



The Sunland Beacon

SEPTEMBER 2019
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"FUEL Up" for Fall Festival!

The Sunland FUEL (Faith Used in Every Day Life) Team is "fueling" up for Sunland's 40th Annual Fall Festival! The team will be sponsoring a "Food Drive" during the festival, which takes place on Saturday, October 26, 2019. This project is in appreciation of the strong show of support which the community poured out upon Sunland in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. The purpose is to gather canned and non-perishable food which will be donated to the Chipola Ministry Center. The Sunland FUEL Team wants to partner with the local community to support individuals and families in the greater community-at-large who may be in need of assistance.

Please join the Sunland FUEL Team in getting the word out and also by bringing your canned and other non-perishable food donations to the Sunland Fall Festival. The day of the event, a tent and box truck will be set up near the festival entrance where the FUEL Team will collect all donations. Sunland staff may also bring food items to the Chaplain's office, located in the Habile Building, anytime between October 2 - 25. Thank you for your support of this FUEL event! Your help is a small way to make a huge difference!



From the Superintendent...

Hold on!... Autumn days are approaching! The "Golden Days" are almost upon us as the days grow shorter at every sunset. While each season offers its own beauty and inspiration, it is Autumn that is wrapped in glory. The leaves are changing colors and falling on grass that is no longer growing at a speed at which we cannot keep pace. Hallelujah! Birds are migrating and we can feel the cooler mornings within arm's length.

Many of us reach for the mason jars to begin canning. The squirrels busily prepare for winter and the insects no longer command our attention every hot afternoon and evening.

The Fall ushers in harvest time. The hard work during summer months results in an abundance of fruits and vegetables.

Yes, Autumn is approaching...celebrate the season and enjoy Autumn's orchestra in full color!

See you around campus!

Marguerite

Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent



County Bowling Games is a Smash!

Special Olympics bowling has been different this year with all the action taking place at Patricia Lanes in Dothan, Alabama. But it has worked out extremely well and the fruits of this season's bowling efforts, which started in June, were seen on Tuesday, September 24 at the Jackson County Bowling Games. A total of 33 bowlers made the trip. Prior to bowling, athletes were treated to pizza from Little Ceasar's, along with chips and a drink. After lunch it was time to get down to business and the action was fast paced. Bowlers were assigned lanes along with other bowlers who had similar averages. When the results were tallied for each lane, ribbons were presented to first, second, third and fourth place bowlers. Practice will continue for two more weeks and then Area Games will be held October 15. A special thanks to all the Recreation, Centralized Support Services, Unit and House staff that helped make the day special for our bowlers.

Contributed by: Clint Cox



Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Wednesday, September 18 was a beautiful day to be at the ballpark. Howell Field played host to a contest between the Jackson County Sonics and the Pathways Jets. A large crowd came out to enjoy the game and were treated to fresh popped popcorn and ice cold lemonade. The game was a close contest, with the two teams swapping the lead back and forth. In the end though, it was the Jets that came out on top by a score of 14-12. The Sonics squad, coached by Nikki Spires, is working hard to make a run to get into the State tournament to be held in Orlando in the middle of November.

Good luck Sonics!

Contributed by: Clint Cox



Special Olympics Softball & Pickleball

On Saturday September 28, the Jackson County Special Olympics softball team (Sonics) and Pickleball team traveled to Navarre, Florida, to take part in a weekend tournament. The Sonics softball team won the first game against Escambia County by a score of 7-4. In the second game, the Sonics took on a unified team (partners and athletes) from Okaloosa County and came out on top by a score of 15-9.

History was made on the 28th as Sunland's first ever Pickleball team competed in an officially sanctioned Special Olympics event. The Sunland team was a unified team that consisted of athlete Ricardo G. and partner Clint Cox. They played a unified team from Okaloosa County and posted an 11-7 win. Thanks to Sunland Administration and all the Departments that had a hand in making this trip successful.

Contributed by: Clint Cox



Fun at the Ranch!

One of the most relaxing places to visit at the Sunland campus is the Ranch. On any given day, you'll see the horses, donkeys and cattle grazing in the pasture, with the horses often taking refuge from the sun underneath the large oak trees. Around the barn you'll see goats and chickens, ducks, and rabbits. There's no hustle and bustle here...it's a slower paced, happy and fun place to be. It's a place where residents can go to sit in the swing under the barn, listen to the sounds of nature and just enjoy the simplicity of farm life. Yes, it is a laid back environment, but excitement is always around the corner. On occasion, the goats are known to stir up a little mischief! Recently, little miss "Cassie" and her sidekick, "Bud" wandered away from the Ranch and ended up at the Security Office. Several male staff (*ahem...who will remain unnamed to protect the innocent*) tried to wrangle up the goats to return them to the Ranch. Despite their best efforts, let's just say...it was a "goat rodeo!" Thanks to Glenda Winkle who works at the Ranch, she saved the day! Although Glenda had already left work for the day, upon learning her goats were out, she promptly returned to the Center, and working her magic, gracefully led the pair safely back to their home. There is never a dull day at the Ranch!



Residents Enjoy Friday Social at the Mall

Gathering at the Mall is a favorite past-time event at Sunland. Especially when it comes to live entertainment and refreshments! Everyone enjoys the music, dancing and cheering for the brave performers to include "Ronnie B & the Skinny Boys Band," along with a full line up of Sunland stars. Following the show, residents were treated to ice cream sundaes, with a wide selection of delicious toppings! Thanks to Tonya Kelly and the Mall staff, the Friday Social events have become a highly anticipated time for food, fun and fellowship!



Knights of Columbus Host Annual Cookout

Saturday, September 28, the Knights of Columbus from Niceville, Florida, traveled to Sunland to host their annual picnic for Grant and Buchanan Houses. The caravan arrived at 10 a.m. and began setting up. The men fired up the grill, cooking hamburgers and hotdogs as the ladies set up the many sides to complement the entrees. The honorees began arriving at 11 a.m. and were treated to a wonderful meal served by the Knights. Dessert followed with the traditional home baked cookies and vanilla ice cream. The heat did not dampen the smiles, fun and laughter of this special event. Staff and residents thanked the Knights for a lovely time before leaving. Tim Pugh, KOC Coordinator for this event stated that they look forward to visiting Sunland each year and appreciate the opportunity to share the day with our residents and thank the staff who care for them.

Contributed by: Maria Johnson



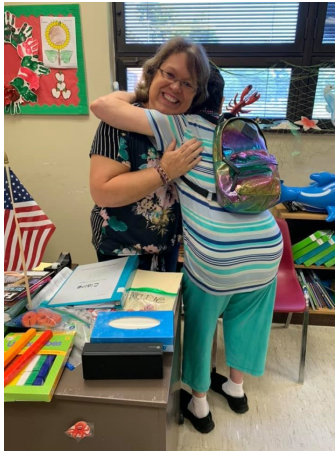
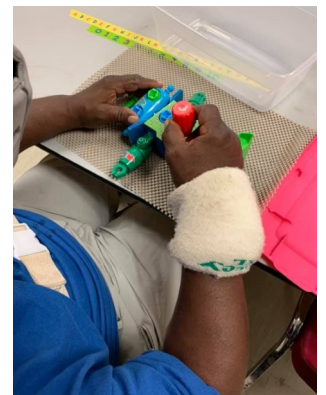
Jackson County School Program Stayng Busy!

Students and teachers at the Jackson County School program hit the ground running with the beginning of a new school year. JCS Administrator Phyllis Daniels and her staff have worked extra hard to ensure students are involved in engaging educational activities, as well as some pretty awesome extracurricular fun!

There is always something going on during the school day... and beyond... in Jennifer Grantham's classroom! A room where love abounds, students can be found sorting, assembling and disassembling. And for special occasions, the fun doesn't end with the school day as shown below. Mrs. Grantham sponsors one of her students and recently arranged to take her and a friend to the Tim McGraw concert. Special thanks to Gulf Coast Jam for their role in making this an unforgettable night!

Thankfully, Hurricane Dorian passed by Florida, yet Billy O's love of weather hasn't! Billy says we are looking forward to a forecast with some rain and cooler temperatures! Happy Fall Y'all from Billy, his teacher, Mrs. Janet Baxley and the entire Jackson County School Sunland Family!

Recently, Ms. Emily Clark, Legislative Assistant from Rep. Brad Drake's office visited Jackson County School at Sunland. Ms. Clark visited all classrooms and engaged in conversation with our students, staff and JCS administration. The purpose of the visit was to observe the program implementation and services provided to our Adults with Disabilities. The Jackson County School District thanks Ms. Clark and Rep. Drake for making this visit a priority and for being an advocate for our Adults with Disabilities.



Woodridge House Proud of New Patio Furniture

The ladies who reside at Woodridge House were very excited to receive new patio furniture to spruce up their home. They couldn't wait to show it off and dressed all in pink for the special occasion. Thanks to HSSS Barbara Calhoun and the Woodridge staff for making this a fun day for everyone!



Residents Enjoy Fall Revival Services



On September 17, residents enjoyed a special Fall revival service at the Auditorium. Special guests for the event were Roger and Sherrie Stone, and Helen Goff. The newly formed "Resident Chapel Band" performed, playing a variety of instruments. It was a wonderful inspirational evening and was enjoyed by all. Thanks Chaplain Ruthie Moore for the exciting programs and opportunities you arrange for our residents!

Character Matters...



Initiative ~ *Recognizing and doing what needs to be done before being asked to do it.*

People who have initiative and make things happen are highly valued in the workplace. But what is it? And how can you develop it?

Researchers Michael Frese and Doris Fay define initiative as "work behavior characterized by its self-starting nature, its proactive approach, and by being persistent in overcoming difficulties that arise in pursuit of a goal."

When you show initiative, you do things without being told; you find out what you need to know; you keep going when things get tough; and you spot and take advantage of opportunities that others pass by. You act, instead of reacting, at work.

Most of us have seen initiative in action. Maybe you've seen a young manager who fills her boss's shoes when she's sick and the rest of the team is unsure what to do; or perhaps you've seen a team member proposing a process improvement plan to the executive board.

Initiative has become increasingly important in today's workplace. Organizations want employees who can think on their feet and take action without waiting for someone to tell them what to do. After all, this type of flexibility and courage is what pushes teams and organizations to innovate, and to overcome competition.

The following steps can help you develop your own initiative:

1. Develop a career plan
2. Build self-confidence
3. Spot opportunities and potential improvements
4. Sense-check your ideas
5. Develop persistence
6. Find balance



The Mind Tools organization teaches essential skills for an excellent career. Visit their website at www.mindtools.com where you can learn the personal effectiveness skills that you need in order to achieve a happy and successful career.

Borrowed from MindTools.com

September Star Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of Star Awards for the month of September! The following areas received Star Team Awards: Maintenance Department Team Award; Food Service Department Team Award; CSS Coffee Shop - Racquel Dunston & Darius Raines; Multi Team Award - Administration Adrian Abner, Kim Johnson, Felicia Smith, James Godwin, Jr.; Multi Team Award - Thiel Center Direct Care, Behavioral Services, CSS Recreation, Ranch & Recycling; Unit 1 Harrison House Team Award; Multi Team Award Jennifer Pumphrey, Nursing & Ericka Williams, Unit 3 East Washington. Star Employee Awards were presented to the following: Jacqueline Dudley, Unit 1 Grant House; Frederika Bolden, Unit 3 Westside; Ericka Williams, Unit 3 East Washington; Joe Grimsley, Unit 3 Connally Manor; Geraldine Messer, Unit 3 East Washington; Kay Baxter, Nursing; Robin Snellgrove, CSS Recycling; Glenda Winkle, CSS Ranch; Onna Lipford, CSS Administration; Deandra Jackson, Behavior Services; Mandie Bauldree, Food Service and Beth Basford, Administration/Communications & Public Relations

A host of character qualities were recognized in September to include: Attentiveness, Availability, Benevolence, Cautiousness, Creativity, Dependability, Determination, Diligence, Endurance, Enthusiasm, Flexibility, Initiative, Joyfulness, Orderliness, Responsibility and Resourcefulness!



**GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Amy Mincy, Food Service Director and Joni Laramore, Purchasing (Nominator)



**GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
MAINTENANCE / OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Daniel Price, Staff Development (Nominator) Allen Ward, Maintenance Supervisor and the Maintenance Staff



**GOLD STAR AWARD
MANDIE BAULDREE - FOOD SERVICE**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Heather Walker, Food Service 2nd Shift Supervisor & Mandie Bauldree



**GOLD STAR AWARD
KAY BAXTER - NURSING**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Shandrell Mount, SRNS & Kay Baxter



**GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
THIEL CENTER DIRECT CARE, BEHAVIOR SERVICES, CSS
RECREATION, RANCH & RECYCLING**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; James Godwin, CSS Director, Lucious Williams, Unit 2 POA, Tandra Cabrera, Unit 2 (Nominator) and staff from CSS



**GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
CSS COFFEE SHOP
RACQUEL DUNSTON & DARIUS RAINES**

Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; James Godwin, CSS Director; Racquel Dunston & Darius Raines

September Star Awards



GOLD STAR AWARD
ONNA LIPFORD - CSS ADMINISTRATION
 Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Onna Lipford & James Godwin, CSS Director



GOLD STAR AWARD
ROBIN SNELLGROVE - CSS RECYCLING
 Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Robin Snellgrove & James Godwin, CSS Director



GOLD STAR AWARD
JOE GRIMSLEY - UNIT 3 CONNALLY MANOR
 Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Tracy Swint, Unit 3 RSD & Joe Grimsley



SILVER STAR AWARD
JACQUELINE DUDLEY - UNIT 1 GRANT
 Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Jacqueline Dudley & Corliss McGriff, Unit 1 OMC I



GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
ADMINISTRATION
 Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Adrian Abner, Deputy Superintendent; Felicia Smith, Unit 1 POA; Kim Johnson, Quality Services Administrator; James Godwin, Jr., CSS Director & Corliss McGriff, Unit 1 OMC I (Nominator)



GOLD STAR TEAM AWARD
UNIT 1 HARRISON HOUSE
 Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Corliss McGriff, Unit 1 OMC I (Nominator) & Harrison House Staff



GOLD STAR AWARD
BETH BASFORD
 Pictured: Marguerite Morgan, Superintendent; Beth Basford; Lynn Kern & Tonya Kelly, Employee Recognition Committee Members (Nominators)



Hurricane Michael
Recovery Celebration
October 10, 2019 - 10 a.m.

Sunland Pecan Orchard
Adjacent to Habile Building

Special Tree Planting Ceremony in
Remembrance and Celebration of Sunland's
Recovery Efforts from Hurricane Michael

Please Join Us For This Special Event!



2019 Sunland Scarecrow Row Contest

Contest Week: October 14 - 18, 2019

Location: Sunland Gym

Entries Accepted: October 14 - 16, 9 AM - 3 PM at the Gym

Judging - October 17

Awards - October 18, 10 AM - Sunland Gym

Awards presented as follows:

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Ribbons & Honorable Mention Certificates

Best of Show ~ Wins Traveling Trophy



CONTEST GUIDELINES

- **Contest Opens October 14 and continues through October 18**
- **Entries:** Any staff, resident, home or department may enter - No Cost to Enter
- **Entries Due:** Between October 14 - 16. Entries must be submitted *no later* than Noon on October 16.
- **Rules:**
 - Entries should be life-size and can consist of one or more scarecrows.
 - Scarecrows must be constructed to withstand a variety of weather conditions.
 - No live plants or mulch may be used in any display.
 - Scarecrows must be free-standing or sitting.
 - You are responsible for providing all supports/seating for your entry.
 - One (1) promotional/informational sign no larger than 16x20 must be included in each display.



For More Information: Call Beth Basford at 482-9210, Maria Johnson at 482-9373 or Christy Hatcher at 482-9531

Friendly Reminder...

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

FALL fiesta



HOWELL FIELD

Lots of Fun for Everyone!

Come out and join the
fun...and see who gets dunked
in the dunking booth!

HUMAN RESOURCES

For any personnel needs, please contact Veronica Mullinax, Katey Hobbs, Lizzie Holland, Nicole Sims, Robin Morris or Lisa Rabon. The HR Team is always happy to serve you!

For more information regarding personnel matters, the Sunland Human Resources Department can be reached at 482-9230 or *04.

Information regarding vacancies can be obtained at the People First website at:

<https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>

「WE ARE
HERE
TO HELP」

NEW EMPLOYEES

Cody Coley
Trisha Franklin
Robert Varnum
Angela Feagin
Nazarine Broxton
Rachael Waldron
Miriam Betsey
Ashanti Brown
Shacasmine Bullard
Ni' Yazmine Walker
Donovan White
James Walker
Nyla Persaud

Jabara Jones
Lizzie Newton
Willie Pollock
Krystal Fuller
James Paramore
Britton Gregoire
James McKee
Gregory Shuemake
David Wilson
Mary Quattlebaum
Jazmine Cheverez
Ja'Corius Floyd

Welcome Aboard!