

# PSH&TC Newsletter

Parsons State Hospital and Training Center

## Disability Employment Awareness Month Job Fair

By Shanon Lansdowne

Despite heavy rain and cold temperatures, the First Annual Disability Employment Awareness Month Job Fair had a huge turn out. Each PSH&TC vocational training site had a booth that represented the products or services they specialized in. People could sample various areas. For instance, they could put together or take apart furniture, make craft forms from paper slurry, package items, and even try wood staining techniques.

Many resident employees were on hand to share their knowl-



Kim Ball and Bill Durrett

edge and skills pertaining to employment. Some areas had giveaways or drawings for prizes. The Packaging area cleverly combined the two. People could "package" pieces of candy into treat bags. Agencies from the community that provide assistance in finding and maintain employment

were also there. CLASS LTD, SRS Vocational Rehabilitation, SKIL, & One Stop Career Center-KansasWorks all had booths. Individuals could get information about living and working in the community, interviewing skills, and tips for writing a resume'. PSH&TC's Nick Heit was available for anyone with questions about income taxes, deductions, or issues regarding employment income and benefits.

Residents from CLASS LTD & Skil enjoyed what the fair had to offer and shared their experience and knowledge about living and working in the community.

I would like to thank everyone that helped our residents attend the fair, despite the weather. I would also like to thank everyone that took part in the fair, helped to plan and organize it, and supported it.

We hope to expand the fair next year and make it bigger and better. Also, I am pleased to announce that we will be having an employment awards ceremony in either late November or early December. Thanks again for attending the Job Fair. I hope everyone had a great time.

### Winners From the Day Laser Designs 5x7 Plaque

Clara Smith - Willow  
Tonya Jones- Aspen  
Toner Refill

Jennifer Johnson-Willow  
Glennis Robinson-Oak  
Nathan Smith-Willow  
Sharena Overall-Ash  
Donald Thompson-Elm  
Debbie Ryan-Aspen  
Cindy Newcomb-Oak



Laser Designs

### Upcoming Events

The Works & Canteen will be at The Parsons Senior Center fundraiser Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Works will have a booth at Parsons Chamber of Commerce "Holiday at Home" show Nov. 22 from 11-5 at the Parsons VFW.

There will be extended holiday hours for The Works. Get your holiday orders in now for the best selection!

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November 2008

### Vision Statement

People experiencing the highest quality of life regardless of the challenges.

### Mission Statement

To improve lives by connecting people with supports and services.

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## In Memory of Mark Garrett 1963-2008

W. Mark Garrett entered peacefully into internal rest on Sunday, September 21, 2008.

Mark lived at PSH&TC for over 35 years. He loved pizza, the rodeo, miniature cars, music, his wristwatch and most of all, his friends at Parsons. He worked at various jobs at PSH&TC over the years. His favorite was working at Spruce Cottage

painting ceramics for The Works. He also enjoyed taking part in Special Olympics.

Mark had a way of engaging people. He loved to make people laugh and join in his fun. He will be remembered for his wonderful smile, sense of humor and mischief!

Mark is survived by his parents,

Linda and Roger Garrett of Georgetown, Texas; a brother, Kirk of Brooklyn, New York; his grandmother, Dorothy Bennett of Scottsdale, Arizona; an aunt, an uncle, a great-aunt and numerous cousins.

Memorials are suggested to Kansas Special Olympics, C/O Poke Stover, 300 N. Carver Lane, Lawrence, KS 66049.



## Habitat for Humanity By Tammy Auman



Cindy Gelvin, Ruth Klein & Tammy Auman provided and served lunch to volunteer workers at the Habitat for Humanity house that is being built at 12<sup>th</sup> & Leonard in Parsons. There is still a need for volunteers to complete the house. You do not need to be a skilled carpenter or electrician. Contact Kari West at 421-7000 for information on how you can help.

***"Together we can make a difference!"***

## Second Annual Noodle Dinner to Benefit Operation Santa

The First Operation Santa Noodle Dinner Fundraiser was such a HUGE success, we are doing it again! Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 10th, to order your homemade chicken and noodle dinner. Takeout will be available all day on the south side of the cafeteria and pre-orders are welcome. Delivery will be available with orders over 10 dinners.

The Parsons High School Health Science Academy students learn much through their experiences of job shadowing, guest speakers in the classroom, community projects and field trips. Each year, the Senior

Class members do a community service project.

The Senior Class Members will work together to plan, promote and expedite the event. They will learn that hard work is involved when it comes to cooking!

Last year, the students raised a little over \$1000 to go towards Operation Santa and are expecting to surpass that amount this year. For more information, to pre-order meals or to purchase tickets, call 620-421-6550 Ext. 1726.

### ***For Sale***

*Large computer cabinet white pine wood, double doors. 67"H X 45"W X 22 1/2"D. Zenith VCR. Call Ext. 1817, ask for Karleen or 421-9406 after 3 p.m.*

### ***Zumba—Fitness Class***

*Class ready to resume again. More participants (staff and residents) are needed for class to make. Contact Gina Webster (Ext. 1614 or 1817) if interested. Time adjustable to meet your schedule.*

## November Birthdays ***"Have a Wonderful Birthday"***

Paul Aders  
Steven Baird  
Eric Bruner  
Michael Butler  
Patrick Byrnes  
Stephen Carnahan  
Scott C.  
Vickie Cinotto  
Lori Coker  
Cheryl Cranor  
Laura Cruse  
Guyan Davis  
Kimberly Dixon  
William Durrett

Eric Edmond  
Robbie Emery  
Georgia Estep  
Jennifer F.  
Virgil G.  
John Harold  
Rebecca Haverfield  
Dixie Hobson  
Kellen Hodgden  
Nancy Holding  
Stephen Horton  
John Jungles  
Gail Kiser  
Darren K.

Matthew Leeper  
Sandra McClenning  
C. S. Menon  
Stephen Merando  
Darryel Neel  
Robert Ong  
Roxford Phelps  
Dennis P.  
Janice Porter  
Rebecca Queen  
Terry Ryburn  
Lonnie Sailsbury  
Raymond Samples  
Timothy Sanders

Sheila Scales  
Timothy Schuberger  
Gary Sebring  
Devin Shepherd  
Norman Stice  
Donald Thompson  
Roger Thompson  
Cynthia Trotnic  
Marla Wellen  
Emily Westhoff  
Ginger Willis  
Tonette Wilson  
Robert Zimmerman



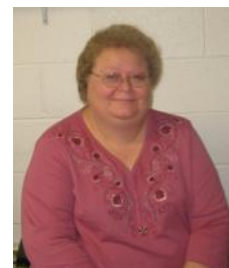
## Leadership Parsons

Congratulations to Denise Hill, Dietary, on being selected PSH&TC's representative to participate in the Leadership Parsons class.

For 15 years, the Parsons Chamber of Commerce has sponsored a community awareness program called Leadership Parsons. The program is designed to make

participants aware of the challenges facing the city and surrounding area and to inspire them to accept the responsibility of providing the leadership necessary for our community to succeed.

Individuals are selected from nominations submitted by Chamber Members.



Denise Hill

## Decorating Contest

With the holiday season fast approaching, The Second Annual Cottage Christmas Decorating Contest is soon to begin. The rules for this year's contest will be the same—best resident participation, originality, creativity, under budget (\$200), and use of recycled items. There will be a mystery prize again this year.

Call Marlys at Ext. 1726 when you have your decorating party and she will come and take pictures! Winners will be featured in the upcoming newsletter!

## Recipe Edition

We are doing it again this year! The Newsletter Committee would like to publish your Favorite Holiday Recipe(s) in the upcoming December Newsletter. We would like to have at least **one** recipe from each Cottage and Vocational Area! Pull out your recipe boxes and send us your best one! If you have it typed on your computer, please e-mail to Marlys Shomber-Jones (mdxxs@pshtc.ks.gov) or if not, please send a copy to her at the Administration Building.

All areas are encouraged to contribute. If we have more than enough for our newsletter, we will publish a "PSH&TC Holiday Cookbook" for everyone! Please send your recipes by November 21, 2008, so they can be typed and entered into the December Newsletter.

If you have any questions, please call Marlys at Ext. 1726

## Election Day By Kim Middleton

Election Day is closely approaching. What an exciting time....choosing a new President. Many of our residents were not registered to vote so we had a registration drive this year. During our Adult Self Advocacy Meeting in October, there was a booth set up to assist our residents in registering to vote for those interested. There were seven residents who chose to register at that time. Social Workers have worked directly with the cottages to ensure that residents who would like to be registered to vote were given a chance. At this time, there are 47 registered voter residents at Parsons State Hospital and Training Center. All registered voters will be given the opportunity to vote at the polls this year, as Parsons State Hospital and Training Center will not be doing advance balloting. This is an exciting opportunity for all of our voters.

## Judicial Retention

**Recommendations Regarding Judicial Retention** — For the first time, Kansas voters may review evaluations of appointed judges of the district court, Court of Appeals judges and Supreme Court justices who are standing for election to be retained in office.

The Kansas Legislature established The Kansas Commission on Judicial Performance to improve the state's judiciary system, enable voters to make informed decisions about continuing appointed judges and justices in office and protect judicial independence while promoting judicial accountability.

For more information, see the following link:  
<http://www.kansasjudicialperformance.org/index.cfm>

## Welcome New Employees

It's good to have the following new employees with us. You are part of an organization which is proud of its accomplishments that have made PSH&TC a first-rate facility for the residents that we serve. Not only the residents, but the well-being of our employees is important to us. "Best wishes for fulfillment in your new position at PSH&TC!"

### Ash Cottage

Doug Hornback, MHDDT Trn.

### Aspen Cottage

David Blake, Temp

### Cedar Cottage

Michael Howard, MHDDT Trn.

### Dietary Department

Charlotte Pierce, Temp

### Elm Cottage

Kalpesh Patel, MHDDT Trn.

### Housekeeping Department

Melissa Kuffler, Temp

### Pine Cottage

Kristina Frye, Temp

### Social Work Department

Brenda Hughes, Social Worker Sp.

### Spruce Cottage

Jennifer Wright, Temp

### Vocational Department

Tim Stuckey, Bike Shop

Mark Wallace, Elm housekeeping

### Willow Cottage

Bobbie Prosser, MHDDT Trn.

## Retirement

*Congratulations to Anna Mae Semrad, Relief Cook for all 11 cottages and also helped with Day Care meals. 20 years, 7 months of service at PSH&TC. "Best Wishes to you, Anna Mae!"*

## Parsons State Hospital and Training Center

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To view online, use the link:

[http://www.pshtc.org/pshtc\\_newsletter.htm](http://www.pshtc.org/pshtc_newsletter.htm)

### Free Online Learning

If you are looking for something to do this winter, check out the "free" online courses offered at this website.

<http://oli.web.cmu.edu/jcourse/webui/free.do>

### National Diabetes Awareness Month

If you, or someone you know, suffers from diabetes and needs a blood glucose monitor, go to one of these websites and order one for FREE!

<https://www.onetouchgold.com/simplestart/>

<http://www.lifescan.com/products/meters/>

[www.FreeStyleLite.com](http://www.FreeStyleLite.com)

## Campus Calendar

November is American Diabetes and National Epilepsy Awareness Month

11/1 Pick up Trash Day

11/2 Daylight Saving Time Ends

11/4 Election Day

11/6 Adult Resident Advocacy Group, 3:30 PM, Cafeteria

11/11 Veterans Day

11/15 America Recycles Day

11/20 Great American Smokeout Day

11/21-22 Special Olympics Fall Sports Classic Bowling—Kansas City

11/26-30 Endowment Bus—KC & Wichita

11/27 Thanksgiving Day

12/4 Adult Resident Advocacy Group, 3:30 PM, Cafeteria

12/9 Special Olympics Christmas Dance Pittsburg

12/10 Operation Santa Noodle Dinner Fundraiser

12/24-28 Endowment Bus—KC & Wichita

12/25 Christmas

### Thank You

Thank you Gail, Denise, Lauren, Tim, all the cooks, Ruth and all who helped make my retirement party so nice. It was the nicest party I have ever had. Everything was so pretty. Also, thanks to all who came, the cards, money, gifts and flowers, and enjoyed the tuna, peas and apron! You all made my day very special. I have enjoyed working with all of you. I can say, there hasn't been a staff or resident that I didn't like. You're all special. I will miss all of you.

**Anna Mae Semrad, Dietary**

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**Parsons, KS 67357**



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