

San Quentin News



WRITTEN BY THE INCARCERATED – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE



VOL. 2021 NO. 3

March 2021

Edition 134

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 2,453

Cesar E. Chavez inspire reforms

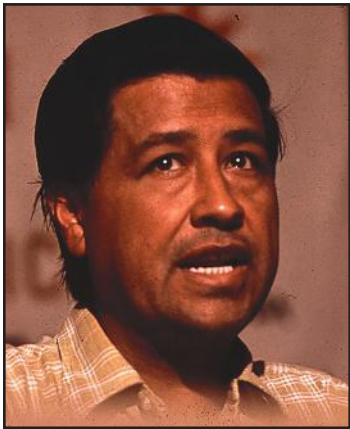


Photo from Wikipedia
Cesar Chavez

By Edwin E. Chavez
Staff Writer

“Si se puede!” (Yes, it can be done!), embodies the uncommon legacy Cesar E. Chavez left for millions of people around the world.

“If you’re not frightened that you might fail, you’ll never do the job,” said Chavez, according to Education of the Heart Quotes by Chavez. “If you’re frightened, you’ll work like crazy.”

Cesar Chavez was a civil rights

Latino and farm labor leader from the early 50s-80s.

Today, farm workers continue to fight immigration issues, low wages, and not being considered essential worker throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In this situation, Chavez’ words and work still ring true.

“It’s ironic that those who till the soil, cultivate and harvest the fruits, vegetables and other foods that fill your tables with abundance have nothing left for themselves,” said Chavez, on the treatment of farm workers.

On March 31, Cesar Chavez Day is officially celebrated in 10 states. He is also recognized during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Born in Yuma, Arizona (1927) to immigrant parents, Chavez worked as a manual laborer. He served two years in the United States Navy, then relocated to California in 1939. Where for the next decade, he traveled up and down the state working in fields under harsh conditions.

“We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure,” said Chavez.

See **CESAR** on Page 12

Chinese community celebrates New Year



Photo from Wikipedia

Chinese lanterns

By Marcus Henderson
Editor-in-Chief

Dancing dragons and loud pops from firecrackers normally mark the Chinese New Year or Spring Festival. Due to COVID-19, a lot of celebrations were canceled or scaled down for 2021, called the “Year of the Ox.”

In Chinese culture, a zodiac sign is given to individuals born that year. There is the year of the Rat, Snake or the Pig. These animals’ signs are not well-liked in some cultures, but the Chinese recognize them for their positive traits. One’s animal can decide one’s career, relationship

success and health, according to Wikipedia.

The Chinese New Year celebrations range from Jan. 21 to Feb. 20 and occur on the new moon, according to the Lunar Calendar. Some birthdays and ages are calculated to the Lunar Calendar as well.

The use of firecrackers for the new year comes from the legend of Nian, a scary monster that would eat people, crops and livestock on New Year’s Eve. To prevent Nian’s destruction and attacking people, a young boy used firecrackers to fight him off, which has become a tradition.

See **NEW YEAR** on Page 6



Photo from CDCR

ISDUT class being conducted in the San Quentin education building

San Quentin reopens limited in-person rehabilitation programs

By Nathan McKinney
Managing Editor

After almost a year of modified programming and a massive COVID-19 outbreak, San Quentin has reopened limited in-person education and its Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment (ISDUT) programming.

Under the current COVID-19 emergency protocols, students and substance abuse participants are scheduled to attend in-person classes with their assigned housing units. This is designed to keep them from mixing with other units and to protect them from transmission of the Coronavirus. The programs were restarted in late March, according

to a recent prison Memorandum. “I feel safe since they restarted the program,” said Luis Gutierrez, an ISDUT participant who has been housed in San Quentin for three years. “And that’s not easy because I was a victim of COVID-19 last year.”

See **ISDUT** on Page 5

Random attacks targeting elderly Asian Americans

By Vincent E. O’Bannon
Staff Writer

Random attacks on elderly Asian Americans are being tied to former President Donald Trump’s assertion that the novel coronavirus is a “Chinese” disease.

The U.S. has seen a spike in crimes against a community that has become the victims of hate and rhetoric, a community already considered vulnerable and less likely to report crime, reported Eric

Westervelt for NPR.org.

“Oftentimes, perpetrators have used the exact same language of the prior president, words like ‘Wuhan virus, kung flu, China virus, China plague,’” said Dr. Manjusha Kulkarni, executive director of the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council in Los Angeles County.

“And sometimes they have even weaponized the former president himself, saying ‘Trump is going to get you, go back to your country.’ What President Trump did was fo-

ment hate against Asian American communities and really put people in harm’s way...We need so much work to be done to undo some of the harm of the prior administration,” she added.

Bay Area cities have stepped up patrols in areas with a high Asian populace and have or are creating special command and response teams to combat the brazen daylight attacks.

See **ASIANS** on Page 5



Photo by CDCR

SQ residents lead a roundtable discussion about Asians in America

San Quentin News is written and produced by incarcerated people. We are supported solely by grants and donations from the outside community. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit our website at: sanquentinnews.com or send a check or money order payable to:
Social Good Fund/"Friends of San Quentin News,"
P.O. Box 494, San Quentin, CA 94964

THE
**REVA & DAVID LOGAN
 FOUNDATION**

THE **NATHAN
 CUMMINGS
 FOUNDATION**



**JONATHAN LOGAN
 FAMILY FOUNDATION**



FORD FOUNDATION

**Chan
 Zuckerberg
 Initiative** 



Rotary Club of Mission San Rafael
 Rotary Club of Novato
 Rotary Club of Oakland

THE
 SAN
 FRANCISCO
 FOUNDATION

Thank you for your support!!



Elderly San Quentin men struggle with COVID restrictions

By Edwin Chavez
 Staff Writer

After surviving the impact of COVID-19, incarcerated senior citizens are struggling to retain prior learning in academics, self-help groups, physical therapy, and vocational training programs. These programs require a constant level of participation, especially for the elderly.

"As an amputee, I have only been allowed to attend my physical therapy class once-so that I can learn how to walk with my right prosthetic leg," said Leonard King, 65, a San Quentin resident who survived the outbreak. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, CDCR officials housed high-risk medical residents at San Quentin. Most of these men are ages 60 and up, making them more vulnerable to illness, especially with their underlying medical conditions.

Steve Rothschild, 75, also survived the outbreak at San Quentin. Rothschild has been at the prison for the last two years. He was working in the Prison Industry Authority's (PIA) The Last Mile coding program before the prison suspended all programs due to the COVID-19. "Senior citizens don't retain information as well as young people," said Rothschild. "I have lost much of what I have learned. There is no substitute for practice, practice, practice and this is unattainable without my workstation," he added.

It has been more than 10 months and Rothschild is concerned that not having the ability to reinforce his coding skills makes it more likely that he won't advance to the next level of the class. That will hinder his ability to earn a new trade or earn a potentially earlier release date from prison.

I tested 14 different times for COVID-19 and all my



Photo by Javier Jimenez

Leonard King

results were negative," said Jose Hurtado, 65, avoided contracting COVID-19 during the outbreak. "COVID-19 robbed me of earning good time credits. I haven't been able to be oriented or participate in any self-help programs."

San Quentin has been on a strict lock-down (modified program since the outbreak. Educational, vocational and all rehabilitation programs, including religious services, have been on hold since March. "I can't attend a church, which is something that helps me in maintaining a healthy spirit," said Hurtado. "The lack of religious services have also made me depressed and sad. When we don't have activities and just sit in our cells it's very depressing. Now, I am being transferred out to Corcoran (state prison) and I am afraid that I will get COVID-19 at my new prison."

As a result of the pandemic and the modified programming, the prison's general population has lacked the means to earn certificates or self-help chronos, which

could give incarcerated people credit towards earlier releases or parole board hearings dates. CDCR has awarded "Meritorious Credit-Good Time credit" of 84 days to all incarcerated state people, according to their website. California's aging prison population may have increased due to laws such as the three-strike law or incarcerated people being required to serve 85% of their sentences. Most of these laws were passed in the early '90s, which left many people to serve life or long term sentences before being considered for parole.

"It has been a lot to endure I can't speak for anyone else," said King, who has been incarcerated for 25 years under the Three-Strike Law. "But for me, I can't predict what the future will be for me, because of my age and my medical conditions. This pandemic has added another life sentence to my Three-Strikes," he added.

Some elderly residents are in a tough position where they must find ways to learn a new workable



Photo by Eddie Herena

SQ Veterans at a Toys for Tots

skill for employment and learn new coping skills to meet some parole board's hearing requirements, all the while being classified as medically high risk. As senior citizens returning home, they know they are unlikely to be hired for hard labor jobs. Rothschild, at age 75, believed that the coding program would have given him an opportunity to earn a living in the free world as a web designer. He also said he has completed Anger Management prior to the outbreak.

King at the age of 65, was given a five-year denial at his parole suitability hearing. Now, he has to attain additional self-help programs to fulfill the parole board's recommendation for suitability in a time where programs are shut-down.

"I feel defeated. It's emotionally depressing not being able to learn the things that I need to learn," said King. "I need all the help that I can get so when I come home I can get a job and be a productive citizen to my community."

Prior to the outbreak, San Quentin was known as the Mecca of all CDCR rehabilitation program hubs. People

from all over the state have requested their institutions to be transferred them to San Quentin. So with the coronavirus dropping within the prison, but rising in the state. Everybody, both young and old, is just waiting on what CDCR's next steps will be.

Since this story was written, Leonard King passed away.



Photo by Eddie Herena

Students at a Vocational graduation in Education

Incarcerated juveniles suffer psychologically during COVID-19 lockdowns

By Edwin Chavez
Staff Writer

Incarcerated juveniles around the nation are feeling the psychological pressures of being exposed to harsh solitary confinement conditions in the name of “medical isolation,” “soft quarantines” or behavioral issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic and outbreaks, according to a report by *The Marshall Project*.

Leaving juveniles locked inside their cells without access to schools, recreation or rehabilitative programs and detached from family visits, kids are feeling alone and sinking into boredom, said a therapist in a Maryland youth facility, according to the May 12, 2020 report.

“It is hard to imagine a more vulnerable population... in the face of this pandemic,” Craig W. Haney wrote in a court statement in March 2020. Haney is a social psychologist and an expert on the psychology of confinement at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Abandonment issues can resurface during this time because most youth in the justice system have endured childhood trauma, according to the report.

One mother whose son was housed at the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center in Richmond, Virginia, said her son was going back to his negative mindset and wrote her a suicidal letter.

It took another month before she was able to speak to

him on the phone.

“The call cut off before I could even say I love you,” she said, according to the report.

Children at the facility were said to be sitting alone in their cells worrying about the deadly virus and its effects on their family members and teachers, added another parent, who had a child at the same facility.

Prior to the outbreak, the Bon Air facility held a quilting class and volunteers taught Russian literature, said the report.

The conditions around juvenile facilities are starting to feel more like adult prison-style isolation, according to many incarcerated teens, advocates and correctional officers in more than a dozen states, said the report.

There are more than 44,000 youth incarcerated in federal and state juvenile detention centers, noted the report. Approximately 70 percent of youth are incarcerated for nonviolent offenses, reported the Sentencing Project. Many are pre-trial detainees and have yet to be convicted of any crime, the report added.

In Louisiana, some juvenile facilities were being re-staffed by probation officers, who are trained in adult police tactics, and some teens are being subdued with force. The teens that fight or attempt to escape are placed in isolation cells that have not been active for years, according to the report.

“During unordinary cir-

cumstances such as this, it is customary to utilize all assets within the department to continue to maintain a safe and secure environment for our staff and youth,” said Beth Touchet-Morgan, spokesperson for Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice, on the use of the cells.

“Does anyone believe that rehabilitation can occur in a locked facility during a pandemic?”

The response to cancel schools and family visits within juvenile facilities due to COVID-19 has caused many youth to feel paranoid,

lonely and bored, the report stated.

“I just take it as they don’t care about us for real,” a Baltimore teen told *The Marshall Project*.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, “every day that an adolescent spends in adult prison-style isolation, without learning new skills and receiving mental-health treatment, is itself a health emergency,” quoted the report.

Youths have been locked in isolation cells 23 hours a day. Their only interactions are with correctional officers, or they have to shout to their friends under the cell door, said the report. Nationally, SWAT teams and pepper spray has been used on the frustrated youth because they are getting into fights and brawls.

Some juvenile detention agencies and judges across the country have stepped in

to reduce the youth prison population. Only two governors (Michigan and Colorado) have ordered large-scale releases of juveniles from jail to combat the spread of COVID-19. Only 10 states have reduced its juvenile population at the state level, according to the Youth First Initiative, an advocacy group, notes the report.

“Never before in our judicial system have we asked the question: Will jail do more harm than good?” said Jenny Egan, chief attorney of the juvenile division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. “Can the rehabilitative purpose of juveniles court even still happen in that timeframe?”

Stress, frustration and social distancing have become a form of solitary confinement for juveniles in jails. School was a form of freedom inside the facilities. They were able to come out of their cells and

participated with other students, noted the report.

Worksheets, video games and video lessons have become the substitute for recreation and learning for the incarcerated youth.

Children’s rights advocates are uncertain how many children have been placed in isolation for medical reasons or otherwise, because they are not given access to jails during the pandemic. The United Nations consider it a human-rights violation to isolate children. Studies shows it increases suicide and future mortality rates, said the report.

“Does anyone believe that rehabilitation can occur in a locked facility during a pandemic?” asked Nate Balis, director of the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group at the Annie E. Casey Foundation. “What are we actually doing still holding children in facilities?”

Immigrants subject to ICE deportation regardless of commutations, pardons or medical reprieves

By Heriberto Arredondo
Staff Writer

Deportation is still a reality for undocumented immigrants with a criminal past, even if they have received a commutation or pardon from a governor, according to a *reform.com* article.

Recently, at least 10 undocumented individuals received a commutation, pardon or medical reprieve from California Gov. Gavin Newsom, but that does not protect them from being removed from the country, according to Matthew Tragesser, writer of the article.

“Even though these individuals may be given relief for their crimes...ICE is within its statutory

authority and ultimately determines the deportation status of an illegal alien,” wrote Tragesser.

But the governor’s office describes how it is still operating within its sanctuary state policy.

“[Pardons] remove counterproductive barriers to employment and public service, restore civic rights and responsibilities and prevent unjust collateral consequences of conviction, such as deportation and permanent family separation,” stated the governor’s office in an interview with Forbes, reported the article.

“A commutation modifies a sentence, often allowing an inmate to go before the Board of Parole Hearings

for a hearing at which parole commissioners determine whether the individual is suitable for release from prison.”

However, ICE still reviews individuals’ overall immigration history, including their criminal history, when they are set for removal.

“[ICE does not] exempt classes or categories of removable aliens from potential enforcement,” said the agency, according to the article. “Anyone in violation of immigration law, in accordance with the INA may still be subject to arrest, detention and, if found removable by final order, removal from the United States.”

If governors and local

officials are able to remove certain convictions, and especially non-serious ones, from a person’s record, Tragesser notes that the new President Joe Biden administration could freeze deportations, supporting governors and other local officials’ actions.

“[I’m] not sure whether this will spare them [from deportation], but it certainly ought to,” said Director Dale Gieringer of the non-profit Cal NORML, in the same Forbes interview, according to the *reform.com* article.

Gov Newsom has granted a combined 145 commutations, pardons or medical reprieves since his term in office, according to the article.

Decarceration fund seeks to empower system-impacted people

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Decarceration has become more than just a chant as criminal justice reform advocates seek to build a thriving business sector to challenge corporations profiting from mass incarceration.

The Decarceration Fund has been established by advocates as a counter-funding model to support entrepreneurs and private businesses that empower system impacted people, wrote Chris Bentley, managing principal of the fund, in an *ImpactPHL Perspectives* guest column.

“Together, these efforts are joining the prison reform movement by investing and supporting highly innovative enterprises working to disrupt the criminal justice system ethically,” said Bentley.

There are more than 4,000 corporations that profit from the U.S criminal justice system through the private prison industry, prison labor and predatory pricing, according to the article.

To combat the injustices in

the criminal justice system, the fund project has three main goals: 1) Prevent Entry—reduce the number of people going into the system, 2) Reduce suffering—reduce the negative impact on families and people impacted by the system, 3) End the Cycle—support a successful transition out of the system.

“As we evaluate each of these areas, we can identify many individual issues that lead to poor outcomes,” said Bentley.” He cites issues such as: addiction, legal costs, employment, and housing.

Private-sector organizations are conducting studies to identify and develop assistance for entrepreneurs and investors. For example, Good Company Ventures will partner with NGO organizations and academics to develop a “Social Opportunity Reframing” on the criminal justice space. It will help divide decarceration into actionable target segments.

Another example: the American Family Institute for Corporate and Social Impact partnered with Village

Capital on a project to study entrepreneurial solutions to the challenges that face systems-impacted people and their families, reported the article. “The project focuses on defining ‘Criminal and Civil Justice Tech centered explicitly on exploring how technology can potentially reduce racial and economic disparities in the criminal and civil system, while taking a human-centered approach to helping people,” Bentley said.

Some companies have already been firm to support the mission of change within the criminal justice space. The company Pigeonly was founded by a returning citizen. The business designed a product to reduce phone call costs for incarcerated federal people, without selling into the prison system. R3 Score is a financial analysis tool that “de-risks” those who have criminal histories. It provides information on the individual’s capabilities and strengths, which helps those individuals maintain employment, according to the

article. Vonzella, a public benefit corporation, has launched a pilot bail-bond insurance product for lower-income communities in Minneapolis. It has a monthly membership fee in exchange for pre-paid bail coverage. Other innovators have developed Uptrust, a communication tool to address non-compliance issues for defendants. It helps people stay in touch with their parole or probation office or public defenders, said the article.

The De-Carceration Fund is aiming to provide investment opportunities in innovative nonprofits that support criminal justice reform to build a strong business sector that will improve the lives of those who have been impacted by the system. “Building a supportive ecosystem to enable this new business sector to succeed will take backing from policymakers, nonprofits, investors and service providers and is critical to providing entrepreneurs with the opportunity to thrive,” said Bentley.

San Quentin News

San Quentin News Staff

Richard Richardson, Executive Editor
 Marcus Henderson, Editor-in-Chief
 Juan Haines, Senior Editor
 Kevin D. Sawyer, Associate Editor
 Joe Garcia,
 Journalism Guild Chairperson
 Nathan McKinney, Managing Editor
 David Ditto, Staff Writer
 Anthony Carvalho, Staff Writer
 Charles Crowe, Staff Writer
 Heriberto Arredondo, Staff Writer
 Jessie Blue, Staff Writer
 Vincent O’Bannon, Staff Writer
 Timothy Hicks, Staff Writer
 Edwin Chavez, Staff Writer
 Richard Lindsey, Researcher

Administrative Review

Lt. S. Robinson, Warden’s Office
 Sgt. R. Gardea, Warden’s Office
 Joe Orlando, CDCR Information Officer I
 Krissi Khokhobashvili, Deputy Chief CDCR Office of External Affairs
 Linda Xiques, Adviser
 William Drummond, Adviser
 Jan Perry, Adviser
 Joan Lisetor, Adviser
 Stuart Wagner, Adviser
 Steve McNamara, Adviser
 John C. Eagan, Adviser
 Jon Spurlock, Adviser
 Susanne Karch, Adviser
 Nikki Meredith, Adviser
 Monica Campbell, Adviser
 Lourdes Cárdenas, Editora
 Lisa Adams, Development Manager

San Quentin News Contributing Staff

Wayne Boatwright, SQ News Alumnus
 Kenny Brydon, SQ News Alumnus
 Eddie Herena, SQ News Alumnus
 David Lé, SQ News Alumnus
 Aly Tamboura, SQ News Alumnus
 Jesse Vasquez, SQ News Alumnus
 Javier Jimenez, SQ News Alumnus
 Jonathan Chiu, SQ News Alumnus

Current and past stories of the San Quentin News are posted online at: (www.sanquentinnews.com)
 Follow us on Twitter @SanQuentinNews
 Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in the *San Quentin News* provided credit is given to the author and this publication, except for articles reprinted herein from other publications.

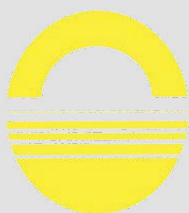
We Want To Hear From You!

San Quentin News encourages the incarcerated, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and artwork (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:
 San Quentin News 1 Main Street
 San Quentin, CA 94964

For incarcerated people that want to receive a copy of the San Quentin News in the mail, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to the above address. The process can be repeated every month if you want to receive the latest newspaper.
 Behind the Scenes



The San Quentin News is printed by
 Marin Sun Printing, San Rafael.

Letters To The Editor—Let The People Speak

Greetings news staff,

How are all of you? I hope safe. I'm Mahdi, a federal prisoner here at FCI Florence in Colorado. I received your monthly paper – Thanks. It was a shame about your Death Row prisoners. The issue that really got me was the prisoner Eddie Mixon. Why don't they release him and put him on house arrest? It's a shame. He is 70 years old. I'm 71. He's in worse shape than I am. He needs to be released. Why don't the ACLU help him?
Thanks, stay safe.

R.N. Mahdi .FCI Florence.

Dear editor, I am writing this in response to "Mr. Anonymous" letter to the editor in Dec. 2020. I am at the opposite end of the spectrum here as I am serving a 15-year-to-life sentence for second degree murder: someone who committed an egregious act against my teenage daughter. He was 28 years old.

I've always looked expectantly on a child's potential for growth and the possibility that they can do great things and become great in our big world. I have always viewed anyone who would stifle that potential as the worst of our society.

Comparing your crime to mine is like comparing apples to oranges. But we both need to change and work aggressively at our rehabilitation. We have to make the effort to understand the far reaching impact of our crimes. We 'both' have to become better men – doing right, not for the chance of any reward, but simply because it's good and right to do so.

I was victimized as a child and I know many others who share similar experiences with me. However, I would still like to say, "I forgive you." I willingly extend grace to you and others like you because you acknowledge the ugliness of your crime(s) and all its effects it has on your victim.

That takes insight and a herculean effort. I'm on an SNY yard and it's difficult for me sometimes because I do have issues with sex offenders because of my history.

I do believe, however, that we all can change. I have thought about your plight many times, along with others like you. It must be difficult trying to utilize the help you need, while at the same time dealing with the stigma and uphill battle of society's negative views about what you've done.

Everywhere you turn, people are throwing mud. But you know, so many of us are broken inside and we all just need grace and a leg up. Helping hands are strong hands – and I extend mine to you now in prayerful support. You can do it sir. The journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step, and so, I commend you for embarking on your journey of change and your willingness to share and help others like you. Don't give up! Our society and world needs good [women] and men. Good luck and Godspeed in all your righteous endeavors.

ISRAEL G.

To the editor of San Quentin News.

This is my response to Larry Lavell's letter to the editor featured in the December 2020 issue of your paper. In this letter, Mr.

Lavell refers to so-called third world countries in order to denigrate the Corcoran SHU and the living standards therein, which Mr. Lavell seems to find beneath him. More to the point

however, my beef here isn't necessarily with Mr. Lavell's choice of words. Rather, my problem is with the editor and staff of SQNews who seem to find it perfectly appropriate to print Mr. Lavell's racist and chauvinistic remarks concerning third world countries and by extension third world people.

For the record, all Spanish speaking nations of Central and South America including Mexico and Brazil, as well as all Southeast Asian and African countries, are a part of the Third World. In other words, Mr. Lavell, along with SQNews, not only offended countless people, but in effect expressed unity with Donald Trump's reference to the Third World as 's%#-hole' countries. Can Third World and Third World descended people such as myself get an apology from SQNews?

I applaud Mr. Lavell's claimed transformation, but perhaps he still has a little more work to do in the compassion and empathy department when it comes to people who currently have very little power over their current conditions, to which the United States is certainly the primary causative factor.

ALDO LEYVA: TEHACHAPI

THE SWORD, THE JEWEL AND THE MIRROR

*I am the prisoner seeking myself.
I am the prisoner building a legend.
I am the prisoner who masters the soul.
Looking in the mirror, I did on my own.
I am the prisoner who's building success.
I am the prisoner whose mind never rest.
I am the prisoner covered in gold.
A valuable lesson, cut and polished like a stone.
I am the prisoner inside fire and metal.
I am the prisoner whose words are long.
I am the prisoner who conquered them all.
The self-knowledge, the money and the weapons.
The mirror, the jewels and the sword.*

LUIS NAPOLEON M. HENNING, TN.

Dear SQNews,

I have a question. Can you find the answer or can you find someone to give you the answer? Why is CDCR holding people in prison that qualify for early release or are eligible for things like 1393 or 1170d(1)? I'm speaking for those of us who have been down 10 or more years and have shown nothing but the rehab to our own lives that was needed that CDCR could not provide. Those of us who have run a clean program [no write-ups], and have a positive report from everyone from the top brass all the way down to free staff and nurses. We can't understand the reasons why we are still here in the middle of a pandemic. Does that make sense to any of you? Even those who have worked throughout the pandemic, risking health and in most cases the quality of life. None of us have even gotten so much as a Thank You, a good boy chrono or anything we could use towards our release to show the courts that we not only risk our health, but completed our task at or above satisfactory work.

How come we are forgotten? Those of us who committed our crimes 10 or more years ago are still being judged as if we committed these crimes yesterday. Even for the men of faith it seems as though our prayers go unheard for days, weeks, months, or even years at a time. But no one seems to care about the good that we are now doing. That doesn't matter. It's a fact that we are just a number forgotten by everyone, even the legal system, and it has no system set up for those of us who have rehabilitated ourselves. If it was up to them [CDCR], they would keep us locked up till we died. Doesn't matter rehabbed, repented, apologetic, or showing positive attitude and strong work ethic – doesn't matter, our lives mean nothing to CDCR. Yes, there is a select few that might care, but if they speak up for you on your behalf, they will be looked down upon. They don't understand that they are creating the one thing they say they are trying to stop. But until it changes from the top, that revolving door will stay open and they will keep piling us up one on top of the other. You can't force change and not be willing to change yourself.
#No-hopeforthoseincdc[r].

G. HARDY: CHINO

I SHALL NOT PASS THIS WAY AGAIN
By Anonymous

Through this torturous world, alas! Once and only once I pass; if a kindness I may show, if a good deed I may do, to a suffering fellow man, let me do it while I can. No delay, for it is plain, I shall not pass this way again.
Quote by Emma – "We all have a cross to bear in life. Bear your cross with dignity."

To whom it may concern,

While incarcerated, it has been my experience that often, inmates have ongoing issues with the package companies we use. Most often it appears that the survey forms for customer service, when filled out for unsatisfactory service, fall on deaf ears. Could we somehow make an inmate petition and contact "Amazon" with our interest in their participation as a quarterly package provider? The added competition, if Amazon were interested, may cause the other package companies to improve their product line and service. How about having an article, every month called "inmate ideas" dedicated to positive ideas to improve the lives of inmates and our communities.

Sincerely, Larry Wiedenhoft.

By current CDCR estimates, I can expect to be roughly 50 years old upon release; freed from physical confinement anyway. The stigma plus overt discrimination will certainly, instantly manifest with reentry, my violent felony conviction to forever dog me. At the same time, I can realistically anticipate the opportunity to devote the following years to positively affecting ill-informed hearts and minds. Not only those misconceptions about me personally [some well justified, of course], but also the millions of similarly remorseful, accountable, hopeful convicts nationwide – fallible errands we. There's a familiar superstition among prisoners that warns of bad luck to those who look back on the prison as they leave, ensuring their eventual return. But alas, I intend to turn hard and stare down that gate, committing it to memory along with the myriad other long- and short-term residencies I've held throughout my life.

CHARLES T- CTF SOLEDAD

INCIDENT
By Countes Cullen

Once riding in Old Baltimore, heart filled, head filled with glee, I saw a Baltimorean staring straight at me. Now I was 8 and very small, and he was so much bigger and so I smiled.

But he stuck out his tongue and called me nigger. I saw the whole of Baltimore from May until November. Of all the things that happened there – that's all that I remember.

Emma – We all have the power of speech, and words can be worse than a punch in the mouth. Words have the power to make vulnerable people feel terrible about themselves. So please, think before you speak!

Editor, I had read through the May-August edition of the San Quentin News and found an extremely interesting article about the introduction of illegal contraband into the prison system.

With so many visitor arrests during the years between 2014–2018, and so few arrests of correctional staff members and non-visitor persons, how can these numbers be reconciled in the 2019–2020, 2020–2021 periods with no visitors being allowed, and yet the drug-cellphone and tobacco numbers are as high as they have been? CDCR has blamed the visitor for the high volume of drugs, cellphones and tobacco that have been introduced into the system, but with no visits, who will they blame now?

MICHAEL JAMES: CSP-SOLANO

TWILIGHT

Remembering back to when I was free and young. When I walked among the cornfields and absorbed the beauty of twilight. The lightning bugs hovered all around, their little lights danced in the humid air. The sky turned into soft cotton candy colors. Those summer twilights are still with me. I see them in my mind often. Even though I'm stuck in captivity, I can rewind the time to twilight

By Emma Adams: AMHC Alton, Illinois

Dear Gangster...I just want to save you. This word is for you who hates his neighbor or her neighbor, just because they represent a different "color" or "number," "name" or "skin color." If you want to live in peace and with your family and be happy, let go of all the things that you were doing that caused you to come to prison. Change the way you act, the way you think and the things that you do. Don't let somebody's words cause you to hurt them. Simply stay away from the negativity and place yourself in a circle with people that are grown and have learned from experience within their own lives. That gangbanging is a path to failure and not success. You're not just fighting different hoods, you're fighting with the government. The battle that a gangster just has to lose! Release yourself from the chains that bound you. There is another life that you are missing out on. Find peace because it was always there within your heart, homie. Peace to brothers and sisters.

Roman Krohnfeldt.

Empathy can help the incarcerated, and the nation at large, heal

By Marcus Henderson
Editor-in-Chief

I'm sad, not just because fellow Americans stormed the Capitol building and former President Donald Trump was impeached for a second time and acquitted by the Senate—again. I'm sad that the federal government executed eight people under the Trump administration, rushing the process before he left office.

Crime is never justified, nor should victims'/survivors' pain be minimized. It just weighs on the incarcerated whether we will ever be accepted by society.

Most people before incarceration felt like outcasts or unloved, which breeds anger and self-contempt that leads to causing harm. Most incarcerated people are living through untreated trauma. At least 85% of incarcerated women have suffered some form of sexual violence and/or physical abuse.

Incarcerated men may under-report that they have been sexually abused, because of the toxic masculinity of prison, lack of a safe place to reveal their pain, and fear of putting themselves back in a position to be re-victimized in prison.



Photo from Wikipedia

Lisa Montgomery

I have sat in many self-help groups where shame washes over all of the participants when trauma is being revealed.

But it takes decades and a whole lot of encouragement to tell other incarcerated men that you have been raped or molested. I know it's not easy for women as well, always feeling vulnerable.

After 70 years, Lisa Montgomery became the first woman to be executed by the federal government.

According to news sources

and her lawyers' accounts, she was sex-trafficked by her mother, suffered severe mental health issues and experienced physical, emotional and sex abuse. She was convicted of killing a woman and stealing her baby.

There is so much pain and families hurt when it comes to crime. I'm not advocating for or against the death penalty; that is for society to decide its method of punishment. What I am saying is that crime doesn't happen in a vacuum.

Incarcerated people have been robbed, assaulted and have suffered under the same various crimes we have committed (bullying and gang violence). Do we lose our status as victims once we offend? True: everyone who has been victimized doesn't go on to harm others.

I think that needs to be studied too. However, the first time an incarcerated person speaks with a psychologist is when they are about to go in front of the parole board or one has to be enrolled in the mental health program.

With the support of each other, we were able to develop programs to help us get



Photo from CDCR

Execution chamber at San Quentin

to the root of our traumas. The state has become supportive of rehabilitation programs and has implemented some of its own. But society is ingraining itself in "cancel culture," where any shortcoming/mistake is amplified and one's status as a human being is questioned. Violence is becoming normalized in handling problems. A Florida school policeman body-slammed a high school teenage girl — where her head hit the concrete and she appeared to lose consciousness.

Another Florida school resource cop, in a separate incident, Tasered a teenage girl—dropping her to the ground. Their alleged crimes: they were about to get into a fight with another student and wouldn't calm down. The police have a lot of things to worry about and breaking up school fights shouldn't be one of them.

What happens to the gym teacher or school principal? Most fights center around self-esteem issues and he says/she-says drama. Mix that with a possible hectic home life, not to mention when you are a teenager, you

are still learning about yourself and life.

Where is the counseling, the mentorships? Why does everything have to be rooted in criminalization? Even a 9-year-old girl was pepper-strayed by police for allegedly threatening to hurt herself and her mother. Trauma and mental health issues run deep in our society, but the poor are the ones that are held to a different standard and must be the ones to accept accountability for their actions. Those in privileged positions are afforded the narrative that their good outweighs their bad and forgiveness is the right thing to do.

Young Kyle Rittenhouse, alleged to have killed two people at a Black Lives Matters protest rally, was released on bail and was filmed drinking in a bar and taking selfies with patrons flashing White power signs. Was his bail revoked? No; he was given a slap on the wrist and told to stay out of bars. Hum!

Dustin Higgs (a Black man) was one of the final people to be executed by the federal government. Higgs was convicted as an accom-

plished to three homicides. He was not the shooter. He died behind bars while Rittenhouse was told to stay out of bars. I'm not qualified to say what justice is.

Someone lost their life and others were hurt and traumatized because of my actions and participation. I am working to make amends for that. I just believe that our (the incarcerated) traumas and lessons can hold the key to healing our nation. Our country needs lessons in empathy, and not just in a crisis but as a way of life.

Our fellow citizens didn't ransack the Capitol on a whim. They were fed lies rooted in their fears. Their theme: "We're taking our country back!" From whom? Other Americans you do not agree with.

Trump gave pardons to his friends, those with money to pay and even those that went on a mass killing spree in Afghanistan. "Now they are considered forgiven — while we continue to work through our abandonment issues with a sometimes forgiving, lukewarm society with a lethal injection needle in our arms."



Photo from Wikipedia

The shooting of the Black Lives Matter rally by Kyle Rittenhouse

ASIANS

Continued from Page 1

"Why are you attacking me? Is it because I do not look like you? That's what I felt as an Asian American watching the events unfolding before my eyes against my fellow Asians," said Tu Tran from inside his San Quentin prison cell. "I saw my elderly parents, my friend's elderly parents, our innocent brothers and sisters being shoved, robbed, and killed, all because people have allowed their humanity to become dark with racial hate."

Many ethnic groups have

responded sympathetically to the plight of Asian Americans who have been attacked.

"People are always blaming others out of pure ignorance and fear..."

"Watching the events in the Asian communities unfold from my prison cell was upsetting. It hurts my heart to know that someone died for no other rea-

son than his or her ethnicity," said SQ resident Mark Hensley, who is White.

Attacks on elderly Asian Americans have become problematic across U.S. cities.

"These attacks taking place in the Bay Area are part of a larger trend of anti-Asian American/Pacific Islander hate brought on in many ways by COVID-19, as well as some of the xenophobic policies and racist rhetoric that were pushed forward by the prior administration," said Dr. Kulkarni.

"People are always blaming others out of pure ignorance and fear. This virus

affected us all in multiple ways. Hate of the Asian community, when there is not one Asian American who isn't suffering [as much] as every other American, is insane," said African-American SQ resident Anthony "Habib" Watkins.

President Joe Biden recently signed a memorandum pledging to combat anti-Asian and Pacific Islander discrimination in his racial equity-focused executive orders, reported Westervelt.

Nearly 3,000 incidents of hate crimes against older Asian Americans have been reported across 47 states and the District of Colum-

bia, according to the *NPR* org report.

"We carry another burden [being] viewed as 'perpetual foreigners' and not truly 'American,'" said San Francisco attorney Dale Minami to *SFGate.com* in an email interview.

For a group of Asian/Pacific Islander Americans who are already experiencing racism, the attacks on the elderly paint a daunting portrait of life in the community.

"I think there's always been racial violence against Asian Americans, especially against the elderly," said Chinese American lawyer Rina Wang. "I think it's been

exacerbated in COVID, but we've certainly seen this before the pandemic."

The words "are you attacking me because I don't look like you" have become the call for support among some incarcerated people here in San Quentin as a show of solidarity against racism and violence.

"My hope during these unfortunate times is that our prison community of brothers and sisters of all races embraces those words to bring healing to an already divided system that perpetuates stereotypes within an environment in need of healing," said SQ resident Michael Moore.

ISUDT

Continued from Page 1

All participants must remain six feet apart, wear facial coverings (N95 mask) as well as all appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for everyone's safety, said the Memorandum.

Education and vocation students will attend in-person classes twice a month. The days they are not scheduled will be for distance learning, in cell or dorm. ISUDT programming will be every day,

but each housing unit will be scheduled into two-hour time slots to prevent mixing.

"The curriculum is helping me with my recovery," said Gutierrez. "I'm building up my communication skills."

Not everyone is happy about the ISUDT program because housing units also run on a modified tier schedule, which can cause some participants to miss out on their yard and telephone time.

"I think that I should have a choice about at-

tending," said Jonah Young-Gary, a youth offender and ISUDT participant, "because we spend a lot of time after in-person classes locked in the cell, and it leaves hardly no time for out of cell programming."

Young-Gary said, however, he is learning valuable life skills while he attends the program.

ISUDT is a mandatory 90-day program with classes in Intensive Outpatient and Life Skills group programming. The programs are geared to give participants pro-social cognitive

skills, in order to address substance abuse disorders.

"The structure presented here matches the current standard of care wherever you go once released," said Jeffrey Campbell, ISUDT incarcerated group mentor.

ISUDT programming has undergone some major changes: Assignment to ISUDT will be based on clinical referrals or direct referrals, based on receipt of two guilty findings for an adjudicated drug/alcohol related Rules Violation Report (RVR) or a drug overdose.

Other assessments will be given for every SQ resident currently with 15-24 months from their projected release date or next Board of Parole hearing. The assessments are automatic, according to the Memorandum.

Also, the program is no longer in the prison gym, but has been moved to the converted hobby shop in the education area.

The library will continue to process leisure reading books and requests for legal material. There is limited in-person access to individuals who have been des-

ignated Priority Legal Users (PLU). More in-person programming will be done in phases. Some self-help groups have started offering correspondence courses. A school schedule will be posted on the institutional channel.

Just like in society, the process of opening up programs must be done safely. Vaccinations have started and those of us who are incarcerated are managing the limited programming.

"We all should be proud of our work," said Campbell.

Chinese New Year marks im

NEW YEAR

Continued from Page 1

Some people place food in front of their doors to stop the monster. Firecrackers are set off at midnight and in

the morning for good luck. Fake paper money and gold bars are burned in honor of deceased loved ones. Similar to the Mexican Day of the Dead or Korean Chuseok, the offering brings fortune and good luck to ancestors in the afterlife, according to

Wikipedia.

Another tradition is the color red to scare off Nian. People put red scrolls on their windows and place red lanterns to keep the beast away.

The celebration is more than about the myth; it's

about family and spring harvest. It's about welcoming fresh starts and new beginnings.

Vietnamese and North and South Koreans celebrate the Lunar New Year, too. Families and friends visit each other to eat dumplings and have din-

ner.

They watch dragon and lion dances together. Some buy yellow flowers and give kids gifts of money in red envelopes. The festival lasts for 15 days in China and in Chinese communities until the following full moon. As the

Asian community faces a rise in racism and physical attacks, a new monster is in their midst. We all need to be firecrackers and embrace, nurture and protect our fellow Americans and human family. Happy Chinese New Year.



Photo from Wikipedia

Handwritten Chinese New Year's poetry pasted on the sides of doors leading to people's homes, Lijiang, Yunnan



Photo from Wikipedia

Chinese candy box



Photo from Wikipedia

A Chinese man setting off fireworks during Chinese New Year in Shanghai



Photo from Wikipedia

Chinese New Year's celebrations, on the eighth day, in the Metro Vancouver suburb of Richmond, British Columbia, Canada



Photo from Wikipedia

Receive the Gods in Chinese New Year, (1900s)



Photo from Wikipedia

Fortune gods Cai Shen Ye



Photo from Wikipedia

Red envelopes given to children

portant cultural celebration



Photo from Wikipedia

Fireworks over the Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong; fireworks and firecrackers are a traditional element of Chinese New Year celebrations.

The most common auspicious greetings and sayings consist of four characters

- 金玉滿堂 *Jīnyùmǎntáng* – "May your wealth [gold and jade] come to fill a hall"
- 大展鴻圖 *Dàzhǎnhóngtú* – "May you realize your ambitions"
- 迎春接福 *Yíngchúnjiēfú* – "Greet the New Year and encounter happiness"
- 萬事如意 *Wànshìrúyì* – "May all your wishes be fulfilled"
- 吉慶有餘 *Jíqìngyǒuyú* – "May your happiness be without limit"
- 竹報平安 *Zhúbàopíng'ān* – "May you hear [in a letter] that all is well"
- 一本萬利 *Yīběnwànlì* – "May a small investment bring ten-thousandfold profits"
- 福壽雙全 *Fúshòushuāngquán* – "May your happiness and longevity be complete"
- 招財進寶 *Zhāocáijìnbǎo* – "When wealth is acquired, precious objects follow"



Photo from Wikipedia

Chinese New Year decorations along New Bridge Road in Singapore

Gascón meets obstruction in sentencing reform in Los Angeles

By Harry C. Goodall Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Newly elected Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced special directives aimed to reform the county's sentencing and death penalty. The directives have met opposition, according to the Equal Justice Institute (EJI).

"I recognize for many this is a new path," said Gascón. "Whether you are a protester, a police officer or a prosecutor, I ask you to walk with me. I ask you to join me on this journey."

"We can break the multigenerational cycles of violence, trauma and arrest and recidivism that have led America to incarcerate more people than any other nation," he added.

Under Gascón's Misdemeanor Reform directive, first-time offenders for non-violent or low-level crimes would not be prosecuted. Gascón recommends treatment and services, according to the Jan. 6 article.

Gascón also plans to review cases that could resentence incarcerated people. Many were sentenced under enhancements and received what many consider excessive sentences. For current cases, prosecutors are directed not to file the sentencing enhancements, including under the Three Strike Law, reported the article.

"I really can see myself going home," said P. Vines, a San Quentin resident, to the *San Quentin News*. "I just hope these types of reforms spread across California. We

all need hope and our citizens need things to change also."

California's "tough on crime" era is rooted in sentencing enhancements, including gang enhancements. Recently, many people were falsely identified as gang members by LA police officers and placed in a statewide database, noted the article.

"The vast majority of incarcerated people are members of groups long disadvantaged under earlier systems of justice," said Gascón. "Black people, people of color, young people, people who suffer from mental illness, and people who are poor."

These new policies are an attempt to correct the "overly punitive" and "tough on



Photo from Wikipedia
George Gascon

crime" policies that voters seemed to reject with his election.

"I recognize those are big changes, said Gascón. "But they are changes that will enable us to actually protect

the truly vulnerable."

A special directive was issued around cash bail. Prosecutors were instructed to seek pretrial releases for individuals who were not charged with a violent felony, said the article.

"How much money you have in your bank account is a terrible proxy for how dangerous you are," said Gascón. "Today there are hundreds of people languishing in jails, not because they represent a danger to our community, but because they can't afford to purchase their freedom."

The new policies have given most incarcerated people a sense that fairness may be at hand with the review of sentences.

"I feel it has really been a long time since anyone has cared about the little guy,"

said J. Thienen, a San Quentin resident. "I read the Gascón article that he put out. I couldn't believe the data he cited. It wasn't just a story, it was mind-blowing."

Gascón is leading the nation's largest district attorney office. He formerly headed the San Francisco prosecutors office.

In early February, Judge James Chalfont ruled that a significant part of Gascón's reform platform is illegal, specifically his plan to stop the use of sentencing enhancements in thousands of prior and current criminal cases. Chalfont said the Three Strikes Law obligates prosecutors to seek enhancements. Gascón has said he will anticipate resistance and will appeal the ruling, said the *LA Times*.

Boudin in his first year faces backlash, opposition and controversy

By Vincent E. O'Bannon
Staff Writer

From policing his city through a global pandemic, controversies in policy, political opposition, the backlash of a homicide, and excessive force by police, San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin speaks candidly about his first year in office.

"I'm rolling up my sleeves," said the son of former radical leftist activists. "And I'm personally doing the work to keep our cases moving forward and to help make San Francisco safer for us all," Boudin said during an on-air conversation on *KQED's* Forum, hosted by Michael Krasny in March.

To do that moving forward, SF's Top DA said he will work collaboratively with the police department to build trust in communities and the law enforcement agencies sworn to protect them.

"We need to support the police in doing a more effective job on the front end," said Boudin. "It's a huge challenge. We filed what I believe to be the first ever homicide charges against a San Francisco Police Department officer while on duty for a killing. In this instance, it was an unarmed Black man."

The first-year DA said trust in communities can never be accomplished without equal

enforcement of the law.

"I want to be really clear. I don't celebrate filing those criminal charges." Boudin believes that filing charges of homicide, whether it's a police officer or somebody else, is never an easy decision to make.

"We have to have a system in which no one is above the law, regardless of their race or wealth or the uniform they wear to work," said Boudin.

Boudin has said the police officers union (POA) has been spreading misinformation and lies about his progressive agenda.

"They (POA) want impunity. They don't want transparency or sunshine on the small minority of officers who engage in excessive force or explicitly racist and discriminatory conduct," said Boudin.

Opposition to his policies can be attributed to those who want to roll back popular reforms by exploiting tragedy and promoting fear, he said.

"Reforms that are long overdue in terms of racial justice and racial equity, that empirically have been shown to promote public safety," have been popular measures with San Franciscans, Boudin said.

"I was elected on a very transparent and clear platform to enforce the law equally and to fight for ra-

cial justice and equity in our criminal justice system," said Boudin.

Noting that he will focus resources on the "root causes of crime," Boudin said his office has a tremendous amount to be proud of this year.

"If you look at the data, it shows that in 2020, crime overall decreased in San Francisco by a historic 24.5 percent."

"If you look at the data, it shows that in 2020, crime overall decreased in San Francisco by a historic 24.5 percent. Now I want to be clear. I am not taking credit for those drops." Boudin credits the COVID-19 pandemic for those numbers.

The numbers Boudin touts, however, have been shadowed by the death of two people by a parolee, T. McAlister.

The San Francisco man is accused of killing two wom-

en after speeding through a red light in a stolen car on New Year's Eve. He pleaded not guilty to an array of charges.

"This is a terrible tragedy...The reality is, in any homicide, we cannot undo the harm that was caused, and that's the weight that I carry as the district attorney every single day, in every single decision that I make, in every single case. It is devastating," said Boudin.

Some San Quentin residents commented on how the parolee McAlister's actions reflect on the prison populace:

"When something as tragic as this happens, we are all painted with broad strokes. Just as when an officer shoots and kills an unarmed Black man, we paint the police with the same broad strokes. Naturally, that doesn't make it true. But just as all police are not bad, the same goes for people incarcerated. That, however, doesn't change the dynamics," said Kevin Sample.

There are large contingents of prisoners who believe that the ball was dropped in the handling of McAlister by the parole department.

"First of all, without sounding cliché, I pray that God leads the families to a place of solace and comfort even through the process of mourning," said Corry Wil-

lis, a former lifer returned to prison on a parole violation. "I feel sad for the victims and for McAlister's family. I think as a community, as a whole, it's a terrible loss because he didn't get the help that he needed before it was too late and multiple people became victimized."

San Francisco Police Chief Bill Scott said every law enforcement agency has to take responsibility for what they did or didn't do, according to Boudin.

"In my case, of course, there are things in hindsight that we could have done differently. That's true in every single case where someone who's had prior law enforcement contact is involved in a serious crime. We don't have a crystal ball, and the district attorney's office handles thousands and thousands of cases," said Boudin.

Boudin is focused on three things moving forward in the McAlister case.

"First of all, supporting the families through the grief. Second of all, holding Mr. McAlister, the man we believe caused this harm, accountable for what he did. And third, bringing together all the different law enforcement agencies who were involved in supervising or policing or holding Mr. McAlister accountable — and looking at what we did, what we could have done,

what we should have done in ensuring that going forward, we don't have agencies operating in silos, but that we

Meeting with Mrs. Abe, the mother of one of the two victims, was unbelievably difficult, "an unusually challenging meeting for many reasons," said Boudin.

"They're holding Chesa Boudin accountable, but the true accountability lies with the accused's handler, the parole agent. Mr. Boudin is doing great things with his forward thinking. He wasn't the person on the ground to notice irregularities in McAlister's behavior. He wasn't the person on the ground whose due diligence — where due diligence was needed to prevent that tragedy," said Willis, the former lifer.

He further added, "I'm incarcerated, and the effects of what Mr. McAlister is accused of reverberate back on all of us. It affects me internally just as it does people who are not incarcerated. I am human. I have feelings. Assign blame to each individual on his or her own merits, their own actions. Help Mr. Boudin change the narrative. Criminal justice reforms are needed, and rehabilitative programs are working. Make no mistake about it, I am standing here in absolute shame and sorrow for the family's suffering," Willis concluded.

New proposed legislation to keep separation of DAs and cops

Rob Bonta to introduce proposal to address political influence attached to campaign contributions from law enforcement agencies

By William Earl Tolbert
Journalism Guild Writer

Legislation is planned to rebuild community trust and curb possible conflict of interest between district attorneys tasked to handle police misconduct cases.

Assemblyman Rob Bonta, D-Oakland, plans to introduce a proposal to address the potential political influence attached to campaign contributions from law enforcement agencies.

The proposed proposition would require DAs to recuse themselves from cases involving police misconduct if they previously accepted a

monetary contribution from a law enforcement association or union.

Bonta plans to put forth the bill the first day of the December New Legislation session, reported *City News Service*.

Bonta made the announcement during a November virtual news briefing.

"There [are] four of us here today," said Tori Verber Salazar, district attorney of San Joaquin County. "There should be more."

Of the 58 publicly elected prosecutors in California, only four attended the news briefing.

The four DAs are considered progressive and formed the Prosecutors Alliance of California and support the bill, according to the article.

The announcement sparked controversy from some DAs, who said that the bill would violate the First Amendment right to free speech.

"This criticism of the bill is off the mark," said Bonta in a statement. "This bill is very narrowly tailored and hyper-focused specifically and solely on publicly elected prosecutors who have unique and heightened ethical duties as attorneys (and members of the State Bar)

and prosecutors of individuals for violations of criminal law."

When police unions represent an accused officer and the district attorney has accepted financial campaign contributions from the union, a conflict of interest could have occurred, according to the drafted bill.

"What's next?" asked Barry Donelan, president of the Oakland Police Officers Association. "Should we force local school board members to recuse themselves from decisions involving a teacher because the teachers' union contributed to that school board

member's campaign? Where do you draw the line on who gets to have a voice and who doesn't?"

The drafted legislation contains a progressive measure. If a district attorney would be required to step down from a case, the state's attorney general would step in to prosecute. A special prosecutor would be appointed if the state's AG has a conflict of interest issue, according to the drafted bill.

"We must cure the conflict of interest that gives, at minimum, the appearance of police not being held accountable to the proximity and political influence

of law enforcement associations and unions," Bonta said.

Law enforcement unions or officers are not prohibited from contributing to a district attorney, attorney general or any candidate campaign under the proposed draft legislation, said the article.

The transparent effect of the bill would restore public trust in elected district attorneys and law enforcement throughout the state, Bonta commented.

"This is about trust in law enforcement and trust in the independence of our elected prosecutors," Bonta said.

Justice Done Right to fight and challenge bias in East Bay

By Nathan McKinney
Managing Editor

“Justice Done Right” is the theme two progressive Black women running to challenge the incumbent Alameda County district attorney and sheriff, according to the *Oakland Post*.

Pamela Price and JoAnn Walker kicked-off their campaign to run as a ticket for both positions in the 2022 elections. Price is running for district attorney and Walker is seeking the sheriff post.

“In the last year, many Americans have awakened to the bias in policing and sentencing that lead to unnecessary death and harm in our communities,” said Walker to the *Post*. “However, for many folks who look like us, this is not a new truth, just one



Photo from Facebook
JoAnn Walker

that finally has some national light shed on it.”

Walker is a 25-year veteran with the San Francisco Police Department, but new to the political arena, said the

article.

Price, a civil rights attorney, won a civil rights case before the U.S. Supreme Court, becoming the one of the few Black women to do so, noted the *Post*.

“We’re running to hold police and prosecutors accountable,” Price told the *Post*.

She cites the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol and the double-standard treatment received by Black Lives Matters protestors as a reason to get into the political race.

“The riots are just one example of the double standard,” said Price. “Here, the current DA’s decision to forgo charges in the Oscar Grant case against former BART Police Officer Anthony Pirone after initially saying she would charge him is another example.

“A person of color would have had the book thrown at them,” she added.

The duo’s joint ticket will unify around issues that many Alameda County residents want addressed, said the article.

- Ending mass incarceration and over-criminalization of Black and Brown youth
- Eradicating racial, gender and socioeconomic bias in policing and sentencing
- Eliminating gun violence
- Protecting immigrant communities
- Restoring public trust and investing in public health and social services

Both women have storied

careers and are “advocates for compassionate justice,” said the article. Walker seeks to bring a different perspective to transform law enforcement. She has been a resident of Alameda County for more than 40 years. She has experience in suicide prevention and crisis support. As a police officer she has worked as a Post Master Instructor, Field Training Officer, Terrorism Liaison Officer and Community Relations Unit Liaison, according to the *Post*.

To transform Alameda County’s criminal justice system and to end its perceived double standards that work against women and minorities, the women are aiming for the top spots of influence.

“We are running to end



Photo from pamelaprice4da.com
Pamela Price

the double standards in the policing and prosecution of women and people of color,” said Price. “It’s going to take collaboration and a shared vision for change.”

Innocent man released after almost three decades incarcerated

By Timothy Hicks
Staff writer

A man was released from prison after DNA evidence cleared him of a rape committed in 1982, the *Oakland Post* reported. Thirty-seven years ago Archie Williams, now 60, was convicted of attempted murder and aggravated rape even though he had an alibi, a witness who said that he was at home sleeping at the time of the crime, said the *Post*.

The *Post* said that Williams started off singing in local night clubs at age 12, where he would imitate musical legend Michael Jackson. Growing up, he had more than a few run-ins with the law. He acquired various employable skills along his road of struggles, but strokes of continu-

ous bad luck landed him in prison, where he continued to develop his talent while fighting for his freedom. Six years into his life sentence at one of the most dangerous prisons in the USA, Louisiana’s Angola prison, Williams learned of the Innocence Project, and sought the organization’s help in exonerating him.

“They took my life away from me when I was 20 years old”

The *Post* said DNA evidence was requested by Williams in 1996, however in 1996 incarcerated people could not make such a

request. It took the State of Louisiana 10 more years to finally approve a law for incarcerated people to do so. Williams was determined, and after spending 36 years of his life in prison, 22 of them in solitary confinement, he was finally released in 2019. Williams did not allow the cruel punishments and the unlawful conviction to rob him of the things he actually loves to do.

Since his release, Williams has signed up for community college to continue his education. Not breaking his stride in pursuing his passion, Williams has found many possible ways to hopefully land him his



Photo from innocence project
Archie Williams

big break. He was visiting the campus one summer day when he encountered a tour conducted by Restoring Our Communities, a program assisting students impacted

by incarceration. It was there that Williams enrolled in piano and voice lessons. He went on to compete on America’s Got Talent, performing one of the great Stevie Wonder’s songs, “Love’s in Need of Love Today.” Wonder heard it and they shared a Zoom call. Williams made it to the finals but did not win the contest. He has, however, performed at the Apollo theatre and has since explored other ventures

Another Black man who was robbed of his life by the system is 65-year-old Ronnie Long. “They took my life away from me when I was 20 years old,” Long told *CBS News*. “I ain’t got nothing but memories.

But, yet and still, you say the evidence in the case was immaterial?” Long has claimed his innocence since the very beginning. His law yers posed many questions about the material evidence prosecutors used to convict him of rape and burglary over 40 years ago. Long received a life sentence in May of 1976 for the rape and burglary of a 54-year-old white woman in Concord, North Carolina.

Over the years, it came to light that DNA evidence proving Long’s innocence had been withheld by the prosecution, and a judge finally granted Long his freedom. “I feel that the criminal system in this state failed me,” Long said. However, after four decades of incarceration, Long was finally a free man.

Leavenworth’s incarcerated suffer more than just COVID outbreak

By AJ Hardy
Journalism Guild Writer

Lawrence, Kansas - An explosion of Coronavirus cases in Leavenworth Federal Prison had families and friends of the incarcerated concerned for their loved ones’ mental health as the incarcerated people endured overcrowding and more lockdown restrictions.

In early September 2020, Leavenworth became the pandemic epicenter for the federal prison system. Of the nearly 1,600 incarcerated people housed there, 206 tested positive for COVID-19, along with five staff members, the highest number of cases for any institution in the entire federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), according to the *Kansas News Service (KNS)*.

“We do wear masks, except in the dorms,” said Randy Dyke, a 60-year-old minimum security resident at the prison camp, by email to the *KNS*. “As for the staff, most do wear masks. However, we have some [staff members] who totally refuse to do so, putting us all at risk,” he added.

Social distancing just wasn’t possible in the prison, Dyke noted. In the minimum-security dorm where he was housed with 25 other men, some residents slept less than four feet apart, said the article. Because of long lines, the incarcerated had to choose

between making a phone call or taking a shower, reported some family members to *KNS*.

“It is just overcrowded here,” Dyke said.

BOP spokesperson Scott Walker said via email that prisoners whose symptoms were severe were sent to the hospital. But most residents who tested positive were asymptomatic, reported the article.

“Per CDC guidance, a contact-tracing investigation is conducted for each positive case,” said Walker. “While in the general population, any inmate displaying symptoms for COVID-19 will be tested and placed in isolation.”

According to Walker, only five incarcerated people had tested positive for the coronavirus prior to September 1; within two weeks, that number had reached more than 200, with only 8 residents having recovered as of September 14. He said no one had died.

Walker insisted the Bureau of Prisons follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for COVID-19 cases. “All staff and inmates have been issued facial coverings and are required to wear them when social distancing is not available per CDC guidelines,” he said.

However, families of Leavenworth residents were concerned for the well-being of their loved ones.



Leavenworth prison

Photo by Wikipedia

Dyke’s daughter, Jamie Rothchild, worried her father’s age made him more vulnerable to COVID-19.

“It sucks,” Rothchild told the *KNS*. “Our hands are tied. There’s nothing we can do.”

One resident who is nearly 70 years old told his wife that the prison medical care was inadequate and that they were advised by medical staff to buy over the counter medication from the prison commissary to treat their illness.

Disposable ones were given at first, said Dyke. Later on, residents received three cloth masks and got replacement masks two months after

that. He added that the laundry machines were also inadequate because there was not enough hot water to clean the masks. Also, the men didn’t have access to bleach to sanitize them, as many residents washed their masks by hand. Walker, of the BOP, responded that the prison provided appropriate treatment for COVID-19 and that the laundry facilities used enough bleach and hot water to clean clothes adequately. He added that the prison replaced masks regularly, according to the article.

But as coronavirus cases continued to rise, residents faced a lot of uncertainty,

said their families.

“These guys don’t know if they could wake up tomorrow and be really sick,” said one woman whose husband is at the prison. She spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation against her spouse.

Not only were the men facing the uncertainty of being infected with the virus, but the stress of continuous lockdowns was having an effect on some people. They were confined to their cells up to 23 hours per day to curb the outbreak, said some family members, which severely limited phone access to call them.

These added restrictions had family and friends worried about their incarcerated loved ones’ mental health as well. Amanda Karch is concerned about her boyfriend, who is at the prison.

“He says he’s depressed. He’s anxious,” Karch said. “He’s just unsure. He doesn’t know what’s going to happen.”

An update to this story is that as of March 4, 2021, the BOP website showed that since the outbreak began, there have been 879 positive tests for COVID-19 at Leavenworth, which currently houses 1,531 inmates.

Snippets

According to Guinness World Records, the first person to be charged with speeding was Walter Arnold of the English village of Paddock Wood, Kent on Jan. 28, 1896.

Food waste is a huge problem. About 931 million metric tons. That's how much food that researchers with the UN estimate was wasted in 2019, according to the Food Waste Index Report 2021.

A surprising side effect of pregnancy is that nails and hair grow faster than usual. This is due to changes in hormones as well as increased blood circulation and metabolism supplying nutrients.

Wood frogs in Alaska have been known to hold their urine for up to eight months, sticking it out through the region's long winters before relieving themselves once temperatures increase. The urine actually helps keep the animal alive while it hibernates, with special microbes in their gut that recycle the urea (urine's main waste) into nitrogen.

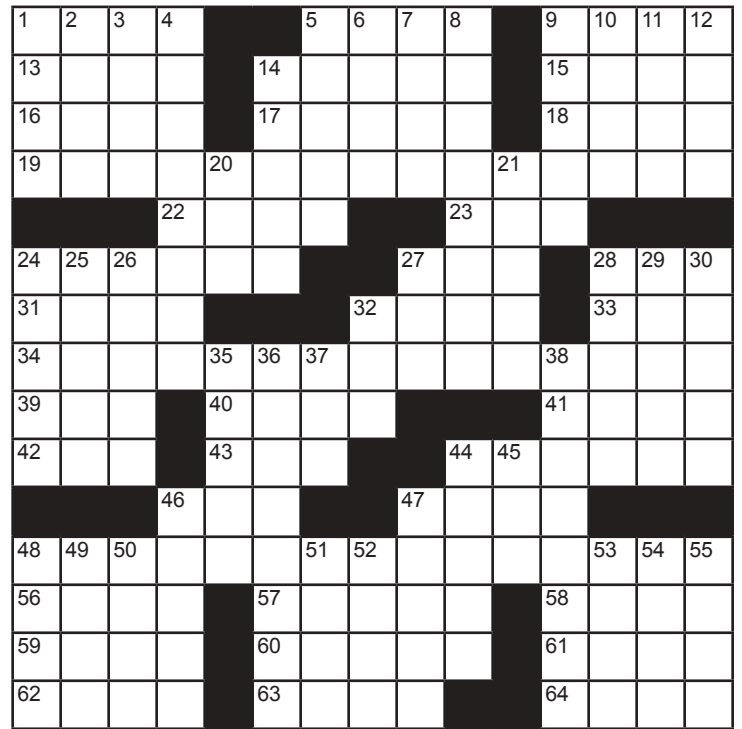
Crossword Edited by Jan Perry

Across

- Workout booster
- Chicken _____
- HIV, hepatitis, i.e.
- Opera solo
- World currency
- Body powder
- Soup ingredient, often
- Heavenly place
- Tricky tactic
- Soccer player Solo
- Quip
- Racing locale
- Pullet
- Dennings of *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*
- Rastafarian diet
- City in Northern California
- Suffix that usually indicates a citrus drink
- "Let's mix it all around"
- Small amount
- Light breezes
- Cover
- Single
- Campervans, for instance
- Actress Miller
- Mountain in Kyushu, Japan
- Country singer Campbell
- Spending time and energy but achieving nothing
- Beatles' song
- Heat rating
- _____ the Wild
- _____ 's Gold
- Yellow Fever mosquito
- Actress Long and singer Wilson
- Countenance
- John Mayer song
- Besides

Down

- Bygone Broadway show
- Ancient Syria
- _____ Kelly
- 9-18 perspective
- Velvety fabric
- Within
- Brie Larson movie
- Movie from the Burbank Playas
- Host Howard
- Type of list
- Mounted animal
- Without (L.)
- Dramas
- Forever
- Relating to several old Germanic languages
- Smart (Sp.)
- Actor Hawke
- Actress Apatow
- Big Brother* title (Abbr.)
- Fairchild Of Little Big Town
- Extra
- Electric automaker
- Military titles (Abbr.)
- Persian language
- Historical name for a Latvian
- Hospital depts.
- One of the seven hills in ancient Rome
- Shantytowns
- Suffix meaning a person who does the action of the verb it's attached to
- Ski town
- L&O *Criminal Intent* char.
- Friend
- Type of pad
- Toward the sheltered side of a ship
- Clarified butter
- Former name of Tokyo (var.)
- Source of indigo
- _____ a Service
- Miss



By Jonathan Chiu

Last issue's answer



Sudoku Corner

	9			6	1		
7	1			9		2	8
		8				4	9
	6		2	5			1
5				6	9		7
1	2					8	
9	8			4			5 2
		5	6				1

		3		5	2	6	
		5		7			
1	7			2			4
			2	7		1	
4							8
	9		3	8			
	5		9			7	4
				6		8	
	8	4	7			1	

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

2	3	5	9	8	6	7	4	1
6	8	7	4	2	1	9	5	3
9	1	4	3	5	7	2	8	6
4	7	2	8	3	5	6	1	9
3	6	8	2	1	9	5	7	4
5	9	1	7	6	4	8	3	2
1	4	6	5	7	2	3	9	8
8	5	9	6	4	3	1	2	7
7	2	3	1	9	8	4	6	5

2	1	3	4	7	8	9	5	6
4	8	7	5	9	6	1	3	2
9	6	5	1	2	3	4	8	7
6	9	2	8	4	7	3	1	5
7	3	8	6	5	1	2	4	9
5	4	1	9	3	2	6	7	8
1	7	4	2	6	5	8	9	3
3	2	9	7	8	4	5	6	1
8	5	6	3	1	9	7	2	4

Brain Teasers

Answers

- It has each number, zero through nine, listed in alphabetical order.
- The river was frozen.
- The letter S
- Nine-two parents, six sons and one daughter
- Short
- The rules of the race were that the owner of the camel that crosses the finish line last wins the fortune. The wise man simply told them to switch camels.



The Good Life: Each of the five neighborhood dogs is enjoying one of the following activities. Based on the clues, can you figure out what each pooch is doing?

Dogs: Saber, Ginger, Nutmeg, Pepper, Bear

Activities: Getting ears scratched, Playing catch, Taking a nap, Burying a chew toy, Going for a walk.

Clues:

Pepper is either playing catch or burying a chew toy

Neither Ginger nor Saber nor Bear is on a walk

One of the dogs named after a spice is getting her ears scratched (and loving it)

A dog who is not named for a spice is playing catch

Bear is getting some exercise

Cryptic Questions:

B + E = G

G - D = C

F / A = D

C - B = A

2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11

Each letter (A-G) has one of the seven values listed above. No two letters have the same value. Match each letter to a number to make the equations work.

Fill in the Blank:

D _ I _ Y

How many common English words can you make by adding a letter to each of the blanks below? We found seven. Proper nouns don't count

Incarcerated Reentry Resource Directory



FACT SHEET

CALIFORNIA TRAINING BENEFITS PROGRAM

The California Training Benefit (CTB) program allows eligible California Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants, who lack competitive job skills to compete for jobs in the California labor market, to receive their UI benefits, which might otherwise not be allowed while attending a training or retraining program. Under the CTB program, the traditional role of UI changes from that of partial wage replacement while the individual looks for work to one of assisting the individual in training or retraining in an effort to return to full employment.

Considering CTB Participation

Individuals who are approved by the EDD to participate in the CTB program do not have to meet the following eligibility requirements during the period of approved training:

- Look for work
- Be available for work
- Accept suitable work

There is an extension of UI benefits available only for eligible CTB participants, which is known as a Training Extension (TE) claim. A TE claim may be available when regular UI benefits run out before the period of approved training is completed and federal/federal-state extended benefits (extensions) are not available. However, there is no guarantee that regular UI benefits, a TE claim, or extensions will be sufficient to cover the entire period of approved training.

The California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC) provides the eligibility criteria for the CTB program and TE benefits which EDD staff must follow in order to approve CTB participation and allow the filing of TE claims. The EDD is prohibited from pre-determining CTB eligibility until the individual has started to attend school or training.

Base period employers are notified when an individual is approved for the CTB program, which provides the employers the right to contest the individual's need for training or retraining. When employers contest or appeal the CTB eligibility determination, it may result in a reversal of the original eligibility finding. If the original eligibility is reversed, the claimant has the right to appeal the disqualification.

CTB Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for CTB program participation, an individual must be eligible to receive California UI benefits, and notify the EDD as soon as the school or training attendance begins. Once the EDD has been notified, eligibility fact finding is conducted by EDD staff to gather information to determine if CTB can be approved.

There are two types of CTB program approval criteria the EDD uses to determine CTB eligibility.

Criteria 1

CTB participation may be approved assuming all other UI eligibility criteria are met and the EDD determines the training meets at least **one** of the following conditions:

- The training is authorized and verifiable by one of the following State or federal program sponsors:
 - Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
 - Employment Training Panel (ETP)
 - Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)
 - California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)
- The individual is an active journey level union member taking industry-related training approved by his/her union.
- The training program and provider are listed on California's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL). The ETPL is online at <http://etpl.edd.ca.gov/wiaetplind.htm>.

Criteria 2

Individuals not approved under Criteria 1 may have their CTB participation approved only if he/she meet **all** other UI eligibility criteria and the EDD determines the training meets all of the following conditions:

- The individual **must** be eligible for California UI benefits and be unemployed or partially unemployed for four or more continuous weeks or is unemployed due to a plant closure, or substantial reduction in work force, or due to a mental or physical disability preventing the use of existing job skills, or due to technological changes in their occupation; **AND**

- The individual **must** be unemployed due to a lack of demand for his/her current skills in his/her local labor market, or his/her occupation is seasonal and he/she has no other skills in current demand; **AND**
- The training **must** relate to an occupation or skill which is in demand in your local labor market in California where you intend to seek work. When federal extension claims are in effect in California, certain prerequisite or remedial training is included; **AND**
- The training is taken at an approved training facility **AND** the training **must** be completed within a reasonable period of time, not exceeding 24 months (or not exceeding 48 months when federal extensions are in effect in California); **AND**
- The training **must** be full time, (typically not less than 20 hours per week, or 12 semester or quarter units) and intended to provide skills to obtain employment in a demand occupation; **AND**
- The individual **must** reasonably be expected to complete the training successfully, even if UI benefits are not sufficient to cover the entire period of training; **AND**
- The beginning date of the new training or retraining **must** be more than three years from the beginning date of the last CTB participation.

Tuition, Books, and Fees

The CTB program does not cover any educational or training-related expenses such as tuition, fees, books, supplies, or transportation. If you are unemployed, you may be eligible for federal financial aid, such as Pell Grants. For more information on federal financial aid, visit the Web site at www.federalstudentaid.ed.gov.

Approval Authority for CTB

CTB eligibility is based upon legislation contained in Article 1.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code, Sections 1269, 1269.1 and 1271, respectively. Information on how these laws are applied by EDD staff making CTB eligibility decision can be found in the Miscellaneous Benefit Determination Guide, Section 85, through this link: www.edd.ca.gov/UIBDG/Miscellaneous_MI_85.htm.

Finding Training

The CTB program does not provide assistance in assessing training needs or identifying potential sources for training. The Labor Market Information section of the EDD Web site provides career information and can help identify occupations with the greatest demand now and in the future. Visit the EDD Web site at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov.

For More Information

For further information, to inquire about CTB, or to report that you have started training, please contact the EDD through the "Contact UI" link on the menu on the EDD Web site at www.edd.ca.gov or by telephone at:

- English 1-800-300-5616
- Spanish 1-800-326-8937
- Cantonese 1-800-547-3506
- Mandarin 1-866-303-0706
- Vietnamese 1-800-547-2058
- TTY (non-voice) 1-800-815-9387

Training Extension (TE) Eligibility Criteria

Individuals are approved for a TE claim if they are eligible for CTB and inquired about CTB or have a CTB eligibility interview prior to receiving the 16th week of regular UI benefits. If the UI claim is less than 16 weeks, the inquiry or the eligibility interview must be made before the individual receives his or her last benefit payment.

Benefits Available

- Individuals participating in CTB who are otherwise eligible for UI benefits may receive their regular UI benefits during the period of CTB approved training. The amount of the claim award, not the length of training, determines how long UI benefits can be paid while participating in the CTB program.
- The TE claim provides additional benefits up to a combined maximum amount equal to 52 weeks times (x) the weekly benefit amount of the regular (parent) UI claim on which the CTB was approved. However, the maximum award of the parent UI claim and any subsequent new UI claim, and the payments on extensions, are subtracted from the maximum TE amount.

When extensions are available and an individual qualifies for these benefits, extended benefits may replace TE benefits.

Reentry Hotline for people coming home

Apprenticeship programs



California Reentry Healthcare Hotline

Building stable, healthy lives. A clinic to call home.

Transitions Clinic Network (TCN) is a network of health clinics that have a special programs for people returning home from incarceration. There are over **21 TCN clinics** throughout California. TCN started a Reentry Healthcare Hotline staffed by **Community Health Workers (CHW)** with histories of incarceration, aims to assist people returning home to get their health care needs met!

- Do you have questions about health insurance?
- Do you need help finding a healthcare provider to care for you in the community, refilling your medications (including MAT)?
- Do you want to connect to mental health or any specialty services upon release?

If Yes, **Call 1-510-606-6400** for information on connecting to care upon release. This number **accepts** collect calls from **GTL**. **Have a pen and paper ready when you call.**

Hours: Monday to Friday 09:00 am to 05:00 pm

You can also write to:
Transitions Clinic Network
2401 Keith Street San Francisco, CA 94124

Services (may vary by clinic):

- Social service navigation (Medi-Cal and benefits assistance)
- Mental health services
- Reentry support
- Primary care
- Medications for people living with substance use disorder (Suboxone)
- Nutrition
- Dental
- Health Education
- Medication management
- Hepatitis C treatment
- Reproductive health
- HIV treatment

Department of Industrial Relations

Data is current as of 03/26/2021

Acoustical Installer

Program length: 36 months
Starting wage: 60% of JM
Education prerequisites: High School/Ged/Equivalent
Additional prerequisites: Attendance of 9 week Pre-Apprenticeship Class
Physical requirements: Yes
Written Test: No **Oral Exam:** No
Additional requirements: Must be physically capable of performing the work of the Trade.
Contact information: Carpenters Training Committee For Northern California
www.ctcnc.org
 2350 Santa Rita Rd Pleasanton, CA 94566
Contact person: Peter O'Farrell, Executive Director
Contact phone / email: (925) 462-9640 training@ctcnc.org
Applications taken: Continuous
Veteran Benefits Approved: Yes

A/C & Refrigeration Service And Repair (Residential And Commercial)

Program length: 60 months
Starting wage: In accordance with published State Wages
Education prerequisites: High School/Ged/Equivalent
Physical requirements: Yes
Written Test: Yes **Oral Exam:** Yes
Additional requirements: An employer may require a physical examination at no cost to the applicant prior to indenture.
Contact information: P H C C Of The Greater Sacramento Area U.A.C.
 1820 Tribute, Ste. A Sacramento, CA 95815
Contact person: Theresa Perez, Apprentice Coordinator
Contact phone / email: (916) 640-0910 HVAInfo@phccgsa.org
Applications taken: Continuous
Veteran Benefits Approved: Yes

Air Conditioning Mechanic

Program length: 60 months
Starting wage: \$16.49 per hr.
Minimum age: 18
Education prerequisites: High School/Ged/Equivalent
Additional prerequisites: Proof of valid Ca. Driver's License during dispatch process and maintained valid as an apprentice.
Physical requirements: Yes
Written Test: Yes **Oral Exam:** Yes
Contact information: Bay Area Sheet Metal J A C
 1700 Marina Blvd. San Leandro, CA 94577
Contact person: Benjamin Rivera, Administrator
Contact phone / email: (510) 928-4969 BenR@smw104jatc.org
Applications taken: Specified Intervals
Veteran Benefits Approved: Yes

Please note for previously listed resource Buddhist Prison Ministry will NOT be offering any more Pen Pals for their program

Cesar E. Chavez an icon for the underclass workers

CESAR

Continued from Page 1

Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association, along with co-founder Dolores Huerta, in 1962. The union joined in its first workers' strike in September, 1965, with the Agricultural Workers Organization Committee. The two organizations formed the United Farm Workers. Filipino farm workers were the ones who initiated the protest against the working conditions in the Delano, grape fields, according to Wikipedia.

"The color of our skins, the language of our culture and native origins, the lack of formal education, the exclusion from the democratic process...all these burdens, generation after generation, have sought to demoralize us, to break our human spirit," said Chavez, in an open letter about the grape strike. "But God knows we are not beasts of burden, we are not agricultural implements or rented slaves, we are men."

Chavez gained national attention because of the strikes. In 1979, after a long struggle,

the Delano grape growers signed contacts with the union to raise wages, introduce a health plan, and new safety measures on the use of pesticides on crops.

In 1975, Chavez allied with then Governor Jerry Brown, to pass the California's Agricultural Labor Relations Act. The first of its kind in the nation, it gave hope to end the cycle of exploitation of farm workers, according to Wikipedia.

"Chavez pulled up to my Laurel Canyon house in an old car with a German shepherd dog named 'Huelga' Spanish for strike," said Brown, according to Wikipedia. "We talked for several hours about whether the proposed state law or any labor law could actually help farm workers."

"Chavez repeatedly said that his boycott was a much better organizing tool because the law would always be corrupted by the powerful economic interests that control politics," Brown continued. "I argued with him and said that the law would be his best protection."

But the farm labor laws went unenforced under California's next Republican

Governor George Deukmejian.

Chavez used the non-violent tactic of the civil rights movement for his strikes. He was jailed for the Salinas Lettuce Strike in 1970. Chavez was sentenced to 10 days in the Monterey County jail for contempt of court, for violating an injunction preventing a boycott against the growers.

He was visited by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Coretta Scott King, Robert Kennedy and his Wife Ethel Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy attended a rally, which included a Roman Catholic mass for Chavez. The event drew counter-protestors opposing the activism in their community.

Chavez began a fast to reaffirm his commitment to non-violence after some of his union members were accused of using intimidation tactics. Dr. King sent Chavez a telegram of support.

"You stand today as a living example of the Ghandhian tradition, with its great force for social progress and its healing spiritual powers," wrote King. "My colleagues and I commend you for your bravery, salute you for your indefatigable work against poverty and injustice."

Dr. King prayed for his health and his continuing service, "as one of the outstanding men of America," according to Wikipedia.

Chavez cultivated relationships based on his philosophy on how to build friendships.

"If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him...The people who give you their food, give you their heart," said Chavez.

In 1993, he died at the age of 66. Hundreds of communities across the nation have named schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities, after him. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994, posthumously.

"The union's survival, its very existence, sent out a signal to all Hispanics that we were fighting for our dignity," said Chavez in 1984. "That we were challenging and overcoming injustice, that we were empowering the least educated among us, the poorest among us. The message is clear. If it could happen in the fields, it could happen anywhere: in cities, in courts, in the city council, in the state legislatures," he concluded.



Photo from Wikipedia

The National Chavez Center, Keene, California.



Photo from Wikipedia

The grave of César Chávez is located in the garden of the Cesar E. Chavez National Monument in Keene, California.



Photo from Wikipedia

Chavez speaking at a 1974 UFW rally in Delano, California.



Photo from Wikipedia

National Farm Workers Association buttons advertising their campaigns

Co-founded:	National Farm Workers Association/United Farm Workers El Malcriado
Life:	Delano Grape Strike The Forty Acres Salad Bowl strike
Honors	César E. Chávez National Monument, Cesar Chavez Day, List of places named after Cesar Chavez: Colegio Cesar Chavez, Cesar Chavez (2007 statue), USNS Cesar Chavez