



Juvenile Justice Journal

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March Madness - JPO Style!

What started out as an “off the cuff” suggestion by President Judge Conrad Capuzzi, has turned out to be a fun and productive diversion for the kids under the supervision of the Juvenile Probation Office.

President Judge Capuzzi suggested to Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Jerome Andria that they should form a basketball team with the kids under their supervision. Mr. Andria then asked Officers Rich Rosner and

Chris Baker to assemble and coach a team.

About a dozen kids have participated in practice and in games. So far, with two games under their belt, the kids have a win against students of the Intermediate Unit #1 Campus at Colonial and a loss to the students of the Adelphoi Village Day Treatment Program.

“We have found that having the basketball team has a two-fold benefit,” according to Chris Baker, “not only

are the kids able to have a positive way to release some pent up energy, but it’s also a good way for them to develop appropriate social skills.”

“It’s fun. The kids enjoy it and so do we,” says Rich Rosner.

Rosner adds that the kids practice once or twice a week at the Intermediate Unit #1 Campus at Colonial and hope to have two or three more games this season.



Members of the Juvenile Probation Basketball Team (in yellow) playing students of the Adelphoi Village Fayette Day Treatment Program

Fayette JPO verses the World Champion Steelers!?!?



Officers Chris Baker (left) and Rich Rosner prepare to take on the Steelers

It was a night unlike any other in the Borough of Brownsville as the World Champion Pittsburgh Steelers came to town to play basketball against the faculty of the Brownsville Middle and Senior High Schools.

A sell-out crowd watched as the faculty along with Probation Officers Rich Rosner and Chris Baker tried to do something that no team in the NFL play-offs were able to do; beat

the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Playing for the Steelers were Brett Keisel, Ricardo Colclough, Lee Mays, James Harrison, Rod Rutherford and former Steeler standout Louis Lippis.

Proceeds benefited the Brownsville Area Traveling Students, a group of students who wish to broaden their education by visiting the National Parks and Monuments in Wyoming, Montana, and South

Dakota this summer. A trip to Paris, Madrid, and London is being planned for the summer of 2007.

Who actually won the game and the final score didn't matter (the Steelers won in a runaway), as a good time was had by the participants and the spectators.

Chris Baker, who had a collision with Lee Mays said, "My shoulder's a little sore, but I had fun."



Steeler Brett Keisel slams one home!



Climbing the ladder for a rebound over Steeler James Harrison



Chris Baker asks "Is it over yet?"



Students at Lafayette Middle School and Members of the Juvenile Probation Office (top row on the right)

JPO Officers Judge Steeler Contest

Steeler fever swept through Lafayette Middle School recently as Super Bowl XL approached!

As our Steelers were taking on the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl, a friendly competition took place between classrooms and students at Lafayette Middle School

in Uniontown.

All throughout the hallways, students were dressed in their best Steeler costumes. The classrooms were also decorated in black and gold.

Prizes were awarded to those judged to have the best costumes and the

best decorated classroom got a pizza party.

Judging was done by Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Josh Eicher and Officers Dan Mosier and Mike Bittner, all of whom were appropriately wearing their black and gold probation jackets.

JPO Officer's Give Presentation

What exactly is probation and how does it effect you? That was the subject of a recent presentation made by the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office at a local middle school.

Dan Mosier and Mike Bitterner, Community Based Probation Officers in the Uniontown School District spoke to three different classes at the Lafayette Middle School in Uniontown. The presentation included how the Juvenile Justice System works in

Pennsylvania, specifically in Fayette County, what juvenile probation officers do, and what the consequences of getting into trouble and being placed on probation are.

The students also received information about the new standards of DNA collection and who is permitted to view a juvenile's records as well as some common misconceptions about the Juvenile Justice System.

"We want the kids to know

what can possibly happen should they decide to make a wrong choice and break the law", says Deputy Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Josh Eicher. "Hopefully they will use this information and make a good choice when and if the time comes."

For more information about this presentation or you would interested in scheduling it for your group, contact the Juvenile Probation Office at (724) 430-1223.

This presentation is available upon request. Contact the Juvenile Probation Office at (724) 430-1223 for details.

From the Desk of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

As you can see from the preceding pages, we have had a very busy quarter. Our involvement with our clients and the community is something that we can be very proud of and also something that we can build on in the future.

There are several things that I would like to address that I think are noteworthy that have taken place during the past several months.

Beginning on April 3, at the request of President Judge Conrad B. Capuzzi, we developed and implemented our Juvenile Court Restitution Fund. The JCR Fund is a fund that nearly all clients will pay into and clients who owe

restitution will be able to draw upon prior to the closure of their case. The County has also been gracious enough to allow us to allocate money from our Title IV-E fund to help support this program. This is a relatively new concept in the field of Juvenile Justice, and we are very pleased to be one of the first counties in the State of Pennsylvania to implement this type of program.

Along the same lines, collectively our staff is doing a great job in the collection of restitution for victims. Last month our Agency collected over \$7,000 in restitution for victims. With fines and other costs our total

collection was over \$10,000. I fondly remember a time when we collected just over that amount in an entire year.

Our Agency is also doing a very notable job in the area of Medical Assistance (MA) Realignment. This concept is fairly new and it involves assigning child care costs to medical assistance which in the end will help reduce the county's costs of care. At last count, about 40% of the kids that we have in care were eligible for MA Realignment assistance. The final dollar saving of our efforts has yet to be seen, but it should impact significantly on the County.



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The primary mission of the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office is to protect the community through assessment, treatment, and control of juvenile offenders by providing a range of effective services based on legal requirements and recognized professional standards.

If you have any questions or comments about any material in this newsletter, please contact Michael Lukac at the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office at (724) 430-1223 ext. 423 or e-mail at mlukac@fayettepa.org.

Send us your comments!

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e-mail at mlukac@fayettepa.org



**The community working hand
in hand is the key to
preventing and eliminating
juvenile delinquency.**

Fayette County Youth Commission

The Fayette County Youth Commission is a group of volunteer citizens from a particular community whose purpose will be to assist the Juvenile Court in processing, disposition, and supervision of children between 10 and 18 years of age who have been referred to the Juvenile Court for the first time for the commission of minor offenses. There are five individual Youth Commissions in Fayette County operating out of the five major school districts: Albert Gallatin, Brownsville, Connessville, Laurel Highlands and Uniontown.

Youth Commissions have several identifi-

able goals. The primary goal of a Youth Commission is to act as a diversionary program for the local Juvenile Court in the processing and handling of first time minor youthful offenders within the community.

Another goal of the Youth Commission is to give individuals within a community an opportunity to engage in a constructive activity which will impact positively upon the lives of young persons who also reside within the same community with the ultimate goals being the reduction of crime and the improvement of the overall safety and quality of life for all

persons residing within that community.

Finally, we hope to prevent the number of children returning to the Juvenile Probation Office by involving first-time offending youth in natural community supports, thereby holding them accountable for their behavior while showing them a more positive lifestyle.

Volunteers are needed in all five Youth Commissions. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Michael Lukac at the Juvenile Probation Office at (724) 430-1223 extension 423.