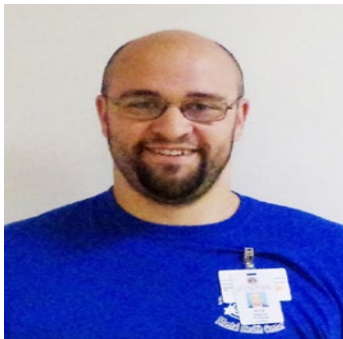


State Employee of the Month

January 2019

Kyle Pinkley

Registered Nurse Manager
Department of Mental Health



Kyle Pinkley is being recognized for his excellent leadership with staff and clients that brings results of improvement in communication and treatment. Kyle is solution-focused, when an eye wash station was not available when a team member needed one, he took action to ensure one was installed. Kyle works side-by-side with his team, he sets the bar high and inspires everyone in his unit to do the same. Kyle's positive, encouraging attitude are inspiring and contagious. Kyle was nominated by eight DMH staff members, which shows the impact he makes.

State Employee of the Month

February 2019

Ron Jeffreys

Maintenance Worker II

Department of Natural Resources



Ron Jeffreys has been involved in the bison round up at Prairie State Park for many years. Looking for ways to make this endeavor safer for team members involved, Ron was instrumental in designing a system helped keep workers safer while the bison were checked by a veterinarian. Ron is an experienced welder and he was able to fabricate the gates needed from materials leftover from other projects. After working the bison through the new corral, Ron began thinking of more ways to improve the process making it better and safer for the animals and park staff.

State Employee of the Month

March 2019

Ashley Klempke

Trooper

Department of Public Safety/MSHP



Trooper Ashly Klempke responded to a report of two small girls walking down US 54 in Cole County. It was very early in the morning and the girls were dressed in pajamas, with no shoes. The girls were fleeing from a reportedly abusive home. Trooper Klempke refused to return the girls to their home. She insisted they be evaluated by medical personnel. Evidence of severe abuse was found during the examinations. Subsequently, search warrants were issued for the residence and interviews revealed further evidence of abuse. As a result, six children were placed into protective custody and the parents were arrested and charged. Without Trooper Klempke's intervention, dedication and perseverance these young victims would still be subject to daily abuse.

State Employee of the Month

April 2019

Gena Schmidt

Children's Service Worker III
Department of Social Services



Gena Schmidt has worked diligently for more than a decade to ensure children in alternative care have gifts for Christmas. She coordinates with numerous churches, individuals and other charitable organizations throughout Jefferson County that wish to sponsor a child at Christmas. For many of these children, these are the only gifts they receive. Recently, Gena received a call from a young woman that wanted to sponsor a teenage girl for Christmas. The young woman shared that she had grown up in foster care and remembered how much it meant to her that the Children's Division always made sure she had a gift on Christmas. The young woman wants to "give back" to the system that gave to her. Gen's work impacts many and it is inspiring to see it come full circle.

State Employee of the Month

May 2019

**Mary Gbougbo, Andrew Baily &
Sheila Sullivan**

Family Support Eligibility Specialist
Department of Social Services



Mary Gbougbo, of Manchester, Andrew Bailey of St. Ann, and Sheila Sullivan of St. Peters were working at the Jennings Call Center on December 5, 2018, when a co-worker had a cardiac incident that rendered her unconscious and unresponsive. Ms. Gbougbo jumped into action, first performing CPR. She and Mr. Bailey then began to take turns performing CPR, while Ms. Sullivan conveyed vital instructions and information from a 911 operator.

Due to a GPS system anomaly that gave EMS incorrect call center location information, it took over 20 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. During that extended period of time, all three employees took turns performing chest compressions. According to the doctor at the hospital, the collective actions of these employees saved the life of their co-worker and kept her from severe brain damage.

State Employee of the Month

June 2019

Tammy Holland

Direct Support Professional
Department of Mental Health



Tammy Holland, who works at Northwest Community Services in Marshall, was selected for saving the life of an individual in her care. Holland found the person completely unresponsive and immediately instructed a co-worker to call 911. She began CPR and rescue breathing.

Direct support professionals working for the Department of Mental Health receive life support training they hope to never use to save a person's life. Tammy's swift and calm action gave confidence to other staff and ultimately saved the life of the individual.

During her 15 years of service at the Department of Mental Health, Tammy has developed a well-earned reputation of providing excellent care to the consumers she supports. She also has positive relationships with her co-workers.

State Employee of the Month

July 2019

Keaton Ebersold

Trooper

Department of Public Safety/MSHP



Trooper Ebersold was selected for his bravery saving the life of a three year old child. A woman had taken a tractor-trailer driver hostage and was holding him at gun point. The driver of the truck escaped and explained there was a woman in the truck with a gun. After breaking out a truck window, Trooper Ebersold found the woman in the sleeper berth with her left arm wrapped around a small child and in her right hand, was an orange 12 gauge flare gun pointing towards the child's head.

With virtually no regard for his own safety, Trooper Ebersold climbed into the truck and began trying to communicate with the woman. Efforts were unsuccessful and Trooper Ebersold grabbed the barrel of the gun. Following a struggle with the woman, he gained control of the flare gun and threw it from the truck. After another lengthy struggle, the child was safely removed from the vehicle and taken into protective custody and later released to the Missouri Children's Division.

State Employee of the Month

August 2019

Jamie Sartin

Regional Bridge Maintenance Supervisor
Department of Transportation



Jamie Sartin, a MoDOT Southwest District Regional Bridge Maintenance Supervisor with 24 years of experience, was selected for his leadership in managing a bridge repair project. The project took just five days to complete when initial estimates projected it would take 30 days.

During a routine inspection, it was discovered the support deck of the Long Creek Bridge was rapidly deteriorating and required urgent repairs. The heavily utilized bridge carries Highway 86 traffic across Table Rock Lake and had to be closed during the repairs.

Not only did Mr. Sartin ensure the bridge repair team's safety during the project, he facilitated regular status reports to MODOT Communications and the Area Engineer so community residents and business owners could be given frequent project updates.

State Employee of the Month

September 2019

Ron Broxton

Recovery Division Manager
Department of Public Safety/SEMA



Ron Broxton has coordinated the state's participation in seven major disaster declarations including major river flooding, flash flooding and tornadoes. Serving in a unique role in State government, he is solely responsible for coordinating data collection and preparation of the official request to receive a presidential disaster declaration. This is a critical step in the process communities utilize to recover from disasters.

A recognized expert in Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster programs, he is available 24/7, 365 days a year, when disasters strike. He routinely alters personal plans and cancels family activities when his disaster responsibilities intervene. Mr. Broxton, and the dedicated team he leads, is also responsible for coordinating the National Flood Insurance Program and the flood mapping and disaster mitigation sections of SEMA.

State Employee of the Month

October 2019

Wendy Bryant

Adult Protective and Community Worker
Department of Health and Senior Services



Wendy Bryant responded to a hotline call regarding a homeless, disabled veteran who was on probation and unable to secure housing. Wendy is known for the remarkable compassion she brings to work every day on behalf of all her clients. Ms. Bryant not only helped ensure what living arrangements the veteran did have remained intact she personally brought him boxes of food from the local pantry.

She helped the veteran fill out a Medicaid application, which led to medical care and transportation to and from his appointments. She then worked with the Department of Corrections Division of Probation and Parole and the court so the veteran could be approved for food stamps. She also went the extra mile to assist the veteran in communicating with the Departments' of Veterans Affairs and Social Security. These efforts are just one example of Wendy Bryant's capacity to help others and reflect her commitment to public service.

State Employee of the Month

November 2019

Tony Kerley
Environmental Specialist III
Department of Natural Resources



Tony Kerley was selected for his quick action following a report that Howell County Public Water Supply District (PWSD) #1 was running out of water. Tony immediately began working to restore water service. While filling the district's elevated storage tank, he discovered there was virtually no chlorine in the water. Due to the health risk, the water district's board members issued a district-wide boil water advisory until the storage tank could be inspected, chlorine residuals restored, and safe bacteriological samples collected and tested.

Working for weeks, Tony helped identify partners to assist the district in restoring the chlorine feed and having the storage tank inspected, cleaned, and disinfected. He was also instrumental in finding the district a contract operator to perform daily duties and make needed repairs to the district's chlorinators and storage tank and facilitated the boil order being lifted.

State Employee of the Month

December 2019

Kurtis Cooper

Environmental Specialist III
Department of Natural Resources



Kurtis Cooper was selected for playing a leadership role in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Red-Tape Reduction Initiatives.

In 2018, Kurtis streamlined a grant evaluation process the Department began using to determine eligibility for Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF). Since streamlining an increase in the number of grant eligible applicants, and an increase in the amount of grant funds being allocated to communities has been seen.

In 2019, Kurtis developed a new CWSRF grant program. Grants are designed to provide smaller water systems with the financial and technical resources to upgrade and maintain wastewater treatment facilities. The program also includes a prioritization process that helps the Department to select the most beneficial projects for funding.