

# The Acclaim

Arkansas Community Correction

Volume 1 - Issue 1

September 2013

## New Director takes the helm

When the Board of Correction in July named Sheila Sharp as director of DCC, it was a homecoming of sorts for her. Those who have been with the agency for years will remember that she was here, too. In fact, she was DCC's first administrative services administrator.

After three years at DCC, Sharp returned to the Office of Budget and then moved to the Department of Correction where she logged 15 years as Deputy Director of Administrative Services, which includes human resources, budget, purchasing, payroll and training.

In all, Sharp has logged more than 35 years in service to the state. Her career began in 1976 at Parks and Tourism in the lowest secretarial position that

(Continued on Page 4)



**Sheila Sharp**  
DCC Director

## Farming down South gives new life to all

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Hope Drug Court Counselor Teresa Pribilski and her Drug Court clients have taken on a farming project that includes growing crops and selling those crops - all for a common goal. Here is their story as told by Teresa.*

**By Teresa Pribilski**  
Counselor, Hope Drug Court - Area 12

How did I ever get here - in Hope, Arkansas, singing the "Green Acres" theme song (both parts) at least four times a week?

For a little background: I was born in Paris, France and I have lived in such rural areas as Columbus, Ohio; San Antonio, Texas; Dallas, Texas; Wichita Falls, Texas;

and various parts of Europe. Not a real resume' builder for any type of gardening much less farming. There are four parts to this story which at the time seemed so disconnected from each until they all came together.

The first part is about wanting to impart some nutritional information to my clients in the Hope Drug Court - one in particular.

The second part is a lady named Sandy Martin.

Then there is my involvement with our local Hometown Health Coalition.

The final piece is the Amtrak train that is now stopping in Hope.

(continued on Page 4)

Kim Knoll,  
Area 11 Area  
Manager, and  
Amanda  
Cliff-Jordan,  
Area 12 Area  
Manager,  
catch up on  
work while  
waiting for  
an Area  
Managers  
meeting in  
Little Rock.



## Do you have news ...?

Is there anything going on in your area with you or your job that you would like to share?

Send in your news ... your photos ... even write an article about yourself or one of your co-workers.

The Acclaim is a newsletter for you and we want to share your news.

Send all submissions to:  
[rhonda.sharp@arkansas.gov](mailto:rhonda.sharp@arkansas.gov)

## Recognize and work through changes

Change is difficult - it does not matter if the change is good, bad or indifferent, most people have an adjustment period whenever there is change in their life.

That holds true for changes in the workplace as well. There is an adjustment period.

The DCC has undergone tremendous changes in the past month and while researching "tips for dealing with change" I came across an online article by Calvin Sun that had just that - tips for dealing with change - and two are worth noting:

### Recognize the stages

Because reactions to organizational change resemble those to the death of a loved one, many studies on change cite the work of psychologist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, who identified several specific stages in the latter. The early stages include shock and denial (refusing to believe what has happened and instead believing everything will be all right), guilt (at not having done or said more or for not being the decedent), and anger (at the

decedent or at God). Later, one passes through the stages of acceptance (acknowledging what has happened) and moving on.

With respect to organizational change, an additional "negotiations" stage can occur, in which the affected person offers to work harder as a way of preventing or forestalling the change.

All the stages don't necessarily occur. The progression might not be a smooth linear one, and different amounts of time may be involved with the different stages. Regardless, the quicker you get to the acceptance and moving on stages, the better it will be for you.

### Communicate with others

Communications is always important, but especially so when you face change. A lack of communications from others can have a negative impact, while effective communications can have a positive one. From a purely pragmatic standpoint, you need details about the change, so that you can

determine how it affects you. Don't just sit back and wait for things to happen. Talk to your boss, your boss's boss, and your co-workers to get their understanding. When dealing with co-workers, however, be aware that news can be distorted and can be mixed with rumor.

Part of the fear of change involves dealing with the unknown. If possible, try to minimize this factor by talking to others who have undergone such a change. What difficulties did they experience and how did they deal with them? How can you adapt their experiences to your own situation? As the philosopher Santayana said, "Those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it."

Your communications should involve more than just people in your own department or company. They should involve people in other companies as well. They might have experienced the same change, so their advice has value. They might also serve as contacts should you decide to change jobs.

To read the article in its entirety go to: <http://www.techrepublic.com/blog/10-things/10-tips-for-dealing-with-change-in-the-workplace/>

The Acclaim  
Published Monthly by the  
Arkansas Department of  
Community Correction

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## Kudos to Mississippi County Probation/Parole

Mississippi County Probation and Parole staff were recently recognized in a newspaper article in Blytheville.

Mississippi County Sheriff Dale Cook praised the office when he spoke to the Blytheville Courier News earlier this month regarding the disappearance of an 11-year-old Gosnell child.

In addressing the help of local law enforcement in locating the child (who was found deceased), Cook noted that the situation was difficult, "but he would like to extend his special thanks to all of the agencies who helped in the search" for the child.

The staff at the Mississippi County Probation and Parole office was one of several other entities of the criminal justice system that Cook praised.

As quoted in the newspaper, "These agencies worked together on this case better than anything I've seen before," said Cook.

## Kudos to CAC from ABA

Anne Laidlaw, Director of the Arkansas Building Authority praised the work of Central Arkansas Center staff in an e-mailed letter:

"I just wanted to thank you (Deputy Director Rick Hart) and Jimmie Zimmerman for what you did to permit Lt. Sammie Owens and his crew to make a move for an ABA tenant yesterday. Lt. Owens' team of 20 guys were so efficient, well-mannered and had a great attitude. We were thrilled with how quickly they completed the move!

"It was projected to take two days but with the flexibility you allowed Lt. Owens, they finished shortly after 4 p.m. yesterday and it was most impressive! Other movers said it would take 2 - 3 days but your crew came in and knocked it out!

"I just can't thank you enough for being so willing to work with us and make this move go so smoothly."

You are cordially invited to attend a  
Retirement reception  
In Honor Of

## Rick Hart

October 4, 2013  
Drop by 2:00-4:00 PM  
Central Arkansas Community Correction Center  
4823 West 7th Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

### Great Dates noted by AACET coming up

**October – PlayTime Pizza (LR)**

**November 9 – UAPB Tailgate Party**

**November 16– ASU Red Wolves Tailgate Party**

**November – Fast Lane Pizza (NWA)**

## Have You Thought About Joining AACET?

The Arkansas Association of Correctional Employees Trust (AACET) is here to assist you during a time of crisis or tragedy.

We encourage you to join the association, not only for your benefit, but to help your co-workers and friends. In the event of an in line of duty death, the association will pay \$10,000 gold, \$7,500 silver, and \$5,000 for bronze. In the event of a crisis or tragedy in your life, spouse, or minor child, the association could help you financially. Assistance for non-members is limited to \$250.

Unfortunately, from time to time we are faced with illnesses, fires, and even deaths. You may file a request for assistance by contacting your Warden, Administrator, Area Manager, or HR representative for an AACET Request Form. They will assist you in completing the form and submitting it to the AACET Board for review. Assistance may be available for members, spouses, or member's minor children.

To join AACET, all you need to do is complete an Employee Membership Form and return by mail to your Central Human Resources office. There are three different levels of membership available: Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Membership dues are payroll deducted, and will be taken out each payperiod. Gold Members will have \$7.50 deducted and receive a monogrammed duffel bag; Silver Members will have \$5.00 deducted and receive a stainless steel cup; and Bronze members will have \$2.00 deducted and receive a badge reel.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Kevin Murphy at [kevin.murphy@aacet.net](mailto:kevin.murphy@aacet.net) or by calling 501-412-2198.

## The "Green Acres" project at the Hope Drug Court

(continued from Page 1)

My nutritional/farming adventure started approximately a year ago at the Health Expo in

Hempstead County. Now bear in mind, this is a Health Expo with more candy and sweets than a candy store.

I, along with several of my clients, watched another Drug Court client feed his two-year-old a steady stream of sugar for at least two hours until the child literally crashed from the sugar rush.

I did say something to the client about so much sugar for one child and she responded, "Ah, she can take more than that."

At that point, I knew that I needed to introduce the clients to the vegetable.

My hope being this would eventually trickle down to the clients bringing home fresh vegetables to their family table. I got really busy juggling bowling balls, a.k.a. typical DCC workday, and this was somehow put on the back burner.

The client and the child became another piece of folklore within our program.

This retelling of the tale did remind me that I really needed to get some type of nutritional program going. I spoke with our local County Extension Agent who was offering ten cooking classes for \$75.00 a person which included a goody bag of kitchen items.

This would have to be something that we could accomplish with a mini grant – not really what I was looking for at the time.

I really wanted to find something hands-on for the clients.

During this entire interval Sandy Martin from Country Girl Natural Health Club, Inc. (a non-profit organization), kept coming in and out of my life for reasons unknown to me at the time. Sandy's mission in life is to open a transitional living center for men in Patmos,

Arkansas.

We had spoken on several occasions about this, and it is definitely needed. During this time, I would meet regularly with our local Hometown Health Coalition who was considering opening a Farmers' Market.

I went to several meetings with Jodi Coffee, coalition president and health guru,

regarding opening a Farmers' Market. From this, I became the Vice President of the Hometown Health Coalition by default. All the while, the clients were talking about going on a train ride now that the Amtrak stops in Hope.

The clients have become so accustomed to me writing mini grants for their special projects,

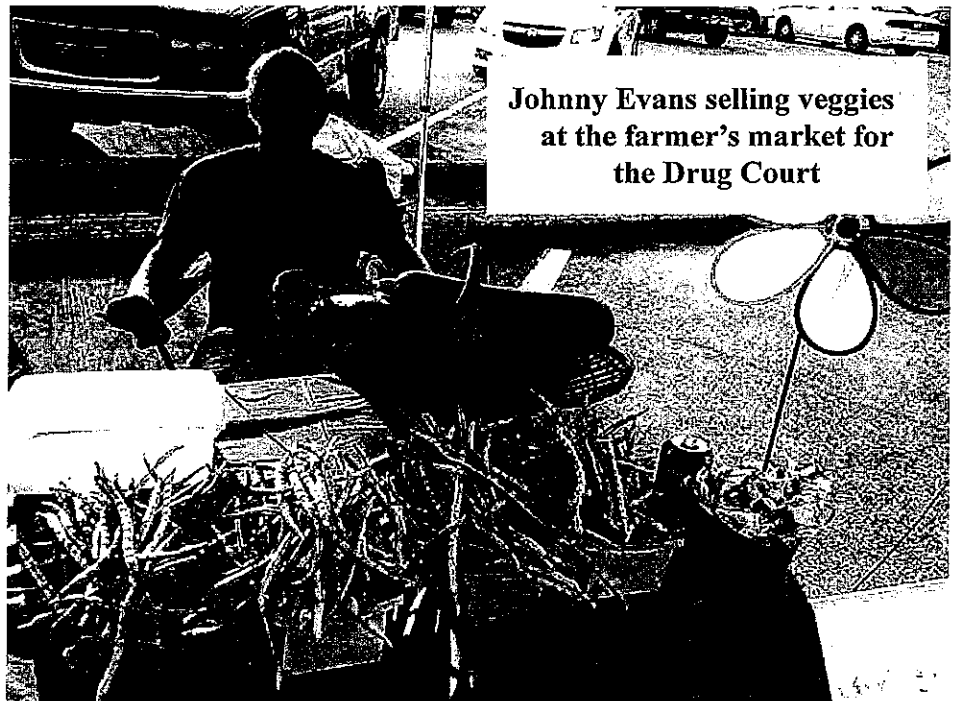
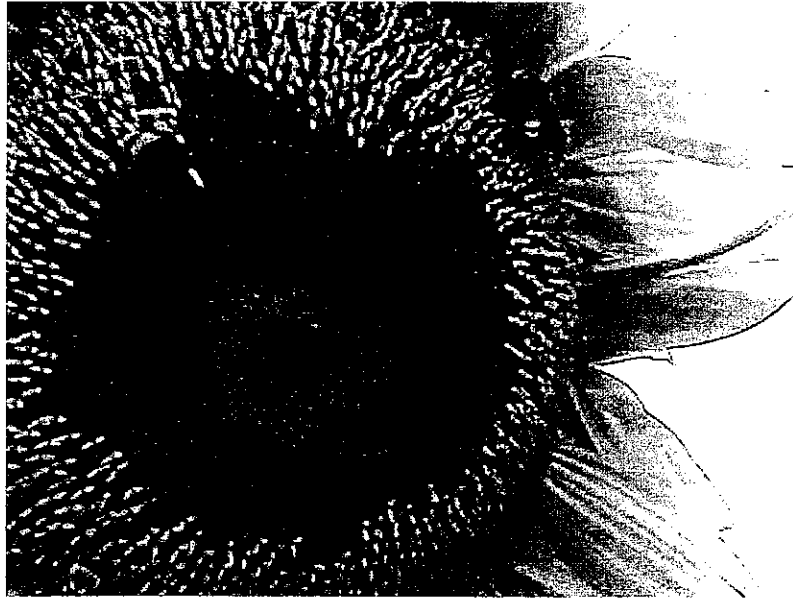
they just assumed that I would write one for a train ride.

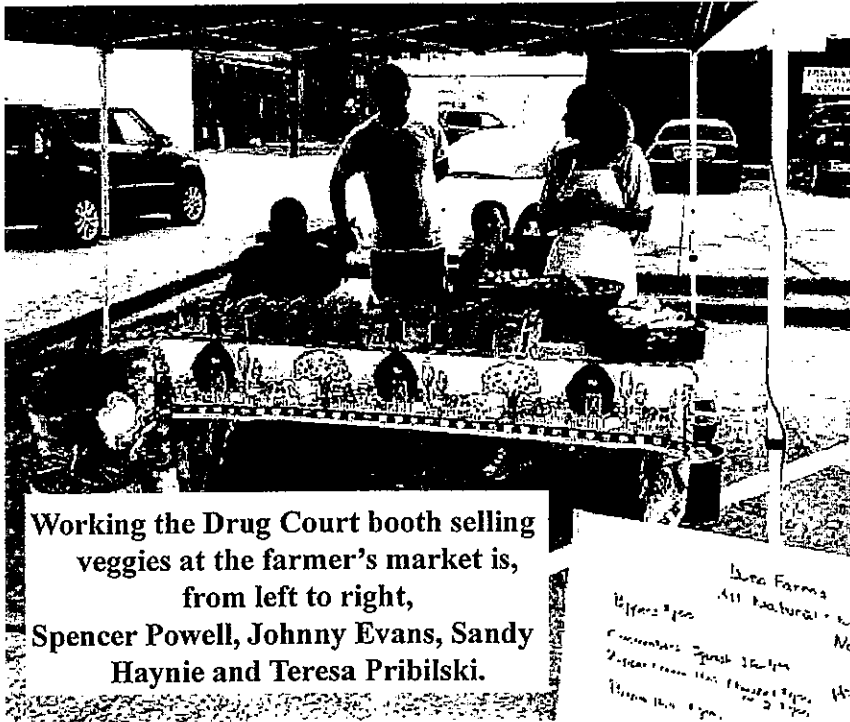
I declined their offer for me to pen another mini grant. I informed them they would have to come up with a way to earn the money for the train trip to Dallas.

Then it all came together like it was supposed to be that way the whole time.

Sandy and I decided it would be a great opportunity for the clients to do some community service at the farm as there are vegetables there.

The first time I saw the "garden" I was a little taken back to say the least. The "garden" has one seven





acre plot, five satellite gardens, a greenhouse (compete with air conditioning), and a 70x 30 foot hoop house sitting on 118 acres.

I also was suspicious as I had never seen a "garden" where tractors were involved. Maybe in Arkansas, this is a "garden" but in the rest of the world this is called a "farm."

It became immediately clear that this city girl was about to have a learning experience. In this rural area, my clients are used to farming, gardening, taking care of livestock, killing their dinner, etc...

Oh, did I mention it is an organic farm so there are no shortcuts ever!!!

**NO FERTILIZER, NO PESTICIDES, NO CHEATING.**

By this time, our Drug Court was already helping with the Farmers' Market as far as setting up and taking down. What a great fit for the Farmers' Market and a chance for them to raise some funds for their train ride.

The clients harvest what they want for themselves and the rest goes to the Farmers' Market.

Initially, the clients did not take anything home. Slowly with their exposure to the vegetable, they started to take home some of the produce. My plan had worked!!! Objective achieved!!! We work

the farm twice a week and have expanded to two Farmers' Markets. This means, I am loading and unloading the old Farm to Market 2004 Dodge Stratus, a.k.a. the Farm Car, at 5:30 four mornings a week.

We have been approached by several restaurants as well as another Farmers' Market to sell to them directly. Maybe next year, because I just figured out what a butterbean is all about. I did not think we were ready for such a rapid expansion.

These are some of the other things I figured out as well while working with my Drug Court clients in the garden:

\* Squash is the Freddy Krueger of the vegetable world as it will never die and just keeps coming back.

\*A conversation with your row partner does not have to be about anything at all and still be about everything.

\*There is money in vegetables with us averaging about \$150 a week for our program. Organic is where it's at.

\*Just when you thought farming was over, it's time to plant for next year.

\*An old Kubota tractor's parts and labeling are in Japanese and I took German in high school.

\*One of my male clients knows all the words to every Brittany

Spears song ever written and sings them with pride as evidently this is some type of chick magnet device.

\*Through this project, my clients have become part of a bigger community and actually enjoy it.

\*One healthy decision, like eating vegetables, can change many things.

\*One of my clients just finished his first 5K run with us being his sponsor.

\*If you work on a farm, you can cancel your gym membership.

\*Every community has programs/projects which will allow your program to gain sustainability instead of always having to hustle for funding.

\*Everyone seems to have benefited from the Vegetable Project. The clients have access to free healthy foods.

One of the clients is moving to the farm to help manage it. Three clients are working very hard towards getting the farm USDA certified organic – the process has begun. The Farmers' Market has consistent help with whatever arises and there are a lot of whatevers on any given day. The clients have been re-engaging with their community via a unique project. With all the help, Sandy is expanding the "garden" plus adding free range chickens and hogs. Sandy also has a fully equipped restaurant she no longer uses.

The clients are beginning to visualize an organic restaurant. In the future, there seems to be the potential for client employment opportunities.

No matter what does or does not happen, we achieved our goal of providing access to fresh reasonably priced produce to not only our clients and their families but also to the community.

Any produce left over is donated to the Senior Citizen's Center, Darlena Brown's transitional living house, churches, and local food pantries.





## Two new officers named as agent in Area 7

### Natalee Jones

I have always had a passion for working in the criminal justice system. I graduated with a BS in Criminal Justice from UALR in 2007 and began my career as a parole officer with DCC in February 2008. In August 2010, I started graduate school at UALR and will have my master's degree in Social Work in May 2014.

My interest in criminal justice is based on my desire to help others. I strive to give 110% in everything that I do. One of my favorite quotations by Gandhi is, "You must be the change that you wish to see in the world." I try to apply this philosophy to everything that I do, especially at DCC. I want to be an example to others, and this is part of what being an agent means to me. Being an agent is a huge honor and accomplishment for me. An agent is someone who is always willing to help a co-worker in the interest of teamwork. An agent is someone who is willing to go the extra mile to help the offender. An agent is someone that others look to for advice and assistance - is someone that a supervisor can always count on to get the job done - someone that is dependable, reliable, and a role model for others. I am proud to say that I am finally an agent.

### Julius Jones

Becoming an Agent was a goal I've had since my transition to a Parole Officer. I believe being an Agent will definitely open the window for other opportunities for growth within DCC that I humbly look forward to.

I received my BA in Criminal Justice from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. I received both my MA in Management and Leadership, and my MA in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University in Little Rock.

Prior to joining DCC, I was a Juvenile Probation Officer for Jefferson County Juvenile Court. I've been with DCC since 2009. I began my career with DCC as a Drug Court Advisor in Area 10, Benton Office. In 2010, I transferred to Area 7, North Little Rock as a Sex Offender Specific Parole Officer.

In March of 2011, I changed positions and became the Sex Offender Aftercare Coordinator for Central Arkansas area. I have enjoyed working with sex offender parolees because they are a very interesting offender population and challenging, while rewarding at the same time because there is never a dull moment.

## Do you know how to answer the telephone?

Do you really know how to answer a ringing telephone.

Of course you do - have you not been doing so for most of your life.

It rings and you punch a button, lift a receiver - or whatever it takes to open the line - and you say hello.

From there a conversation ensues.

That works beautifully when you are answering a personal telephone - not so beautifully when you are answering a business/agency telephone.

In fact - hello does not work at all when you are answering a business/agency telephone.

Answering a telephone simply with "hello" or "DCC" is not working.

New agency Director Sheila Sharp is working hard to see that this agency is perceived to be professional, competent and caring and that impression is not being conveyed by how many of us are answering the telephone.

The proper way to answer is simple -

"DCC - this is (your name) - how may I help you" or "DCC - this is (your name) - how may I direct your call?"

Another acceptable telephone response would be -

"Good morning, (or afternoon) - DCC - this is (your name) - how may I help you."

It might take a second or two longer than simply saying hello, but it is worth the effort.

We only have seconds to make that first impression and once it is made, it is hard to change.

Some other tips for answering business/agency phones were noted in an About.com web page on small business telephone etiquette:

- *Answer all incoming phone calls before the third ring.*

And I will add - if you can. Those days of me running to grab a ringing telephone are over. I hope to reach one in time, but if I don't, I hope they leave a message.

- *When you answer the phone, be warm and enthusiastic. Your voice on the phone is sometimes the only impression of your company a caller will get.*

Studies have shown that what you are feeling - or the expression you have on your face is echoed in your voice. If you are smiling, then that smile can be heard in your voice when you answer the telephone.

- *Enunciate clearly, keep your voice volume moderate, and speak slowly and clearly when answering the phone, so your caller can understand you easily.*

- *Train your voice and vocabulary to be positive when*

*phone answering, even on a "down" day. For example, rather than saying, "I don't know", say, "Let me find out about that for you."*

- *Don't use a speaker phone unless absolutely necessary. Speaker phones give the caller the impression that you're not fully concentrating on his call, and make him think that his call isn't private. The only time to use a speaker phone is when you need more than one person to be in on the conversation at your end.*

## Tyler named Deputy Director of Communications & Public Relations



After more than a decade as an Arkansas broadcaster and nearly 19 years as an agency spokesperson, Dina Tyler has returned to the Department of Community Correction.

Most recently, she was an assistant director at the Arkansas Department of Correction.

Tyler now serves as DCC's Deputy Director of

Communications and Public Affairs.

Her duties include being the agency's legislative liaison and primary spokesperson.

She actually had those duties at DCC in 1995 and 1996, before being hired by ADC.

"I am very excited about all the possibilities. DCC is on the cutting edge of criminal justice, and I want Arkansas to know that.

"As we change current policies to make information flow more freely, I think the agency will be treated more fairly," said Tyler.

"Updating the release of information policy is job one for me. It's almost done, and

that's a good thing."

Tyler will be heavily involved with the agency's research team and will oversee policy, an area she also supervised at ADC.

"The agency revolves around policy. It's what we must have to keep us safe and on the right track. But those policies must work, not just on paper, but out in the field and in the centers," Tyler said.

"So we are changing how our policies are written so that the people who are guided by the policies actually have input in their development."

Though not specific, Tyler hinted at a remake of the agency's look and image,

"This is a sharp place, filled with sharp professionals. And now is the perfect time for everyone to see that."

## Fives areas see 100% on ACA reaccreditation

By Plato Barnett

ACA Accreditation Manager

ACA conducted one hundred fifty-five panel hearings at the 143 Congress of Corrections.

Of that number only 20 facilities/operations received 100% compliance in every area. Five of the 20 facilities/operations were from DCC. That stat is for those people who think that 100% compliance is easy to obtain.

In truth it takes a lot of hard work to keep repeating 100% compliance, but many take it for granted and never realize the work that goes into maintaining excellence. Photos courtesy of Barnett.



Director Sheila Sharp, Center Supervisor Phyllis Silas and Assistant Director for Residential Treatment Myra Summers-Woolfolk accept an ACA Accreditation certificate for the Southeast Arkansas Center.



Director Sheila Sharp, Center Supervisor Jimmie Zimmerman and Assistant Director for Residential Treatment Myra Summers-Woolfolk accept an ACA Accreditation certificate for the Central Arkansas Center.



Director Sheila Sharp, Center Supervisor Jerry Campbell and Assistant Director for Residential Treatment Myra Summers-Woolfolk accept an ACA Accreditation certificate for the Southwest Arkansas Center.

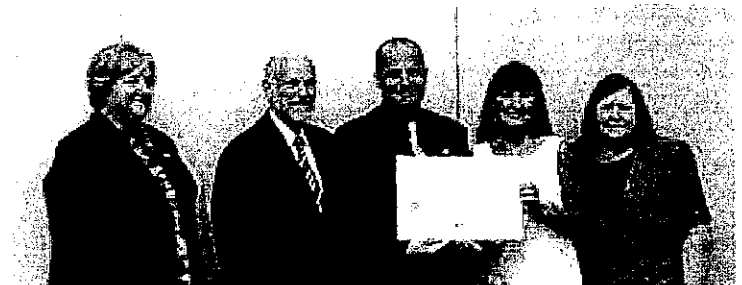
## AAPPA Fall Conference

The AAPPA 2013 Fall Conference will be held October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at The Guest House International Inn and Suites in Fayetteville.

If you happen to take photos, please e-mail them to [rhonda.sharp@arkansas.gov](mailto:rhonda.sharp@arkansas.gov) for inclusion in The ACCLAIM. All photos must be suitable for a family publication - no exceptions.



Director Sheila Sharp, Center Supervisor Dave Johnson and Assistant Director for Residential Treatment Myra Summers-Woolfolk accept an ACA Accreditation certificate for the Northeast Arkansas Center.



Director Sheila Sharp and Former Area Manager Jerry Bradshaw accept an ACA Accreditation certificate for Probation and Parole Services





## News Briefs

from around the state

**Area 12** Teresa Pribilski, Drug Court Counselor, and Karen Tomlin, Career Planning and Placement Specialist, attended the Southwest Arkansas Prevention Taskforce Meeting in Texarkana.

**Area 12** PPO's Tiffany Davenport, Vincent Gamble, Randy Hainen, Lois White, Rodger Mitchell; Administrative Specialists Kathy Combs and Shannon Ballard; SAPL Crystal Brown; and Assistant Area Manager Tomekia Williamson attended a Retirement Celebration for Admin Phyllis Nabors in the Ashdown Office.

**Area 5** AM Carrie Williams, PPOII Pearson, PPOII Jones and DC Advisor Steven Free attended a two-day Drug Endangered Children Course in Ft. Smith

Mary "Prissy" Hickerson, Arkansas State Representative, visited the **Southwest Community Correction Center** in Texarkana on Wednesday, August 28. During her visit she took an extended tour of the facility and spoke with many employees.

**Area 4** AS II Tammy Darnell-Zagala, PPA Ashley Beasley, and AM Cindy Richardson, volunteered at Jonesboro's Annual Red Dress Gala on August 24. The Gala is a benefit to promote awareness about heart disease.

**Area 11** and Institutional Release Services Managers Kim Knoll and Shirley Ellingburg and Assistant Managers Felicia Fisher, Thomas McBroome and

Pam Brown treated the staff to a "Staff Appreciation Potluck" as a token of their appreciation for all they do to make the two offices run smoothly. A good time was had by all.

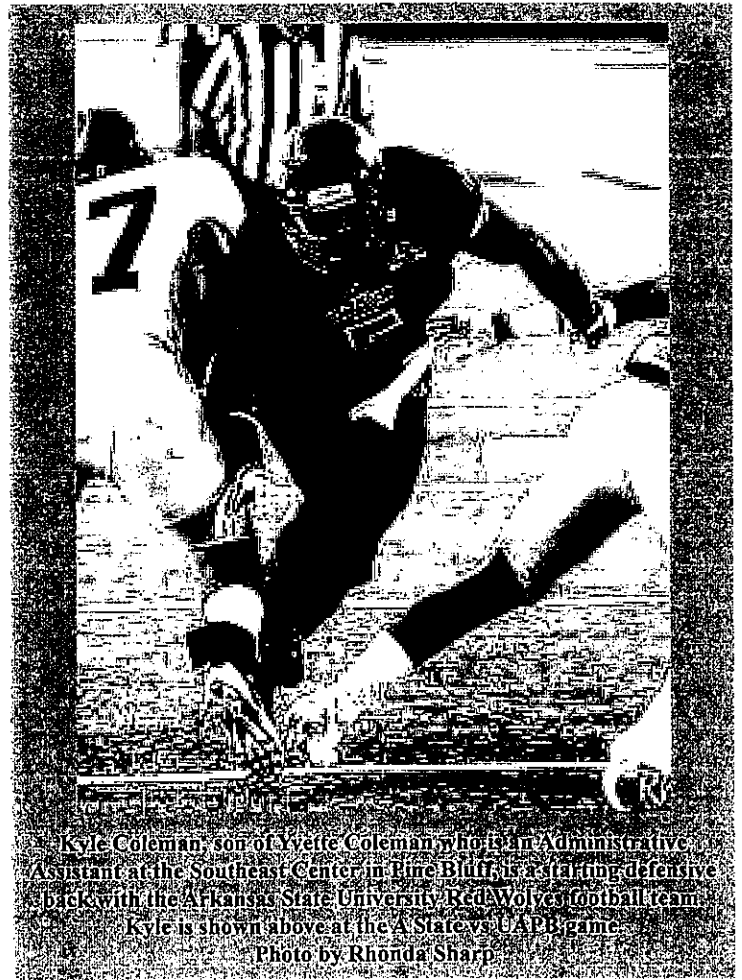
**Area 11** had two new employees start in the month of August – Collin Frierson and Robert McGhee. Both be Officers in the Pine Bluff office.

The **Northwest Arkansas Community Correction Center** in Osceola welcomed Carrie Coan as the new Commissary Manager on August 19<sup>th</sup>

**Area 3** Agent Tara Sharp (Pocahontas) helped organize a fundraiser for Hyperactivity and Prestige Clogging Teams on August 17. The team washed car windows for Sonic customers and raised money to assist with transportation and expenses for the team to attend the National Clogging Competition in Nashville, TN over the Labor Day weekend.

**Area 3** Drug Court Counselor Alison Johnson and PPO Amber Adams (Walnut Ridge) have volunteered to serve on the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Coalition of Lawrence County. The Coalition is a community-based group that works to reduce and prevent drug use and abuse among the youth of Lawrence County. Johnson and Adams assisted in setting up an information booth for the ATOD at the Lawrence County fair in August.

**Area 3** Officer Amanda Thomas (Walnut Ridge) is serving as a



Kyle Coleman, son of Yvette Coleman who is an Administrative Assistant at the Southeast Center in Pine Bluff, is a starting defensive back with the Arkansas State University Red Wolves football team. Kyle is shown above at the A State vs. UAB game.

Photo by Rhonda Sharp

board member for the Evening Shade Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) post # 8042. The VFW serves veterans and the local community in the Evening Shade area. Officer Thomas served this summer by placing flags on all known veterans' grave sites in and around the Sharp County area. She also participated in a community fish fry and assists each month with community cleanup projects.

There were three new hires during the month of August at the **Omega Center** in Malvern: Destini Hale (CO1), Michael Hughes (CO1) and Skyler Smead (CO1)

Jimmie Zimmerman, **Central Arkansas Community Correction Center** Supervisor,

attended the ACA 143rd Conference in Washington, D.C.

Phyllis Callaway-Silas attended the Arkansas State Employees Association Annual Convention in mid-August.

**Area 12** Drug Court Counselor Teresa Pribilski and Karen Tomlin, Career Planning and Placement Specialist, met with Drug Court clients at Old Washington for a community service project – preparing luminaries for the upcoming holiday season.

Gene Walker, Resource and Volunteer Administrator, spoke to the Johnson County Kiwanis Club meeting as well as conducted a radio interview at KXIO in Clarksville.

## New Deputy Director for Residential Services



**Jerry Bradshaw**

Jerry Bradshaw was hired in February 1992 by the Arkansas Department of Correction as a Parole Officer in Little Rock. He worked as a Parole Officer at the Little Rock Parole Office for 9 years until he became the Supervisor of that office in July 2001.

Bradshaw became the Area 6 Probation/ Parole Manager in March 2002.

He is the past 2nd Vice President of the Arkansas Adult Probation and Parole Association and a former member of the Arkansas Adult Probation and Parole Association Board. He has a B.A. from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Bradshaw was named Supervisor of the Year by the DCC in 2006.

Bradshaw notes that he is looking forward to new challenges in his new position.

“I plan to strengthen Community Correction Centers by bridging the gap between Residential Services and Parole/Probation Services.

“I share the vision of our Director of enhancing public safety and I believe that a unified front is the best way to accomplish that,” Bradshaw said.

## New Area Managers for the Little Rock office

### Shawanna Willis



Shawanna Willis will manage Area 7 - which includes probationers in Pulaski and Lonoke Counties.

Willis graduated from

UALR in 2003 with a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. She started as a probation officer with DCC in 2004.

In 2012, she was promoted to Assistant Area Manager in Area 7. She is a member of Arkansas Adult Probation Parole Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Willis also is an ALETA certified firearms instructor.



### Jim Cheek

Degree in Criminal Justice in 1991. He started his career as a Parole Office for the Arkansas Department of Correction in 1992.

He was promoted to Asst. Area Manager in 2002 and Area Manager in 2013. Cheek serves as an Instructor and Firearms Instructor for the Department of Community Correction and is a committee member for ORAS and ACA.

Jim Cheek will manage Area 8 - which includes parolees in Pulaski and Lonoke counties.

Cheek graduated from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock with a

## New Assistant Directors for P&P Services



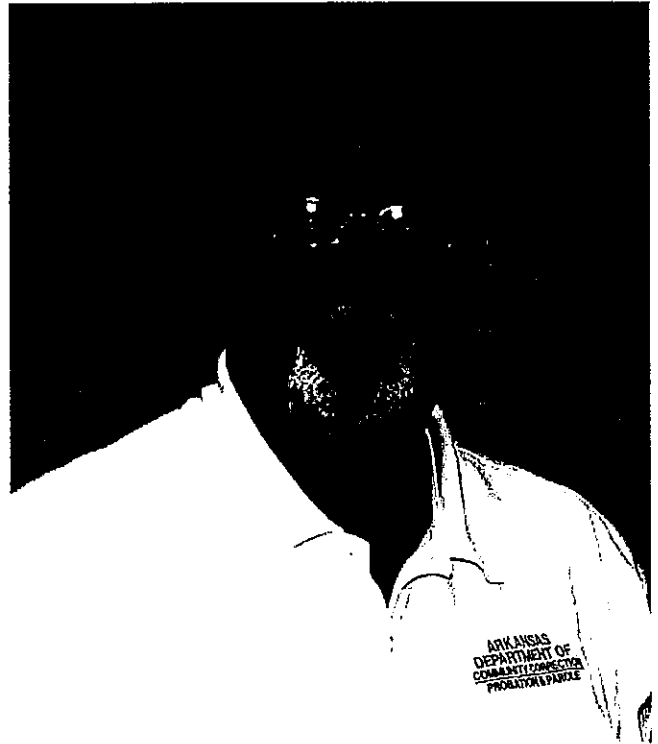
### Elizabeth Taylor

Elizabeth Taylor graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a Masters degree in Criminal Justice in 1992 and started her career as a probation officer for the 6th Judicial District that same year.

Since then she has served as an Intensive Supervision Officer, Assistant Manager and Area Manager of Area 7 and of Area 3.

Taylor currently serves on the law enforcement advisory board for the Metropolitan Career-Technical Center. She was named DCC Supervisor of the Year 2011.

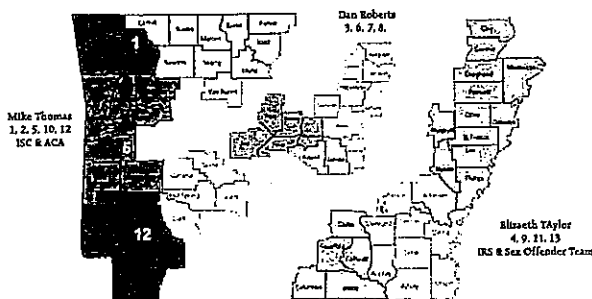
Taylor will oversee Areas 4, 9, 11, 13, IRS and the Sex Offender Team.



### Mike Thomas

Mike Thomas graduated from the University of Arkansas with a BSE degree in 1982. He started his career as a Parole Officer for the Arkansas Department of Correction in 1984. Since then he was promoted to Area Supervisor in September of 1997 and promoted to Area Manager in 2001. Thomas is a past Board Member of the Arkansas Adult Probation Parole Association. He serves as an Instructor and Firearms Instructor for the Agency's Training Academy. Thomas received the Outstanding Service Award in the Field of Parole in September 1996, Supervisor of the year award in 2003 and the Director's Award in 2012.

Thomas will oversee Areas 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, ISC and ACA.



The Area map at left shows the breakdown of Area Supervision starting in September.

Deputy Director Dan Roberts will oversee Areas 3, 7, 8 and 6. Areas 7 and 8 are Little Rock Parole and Probation that was one combined Area prior to September. Mike Thomas will oversee Areas 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, ISC and ACA and Elizabeth Taylor will oversee Areas 4, 9, 11, 13, IRS and the Sex Offender Team.

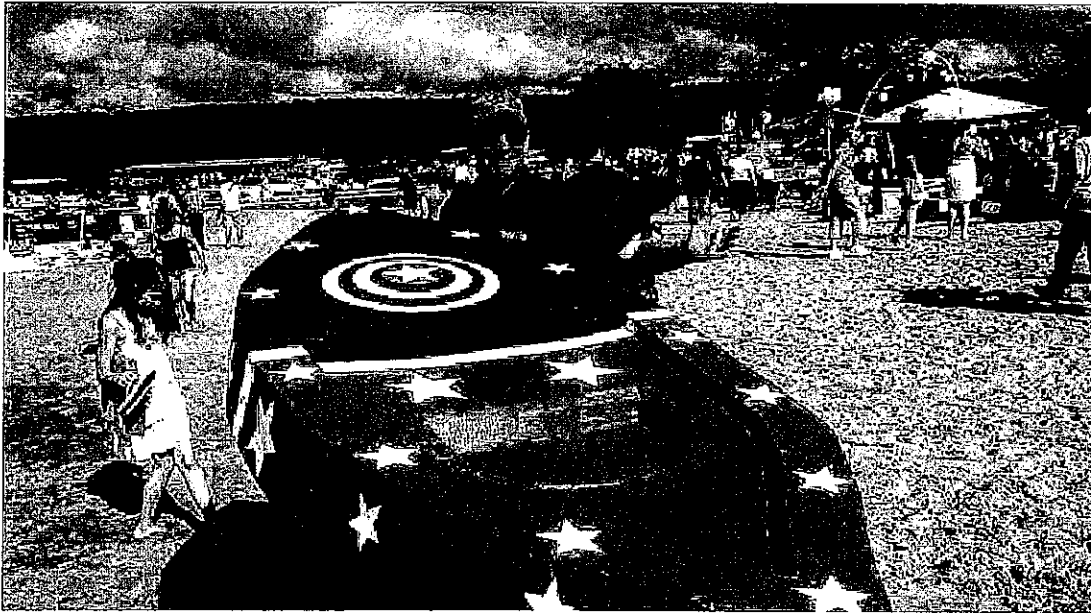
## Area 3 builds a unique boat



The Heber Springs DCC office participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual World Championship Cardboard Boat Races on July 27<sup>th</sup>. DCC staff and community service workers built the boat during the month of July. Both expressed thanks to DCC for being able to participate and for building a boat that did not sink.

At top, left, community service workers work on painting the cardboard boat. Below, at left, is the finished product.

Thanks to Louis Short with the Heber Springs office for the photos.



## Fellowship Breakfast planned at CAC

DCC Staff and CAC Volunteers are invited to attend a Fellowship Breakfast on October 3 beginning at 7 a.m. and ending at 7:45 a.m.

The guest speaker will be Jennifer Hawthorne who has been on staff at Fellowship Bible Church for eight years.

She serves on the Missions Team as a Project Manager and loves getting to see all the various ways God is working in

the city of Little Rock through His people and their ministries.

She is a trained life coach and teaches Woman on a Mission at the DCC unit for women in Pine Bluff, as well as being involved at Hidden Creek, a transition home for ex-offenders.

The breakfast will be held at the Central Arkansas Center, 4823 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Little Rock, AR 72205



## Retired employee recognized

At a recent national Interstate Compact Commission meeting retired DCC employee Mary Scott was nominated for a "Spirit Sighting" by Lois Helker of Colorado.

Spirit Sightings nominate employees who "preserve the spirit of the interstate compact."

Scott's nomination reads:

"The subject is deaf and has no means of support in Colorado, however, her parents live in Arkansas. She first paroled on 05/09/2012, but barely lasted a month before being arrested for being noncompliant. Subject was revoked for 90 days, but spent most of that time in a jail before returning to a DOC Facility.

"That was the first chance the DOC Case Manager could discuss a better plan for her. The Case Manager only had a week to get this Transfer Request submitted to the parents, then Subject paroled homeless 09/12/2012. Subject reported to the parole office, but she was very upset and afraid. She refused to leave the office to be placed in a motel.

"This complicated the communication process even more. Colorado submitted RRI's to Arkansas explaining the situation. In the spirit of the compact, Mary Scott granted the RRI's and we were able to place this offender on a bus to Arkansas and she will be met there by her parents. Subject should be successful in her parole with the support of her parents."

More nominations can be read at:<http://www.interstatecompact.org/Tools/SpiritNominations/tabid/378/newsid1046/301/mid/1046/Default.aspx>



## October 2013

### October 1

Tijuna Richardson  
Brenda Warhurst  
Tonia Word

### October 2

Carla Hollinshed  
Michelle Martinez

### October 3

Brenda Goodman  
Janice Jones  
Amber Ryan  
Kyona Stubbs  
Jessica Teeter

### October 4

Jessica Blasingame  
Michele Nash  
Tammula Scott  
Orrivle Thomas

### October 5

Michael Howell

### October 6

Douglas Beliew  
Barry Garland  
Shrikant Mandapaty  
Edit McDay  
Kenni McEntire  
Kara Simmons  
Lisa Tillman

### October 7

Anita Collie  
Jeremy Green  
Rolanda Haynes  
Carol McFerran

### October 8

Stacey Brunson  
Casheba Christopher  
Jerry Martin  
Ken Ogden  
Wendy Phillips  
Kevin Trigg

### October 9

Daisy Barnes  
Annette Barnes  
Kharesha Calvin  
Brenda Dupree  
Vincent Gamble  
Donnie Richmond  
Rhonda Sharp

### October 10

Regina Mink

### October 11

Sheena Brown  
Lachar Gossett  
Loretta Rohner  
Sandra Scott

### October 12

Drew Clem  
Jamie Gilbert  
Lisa Reynolds  
Glen Vinson

### October 13

Theodis McGhee

### October 14

Annie Marshall

### October 15

Kellie Clay  
Deborah James

### October 16

Karen Hoffman  
Christopher Terry

### October 17

Warren Collier  
Richard Kematick  
Teryn Moreland  
Alten Treece

### October 18

Jamie Enke  
Cory Evans  
Jonathan Johnson  
Susan Noordzy  
Christian Williams

### October 19

Plato Barnett  
Victor Cassidy

### October 20

Larry Baker  
Kathy Combs  
Tennesha Hampton  
Dajier Hodges

### October 21

Ruth Akins  
Angela Berry-Woolfolk  
Nickie Crockhon  
Tina Maxwell  
Ashley Reed  
Shannon Rynders  
Ronald Short  
Jeremy Story  
Earlene Wainwright

### October 22

Roderick Daniels  
Steven Free  
Michael Harville  
Richard Martindale  
Gale Neal  
Angela Thompson

### October 23

Gail Rhodes

### October 24

Brian Holt  
Lashun Peals

### October 25

Brandy Burns  
Melody Fuller  
Justin Westfall

### October 26

Brandon Adams  
Kevin Booth  
Jodi Howard  
Tomaka Smith

### October 27

Tracy Crews  
Udana Darkins  
Marcus Lovin  
Shelly Overton  
Andrea Roaf-Little

### October 28

Matthew Redmond

### October 29

Krystal Allen  
Allison Couch  
Kathy Daniels  
Danielle Fagan  
Gene Forrest  
Nicholas Stewart  
Denita Wright

### October 30

Yvette Coleman  
April Dorn  
Carolyn Evans  
Susan Hathcote  
Versie Haywood

### October 31

Temetria Harris  
Chad Jones  
Bertha Kitchens  
Latasha Washington

## Sharp named Director of DCC

*(continued from Page 1)*

existed at the time. Since then, she has steadily risen up the ladder. Along the way, she earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

"I hope employees will realize that where they start is just the beginning. By working hard, following the rules and getting their education, there is no limit to their advancement potential," said Sharp. "As an agency, we must do a better job of encouraging employees to excel. And it all starts with recruiting and retaining the right people."

Sharp already is focused on recruitment and retention because she believes having quality, experienced employees is critical to DCC's mission and goals. It is equally important, she said, to make sure the right people are in the right positions.

"We've made some important changes that I know will move us forward. The addition of Elizabeth Taylor, Mike Thomas and Jerry Bradshaw at the central office gives us the fresh approach and new ideas that we need," she said. "You can expect some well-reasoned changes from time to time."

Our profession is constantly changing, and there are times when we need to change, too."

For those who don't know Director Sharp or haven't experienced her management style, she promises an open door policy.

The best ideas, she said, often come from front line employees. "The employees who are working in the field or in the centers, those who know the offenders, must have input in what the agency does and how it does it. That just makes good sense," said Director Sharp.

Sharp also said she's committed to seeking additional employees and resources, "All of you know that our funding depends on the legislature and the governor. But I am convinced that we have realistic needs.

We need more people and more tools. So as director, it's incumbent upon me to ask because our work is so critical to public safety. And I'm going to do that."

### *Do you have news ...?*

**Is there anything going on in your area with you or your job that you would like to share?**

**Send in your news ... your photos ... even write an article about yourself or one of your co-workers.**

**The Acclaim is a newsletter for you and we want to share your news.**

**Send all submissions to  
rhonda.sharp@arkansas.gov or  
dina.tyler@arkansas.gov**

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The Department of Community Correction is an equal opportunity employer, providing equal employment opportunities without regard to race, creed, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status or other biases prohibited by State or federal law. This policy and practice relate to all phases of employment including, but not limited to recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, transfer, layoff, recall, termination, compensation, training, use of all facilities and participation in employee activities and programs. All members of DCC management staff are familiar with this statement of policy, the philosophy behind it and their responsibility to apply these principles in good faith for meaningful progress in the utilization of minorities and women.