

# PROBATION TODAY

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
**PROBATION DEPARTMENT**  
*"Leading The Way To A Safer Community"*



## 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL PROBATION DEPARTMENT STAFF RECOGNITION DINNER

Opening remarks from Chief Probation Officer Guadalupe Rabago and Presiding Judge James Herman kicked off the Santa Barbara County Probation Department's 31<sup>st</sup> annual Staff Recognition Dinner on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The annual dinner honors probation personnel for their dedication and accomplishments.

### AWARD RECIPIENTS SELECTED BY THEIR PEERS INCLUDED:

**Support Staff of the Year:** Monica Castillo, Administrative Office Professional (AOP), Santa Barbara  
 Roseanna Rojo, Probation Assistant (PA), Lompoc  
 Jan Helzer, AOP Senior, Santa Maria

**Institutions Staff of the Year:** Patricia Martinez, Deputy Probation Officer Senior (DPO Sr.), Santa Maria Juvenile Hall  
 Michelle Perez-Ybarra, AOP, Los Prietos Boys Camp

**Probation Officer of the Year:** Scott Ingraham, (DPO Sr.), Santa Barbara  
 Polly Armstrong, (DPO Sr.), Lompoc  
 Ashley Guggia, (DPO Sr.), Santa Maria

**Supervising Staff of the Year:** Carolyn Diaz, Supervising Probation Officer (SPO), Santa Maria

**Bulldog Award:** The Santa Maria and Santa Barbara Adult Investigation Units

**Star Award:** Spencer Cross, SPO, Santa Barbara

**Chief's Award:** Wendy Stanley, Probation Manager, Santa Maria



*Chief's Award Recipient  
 Probation Manager  
 Wendy Stanley*



*Institutions Staff of the  
 Year DPO Sr, Patricia  
 Martinez*



*Institutions Staff of the Year recipient AOP Michelle Perez Ybarra with Supervisor Lavagnino*



*Probation Chief Guadalupe Rabago with Probation Officer of the Year recipient Scott Ingraham*

Award recipients received a departmental plaque, a Certificate of Recognition from Supervisors Adam and Lavagnino, and a Certificate of Recognition from Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson. Joining the many probation employees, their family and friends at the event was Presiding Judge James Herman, Assistant Presiding Judge Patricia Kelly, Juvenile Presiding Judge Arthur Garcia, Supervisors Carbajal and Lavagnino, and a variety of other Judicial Officers, County Department Directors, and representatives from the community.



*Support Staff of the  
 Year PA Roseanna Rojo*

# VETERAN'S TREATMENT COURT

## GRADUATE MAKES GOOD

*Submitted by SPO Maria Bongiovanni*

Garrett Bakke is one of Santa Barbara County's first Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC) participants; he entered the Army immediately after completing high school, with the goal of gaining financial support for his college education. While in the Army, he was stationed in Korea, and later in Kuwait. While in Korea, he began abusing alcohol, which led to 17 years of acute alcoholism. Following his return to Santa Maria, he sustained a back injury for which he was prescribed opiates for pain. This ultimately led to the abuse prescription medication in addition to alcohol.

Mr. Bakke's ability to balance his addiction and employment changed when a family member introduced him to methamphetamine. Within days of his first use episode, he was drug tested at work and subsequently lost his job. This downward spiral resulted in the loss of custody of his children, losing his fiancée, and the rapid depletion of his retirement fund. He ultimately suffered a self-described psychotic break due to the combination of malnutrition, sleep deprivation, and untreated physical ailments. Mr. Bakke's mother contacted law enforcement and when the call for service came out, he was described as a "homicidal/suicidal vet."



*From left to right: Probation SPO Bill Roberts, Behavioral Wellness AOD Specialist Garrett Bakke, and SBSO Sergeant Gary Wilberding*

While peering through the window of a vacant condominium, he was contacted by a sheriff's deputy, who he believes ultimately changed his life. Mr. Bakke was enrolled in VTC, where he was linked with the Veterans Administration (VA). There he received assistance for health issues and connected with fellow vets at 12-Step meetings. Mr. Bakke's case was assigned to Sr. DPO, Bill Roberts (now SPO), who had also been stationed in Korea while serving in the Army, and they developed an instant camaraderie. Mr. Bakke completed VTC in 2013. Within weeks of graduation he obtained a job at Coast Valley Substance Abuse Treatment Center, the same outpatient provider he had attended while in VTC. While here he obtained

his counseling certificate, completed an internship, and facilitated treatment groups.

Today, Mr. Bakke as an AOD (alcohol and other drug) Specialist with the department of Behavioral Wellness, and is the court liaison for the Collaborative Courts. He attends court hearings in Dual Diagnosis and Mental Health Treatment Courts, coming full circle from being a recipient of the Collaborative Court services, to becoming a Counselor. He is also attending Allan Hancock College and has plans to ultimately obtain a Master's degree.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Bakke was reunited with his arresting deputy, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office(SBSO) Sergeant Gary Wilberding, and SPO Roberts at the Santa Maria Veterans' Memorial Community Center preceding a Substance Abuse Treatment Court (SATC) Commencement Ceremony. Mr. Bakke's story, and his ongoing relationship with Collaborative Courts, illustrates the power of relationships within VTC.

## ***Tri-Counties Deputy Probation Officer CORE***

*Submitted by Probation Manager Kristina Brumbaugh*

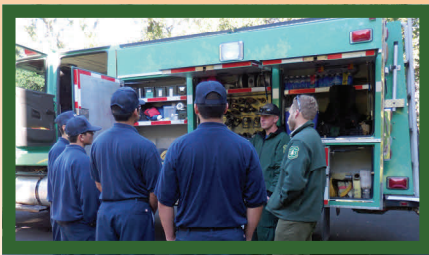
On February 26<sup>th</sup>, eighteen Deputy Probation Officers from Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Ventura and Kern Counties graduated from the third Tri-Counties DPO Core. The Tri-Counties Core is the collaborative effort of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo to bring mandated training to Deputy Probation Officers close to their homes, and also open to those in nearby counties who need the training for their officers. Instructors from the participating counties volunteered to participate and bring together successful DPO Core. Students completed both course work and physical training over 26 days and 212 hours. Congratulations to all the graduates who completed a very important step in their Probation career.



*Santa Barbara Staff from left to right: Tanja Heitman, DCPO; Steve DeLira, DCPO; Karla LeBrun, DPO; Crystal Crockett, DPO; Marina Carrillo, DPO; Guadalupe Rabago, Chief Probation Officer; Jessica Velasquez, DPO; Arlene Baez, DPO; Lori Crestfield, Supervising Probation Officer; Lee Bethel, DCPO; Liz Krene, Probation Manager; Joshua Clem, DPO.*

## **MAKING GOOD IMPRESSIONS AT THE LOS PRIETOS BOYS CAMPCAREER WEEK**

*Submitted by Manager Laurie Holbrook*



The annual Career Week at Los Prietos Boys Camp took place the week of March 21st. The week-long event was kicked off this year with an inspirational keynote speaker who overcame many struggles and challenges similar to the Camp youth. She inspired the youth to never give up and follow their dreams. Following her words of wisdom, the youth enjoyed a week filled with events that will lead them on path of independence and financial security. The youth enjoyed activities such as mock interviews, resume writing, budgeting, obtaining credit, and a brand new event presented by The Art Institutes of California, a

delicious Spam cook off, proving once again that with a little imagination, anything is possible

Events such as Career Week do not simply happen. They are a collaborative effort between the Los Prietos Boys Camp and Probation Department staff, Los Robles High School teaching staff, Partners in Education, community members, businesses and organizations that often volunteer their time and expertise to improve the lives of youth. The Career Week is all about making a good impression. When it comes time to enter the job market, youth with juvenile records, poor school attendance, and visible tattoos may find making a good impression a daunting task. Skills learned during the Career Week help these young men rise above their pasts and continue to move forward towards the goal of becoming responsible adults and productive members of our communities.

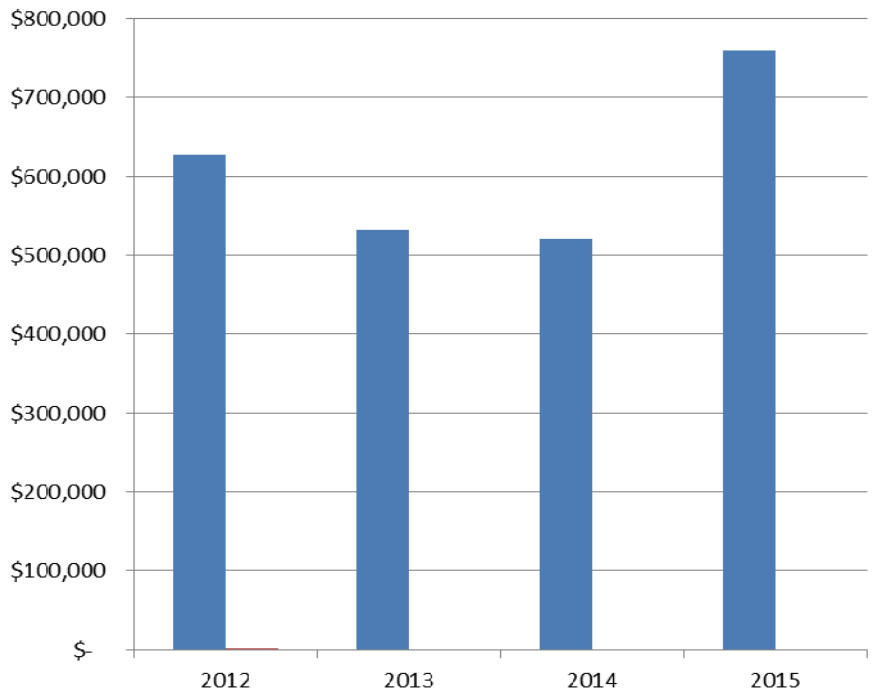
## DID YOU KNOW?

Submitted by Probation Project Manager  
Patti Ball

Since 2012, the Probation department revenue Recovery Unit has issued over \$2,441,652 in victim restitution checks!

- ◆ **Approximately 550 victims are paid each month.**
- ◆ **The average monthly victim payroll is \$55,000.**
- ◆ **In the past year, 302 victims were paid in full. Their final checks totaled \$157,242.**

## Victim Restitution Checks Issued



## JUVENILES EMBRACE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT THROUGH ARTWORK AND HEALTHY COMPETITION

Submitted by Senior Juvenile Institutions Officer Carol Gutierrez

This past holiday season youth at the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall participated in a art project to decorate their respective housing units. This is an annual event that both youth and staff look forward to as it a catalyst for team-building fueled by friendly competition. This year, themes chosen by the youth in each of the three housing units was blockbuster movies: Unit 4 (female unit) chose “Frozen”, Unit 5 “Star Wars”, and Unit 6 “Super Heroes.”

Youth spent many happy hours over several weeks drawing, painting, and arranging their art pieces, covering every corner of their unit with some of the materials being donated by the staff. Once the transformation was completed, Chief Rabago was invited to select the winner(s). As it turned out, it was too close to call and units 4 & 6 ended in a tie for first place. The youth received a special treat of ice-cream for their efforts and participation.

As relayed by staff, “It was encouraging to see several youth who normally would be considered ‘rivals’,

working side by side on their artwork.” Some youth commented on how much they enjoyed working on their art pieces and the sense of pride it gave seeing their artwork displayed on the walls. The seasonal transformation is a welcome change for all and also helps the youth stay focused on positive activities during a time they are apt to miss their families more so than normal.

