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Attachments: Auto1.JPG

Auto2.JPG

Brian,

Mr. Robert White the Shop teacher did a fabulous job on this story. Thank you Mr. White!

The story link is below with the story text. Images of the Front Page photo and the A3 story are attached as well.

This is a very positive story putting DJJ, our teachers in a positive light and shows the juveniles working forward.

<http://lexingtonchronicle.com/djj-automotive-class-therapeutic-for-troubled-teens-p38527-550.htm>

DJJ automotive class therapeutic for troubled teens

Rob Cottingham•

Thu, Jun 23, 2016

Grandpa always said idle hands are the devil's workshop.

At the Department of Juvenile Justice, staff are working hard to provide plenty for those hands to do.

In the far corner of the Broad River Road complex, there's a small workshop filled with the chimes and bangs of wrenches, elbow grease and a few expletives here and there.

Despite what noises and words might be overheard, everyone in the shop is happy to be there.

Robert White has been running the automotive repair class at DJJ for about five years, though he never intended to stay this long, he said.

"I came for one year, but the program started doing well, so I stayed," he said. "It started with a welding class that my buddy, Eddie Jackson, started up here. That expanded into automotive collision and automotive repair."

The class doesn't have a set curriculum. Instead, White finds any kind of work he can for the students to do, such as oil changes, brake fixes and body repairs.

"I give them anything I can get my hands on," White said. "I get people to bring things in, like this tractor over here. They're easier to work on than cars, but they learn the same basics."

The students are quick to show their appreciation for White and the program he teaches.

"I love it," said Amont, a 14-year-old at the facility. "It's less school work, and it takes your mind off things. You get stuff done."

Tanner, a 16-year-old who has been involved in the automotive program for two months, said it's more than just a way to stay out of trouble: It's an escape.

"I love coming in here and getting to work," he said. "It takes my mind off the depression, you know? I don't have to sit in my room all day long."

White said it's these troubles the kids have that motivates him to stay involved.

"I enjoy helping the kids out," White said. "Maybe I don't teach them automotive things all the time, but I teach them about life in general, discussing what problems they might be having ... keeping their minds in the right direction.

"Man, it's just something I love to do."

Very Respectfully,

Patrick Montgomery

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