



Santa Barbara County  
Probation Department

# Probation Today

## Giving Back to the Community

This year Computers for Families (CFF) and Los Robles High School Vocational Technology team from Los Prietos Boys Camp/Academy provided 500 computers to less fortunate families in the cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara and Carpinteria. Additionally, the wards participated in a presentation at the Santa Barbara County Education Board where they shared their experiences in the CFF program. The boys met with Toast Masters several times to prepare for the public speaking engagement. On November 6th the boys were honored by CFF and community volunteers at Los Prietos Boys Camp/Academy. During the celebration, the boys spoke about their experience and expressed pride in having helped families in need. One boy stated, "It felt good to give back to the community instead of taking from them." Another participant commented,



Submitted by Kristina Brumbaugh,  
SPO, LPBA

"I now have a new skill in computer repair and working on computers... that I can take with me anywhere." The ward pictured in this article stated, "It made me feel good about myself. I was once in their shoes and did not know anything about computers. Now I am teaching families myself. I feel I can fall back on this training in my future. It is something valuable on my resume." Congratulations to CFF, Los Robles High School and LPBC/LPBA for the valuable partnership.

## "Tea Fire" Mutual Aid Services

On November 13, 2008 at approximately 6:00 p.m. the Tea Fire in Montecito erupted. With wind gusts reaching 70 miles per hour the fire pushed into the populated areas of Montecito and Santa Barbara City. By 7:45 p.m. Chief Stewart made the call to alert staff about potential deployment to assist the Sheriff's Department with the Tea Fire. Seven Probation staff members were deployed to the 6 a.m. briefing to assist the Sheriff's Department with road blocks and patrolling the mandatory evacuation zones. Our Department was asked for a multi-day schedule of staff responders if further mutual aid was needed. The completed schedule included 72 of our staff who were awaiting deployment. Several staff were also diverted to work in the Emergency Operation Center, support personnel covered eight shifts in the call center and IT personnel assisted with coverage at the County's data center.

Once the fire was fully contained it was learned that 210 residences had been destroyed and 9 were damaged. Westmont College lost several buildings as well. The Tea Fire consumed 1,940 acres and cost approximately 5.7 million dollars. Probation staff again joined the Police and Sheriff's Departments to protect the community during a fire emergency.

Submitted by Ron Alonzo, Supervising DPO, P&T

## CAMINO FLORAL HAS A NEW LOOK AND FEEL

Over the past several months Camino Floral, Counseling and Education Center (CEC) students have been working hard to give the school a new look and feel. They have also played an integral part by providing input for creating new programs and incentives, including a CEC Newsletter and "How to survive CEC" guide created by the students. In August, a student body Government was formed. The timing was excellent as the students were able to correlate the current events of the Presidential election with the democratic process. Teacher involvement solidified the electoral process and students learned about history and parliamentary procedure. Student Representatives then met with each of the classrooms and came up with ideas that they felt would benefit and enhance the CEC program. As a result, a career class component is now offered, a "girls group" has been formed, and a parenting education class is in the works.

In addition, the CEC received a new coat of paint (by the students), as well as new displays that include current events, "words" of the day, a sports wall, a food wall, an expression wall (poems, writings, journals, etc.), a resource wall, and Restorative Justice and Aggression Replacement Training boards. The displays show unique and creative work completed by the students. Lastly, a new incentive/disciplinary program was implemented. The program requires that students earn 100 "good" days. If they fail to earn days, they may work off certain violations via projects, a "contract" system of behavior changes, or Restorative Justice. This is used in conjunction with the Alternative Detention Program (ADP) and House Arrest or Electronic Monitoring (EM). This has resulted in fewer arrests and impressively, students taking responsibility for their own actions. Together, these approaches assist the students in understanding the harm they do to themselves and others.

Projected graduation dates are constantly monitored and posted to show students the positive and negative effects of the loss or gain of a day at school. The Camino Floral's new incentive program also allows students to earn additional days off their program by participating in a meaningful activity or having exceptional behavior (Student or Scholar of the month, perfect attendance, etc.). Students set goals and then use the incentive program to demonstrate an understanding of the goals. For example, recently a student expressed his desire to be a Chef. The minor presented staff with information about the career, the education requirements, and the specific type of cuisine he wanted to pursue. The student then cooked and prepared an enchilada meal. The event went over so well that he later planned a full meal with dessert for his fellow classmates. This minor was able to demonstrate health and safety concerns, cooking skills, and his ability to follow directions. His actions also showed appreciation for his fellow students, making it an overall rewarding experience.

The new look and feel of Camino Floral CEC embraces both the challenges and positive outcomes of change.

Submitted by Kelly Santiago,  
DPO Sr., Director, North County Counseling and Education Center

