–8 National Teachers Week

May 6–12 National Nurses Week

May 9 Mother's Day

May 13 A special event will be held. Stay tuned for details at 2:40pm.

May 15 National Chocolate Chip Day

May 31 Memorial Day

**Thanks to the Employee Wellness Committee for motivating us and providing snacks on Walk at Work Day!**

**Thank you Employee Diversity Committee for the chips & salsa on Cinco De Mayo!**

## NEW EMPLOYEES BY BETH BARTELL



Shannon Peterson, afternoon shift MHSS II with HJCDP, has a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Hastings College. Shannon's work

experience includes that of a Child & Family Services Specialist in Hastings with Region III. Shannon has four dogs to keep her busy, a Great Dane, English Mastiff, Boxer and a Chihuahua.



Kay Waters joins the afternoon MHSS II team in HJCDP. Kay has a Bachelors degree in Social Work from Bethel College in Newton, Kansas. Recently, Kay

worked at Crossroads in Hastings. Kay has three teenage children. She loves gardening in the summer, and cans garden vegetables for her family. Kay likes to attend HHS football home games where she can watch her daughter lead cheers.

Please join us in welcoming Kay and Shannon to HRC!

## WANTED

**Cake mixes and frosting or powdered sugar** for the youth's birthdays. Contact Sherry Block @ 3260

**Chess games.** Contact Sherry Block @ 3260.

## RUMMAGE SALE

**Doniphan Village Annual Rummage Sale. List available at Pump and Pantry in Doniphan.** Shop at 202 N. 2nd Street in Doniphan on Saturday, June 5, 8:00am—4:00pm. Lots of women's clothing size 18W—24W for all seasons; men's clothing xl; jewelry, books, chair massager, luggage, DVD player and so much more. More information contact Wanda Yoachim @ 3161.

## HRC IMPROVEMENTS COMING BY LINDA WEBER

Our campus looks so pretty and green – Welcome Spring! The maintenance staff has already been hard at work sprucing up the great HRC outdoors. They're mowing, picking up branches, cutting branches, cleaning gutters, cleaning up winter sand and gravel, and it all shows! Thank you for all your hard work.

You will be seeing some other needed work around campus that has been approved and money budgeted. A Tree Service will be

coming to HRC to cut down the dead trees and do some more tree trimming. At last count, some eighty trees will be getting some needed attention.

The entrance into HRC will be undergoing some concrete repair. Goodbye potholes! There will also be sidewalk repair around campus, but especially around Building 3. The plan is to include a new sidewalk from the south parking area to the side entrance. The concrete projects are out on bid and waiting

for the contract to be signed.

HRC is also planning to update the existing cameras/recorders in Building 3. These will provide more coverage of the units and the cafeteria. This project is out for bids.

The front of Building 3 will also receive a little "curb appeal" attention. Thanks for your suggestions! It was decided to put a couple pots of flowers down where the steps begin and a wreath above in the big window. Campus is looking good!

## THE NEW TOOL SHED ROOM BY JEAN LUTHER

At home, we have junk drawers, garages and/or tool sheds to keep those items that we need once in a while but have no "home" for. Sometimes we need a screwdriver or items for contraband searches. And what about those times when we need a wet vac?

Now we have a room on the ground floor corridor of the

housekeeping wing. The Youth Counselors and Night Supervisors have access to this area. Room 035 is labeled "TOOL SHED".

The room contains the basic tools like screwdrivers, various types of pliers and a hammer. There is also a container with items for contraband searches on the units consisting of telescoping lighted

mirrors and flexible grabbers. There are two shop vacs, one for wet pick-up and one for dry.

So when you're in need of a specific tool or shop vac, think TOOL SHED room for the items you need. And of course, just like home, please place the items you use back in the room when you're finished with them.

## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

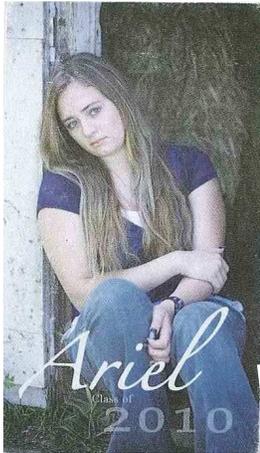
Whether it's pre-school, kindergarten, high school or college, graduation leads to another step in life. Employees were invited to share their achievements. We are happy to share the following photos and stories that were received.

Kellsie Sedlak, daughter of Lisa and Allen Sedlak, graduated from Adams Central High School May 9. She plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan this fall, majoring in Biology.



Working .90 FTE and going to school full time for a year is a challenge! Suzanne Swanson, MHSS II found out she had only four classes left to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Relations. She went

back and completed the classes in December and will receive her degree this month. She now has a Bachelor degree and an Associates of Arts degree.



**Ariel Woodard** niece of Ruth and Gary Jeremias graduated from Adams Central High School on May 9.

Katie Yuede, granddaughter of Ruth and Gary Jeremias, graduates in June from Boonetrail Middle School in Wentzville Missouri.



**Sarah Schrock** granddaughter of Ruth and Gary Jeremias received her high school diploma from Medicine Valley.



Kay Evans' son, **Adam Koertner**, (at left) made Major in the Air Force on April 21, 2010, the day he landed near Saudia.

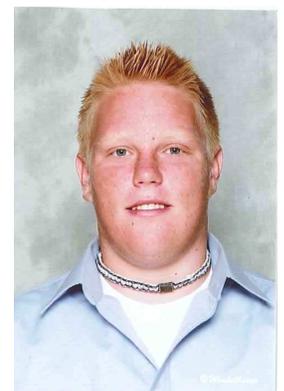


**Brendan Nierman** grandson of Ruth and Gary Jeremias graduated from Harvard High School May 9.

**Abby Schrock** granddaughter of Ruth and Gary Jeremias graduates from Hawthorne and will enter Jr. High in the fall.



**Nate Schrock** grandson of Ruth and Gary Jeremias was recently confirmed, graduated from Jr. High, and was selected by the Rotary Club as the 2010 Most Improved Student.



**Britney Jensen**, daughter of Corinne & Dean Jensen will graduate from Hastings College with an Elementary Education degree with endorsements in Special Education and Early Childhood Development.

***Congratulations!***

### OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES KEEP EVERYONE BUSY



MPH Track Manager, Ken Brown tells youth about the pit area.



Grant Johnson and Marnie Atkins supervise a landscaping project at the Prairie Loft Education Center.



Sherry Block (above) and Sue Callan (below) help youth scrape paint at the Prairie Loft Center.



State vans bear down on the race track as they near the finish line at Motorsport Park Hastings (MHP).



When the youth are on a break from school, Sherry is responsible for finding appropriate, safe and alternative activities for the youth to participate in. Helping at the Prairie Loft Center provides the youth an opportunity to gain Community Service hours and enjoy the outdoors. Staff supervising the youth also use the time to interact with the youth while having some fun.

Sherry tries to keep the events fun, yet within the guidelines of maintaining boundaries and safety.

It's a team effort to make it a success!



(Left) Greg Zoucha was fearless on the pitcher's mound. His high lob wasn't bad either.

**Next school break is  
June 22—July 1 2010 !**



Heather Sidders at bat, "back up out field!"

### **Savory Chicken Squares** from the Kitchen of Carolyn Johnson

Blend: 3 oz. Cream Cheese, 2 Tbsp. Butter and mix together well. Set aside

2 cups Cooked Chicken cut into small chunks

¼ tsp. salt

2 tbsp. milk + 1/8 tsp milk

1 tbsp. chives or onions finely chopped

1 tbsp. pimento chopped

Combine everything with cream cheese mixture.

Shape and prepare Crescent Rolls into four squares. Put ¼ cup of mixture on each square. Bring corners together and seal. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with bread crumbs and seasoned salt.

Bake on ungreased cookies sheet for 20-25 minutes in a pre heated oven at 350 degrees.

Makes 4 servings. **Carolyn challenges Marlene Petr to share a recipe in the June issue.**

### **HRC EDITORIAL BOARD**

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It is the policy of the Editorial Board to attempt to print any article that does not attack another person. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit articles for size & content.

AA/EOE/ADA

### **Marinated Teriyaki Chicken** from the Kitchen of Suzanne Swanson

1 (6 ounce) can pineapple juice

1/4 cup vegetable oil

1/4 cup soy sauce

3 tablespoons brown sugar

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves or Smart Chicken tenders

In a medium bowl, mix the pineapple juice, vegetable oil, soy sauce, brown sugar, garlic powder, and pepper. Place chicken in the bowl, and coat with the mixture. Cover, and marinate in the refrigerator at least two hours. Preheat the oven broiler. Place chicken on a baking sheet. Broil 5 minutes on each side in the preheated oven, or until no longer pink and juices run clear. Discard remaining marinade. This is also good prepared on the grill. **Suzanne challenges Heather Sidders to share a recipe.**

## **NATIONAL TEACHERS WEEK** BY CHERI DELAY

The first week in May of each year is designated as Teacher Appreciation Week to honor the outstanding teachers who are a part of our lives for the excellent work they do with our youth. The teachers and principal of the Nebraska Youth Academy on our campus are such outstanding educators. HRC is lucky to have this fine group of professionals who have over 183 years of experience!

When you have a chance, please express to them your appreciation for their being a special part of our HJCDP program.



Front row, left to right: Teresa Brown and Kris Sorensen. Back row, left to right: Dave Baisinger (Principal), Karen Newcomb, Lynn Coates, Kelsey Johnson and Richard Johnson. Not pictured: Kay Evans and Phil Parker,



## Memorial Day Trivia by Carolyn Brown

This game was created to sharpen your knowledge of facts related to Memorial Day. Be the first employee to submit your response to Corinne Jensen by email with all the answers correct, and you'll receive a prize. **Good luck!**

1. What day in May is Memorial Day celebrated?
  - a. Last Thursday in May
  - b. First Tuesday in May
  - c. Last Monday in May
2. Where was the first "official" Memorial Day observed?
  - a. Charleston, South Carolina
  - b. Washington, DC
  - c. Waterloo, New York
3. What is one of the longest standing traditions which has been held in conjunction with Memorial Day since 1911?
  - a. Indianapolis 500
  - b. Arizona Rodeo Days
  - c. Washington DC Apple Blossom Festival
4. Which community was proclaimed in 1966 by the U.S. government as the birthplace of Memorial Day?
  - a. Bunker Hill, Massachusetts
  - b. Waterloo, New York
  - c. Arlington, Virginia
5. Memorial Day originated with another name. What was it?
  - a. Honor Day
  - b. Old Soldiers' Day
  - c. Decoration Day
6. Since the end of World War I, Memorial Day is also called which of the following?
  - a. Armed Forces Day
  - b. Poppy Day
  - c. Military Day
7. Why is General John Alexander Logan important to the celebration of Memorial Day?
  - a. He is the first officially documented casualty in a war.
  - b. He ordered that the holiday be observed by decorating the graves of the war dead.
  - c. He was the first to place a wreath at the Grave of the Unknowns.
8. In which war did the most U.S. service people die?
  - a. The Civil War
  - b. World War I
  - c. World War II
9. For which war was the draft started in U.S.?
  - a. Civil War
  - b. WWI
  - c. WWII
10. Who was the U.S. President during WWI?
  - a. Wilson
  - b. Hoover
  - c. McKinnley