

Off the Record

District 1: (Completed by Office Manager Vicki Starkey)

Chief Deputy **Michele Lueders** and her family traveled to Disney World the day after Thanksgiving for several days and had a marvelous time, of course. Her daughter (and Michele) loved the Princess Tea. District 1 had a “staff meeting/holiday get-together” on December 6th.

Shane Stutzman, who is always entertaining, presented the True Colors program to the staff. We had a pot luck lunch, a “white elephant” gift exchange, and a silent auction. It was a fun time!

We welcome our new secretary, **Stephanie Polson**. Our District Data Analyst, **Ed Collins**, spent a day introducing Stephanie to NPACS.

Brian Luera, our new Probation Officer Trainee, will begin January 3rd, in the Beatrice office. We welcome him to our district which means we once again are fully staffed! Ya-hoo!

District 2: (Completed by Community-Based Intervention Officer Ashley Laux)

District 2 nominates one support staff and one probation officer every year as Support Staff of the Year and Probation Officer of the Year. This year we would like to congratulate **Brenda Swanson** for being chosen as Support Staff of the Year and **Stephanie Palsler** as Probation Officer of the Year. They were chosen by their co-workers and we are all glad to have these two individuals as co-workers in District 2.

We kicked off the Wellness Committee that was mentioned in the last update and we had our first event on December 14, 2012. We had an ugly sweater contest and pizza party over our lunch breaks. The winners were: **Jason Borgelt**, 1st place; **Jennifer Rachels**, 2nd place; and **Erin Sliva**, 3rd place. The event was open to everyone even if they did not want to wear a sweater. This was a great way to have a little fun during this busy time of year. We will have pictures of this awesome event in the next update.

A new member was welcomed to the Sliva family as Kellen Sliva was born September 5th, 2012. He weighed 11 lbs. 13oz. Congratulations to the happy family!

We welcome **Jennifer Rachels** to our Adult PSI unit, **Sean Wenzel** as an APO in Cass and Otto counties, and also **Frank Jenson** who is a contract part-time Drug Tech.

District 3A: (Completed by Chief Deputy Probation Officer Therese Voboril and Assistant Probation Officer Connie Beal)

SUD Experiential training is under way and staff is finding it to be a positive, enjoyable, and valuable experience. Enhanced contacts have been established with the agencies and we are sharing with each other what is being learned. Many clients at the agencies are impressed that probation officers are getting out into the field and learning about substance abuse treatment in the real world.

Leslie Van Winkle, Karen Foster and Kristi Bender participated in the in-house sex offender training and found it to be valuable and challenging.

CBI Officer **Jeri Swanson** and Reporting Center Coordinator **Cindy Wohlers-Green** attended the 2012 Nebraska Community Corrections Conference in October in Kearney. Officer Swanson synopsised her experience as follows: “The conference kicked off with a key speaker, Brian Lovins, Ph.D., Associate Director and Research Assistant, University of Cincinnati, Center for Criminal Justice Research, Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Lovins discussed evidence-based decision-making vs. evidence-based practices. He spoke about asking ourselves “what are we doing?” and “why are we doing it?”

As the conference progressed, the speakers continued to discuss the collaboration between law enforcement, probation/parole and community stakeholders/programs and how to make cohesion exist between the different systems, formulating the same end result: reduction in recidivism. The conference for me solidified how important a structured approach, intervention and progress and concrete expectations guide decision-making while maintaining focus on the criminogenic needs of the populations that we work with. Sources that were provided during the conference for additional information: NREPP (National Registry of Evidence Based Programs/Practices)

www.nrepp.samhsa.gov; www.drugfree.org; National Institute of Corrections www.nicic.gov; and <https://edbmoreless.org>.”

Jeff Peterson's daughter, Abbey, was recently married. She and her new husband are moving to San Diego in January where he is stationed in the Marines. Abbey is transferring from UNL to San Diego State University to continue her education in Rehabilitative Science.

Carol Van Liew recently changed her name to Grandma. Her daughter's baby's name is Elmer Paul and his nick name is “Buddy”. Santa will have a new house to visit in Billings, MT. The photos are available upon request and he is certain to be named Baby of the Year. Carol's other daughter, Karissa, is traveling with the Husker marching band to the Capital One Bowl in Orlando. Be sure to watch her in the parade and the game as she will be the “smiling flute player.”

Sandy Anderson's grandson, Alex Barauskas, returned to Nebraska on December 5th from serving a 1-year military tour of duty in Korea. Grandma is all smiles around the office and sharing stories. In January, Alex will be stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Our SOS employee, **Kristi Fowlkes** graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, commenced working on her Master's degree, and was married. She enjoys working in the field of Probation as she sees the ability for positive change.

Pauline Balta is excited to announce the Low Cost Spay/Neuter Program she coordinates will be celebrating its 1,000th spay/neuter at the beginning of 2013. There will be a celebration so watch for the announcement.

Tim Perry turned 55 years old in December. Also, he and his wife, Jackie, celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary. Their son, Tony, graduated from UN-Lincoln with his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration, High Distinction. He has already obtained employment as an Actuary at Woodmen of the World in Omaha. Both Mom and Dad are very proud! Ah, life is good!

Following our December staff meeting, during which District Court Judge Rob Otte presented “The Care and Feeding of Your Judge,” and **Lannelle Eastburn** and **Steve Rowoldt** from the Administrative Office presented the *Probation Post* and new on-line policy manual, staff enjoyed a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Thanks to Judge Otte, Steve and Lannelle for their presentations and to everyone who brought food!

District 3J: (Completed by Secretary Sheryl Lewis)



NEW OFFICE

WE HAVE MOVED!! It was work for all, but so worth it. We have a beautiful office at **421 South 9th Street, Suite 137 in the Heritage Square Building**. All of our telephone numbers will remain the same. We are looking forward to having an open house soon. **Chris Wellman** had the messiest office during the move (see photo below) and notice the picture of her new office. **Terri Bartek** deserves a medal for all the files she boxed up for the move ☺.



CHIEF LORI GRIGGS
GIVES THE THUMBS UP



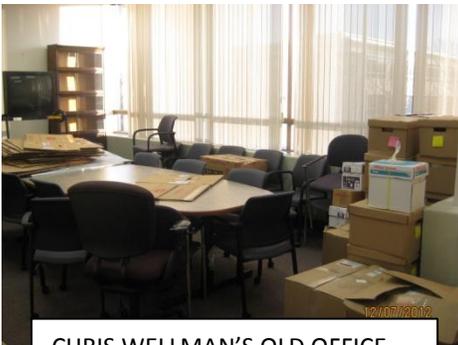
CHRIS WELLMAN'S NEW OFFICE



NEW ORGANIZED FILE ROOM

421 SOUTH 9TH STREET, SUITE 137, LINCOLN, NE 68508

WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR AN INVITATION TO OUR OPEN HOUSE SOON!



CHRIS WELLMAN'S OLD OFFICE



OLD FILE ROOM



OLD CONFERENCE ROOM FULL OF BOXES

Officers have been participating in substance abuse training at the Independence Center over the past couple of months.

Anthony West joined our staff as a Probation Officer Trainee in August. He worked for over two years at the OMNI ETGH or Therapeutic Group in Seward. Anthony is a graduate of UN-L with a B.A. in Sociology and minor in Ethnic Studies. He was a student athlete who graduated in four years while playing football for Nebraska (#5 - cornerback, for those who are curious!). Anthony is originally from San Diego. He will be supervising a CBR caseload which had been supervised by Stacy Strohmeyer.

Stacy Strohmeyer will be utilizing her great skills to supervise a CBI caseload. Stacy and her family moved to a new home in October in time for the holidays.

Niki Svik and her husband both celebrated their 40th birthdays!

Megan Patel and her husband will be sailing the seas for a 5-night cruise on Carnival Cruise Line to Jamaica and the Grand Caymans.

Bev Hoagland's son, Garrett, is now 11 and in the 6th grade student at Park Middle School where he has made the honor roll both quarters. He is currently playing Spirit basketball for the Silverhawks Green. They recently competed in a basketball tournament in Ames, IA and were met with some excellent competition. Parents are very proud of how the team competed in each game until the final whistle.

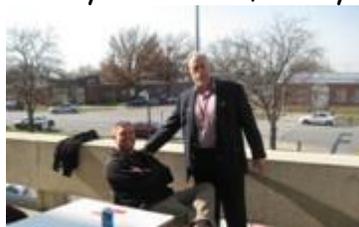
Bev's daughter, Ariana, age 8, is a 3rd grade student at Roper Elementary School. She has already decided that her future career will involve "helping people" because all of her friends come to her with their problems (Is that really a good thing!) Ariana also enjoys basketball, volleyball and soccer. She is currently playing on a YMCA recreational basketball team which Bev coaches. Ron and Bev's granddaughter, Malayah, recently turned 4 and they endured their third, yes, third birthday celebration at Chuckie Cheese! They have GOT to get that girl exposed to some other party places in Lincoln as she seems to be stuck in a rut!



Terri and Emmanuel Bartek celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on October 7th. Congratulations!! Terri and her daughter, Sheri, enjoyed going on a girl's trip to Disney World in October.

Sheryl Lewis made yet another trip to Branson to see her favorite Elvis Tribute Artist, Joseph Hall. She was elected President of Joseph's Fan Club. On a sad note, Sheryl lost her mother to breast cancer on October 16th.

During the Husker football season we had some fun with 'Tailgate Friday Teams' which included decorating in the theme of the football teams playing that week and enjoying wonderful food! The November 9th team included Ryan Dvorak, Kerry Dean and Chris Wellman.



As a member of ALA Unit 39, DuBois, Nebraska, **Kathy Cavric** and her sister, Phyllis Smith, baked 80 dozen cookies over Thanksgiving weekend. The ALA ladies boxed all donated cookies and sent them out to 7 active military members overseas and 16 boxes to active stateside and cookie plates for 54 local veterans. Each overseas military member received two boxes, one of basic sundries and snacks and one of baked goods. The ALA ladies have been doing this every year for over 35 years. Way to go ladies!

District 4A is in the process of securing a Byrne grant to address gang affiliated 19-28-year-old males in a high crime area of Omaha, to reduce recidivism and encourage alternatives.

Zach Maxwell from the North office attended the 1st Annual Strangulation Training Institute's Train the Trainers Conference in San Diego August 14-15, 2012. There were 50 people chosen to attend this and we are very proud that Zach was the only Probation officer invited to attend.

Amanda Schrum from the Midtown office completed all of her TAP classes at the LADC.

Traci Kindig from the Midtown office is now a Probation Officer. Traci has finished all of her classes to advance from APO/PO status.

We welcome **Michelle Meyer** to the Midtown office as a new APO/PO. All Probation Officers completed their week-long SUD training.

Ron Broich's daughter graduates from nursing school in February.

Mike Friedman from the South office tore his Achilles tendon in November playing basketball. Mike will have several more months of rehabilitation.

District 4J: (Provided by Chief Deputy Probation Officer Grady Porter)

Our big news is that **Mary Visek** was sworn in as our new Chief Probation Officer in December. For video and pictures go to Intranet, <http://supremecourt.ne.gov/probation/intranet>

Quintus Hampton (Treatment Officer) joined our staff in October. He comes to us from Texas with over 20 years of experience in the Probation Field.

Grady Porter has been involved in a new program that started in November with cross-over youth. This includes staffing 3A youth that obtain new delinquent or status offenses, in an attempt to keep the youth from moving further into the court system.

Our district has started the process of assigning certain officers to each Separate Juvenile Court Judge. We are presently doing this with PDI officers.

Dan Bloom attended Developmental 40 assets training last month.

Leonard Hawkins and **Quintus Hampton** attended a workshop on Racial and Ethnic Disparity. **Matt Hill** completed SUD training with the rest of the district scheduled to do so in January. **Rich Pope** obtained his LMHP credentials in December.

James Selmon-Vasser thought he was going to be involved in training the week of December 10th only to find out the day before that he was flying out on a surprise Christmas vacation to Los Carbos, Mexico.

Bonnie Willey has been appointed District Data Analyst for Districts 2 and 4J.

The winter storm wasn't enough to interrupt our office Christmas party on December 20th. Our office just had new carpet installed and we also inherited some new (used) furniture.

District 5: (Completed by Community-Based Intervention Officer Jill Spale)

We are working on getting Seeds for Success and WhyTry up and running in a few different areas of our district. We are also trying to get approval for a Problem-Solving Court for Saunders County!

In August, District 5 CBI officers attended Case Management Training in Lincoln and it was fabulous!

We have had several staff trained on Dragon software to help with dictation. The representative spent a day with us in September to teach us the ins and outs and answer questions users had regarding the software. In September and November, our RISE Specialists completed RISE training. In October **Jannelle Seim** represented our district at WhyTry training and is in the process of getting her groups up and running. **Jill Pokorny**, **Julie Smith** and **Shane Stutzman** attended the Community Corrections Conference in October in Kearney. **Laurie Vrba-Bos**, **Christina Werner** and **Leanne Suellwold** attended the Support Staff Training week in December in Lincoln. Our probation officers completed SUD training with District 6 in December.

We had several staff members receive years of service awards recently -- **Marty Metschke** 10 years, **Jill Pokorny** 5 years, and **Nick Luchsinger**, 5 years. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication!

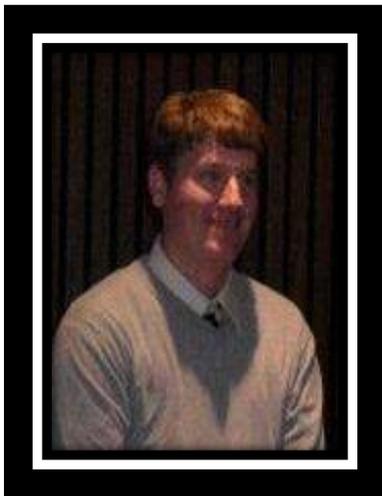
Lance Hall, **Nick Luchsinger** and **Carrie Rodriguez** were sworn in as Probation Officers during this quarter.



On November 14, 2012, **Jim Schaefer** received the Service to Mankind award from the Sertoma Club. This award recognizes a non-Sertoman in the community for “outstanding humanitarian, heroic, civic or other type of service to the community, state or nation.” Congratulations, Jim!



At our November all-staff meeting, Probation Officer **Lance Hall** received the Employee of the Quarter award. Lance received the award from nominations submitted by his co-workers. Congratulations, Lance!



Jeff Banholzer announced that he and his wife are expecting a new baby! Congratulations, Jeff!

We held neon day contests at our probation officer staff meeting and our clerical staff meeting. Congratulations to **Danielle Nadrchal**, our winner at the probation officer staff meeting and **Leann Suellwold**, our winner at our clerical staff meeting.



Leann Suellwold

District 5 had a Halloween costume contest. Congratulations to Jim Schaefer who won best individual costume and the Wahoo clerical staff who won best office!



We hired three new employees. **Brian Jarecki** and **Kimberly Wimberly** are our new RISE specialists and **Christina Werner** is our new secretary assisting with Polk, Merrick, Hamilton and York counties. Welcome to District 5!

District 6: (Completed by Assistant Probation Officer Brenda Hinz)

During the last quarter of this year, District 6 has completely specialized between investigation and supervision officers in our Community-Based Resource Units. **Branden Brown**, our new Juvenile Truancy Specialist, has started to offer the WhyTry program for our youth and the groups are held at the high school in Fremont. RISE Specialist **Nikki Swanson** has been providing a supervised study program for youth, also at the high school in Fremont and with the help of a community volunteer. A Victim Empathy Program is now being offered in our Reporting Center in South Sioux City, and a pre-treatment group and a trauma group are being offered in our satellite Service Center in Fremont. In January 2013, a female Healthy Boundaries Group will be offered to our drug court participants in our Fremont office.

Roger Kaup was recently promoted to CBI officer. CBR officer **Rob Owens** was selected to serve on the Probation Juvenile Committee. Rob has extensive experience in substance abuse and mental health.

In October, Treatment Probation Officer **James Laufenberg**, CBI officer **Jessica Lidgett**, CBR officer **Rob Owens**, and Chief **Bob Denton** all attended the 2012 Community Corrections Conference in Kearney, Nebraska. RISE Specialist **Nikki Swanson** attended the 40 Developmental Assets Training in December. District 6 probation officers attended the SUD Training in December and are scheduled to begin the experiential program in January, 2013. Treatment Probation Officer **James Laufenberg** and CBI officer **Roger Kaup** participated in Probation's Investigation and Supervision of Sex Offenders Training in October.

District 6 held its district staff meeting/Christmas party on December 7th, which included officer safety training.



*State Probation Trainer **Marty Metschke** demonstrates a move on Office Manager **Michelle Stieren**. CBR officer **Sarah Gorsett** and CBI officer **Alyssa Nelson** observe in the background.*



CBR officers Emily Kirschenmann and Rob Owens practice their officer safety training moves.



Senior Secretary Susie Moravec and CBR officer Tiffany Stallbaum practice their officer safety training moves

Senior Probation Officer **Diane Paseka** had a granddaughter, Anseligh Ellis, on December 8th.

Case Monitor **Ranae Rogers** had a granddaughter, Greeley Rogers, on December 17th.

Congratulations to the Grandmas! Senior Secretary **Susie Moravec** is traveling to the Capitol One Bowl Game in Orlando. |

CBR officer **Sarah Bartels** was married to Ryan Gorsett on Saturday, September 1st and they honeymooned in Hawaii!

CBR officer **Rebecca Miranda** had a baby girl, Isabel Lucia, on September 10th. Isabel weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19” long! Congratulations, Becky!

CBI officer **Alyssa Nelson** is involved with the South Sioux City Fire Department, and submitted a letter to the Nebraska State Volunteer Auxiliary Association and received first place for her letter. Every city in the state of Nebraska that has an auxiliary with their fire station submitted a letter with all their activities and accomplishments they did throughout the year such as activities, civic affairs, courtesies, money-making projects, and firefighter favors. Alyssa’s letter to the NSVAA received first place for the second year!

District 6 Adult Drug Court Coordinator **Patty Lyon** was the recipient of the Bob Keller Probation Supervisor of the Year Award!



Pictured from left to right is Patty’s father Joe Heydon, husband Travis Lyon, Patty, daughter Sophie, and her mother Shirley Heydon.



Chief Bob Denton presenting a 5-year court service award to Senior Secretary Rosalie Schweers.



Chief Bob Denton presenting a 15-year court service award to Senior Secretary Deb Williamson

Reporting Center Coordinator **Mike Carlson** and his father went deer hunting again for their 33rd consecutive year! Below is a picture of Mike with his buck!



District 7: (Completed by Secretary Jerri Jorgensen)

During our October district meeting we were very honored to sponsor Narcotics Anonymous speaker meetings, which we were welcome to attend. These meetings gave us the opportunity to hear their testimonies and it was so moving to hear their stories and develop an understanding of actual 12-step meetings. We commend them on their courage for what they have done to help themselves as well as others in need of assistance with the addiction/disease of drug abuse.

Morgan Bentz and **Trudy Schultz** attended the New Support Staff training in Lincoln in December and were very impressed the instructors.



Kevin Patras, our Drug Technician is newly married to his wife, Jenn. The couple honeymooned in the Bahamas this past fall. Congrats to Kevin and Jenn!



Brett Walker, our CBI officer, and his wife were blessed with a new baby boy, Kyler, this past fall. Congratulations to the Walker family!

Candy Downey, our Office Manager, is now a member of Probation's IT Committee. **Bob Lowe**, our Deputy Chief Probation Officer, is now a member of the Programs/Field Services Committee. They both will serve these committees well with their expertise.

Our officers attended the SUD training in December. Even with the inclement weather the instructors and all officers were able to make it. I know they were all very pleased with this training.

Our District has partnered up with the Wesley Center Crisis Nursery and gathered gifts and necessities for this agency. Our probationers were so kind to donate to this cause as well. Pictures to come in the next edition.

We wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!!!

District 8: (Completed by Chief Probation Officer Tara Sprigler-Price)

Our big event was the battle of the coaches in basketball on December 14th with **Harlin Welch** of Ainsworth and Assistant Coach **Nate Olson** of Broken Bow. The game was to be in Ainsworth so we will keep you posted as to the outcome.

Results: Ainsworth was up between 10 to 14 points when the tide changed to Broken Bow but in the end Ainsworth won by one point. It was quite the game.

District 10: (Completed by Secretary Donna Schmidt)

Todd Rosno with the help of RISE Specialist **Kathy Wagoner-Wiese** has begun a truancy program for the juveniles of District 10. They meet in our service center on designated Monday mornings at 7:00 a.m. With outreach to the community, they also provide the juveniles with breakfast to get their school days started off right. The district continues to expand our use of facilitated groups which are facilitated by all supervision officers of our district.

Drew Taft and **Elizabeth Karre** both completed the New Support Staff Training in December. Our officers have all initiated SUD training. Chief **Joe Budnick** completed NIC training. **Todd Rosno**, **Marc Kohmetscher** and **Joe Budnick** attended Case Management training.

We have enjoyed a growth in our office family with the addition of **Elizabeth Karre**, who is the new secretary in our Minden office, and **Drew Taft**, who is our District Data Analyst serving the Central Service Area (Districts 5, 8, 9, and 10). Drew's home base is the Hastings office.

We wish everyone a wonderful New Year.

District 11: (Completed by Community-Based Intervention Officer Jennifer Howerter)

The Juvenile Pilot Project is in full swing in our district and seems to be going well. We offer several Change Companies classes. Recently Juvenile Officer **Kenny Townsend** began facilitating the Seeds of Success, Juvenile Breaking Barriers Program. Other juvenile programs include WhyTry and Juvenile MRT.

Our district has been in the process of completing the SUD training as well as completing other requirements by Administration.

Deb Hoos, our secretary in the Lexington Probation Office, celebrated her retirement on November 1st, after 25 years of service. Congratulations to Deb and we thank her for all her years of dedication to the Nebraska Probation System.



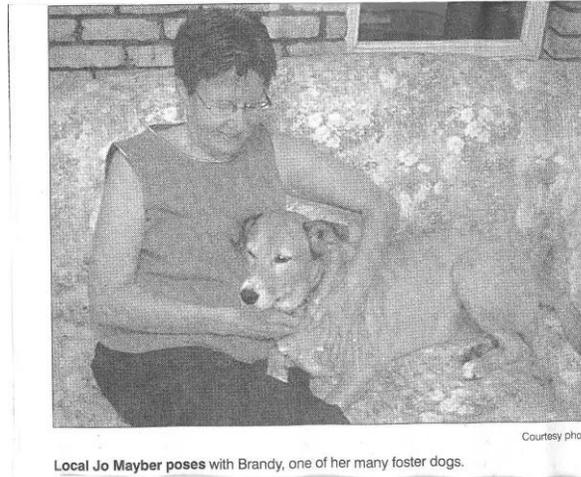
Left to right: Linda Zabel, Probation Administration; Deb Hoos, Chief Lonnie Folchert.

Officer Manager, Karen Brinker, North Platte Office, has announced she will be retiring in February after 36 years of service.

Aaron Rickett, Tarin Chapin, and Jamie Fisher are new probation officers in our district and they all have completed New Probation Officer Training.

Senior Probation Officer, **Jo Mayber**, from the North Platte Office, was recently recognized in the *North Platte Telegraph* for her love and passion for animals. Jo is the current president of Paws-Itive Partners Humane Society in North Platte, a non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership. She also works with Paws-Itive Kids, a group for young people within the larger organization. All of the work Jo does at the Society is strictly volunteer. Jo was commended by

another volunteer of the program who said, “She will just do anything to help an animal. I can’t say enough good things about her. Way to go Jo!!



Administration:



Toni Jensen, Domestic Violence Programs Service Specialist, and her husband Martin are expecting their first child due the end of May. Both are very excited for what is in store for them!



Elishia Kroll, IT Applications Analyst, and husband Pete had their 15th wedding anniversary on November 26th. They will celebrate this milestone in January with a cruise, where they will set sail in the Caribbean.

Lannelle Eastburn, IT Infrastructure Analyst, and her husband Dennis went fly-fishing in the spring-fed Roaring River in southern Missouri. Two weeks after returning home her husband underwent emergency open heart surgery; he is doing very well and has returned to work.



The spring that feeds the Roaring River has an average water flow of 20.4 million gallons per day; divers have gone down 224 feet and have not found the bottom, but they did find a remote “room” where they could surface.



L-r: Dennis, Harry (8), Ella (10), Linda outside the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia

Linda Zabel, Administrative Support Specialist, and her husband Denny spent Thanksgiving week with their daughter Kay and her family in York, PA. We took the grandkids to Philadelphia for a day and visited the U.S. Mint, Liberty Bell and other points of interest. It was very pleasant as there weren't a lot of people anywhere unlike in April when we spent the day in Philly. We also spent a day at the Lancaster Science Factory in Lancaster, PA which was very hands-on. The kids and Grandpa really enjoyed this as there were a lot of gadgets to play/work with having to do with science projects. Thanksgiving morning Kay and her family ran in the 5K Turkey Trot which is sponsored by the

YWCA. We did manage to find them amongst all the folks running/trotting/walking. The Zabels also geocached whenever time allowed. Found caches in Philadelphia, Lancaster, York, PA; and Baltimore, MD. Next trip east will be this spring.

Submissions:

If you would like to submit an article to Off the Record, an item of interest, or picture, please email it to your district contact (see above), your district chief, Bob Denton, robert.denton@nebraska.gov, or submit it directly to Lannelle Eastburn, lannelle.eastburn@nebraska.gov. Thank you for your participation.