

# San Quentin News



WRITTEN BY PRISONERS – ADVANCING SOCIAL JUSTICE



VOL. 2018 NO. 9

September 2018 Edition 108

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION ? , ???

## San Quentin's 2018 graduating class



Two-time Grammy-winning rapper LeCrae Moore used a hip-hop performance at San Quentin State Prison on July 24 to deliver inspirational messages and show his Christian faith in action.

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Native American women prisoners in Oregon are finding support from a dedicated and determined advocate helping them rebuild their lives and spirituality.

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San Quentin's first-ever Skype computer conference calls between California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation prisoners and youth in the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) ...

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More than 50 men received recognition for their participation and successful completion of a Center Point program.

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Photo by Harold Meeks

Robert E. Burton Adult School's 2018 graduating class enjoying their day of accomplishments

By Jesse Vasquez  
Managing Editor

Families gathered to celebrate their loved ones' accomplishments at the Robert E. Burton Adult School annual graduation ceremony, held on July 20 in San Quentin's

main visiting room. "This is the first time I've been able to complete any type of vocational program," said Francisco Ortiz, a graduate from the Vocational Plumbing class. "I'm proud because I was able to participate in something that will help improve my

chances for success." The students completed a vocational training course, passed a High School Equivalency test, received a General Education Diploma, or earned a college degree. "Graduation represents a significant milestone in your lives. You

have experienced challenges beyond measure to achieve this goal," said Ms. D. Searle, an academic instructor and emcee for the event. "You have learned to turn obstacles into opportunities."

See GRADUATES on page 10

## Former prisoner honored for his achievements

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Chairman

John Valverde, 50, went from the prison cell to the executive suite, having an occupation listed as "convict," to an occupation of "CEO." Now chief executive officer of YouthBuild USA Inc., Valverde was named winner of the 2018 Brian S. Fischer Achievement Award.

"It was amazing to be in a room with so many people who guided me and mentored me during my incarceration and are now celebrating who I have become," Valverde told SQN. "And to have my family there with me was extremely spe-

cial and moving." The award recognizes a formerly incarcerated leader, one who has made an impact by advocating for positive change in the world, according to a news release from Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison.

Valverde received the award at the Hudson Link 20th anniversary celebration and annual Spring Benefit Dinner in New York City.

"We cannot think of anyone more fitting or more deserving of this honor than John," said Sean Pica, Hudson Link executive director.

See HONOR on page 4



Photo by Rapheale Casale

Tamara Brown, hip-hop artist Rashid "Common" Lynn entering San Quentin through the central plaza as David Jassy greets them

## Hip-hop artist Common visits music program in SQ

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Hip-hop artist Rashid "Common" Lynn heard about the positive music being produced from prison by David Jassy, a Grammy-nominated Swedish rapper and producer, and came into San Quentin to meet about a collaborative project.

"He (Common) has a genuine interest in prison reform," Jassy said. "They heard about the YOP mixtape and they have ideas they want to discuss."

The YOP mixtape, produced by Jassy, showcases the raw voices of young incarcerated rappers rhym-

ing about their truths, without glorifying violence or cursing.

"Their raps feel real to me," Common said. "Their struggle resonates."

Jassy and Common plan to produce a new project working with Now #Cut50, an organization dedicated to reducing the prison population, and the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC).

"We want the voices from in here to be heard outside — through artwork, music and storytelling," Common said. "When we get the word out, people will see humanity and our truth."

See COMMON on page 9



Photo courtesy of Hudson Link

Sean Pica, John Valverde holding the award and Brian S. Fischer

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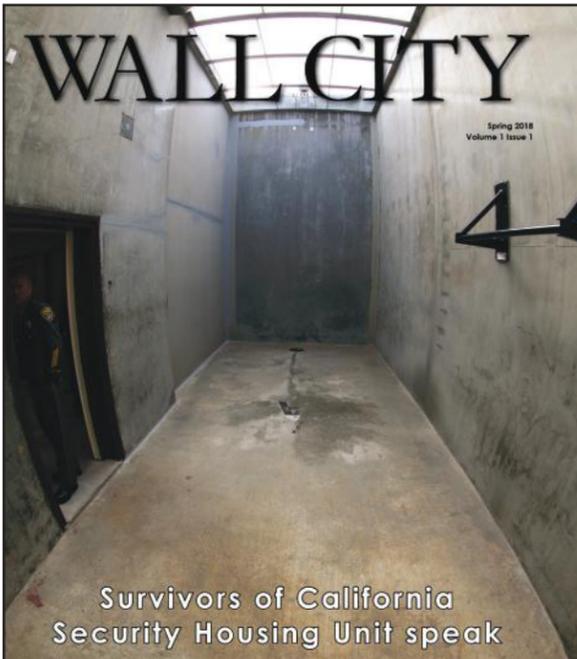
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# Day of Peace at DVI



Photo courtesy of Lt. Christene Zoucha

The Veterans Healing Veterans group extending a helping hand

**By Lt. Christene Zoucha**  
**AA/PIO**

On a warm day in August, more than 200 inmates at Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI) focused their efforts on self improvement and rehabilitation by attending the Day of Peace.

Organized by the Peacemakers' Alliance Program, the event was meant as a way to shine a light on rehabilitative options for those inmates who aren't currently engaged in such activities. More than 50 self-help groups hosted information tables and took onsite enrollment for their programs.

Thanks to the generous donations of vendors and volunteers, every inmate participant was provided with a "Success Pack" containing learning essentials such as a folder to carry class materials, writing paper, pencils, pens, a list of rehabilitative programs and an event book-

mark. Light refreshments were also donated.

Through the Day of Peace, various inmate groups came together in a positive way through community building.

"Today was a truly blessed and positive day that opened my mind to the many doors that can lead me to my ultimate freedom. They should have more events like this one in the future," said one inmate attendee.

Incarcerated veterans offer help to others in the same situation through their organization, Veterans Helping Veterans.

The keynote speaker for the day was National Center for Youth Law attorney Frankie Guzman, who co-authored Proposition 57 and Senate Bill 261.

Some of those attending included Associate Warden Kenny Johnson, Community Resources Manager Martina Virrey, Peacemakers' Alliance Program co-founder

Angele Echele, San Francisco State University Project Rebound representative Joseph Miles and in-house bands led by DVI music coordinator Tracy Hunter.

More than 30 community volunteers who serve in self-help and religious programs at DVI were on-hand as well as five contract employees from HealthRIGHT 360 and more than 20 DVI employees ranging from correctional staff, psychologists and self-help sponsors to chaplains, library staff and education staff.

DVI Chaplain E. Santiago said the event was enlightening.

"I find that programs such as this Day of Peace open my eyes to the positive things people can do for each other," he said.

Malachi Dad volunteer Walter Mendez echoed those sentiments.

"Here I sit in amazement, surrounded by men who want a better life," he said.

Another volunteer said the event promotes unity.

"Today's occasion is a day that should occur more often. Its purpose is to unite and not to divide. We need each other for survival," said Carlos Lara, volunteer with Veterans Healing Veterans

"Community events such as the Day of Peace empower those present to realize the available opportunities for growth and change. Taking advantage of those opportunities is not without struggle, for change is gradual and difficult. Positive change is much more possible when leaders invite others to participate in the process and

offer support along the journey," said Peacemakers' Alliance Program co-founder Angele Echele.

"As communities and individuals grow and heal, peace is possible. Peace is contagious and has the power to transform any community. The inmate volunteers, community volunteers and DVI self-help sponsors are the leaders acting as agents for change in the DVI community and society at-large. Without the Administration and custody staff's support and focus on maintaining a safe, secure space, the Day of Peace would not have been possible. The [event's] success shows that hope is alive at DVI," she said.

Students in the Peacemakers' Alliance Critical Literacy and Peace Education course developed the Day of Peace event proposal as a community service project. Making the event possible and successful was a collaborative effort between Peacemakers' Alliance students, inmate activity groups' executive body members and volunteers, self-help volunteers and sponsors, the DVI administration, custody and support staff, outside donors and the inmates who voluntarily attended the Aug. 13 event.

"This basic concept is a great way to let people who normally wouldn't know about these groups have a chance to be informed. It's a great idea," said inmate Clint Livermore.

Inmates visited tables and booths to learn more about rehabilitative groups offered inside DVI.



Photo courtesy of Lt. Christene Zoucha

Inmates learning about rehabilitation during the Day of Peace event in Deuel Vocational Institution

# One member of Black liberation group paroled

By Joe Garcia  
Journalism Guild Writer

Black activist Debbie Sims Africa overcame a decade of parole denials and finally received her freedom after serving nearly 40 years within Pennsylvania's prison system.

Africa and eight other MOVE members were all jointly convicted of a policeman's murder in 1978.

MOVE is a political organization founded in 1970s Philadelphia to protest rampant police brutality.

The officer died during a raid on MOVE's residential headquarters, detailed in a recent workers.org article. Africa, now 61, is the first of the "MOVE 9" to be released.

"They don't really want to be so quick to let people who are accused of killing a cop out on parole," said Mike Africa Jr., Debbie's son. "The parole board seems to be retrying them, asking them

questions about the incident that seem to have nothing to do with the years they've spent."

Two of the MOVE 9, Phil and Merle Africa, have already died in prison, while the other six continue to be denied parole in the face of constant opposition by The Fraternal Order of Police. The FOP holds positions on Pennsylvania's Board of Probation and Parole and claims that members have "refused to accept responsibility," "lacked remorse" or pose a "risk to community" as reasons to continue denying them.

MOVE arose in 1972 against the backdrop of all-out state campaigns targeting the Black Panther Party and other Black liberation groups. In May 1977, the police obtained a court order to force MOVE out of their home, resulting in a 15-month siege of the surrounding Powelton Village neighborhood.

Officers swarmed the house in the early morning of August 8, 1978, launching a full-scale assault with water cannons, tear gas and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

"We huddled together scared because we knew cops had lots of guns and other weapons," Debbie recalled in a written account for onamove.com. "We didn't know how they were gonna do it, but we knew their plan was to kill us."

"Cops were yelling over a loudspeaker for us to come

out of the house, but we didn't trust them, so nobody went out there."

Debbie was 22 years old at the time of the attack, eight and half months pregnant with her son, Mike Jr., and in the house with her 23-month-old daughter, Michelle. After running for cover to the home's basement, she described the police bombarding her family with a crossfire of powerful fire hose spray. The water broke through the windows, decimating wooden support beams, and killing their dogs.

Amidst the flurry of tear gas and smoke grenades, Michelle was ripped from her mother's arms. Mike Jr. was born in a prison cell five weeks later.

Officer James P. Ramp suffered a gunshot wound to the back of his head during the melee. According to workers.org, although no physical evidence pointed to a MOVE member pulling the trigger, they were all convicted of third-degree murder and conspiracy. Philadelphia police obliterated the entire MOVE residence following the raid,

destroying any hope of finding exculpatory evidence.

Other Black revolutionaries continue to face tremendous difficulty in achieving parole, even after multiple decades of incarceration.

In 2016, 80-year-old former Black Panther Sundiata Acoli had been granted parole through a court order, but police unions and advocacy groups successfully challenged his release through higher court litigation, according to workers.org. Acoli's sentence was extended 15 more years.

## Inadequate diet for the month of Ramadan

By Amir Shabazz  
Journalism Guild Writer

Muslims in Alaska and Washington state prisons are having a hard time fulfilling one of the pillars of their religion: fasting during the month of Ramadan, according to articles in the *Juneau Empire* and *Huffington Post*.

Two federal courts have ruled in favor of the Muslim inmates who have filed lawsuits in both states, alleging inadequate meals and feeding during Ramadan.

Lawsuits were filed by inmates from the Washington State Reformatory and the Anchorage Correctional Complex in Alaska. They retained the legal services of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

"Muslim inmates are simply asking for the right to practice their religion while incarcerated," said Jasmin Samy, civil rights director of CAIR's Washington chapter. "To deny them is discriminatory and unconstitutional."

Ramadan is a month for fasting and spiritual reflection. The main objective of the fast is to purify the conduct and character of one's mind, body and soul for one month, from sunup to sundown, according to Islamic traditions. The command to fast is in the Muslim Holy



Muslim prisoners praying during Ramadan

book, the Qur'an.

In Alaska, prisoners submitted a variety of grievances to prison officials about being poorly fed, sack lunches having pork in them and being starved by the prison, reported the *Juneau Empire*, an online newspaper.

Alaska prisoners also complained that meals were taken during a search of their cells and were removed from the Ramadan list. They were prohibited from saving food in their cells, said the article.

Muslims at the Washington prison claimed that prison officials refused to provide them with the proper nutrition between sundown and sunrise.

Prisoners claimed they were not added to the Ramadan list if they missed

the sign-in deadline that happened in early January; Ramadan took place in mid-May.

"Muslim prisoners are being starved and their health is in danger as a result of the facilities' starvation policy," said Lena Masri, CAIR's litigation director.

Spokespersons for the Washington and Alaskan prisons responded to the allegations.

"The Washington Department of Corrections takes very seriously the health and welfare of those sentenced to incarceration in the state's correctional facilities," spokesman Jeremy Barclay told *The Associated Press*.

Megan Edge, spokesperson for the Alaska prison, said that it accommodates pris-

oners of all faiths, including the Muslims. She stated the prison provides every opportunity for the Muslims to have a successful Ramadan, according to *Juneau Empire*.

"In total, each inmate gets four sandwiches, four pieces of fruit, a bundle of vegetable sticks, two servings of milk, plus two cookies or cake," said Edge in an e-mail to *Juneau Empire*.

She said the sack meal sandwiches were chicken bologna or turkey bologna, not pork, according to the article.

U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton wrote that prison officials in Washington inflicted "irreparable injury" to Muslim inmates by failing to provide them with adequate nutrition and failing to accommodate their sincerely held religious beliefs.

He said the facility must provide the inmates with a balanced nutritional diet containing between 2,600 and 2,800 calories on each remaining day of Ramadan. The judge in Alaska issued a similar order.

"We welcome the federal court's swift intervention, which will bring this health crisis to an end, and to ensure that Muslim inmates are not starved and brutalized for practicing the fundamental principles of their faith," Masri said.

### Upcoming Events at San Quentin

- Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> C.R.I. Graduation
- Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 2 Hour-Race
- Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> Avary Walk
- Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> Mental Wellness Week Begins
- Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Time of Remembrance
- Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> Night of Expressive Arts
- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Closing Event
- Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Barbershop Dialogue
- Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Recovery Day

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- 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.

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Behind the Scenes



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

## Florida Corrections considers replacing visits

Timothy Hicks  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) is considering limiting inmates' visits, claiming that there is not enough funding to cover the amount of staff it takes to oversee jail visiting rooms.

According to the *Tampa Bay Times*, the DOC in Florida is allowing a private

contractor to implement a program that will charge inmates and their families a fee to have video phone calls to their families.

That attempt has frustrated family members and caused great concern. According to the article, one woman whose husband is serving a 25-year-to-life sentence said, "They're reducing our days so they can they can

make money on video visitation."

The woman, who the *Tampa Bay Times* identifies as Jewie Tryon, also said, "Money is what motivates these people." Inmates who are in contact with their families through visits are less likely to want to get into more trouble in jail, according to the *Times*. According to DOC spokeswoman

Michelle Gladys, the video calls are not meant to replace in-person visiting but, to supplement them. "We value in-person visitations, we absolutely do. But given our current [financial] situation, this is our best option for safety reasons," Gladys expresses her concerns to families for their worries and offers assurance that things won't change drastically.

## Kentucky voting rights may soon change for ex-felons

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Kentucky's practice of permanently stripping away the voting rights of citizens convicted of felonies may soon change, according to Attorney Ben Carter in an opinion-editorial in *The Courier-Journal*.

Currently three states, Florida, Kentucky and Iowa, permanently strip voting rights. Only Vermont and Maine do not strip voting rights at all. All the other states temporarily strip voting rights.

Twenty-six percent of voting-age Black Kentuckians cannot vote due to the combination of felony convictions and the state's racially biased

enforcement of drug laws.

"The War on Drugs has turned people struggling with addiction into felons all across the commonwealth," Carter said.

In 1980, Kentucky had a voter disenfranchisement rate of 2.2 percent, which has increased to 9.1 percent today. Only Mississippi and Florida have higher rates of voter disenfranchisement.

A federal lawsuit in Florida may end that state's extreme effort to disenfranchise former felons and provide a template for other states to follow. U.S. District Judge Mark Walker issued an injunction requiring Florida officials to replace the state's unconstitutionally arbitrary system by April 26.

But, Florida's governor appealed the judge's decision. Florida and Kentucky's systems of voter restoration are similar: both are at the discretion of the governor.

Walker's decision did not tell the state exactly how to fix its broken system. However, the court required the Executive Clemency Board to "promulgate time constraints that are meaningful, specific and expeditious."

The court cautioned the GOP-controlled board from ending the voter restoration scheme entirely. Earlier this year, the court concluded that Florida's slow drip of vote-restorations violates the constitutionally guaranteed rights to associate and speak freely, and also violates the

14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

The lawsuit in Florida gives disenfranchised Kentuckians a map to defend against the state's punitive and racist policy against convicted citizens who have served their time, Carter noted.

He said that the map points to a more sensible destination, one that recognizes that people convicted of felonies should be fully reintegrated into society.

"Felons today aren't what felons used to be. Back in the good old days, you'd have to kill or seriously hurt someone, steal a bunch of stuff or try to rob someone to become a felon," he said. "But, nowadays, stealing something worth \$300 is a felony."

# San Quentin music reaches New York City

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

If you go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met) in New York City in the spring of 2019, don't be surprised to hear music created by musicians incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison.

"I'm in a 6x9 cell and my voice is going to New York—that's God," said singer Mike Adams, who has been in prison 19 years.

The 51-year-old's rendition of "Amazing Grace" was chosen by representatives of the museum to be used in a performance that blends ballet, opera, spiritual songs, and art history.

The concept, "From the Spirits," is the brainchild of accomplished ballet dancer Silas Farley and Met General Manager of Live Arts Limor Tomer.

Tomer, an ex-radio producer, was inspired to include San Quentin artists after listening to the hit podcast *Ear*



Photo by Antwan Banks

Mark Kennedy, Dwight Krizman, Richie Morris and Chris Koppe

*Hustle* produced inside the prison.

Farley, his wife Cassia, Tomer and Met Director of Education Programs Sandra Jackson-Dumont arrived in San Quentin on June 11 to hear several artists audition, in what was more of a jam session than a competition.

On July 25, Pat Mesiti-Miller, Outside Producer for *Ear Hustle*, delivered the news that the Met chose music by rapper Calvin Johnson, singer AJ Gonzales, harmon-

ica player Gary Harrell, band Quentin Blue, bass-guitarist Charlie Spencer, rapper Le-mar "Maverick" Harrison and Adams at a recording session for the project.

Adams fought back tears when he heard the news.

"I needed to hear that," Adams said. "It's hard sometimes to go through so much as a man of faith. Faith is based on spirit. You don't always get that up in here."

Johnson, a 25-year-old Oakland native who grew

up in foster care and group homes, writes rap music based on his Christian faith. He performed his song "Blinded by the Light" by banging the beat out on a table with a pencil and it got him chosen.

"I feel like David beating Goliath," Johnson said. "All I had was a pencil, table and the word of God."

He became a Christian when, during his third month in jail on a six-year sentence, his bunkie told him to read Proverbs in the Bible.

"I read Proverbs in tears," Johnson said. "It felt like the parent I never had. I've been getting fathered by God ever since my incarceration."

Gonzales, a 38-year-old Filipino from Vallejo, started singing in school choirs rather than in church. While working at the firehouse at San Quentin, he heard a poem called "Reflections" by fellow incarcerated firefighter Bradley Vangroening. Gonzales turned the poem into a song and performed it for the Met

reps.

"We didn't try to make a hit song, we just tried to express our faith," Gonzales said. "It's just a blessing that somebody can hear our song outside these walls."

Harrell, who is 63 years old, has been incarcerated 42 years on a 7-to-life sentence. For decades, he was doing the same type of stuff that landed him in prison until about eight years ago. Now serious about his Christian faith, he was baptized last Easter.

Accompanied by former Club Nuevo member Jeffery Atkins, Harrell recorded a new rendition of the soulful harmonica playing that impressed the Met reps at recording session.

"It's an honor and privilege to be associated with honorable people," Harrell said. "I'm looking forward to seeing the finished product."

Quentin Blue was chosen for "The Gathering Song." The band is made up of four guys over fifty-five: Richie

Morris, 57, Dwight Krizman, 63, Chris Koppe, 61 and Mark Kennedy, 56.

Kennedy and Koppe just joined the group, replacing Charlie Spencer, who paroled. "I'm absolutely humbled by it," Kennedy said. "God opens doors for us. Sit in the middle of his will and things happen for us."

Le-mar "Maverick" Harrison, is a Christian who raps. He and Spencer paroled before the announcement that the Met wants to use their music. Johnson and Gonzales are scheduled to parole in a few months.

Mesiti-Miller plans to mix down the artists' music and get it to the Met team.

"Everybody who has participated has been tremendously talented," Mesiti-Miller said. "It's an honor to record their voices and songs. It's great to get these songs out. And the idea that it's going to reach so many people—I feel all the songs are worthy of that."



Photo by Antwan Banks

Mike Adams



Photo by Antwan Banks

Calvin Johnson



Photo by Antwan Banks

Jeffery Atkins and Gary Harrell



Photo by Antwan Banks

A.J. Gonzales

## HONOR

Continued from Page 1

Valverde co-founded Hudson Link with Pica while they both served time at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in New York. Valverde spent 16 years in prison for manslaughter. Valverde was 20 years old at the time of the offense.

"I found my meaning and purpose during my incarceration and used my time to develop myself, starting with accepting full responsibility and committing to making amends," Valverde said. "I focused on doing those things that would make me better."

"That's how I prepared to make the most of my second chance. Today I'm grateful to be living out my second chance with YouthBuild," he added.

While in prison, he earned a bachelor's degree in behavioral science from Mercy College and a master's degree in Urban Ministry from the New York Theological Seminary.

Valverde was released in 2008 and set about running a major organization. YouthBuild USA Inc. oversees a

global network of programs that help low-income and troubled youth obtain job skills. The company has more than 250 programs around the U.S. and another 100 programs in 22 other countries.

"I am the first formerly incarcerated CEO of a non-profit with a global mission," Valverde said. "As humbling as that is, it means little if it doesn't inspire young people to live into futures they never imagined possible and if it doesn't stir the public conscience to see our young people as more than the worst thing they have ever done."

Leading YouthBuild is an accomplishment for Valverde, but his heart is with Hudson Link.

"I love Hudson Link more because it gave me meaning and purpose, not just when I needed it most," Valverde said. "But in a way that would set a trajectory for a life committed to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion."

The other redeeming factor for Valverde is seeing the hundreds of graduates coming out of the prison college program he helped found.

"I believe each time an incarcerated person graduates, the light of the path to justice

grows brighter," Valverde said. "They have shined upon my own path to healing and forgiveness for my crime, and I will work to make amends for the rest of my life, continually inspired by them."

Valverde is not only celebrating his award, but 10 years of freedom, a seventh wedding anniversary and the love of his mother, age 80.

"My mom visited me every other week, and sometimes every week, for 16 years," Valverde said. "She even found a way to pay the balance of a semester at Mercy College during my incarceration, when I had exhausted my TAP/Pell grants."

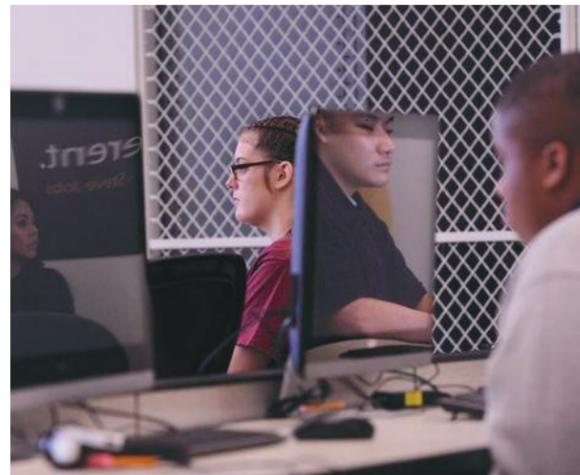
"I would not have graduated without her support and sacrifice," he added.

He still reflects on the words of wisdom his mom gave to him that propelled him to the top.

"I was sitting in the back seat of the car," he said. "As we left the parking lot of Green Haven Correctional Facility, my mom said to me, 'Don't look back. Only look forward.' That is what I have tried to do over the last 10 years since my release."

"I will find strength in this award all the days of my life."

## Skyping with SQ's Last Mile



File Photo

Juveniles and state prisoners meeting through Skype

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Thanks to San Quentin's first-ever Skype computer conference call to be allowed between California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation prisoners and youth in the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), California officials think they've opened a door to exchanging valuable instruction between inmates at different institutions.

The July face-to-digital-face electronic encounter was a part of an Adult Youth Offender Mentorship pilot program. The partnership was formed between the Last Mile and DJJ.

Prisoners of the San Quentin's Last Mile spoke with youth at Ventura Youth Correctional Facility. California corrections officials say they want juvenile offenders to learn computer coding.

"We brought the Last Mile in to teach our youth coding and prepare them for their future," DJJ Director Chuck Supple said. "We don't want them to have to go San Quentin to get this skill."

Supple said the goal is to provide rehabilitative programs and job skills to keep the youth from reoffending and ending up in adult facilities.

The incarcerated coders at San Quentin and in Ventura viewed each other on theater screens at their respective locations. The group of 14 youngsters and three adult prisoners broke the ice by sharing their struggles learning coding and navigating prison life.

"They (the youth offenders)

seemed hungry for guidance," said Jason Jones, one of San Quentin's coders. "I think they just need someone to validate their dreams, visions and the things they do."

"They don't have to come here to get their success. I think seeing us on screen is another reality check for them to wake up and take control of their lives," Jones added.

The defining moment of the conference came when one young woman stood up, walked to the camera and shared that her mother was recently released from prison after eight years. She felt the pressure of having to get out and emotionally and financially take care of the rest of the family.

"I struggle to tell my family that I need to focus on myself," she said. "I love my mother, but I know I have to be better."

At that moment, tears began to fall from the eyes of the several officials, instructors and inmates. The realities of the youngster's pain and personal issues were now at the forefront.

Jones shared with her that he is going through a similarly contentious relationship with his mother. He said sometimes you have to let people go — so you can grow. Then you can come back and take care of them.

"Yeah I teared up," said Zach Moore, another adult coder. "They inspired me just hearing their stories and what they were going through. It's our job to instill in them that coding is more than a pro-

gram; it's an opportunity to do whatever you want to do with their lives."

Harry Hemphill, adult coder, added "I didn't think they would be so engaging. They were able to relate to us, and I think that helped them to open up."

The youngsters have been learning how to code for just two months. The program is co-ed with young adults ages 17-23. But like their adult counterparts, their hope lies in gaining skills that can land them high-paying jobs once released.

Not all the youngsters see coding as their future. Some wanted to be social workers, firefighters or members of the military as options.

"I don't want to live my life in institutions," said Thalia Ruiz, 20, a youth coder. "I want to travel and live life without substance abuse."

Ruiz credits the Last Mile in Ventura for her new direction from gang-banging and abusing drugs and alcohol.

Supple said the first Skype session was a success. The plan is to hold at least one or two sessions a month, where the adult prisoners will mentor the youth through their coding lessons.

"The youth seemed to hang on to the mentors' every word, and their messages of hope and encouragement were getting through like arrows hitting the bulls-eye," Supple said. "I think staff in the room recognized that the San Quentin mentors were valuable partners in the efforts to help the youth."

The plan is to open the Last Mile program in other youth institutions. The Stockton facility is next. The Ventura program seeks to expand to 48 students in two six-month tracks. DJJ will initiate a program allowing the Ventura graduates to earn money while doing coding for outside companies.

The Last Mile will help the graduates find internships once they are released.

"We all are making history," said Beverly Parenti, a leader of The Last Mile. Then she looked at her San Quentin mentors and said at the next session they better talk to the youngsters about improving their posture, and the remark filled the room with laughter.

# Largest private prison pop.

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

The United States has the world's largest private prison population, according to a study by The Sentencing Project. The study compares America's growing private prison industry to government-run prisons and found that increased profiting from incarceration is tied to prison building, inmate population growth, and lower wages for guards, which resulted in decreased institutional safety.

According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), in August 2000, 4,535 inmates were housed at a private Community Correctional Facility or on "private work furlough." (Another 2,467 were housed at Community Correctional Facilities under public contract.)

In August 2016, 8,629 inmates were housed in private facilities. Another 2,020 were housed under public contract.

As of Aug. 22, 2018, 6,231 inmates are housed at private prisons. Another 2,029 inmates are housed at Community Correctional Facilities under public contract.

In addition, in June, all California inmates housed at Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility (TCCF) in Mississippi were transferred from that institution, allowing CDCR to reduce its current out-of-state prison population to 2,014, a 10-year low and 58-percent reduction from August, 2016. Key findings of the study are:

- One in 12 of the total U.S. prison population (128,063 people) were incarcerated in private prisons in 2016 — an increase of 47 percent since 2000. From 2000 to 2016, the number of people housed in private prisons increased five times faster than the total prison population.
- Privately run immigration detentions held 26,249 people in fiscal year 2017 — a 442 percent increase since 2002. Seventy-three

percent of all people in immigration detention in 2017 were held in private prisons.

- The largest number of people in private prisons are held in federal prisons, 34,159 — a 120 percent increase since 2000.

- Core Civic and GEO Group, the largest private prison corporations, jointly manage more than half of the private prison contracts in the United States. Their combined revenues are \$3.5 billion as of 2015.

- Private prison firms cut costs by employing mostly non-union and low-skilled workers at lower salaries, with fewer benefits, compared to correctional personnel at state and federal prisons. Corrections officers employed by private corporations earn up to \$23,850 less on average in annual salary compared to the public sector.

- Decades of research do not show that private prisons save taxpayer dollars.

The greatest numbers of private prisons are found in Florida, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina and Texas. These states also have had the highest number of riots, deaths and "allegations of improper financial influence from the for-profit prison companies," the study shows.

To accommodate increases in arrests and detention of immigrants, Pres. Donald J. Trump's 2018 proposed budget to Congress asked for \$1.2 billion to add 15,000 more private prison beds for immigration detention. In September 2017, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) requested funds for construction of a new, GEO Group-run, 1,000-bed detention facility South Texas.

The study cites a GEO Group facility in Colorado where thousands of immigrant detainees allegedly were forced to work for \$1 a day. A lawsuit against the practice claims that they were paid with "chicken, potato chips, soda or candy."

In Washington State in 2017, the state's Attorney General sued GEO Group for allegations that immigrant detainees were mandated to work for \$1 a day. The Attorney General argued that the state's minimum wage was \$11 an hour, and that the detainees were being held under "civil charges, not criminal charges," meaning that that minimum wage must be upheld.

Recommendations and findings:

"Due to the numerous and transparency issues associated with for-profit prisons, states and the federal government should phase out their reliance on these facilities through terminating contracts. To the extent that jurisdictions continue to contract with private prisons, they should adopt policies requiring greater transparency and openness to public inquiry. Currently, the federal Freedom of Information Act does not apply to private prisons and therefore there is no legal remedy if a private prison refuses to disclose information about its practices.

In contrast to public prisons, private prisons frequently contract with state governments to confine people out-of-state, with 10,500 people housed this way as of 2013. The practice negatively affects families because it limits opportunities for visitation and strains relationships, which are critical to successful reintegration after incarceration.

The Department of Homeland Security's bed quota for immigrant detention requires the agency to maintain no less than 34,000 beds at any given time. Because of this quota, Immigration and Customs Enforcement expanded its contracts with private prison companies to house federal immigrant detainees. It provides an incentive to maintain private prison contracts and keep immigration detention beds full."

# Cell phones being monitored in jails and free world alike

By Kevin D. Sawyer  
Associate Editor

The government spies on incarcerated citizens who use illegal cellphones in correctional facilities. Those aren't the only people government officials spy on. They are also listening to and tracking free citizens, according to Criminal Legal News (CLN).

The technology used is called a cell-site simulator, also called a "stingray." This device directs a cellphone to connect to it and a cell tower.

"Police operating the devices can track the location of all connected cellphones within a certain radius, and also can potentially intercept metadata about calls," CLN reported.

This includes call duration, the number that was called, text messages, information on data usage, such as browser information, and the content of calls.

"All of this takes place unbeknownst to users whose cellphones have been hijacked," CLN states. According to CLN, as of 2016, there were 23 states and the District of Columbia with law enforcement agencies that were using cell-site simulators. It also stated that the Cato Institute reported federal agencies using stingray technology, including the FBI, ATF, ICE, DEA, U.S. Marshals Service, NSA, DHS and the IRS.

"Concerns over their use have been met with silence from police and prosecutors," CLN reported. "In some cases, prosecutors have gone so far as to dismiss criminal charges to avoid disclosing any information about stingray use."

It was reported that the FBI is the agency that coordinates the sale and use of stingray technology; one of

the requirements for local law enforcement to use the technology is to accept a comprehensive nondisclosure agreement (NDA).

"The (NDA) requires police and prosecutors to refuse to hand over information about stingray technology or usage to defense attorneys and judges alike," CLN reported, adding that the device can "hijack a cellphone and force it to report in to the government, all while it sits quietly in an unsuspecting user's pocket."

According to CLN, law enforcement agencies will sometimes deny the existence of an NDA.

The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees people the right to "be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures."

"Cell-site simulators are an example of how new technology can be leveraged to skirt constitutional limitations on the power of the police," CLN said, adding there are a lot of law enforcement agencies that do not have a policy on officers use of this technology.

CLN reported, however, that Harvard Law School published in its July 2016 issue of *National Security Journal* that law enforcement in the U.S. has for a long time used stingrays to run roughshod over the Fourth Amendment.

"This is because law enforcement agencies and device manufacturers have gone to great lengths to keep information about stingray capabilities and use secret," CLN reported.

According to CLN, a 2016 report by *The Daily Dot* revealed cell-site simulators were developed more than 20 years ago by the Harris Corporation, the Pentagon and federal intelligence agencies. It was used for military technology.

The website USASpending.gov, according to CLN, reported Harris Corporation receiving \$3.6 million in federal funding; in 2017, it had more than 2,000 federal contracts.

The American Civil Liberties Union, according to CLN, has created a list of about 300 cases that it believes used stingray technology.

"The real concern is that local law enforcement agencies are using these devices to investigate all kinds of crimes, often without going through the traditional procedures required prior to a search, namely seeking a warrant," CLN said.

The CLN article said, "Police technology will continue to become more expansive and powerful, and the longer it takes legislatures and courts to produce a legal framework capable of keeping up with technology and ensuring that constitutional rights are protected, the more threatening the surveillance state will become."

In a 2014 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Riley v. California*, Justice Samuel Alito wrote, "Legislatures, elected by the people, are in a better position than we are to assess and respond to the changes that have already occurred and those that almost certainly will take place in the future."

# Criminal justice system shifts towards technology

By Wayne Boatwright  
Staff Writer

A tech-tidal wave is hitting the criminal justice system, transforming faces into license plates.

These new technologies allow criminal-justice systems unparalleled surveillance capacity of vast amounts of data. *The Economist* magazine anticipates the future in the technology report "Justice Data Detectives."

## DATA FOR DETECTIVES

Technology has changed the relationship between information and crime in two ways: people create massive amounts of data and current laws have not kept pace with this change, reports *The Economist*.

Smartphones track and record where people go or whom they talk to and their apps reveal personal information on what they search, buy, read and watch.

To capture this data, police no longer need to follow or stake out a suspect nor get a warrant. They can seize the suspect's phone and bypass its encryption. If he drives, police cars, streetlights and car parks equipped with automatic number-plate readers (ANPRS) that can track all movements and facial recognition software will confirm his identity.

Even your smartphone will snitch on you. "Uber filed for

a patent on AI technology that can determine a potential passenger's level of inebriation based on movements of his or her smartphone, as well as location near bars," reports *The Week*.

Privacy laws have not kept pace with technology. The laws were written in the time of post offices and landlines. The courts generally give citizens protection from police entering a home, however, "the law on people's digital presence is less clear."

Law enforcement actions have become less visible to the public, but new technology is being widely used across the world.

"If you drive in a city anywhere in the developed world, ANPRS are almost certainly tracking you. This is not illegal," reports *The Economist*.

Policy, due process and public opinion are lagging behind the uses of these new technologies.

"Police need oversight, not because they are bad people, but because maintaining the appropriate balance between liberty and security requires constant vigilance by engaged citizens," concludes *The Economist*.

## STREET-LEVEL SURVEILLANCE

The ANPRS commonly monitor via street signals, police cars, parking garages and bridge tolls. Facial recognition software is coming.

Your face is now a license

plate and watching cameras are police body-cams, store security cameras and every smartphone.

In China, facial recognition is "widely deployed" and used for everything from ticketing jaywalkers to finding thieves in a huge crowd, according to Maya Kosoff in *VanityFair.com*.

Amazon, America's biggest e-commerce company, launched Rekognition recently — an online service to help identify faces in real time.

While amusement parks have used Rekognition to locate lost children, Amazon has also been pitching the technology to police departments, reports Nick Wingfield in *The New York Times*. The Orlando Police Department in Florida and the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Oregon are paying customers.

Last June, "more than two dozen civil rights organizations demanded that Amazon stop selling Rekognition to law enforcement, saying it could become an instrument of mass surveillance," reports *The Week* magazine.

Police in Hagerstown, Md., have been among the first to admit using facial recognition software to identify a robbery suspect from an Instagram photo, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

"Thirty-one states now allow police to access driver's license photos in facial-recognition searches," ac-

ording to the Center on Privacy and Technology at the Georgetown University Law Center.

While Texas, Illinois and California have laws to regulate facial recognition technology, there are no federal laws.

Other countries, however, regulate the use of a citizens' unique face information and other biometric data. The European Union has a General Data Protection regulation that requires private companies to have consent for its use of collection biometrics from citizens.

Privacy advocates have opposed such use in New York City. Police may only search mug shots, not driver's license photos in their facial recognition searches.

"People provide their photo for a driver's license database so they can drive...not become suspects in a criminal investigation," said Jennifer Lynch of the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

A.I.-powered facial detection software has glitches.

It "can actually reinforce bias and exclusion, even when it's used in the most well-intended ways," accord to a *New York Times* opinion by Joy Buolamwini, founder of the Algorithmic Justice League and a graduate researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab. Buolamwini found that facial detection software was inaccurate when attempting to identify people of color.

# Drones over prisons

By Lloyd Payne  
Journalism Guild Writer

After years of trying to keep drones from flying over South Carolina prisons, an unmanned aircraft with four propellers whizzed up several hundred feet in the air at the unveiling of the corrections officials' plan to use drones to watch prisoners, according to the *Associated Press*.

"I think you're seeing the future of corrections, right here," said Department of Corrections Director Bryan Stirling in the article. He explained that they are using the technology to his agency's benefit to give officials a bird's-eye view of what's happening on the ground.

The drones will be remotely controlled by two military veterans hired to travel among the state's 21 prisons, watching a video display of ground zero from 400 feet in the air.

"No one will even be able to know we're up there, because it's pretty high up," Stirling told reporters.

The public presentation at the corrections department's Columbia headquarters has, according to Stirling, made South Carolina the first state in the nation to take this step. They plan to use drones to monitor state prisoners and outside grounds in an attempt to stop cell phones and drugs from being launched over the prison fences.

South Carolina has, in the past few years, found multiple cases of individuals using drones to smuggle contra-



File Photo

One of many drones in the US band into prisons.

In May 2017, two men were arrested for trying to fly knives, marijuana and phones into one of its medium-security state prisons.

In another report, according to *AP*, a pair of wire cutters was allegedly delivered by drone to a maximum-security prison to help a prisoner cut through multiple fences and escape last summer, and crashed drones have been found on prison grounds as far back as 2014.

Since then, several of the state's 21 prison institutions have not only installed drone sensors to alert guards, but lawmakers have also passed a law banning private drones from flying over prisons.

Equipped with heat sensors and night vision, the drones will have the ability to detect when someone is or has been in a restricted area.

In addition to stopping trespassing and contraband from being smuggled, South Carolina officials say the drones will help watch for violent outbreaks.

Drones are said to have been an issue not only at South Carolina prisons but, according to *AP*, they are an increasing means of getting contraband to prisoners across the United States.

# Remembering a great brother, father, son and friend

## EDITORIAL

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

Arnulfo Timoteo Garcia was our mentor and best friend.

He died in a car crash shortly after gaining parole, but I still feel his hand guiding everyone in the *San Quentin News* family to do the best for our community, including our advisers, volunteers and prison administrators.

He'd always say: Moving forward!

When we first met, I didn't see myself working for a prison newspaper. But Arnulfo saw a reporter in me. He brought me into the *San Quentin News* family and it ended up being the most important job I've ever had.

Each time I patiently listen to someone tell me a story, I credit Arnulfo.



File Photo

Arnulfo T. Garcia

Each time I have the honor to write and make someone visible, I credit Arnulfo.

Each time I review a story for the newspaper or maga-

zine or set up a video project, I credit Arnulfo.

But, most of all, I credit Arnulfo for changing my life. He enrolled me into Victim

Offender Education Group, Guiding Rage Into Power, Creative Writing and The Green Life. These programs have given me guidance and purpose.

Moving forward!

Arnulfo would be proud to see how the office looks, as it was his idea to have it professionally revamped. Consequently, the whole San Quentin Media Department looks great!

Timoteo's leadership brought the newspaper in a direction that has earned the respect and admiration of our fellow inmates, prison staffers and the public at large.

Back in the day, we'd sit at breakfast and he'd plan our day. He'd talk about meetings with people or conversations with those socially responsible, always seeking to find new and underreported stories.

He also understood the power of writing for fami-

lies in the free world, letting them know what's happening to their loved ones. He knew that when they learned about the redemption and transformation happening inside San Quentin, families would reunite — bonds would be strengthened. He knew all of this, because that's what happened to him when his daughter was born.

All of Arnulfo's time spent in San Quentin, and the short time thereafter, was full of redemption and transformation — so much so that when I read what Jeff Rosen, district attorney for Santa Clara County said about him in his eulogy, I committed myself to continuing Arnulfo's dream of providing people an opportunity for change.

One of his most amazing achievements was encouraging San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon to create a Formerly Incarcerated Advisory Board.

Moving forward!

Arnulfo always said that a person has to take responsibility for their past actions, be accountable, and once they do, they can change — they can be rehabilitated. Arnulfo believed in leaving the door open for people to have second chances. It is those kinds of stories that he loved telling.

Though it's been a year, it seems like yesterday that he was here.

The paper continues to grow, videos are being produced, a magazine was launched and staffers are looking at their futures, beyond the bars.

Prisoners, teachers, professors, advisers, volunteers, students, prison administrators, correctional officers, counselors, doctors and nurses — all who knew this kind and generous man wish him to rest in peace.

Moving forward!

## The power of San Quentin's Alcoholics Anonymous group

By Lloyd Payne  
Journalism Guild Writer

It's 1:30 on a Friday afternoon, and Alcoholics Anonymous is set to begin inside of the Addiction to Recovery Center at San Quentin.

"Anonymity makes it comfortable for people to talk," explains AA program director Carl Price. "What is said or talked about in AA remains in AA. It's the principle of all our traditions, because of its anonymous founding."

The core philosophy of AA is to place principles before personality, according to Price. His goal is to provide incarcerated men with a way

to examine their relationships, how alcohol affects them, and through spiritual awakening gain the courage to make a change.

As a principle, volunteers and sponsors are required to attend meetings to offer those in recovery moral support and the guidance of someone who made the change.

Incarcerated AA Chairman Greg "White Eagle" Coates said he has been clean and sober since March of 1973. He also teaches the core philosophy of AA at White Bison, a Narcotics Anonymous Group rooted in spirituality and Native American Culture at San Quentin.

"I only went for the coffee and donuts," said Coates, recalling his first AA meeting.

In the 12 steps to recovery from an addiction to alcohol, the first step is the most important one, says Coates.

"Admit that we are powerless over alcohol, and our lives have become unmanageable," Coates said. "The first step is the only step you can do 100 percent of. You can't quit for your wife, your kids; you do it for you."

Coates watched all his male relatives—his dad, his uncle and his grandfather—die from alcohol. Coates himself almost lost his life because of alcohol.

"I was drunk driving and

went through a windshield after hitting a eucalyptus tree," he said.

AA has contributed directly to his rehabilitation. After being in prison since the 1970s he was granted parole after 39 years because of his commitment to sobriety.

AA Sponsor Don R. has been involved in AA recovery for 32 years. He has been sober 27 years, has a sponsor, and also is a sponsor to five others.

"I've seen miracles happen like what has happened to Eagle," Don R. said. "I've seen families be put back together from fathers getting sober and mothers getting sober also. I've seen men go

with conviction, "And even if we don't get our family back we still learn to stay sober."

AA counseling is available six days a week in several locations in and around the prison.

### AA Meeting Schedule

Mon @ 6:00-8:00 p.m. Chapel C (Spanish AA)

Mon @ 6:20-8:20 p.m. Education Annex

Tues @ 6:30-8:00 p.m. H-Unit Education

Wed @ 6:20-8:20 p.m. Education Annex

Fri @ 1:30-3:30 p.m. Arc Trailer

Sat @ 6:00-8:30 p.m. Arc Trailer

Sun @ 2:00-5:00 p.m. H-Unit Education

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear "Wall City"

Hello my name is Joel Baptiste. I have just received the wall city magazine that you produce. (vol.1/issue #1). I am also a survivor of the Pelican Bay (SHU) program. I spent many years confined by an indeterminate gang validation in that tomb.

You could not understand the feelings I had when my celly came home with a huge picture of the (SHU) yard on the cover. Only those of us who were unfortunate enough to have spent countless years circling that yard could understand what the sight of it means.

So as I read the stories of the men and what they are doing now, I let out a huge hell yeah! cheer. These are great stories that have gone untold for far too long. I really love

How we continuously prove the system wrong. We, who were labeled the "worst of the worst," are in fact now some of the most dedicated to progress and rehabilitation.

I left pelican bay in late 2014. I was sent to Kern Valley A facility and the line had changed so much, I had changed so much. I did not really recognize the line anymore. I experienced what I can only call a shift in paradigm. I walked away and ended up being forced into the (SHU) unit there at (KVSP).

Since that moment I have not looked back. I have completed so many programs, and I facilitate so many others. I was then sent to Calipatria where I enrolled into Imperial Valley College (face to face program) where I am a 4.0 student and will have my degree shortly (with honors).

We have a cohort here who is dedicated to success, growth, and change. Recently we published a book "man, I wish I would have known" letters from Calipatria state prison. You can see it on Amazon or Barnes & Nobel. (geared toward at risk youth). We here salute you men & women who are engaged in our community, putting in the hard work to stretch your capacity in telling these types of stories that need to be told.

"Wall City" is awesome and a serious tool in dispelling stereotypes that keep one in a proverbial, actual box.

Thank You! J. Baptiste

I am delighted to be able to make yearly contributions to San Quentin News. It's a small way for me to counter indirectly our country's draconian prison system and to help those enmeshed in it. And supporting a newspaper just continues my lifelong interest in this area. In high school I worked on *The Opinion*, at the University of Illinois. I worked at the *Daily Illini* and the high school in Pana, Illinois where I taught for two years. I started the *The Pana Pacer*, the first newspaper they had had. So you see, I have many reasons for contributing to the *San Quentin News*.

Thanks for writing,  
June McKay, Ph. D.

## Reducing mass incarceration may reduce hunger and poverty

By Jesse Vasquez  
Managing Editor

An analysis of multiple studies found that reducing mass incarceration could reduce hunger and poverty in the United States.

Research analysts claim that if the U.S. had not escalated incarceration rates, poverty would have dropped by 20 percent between 1980 and 2004.

Hunger and poverty in America are collateral consequences of mass incarceration, according to a report from the Bread for the World Institute (BWI), *Mass Incarceration: A Major Cause of Hunger*.

Marlysa D. Gamblin, domestic advisor for policy and programs at BWI, highlights the educational, social and economic connections associated with mass incarceration.

Over-policing in the inner cities, longer sentences for minorities and the ongoing restraints and restrictions after release are identified as main factors that contribute to higher poverty and hunger rates.

There are more than 46,000 local, state and federal civil laws and regulations, known as "collateral consequences" of convictions that restrict ex-offender activities, according to a report by the Heritage Foundation.

Some of the better-known

restrictions include partial or complete exclusion from food stamp programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), affordable housing, Medicaid/Medicare, and Pell grants.

One study found that almost 70 percent of households with an incarcerated family member had trouble meeting basic needs such as food and housing.

The National Institutes of Health says that 91 percent of formerly incarcerated individuals were food-insecure and 75 percent found it difficult to find work.

One out of every four households with a formerly incarcerated person lives in deep poverty.

According to the article, families with an incarcerated family member owe an average of \$13,000 in fines and court fees, which is almost half the gross income of a family of four living at the poverty line.

The Institute for Advancing Social Justice Research and Innovation at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis, estimates that mass incarceration costs local communities more than \$244 billion altogether.

Some of the monetary costs associated with incarceration are loss of wages and employment, depression of property values, mental and healthcare costs, eviction and

homelessness and the cost of travel to visit inmates.

Although mass incarceration does not reduce crime or recidivism, the United States spends an estimated \$140 billion a year to incarcerate more than 2 million adults and half a million juveniles, the report said.

The report also identified evidence-based approaches such as youth employment programs, social activities, adult job training programs, mental health services and public health programs that have reduced crime by between 32 to 51 percent.

Rehabilitation and reentry are two of the four priorities outlined in the report as long-term solutions to reduce crime, poverty and hunger.

According to the Bureau of Justice statistics, prisoners who participated in job training programs were 28 percent more likely to be employed after incarceration.

Individuals who earned their high school diploma or GED were 43 percent less likely to return to jail or prison.

According to The Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center, formerly incarcerated individuals who earned more than \$10 an hour were less likely to return to prison.

Gamblin concluded that public policies should help returning citizens secure jobs, food and housing so that the poverty cycle slows down.

# 29 years in prison is enough for Mike Webb

## Kid CAT Speaks!

By John Lam  
Journalism Guild Writer

After six parole hearings and 29 years in prison, Mike Webb, a beloved Kid CAT member, was found suitable for parole.

"Mike Webb is one of the most compassionate and committed persons that I know," said Charlie Spence, Kid CAT Chairman. "We will all miss him very much, because he has been such a positive impact in our group and in this community."

The youngest of three children, Webb was born and raised in Los Angeles by his single mother.

"Growing up without a father was tough," Webb says. "I didn't have anyone I could turn to, to learn how to be a man."

At the age of 5, Webb's father left his family to be with another woman and her kids, which left him with deep insecurities and resentments.

"My life began to spiral out of control when my father left," Webb says. "When he left, I felt rejected and that I wasn't worthy of his love."

From the ages of 5 to 10,



Photo by Eddie Herena-SQ News

Mike Webb enjoying himself at a Kid CAT Banquet

Webb's grandfather tried to fill the role of a father.

"The only thing that kept me going was my grandfather," he says. "But when he got murdered, I just gave up on life and sunk into depression and became numb."

The absence of a paternal figure led to behavioral problems and expulsion from 10 different schools.

"I became very destructive and took my anger out on other kids at school," he says.

When Webb got into his teens, he turned to the streets.

"I wanted things that my mother couldn't provide for me, so I started robbing individuals in the neighborhood," he says. "Robbing people gave me a sense of power and control that I didn't have in my own life and I became addicted to that power."

His addiction to robbery would result in a murder during a botched carjacking.

"Four days after committing my crime, I was arrested for first-degree murder-robbery," he says.

After being convicted, Webb was sentenced to 25 years-to-life at the age of 19.

"I didn't know what 25 years-to-life meant," he says.

"When it finally sank in, I didn't think I was ever going

to get out."

In prison, Webb continued the same behavior.

"When I came to prison, my mentality was that I wasn't going to be no punk or victim, so I victimized others," he says. "I would run into people's cell and take their properties, clothes, canteen and jewelry."

In 1997, Webb was sent to solitary confinement for torturing people.

Over the course of his incarceration, Webb accumulated seven write-ups ranging from disobeying staff to inmate battery.

In 2002, Webb had an intervention at the behest of his building officer.

"The C.O.s asked my cellmate to talk to me, because I was out of control," Webb says. "So my cellie sat me down and talked to me like he was my father and told me that if I ever wanted to get out of prison, I needed to change, and that he would help me."

"That's when I started to change my behavior and started attending Alcoholics Anonymous, which I still continue till this day."

But the change for Webb didn't come easy; his past would repeatedly come back to haunt him.

"From my first board appearance in 2004 to the next four hearings in 2010, 2011, 2015 and 2016, my extortion charges in 1997 played a role in me being denied parole," Webb says.

Taking the lessons he had learned, Webb would often share his testimony with the youths he interacts with.

"I mentor at-risk youths through a program here called Real Choices, and I also write for The Beat Within, a youth publication," Webb says.

Through his job assignment in Receiving and Release, Webb shares his experience with newly arrived young prisoners.

"I try to help them understand the consequences of their decisions that they make here in prison and the impact it can have on their families because of those choices," he says.

"Today, I realize that I not only harmed my family, but the choices I made have also caused irreparable harm to my victims and community."

On March 8 Webb was found suitable for parole.

Webb says upon parole, he will continue his work with at-risk youth in L.A. and be an uncle to his nieces and nephews.

## Germany recognized for its progressive juvenile justice approach

Germany's progressive treatment of its youth offenders in its criminal justice system leads to fewer youths in adult prisons, lower recidivism, and lesser sentences.

"Germany is probably the 'grandfather' of special treatment for emerging adults in all of Europe. In 1953, German law was changed to allow youth up to age 21 when they committed their offense to be tried as juveniles," *The Crime Report* reported.

As a result of this approach, 66 percent of emerging adults who committed a crime were sentenced as juveniles. This includes more than 90 percent of those who

had committed homicide and rape, according to *The Crime Report*.

Under juvenile law in Germany, those age 18 and under cannot be tried or sentenced under adult law.

However, "young people can receive sentences of up to 10 years. But they rarely do. Fewer than 1 percent receive sentences of five to 10 years; fewer than 5 percent receive sentences of between three and five years," the *Crime Report* reported.

What is the net effect of this lenient approach toward offenders?

Incarceration rate in Germany is nine times lesser than the U.S. (76 per 100,000 vs. 693 per 100,000) accord-

ing to *The Crime Report*.

Their lower incarceration rate is attributed to their approach toward criminal justice.

"The German system prioritizes diversion and minimized interventions, mediation and restorative practices, and educational community sanctions. Community service and direct payments can be geared to repaying victims through labor or even direct compensation. Deprivation of liberty is a last resort," *The Crime Report* reported.

"Children (under 14 years), juveniles (14-17) and young adults (18-20) have the right to support and education and to be protected in their personal development by the

child and youth welfare agencies."

The rehabilitative nature of Germany's youth system is modeled by its Young Offender Institution at Neustrelitz Prison.

According to the *Report*, it's not easy for a youth to be given a prison term in Germany, so when one is sent to Neustrelitz, they tend to be in for violent offenses. Unlike penal institutions in

America, youths there are offered an assortment of vocational programming like woodworking, metal working, culinary instruction and farming.

Youths in the facility are also served tasty meals with real knives and forks, "Nowhere was there the sense of fear and heavy correctional hardware, such as pepper spray, solitary confinement, and strip searching, that

dominates the U.S. correctional landscape," *The Crime Report* reported.

"Clearly, there are substantial cultural differences between the U.S. and Europe...No one expects to go to Croatia, Germany, and the Netherlands and borrow their systems wholesale..." but that doesn't mean that we have nothing to learn," the article added.

—By John Lam

## Kid CAT curriculum now available

Attention Readers: Kid CAT Childhood development curriculum and facilitator manual is now available.

If you are interested in creating a Kid CAT branch/youth offender support group at your institution, please have your sponsor/volunteer or community partnership manager contact Kid CAT Speaks c/o *San Quentin News*, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964 for a copy of our curriculum and facilitator's manual.

The curriculum's objective is to help participants address the root causes of criminal thinking, childhood trauma and violent behavior. It accomplishes this by helping participants explore three phases of their lives:

- Past (childhood to pre-conviction)
  - Present (current incarceration)
  - Future (post-release).
- The 26-week curriculum

is broken into eight modules:

- Masculinity
- Self-identity
- Identifying emotions
- Consequences
- Communication
- Environmental influences
- Compassion
- Empathy and forgiveness

A typical session consists of written assignments, self-exploration, lectures and group discussion.

Dear Kid CAT,

You guys are awesome. Your work is impressive and helps change societies perception of us.

I'd like to share my story with other youth offenders who are excluded from relief from SB261 for a prior strike. I'm currently serving 200-to-life for attempted murder at the age of 22. I'm 39 years old today and am involved in multiple self-help groups and mentoring. Although we are excluded from reducing our time, I want to encourage those of us who are excluded to stay focused on being better people. Don't lose hope. Society is evolving and they understand we have value and can change. If we want others to fight for us, we must be someone worth fighting for.

Sincerely,

J. Milo, Corcoran State Prison

Dear Mr. Milo,

The original founders of Kid CAT had the dream that juveniles would one day be seen as capable of redemption with a capacity to make something of their lives. Fast forward eight years: Kid CAT played a role in helping to pass SB 9, 260, 261 and AB 1276. Thanks to the vision of our founders and our commitment to demonstrating our capacity to change, we are now viewed as worthy of being given a shot at freedom. Our work today continues the vision of our founders to give light and voice to the marginalized. As of this writing, only two of the original founders are still here – the others are leading successful lives on the outside after being found suitable for parole.

## The Beat Within

A Publication of Writing and Art from the Inside



Kid CAT and *The Beat Within* hold monthly writing workshops. *The Beat Within* conducts writing workshops in juvenile detention centers throughout the country. Kid CAT Speaks will publish one topic each month. Your writing should reflect a positive message that helps the youth make a better decision in life. Your stories will be read by the youth in detention centers. If published, you will receive a free copy of the publication. Your story can make a difference. Tell *The Beat Within* you read about them in Kid CAT Speaks!

What have you taken for granted? Was it your freedom? Is it your mom/dad? We want you to tell us how you assumed everything was going to be fine and then out of nowhere you lost "it," blew "it" away, all because you took "it" for granted.

The Beat Within  
P.O. Box 34310  
San Francisco, CA 94134

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men who committed their crimes in their teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from all offenders, educators, and policymakers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation. Contact us at San Quentin News, Attn: Kid CAT Speaks, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94964.

# Native American women committed to breaking cycles

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild Chairman

Native American women prisoners in Oregon are finding support from a dedicated and determined advocate helping them rebuild their lives and spirituality.

"Women are the backbone of our nation and if we don't take care of them or help them to heal, it continues that cycle of poverty, incarceration, trauma and addiction," Trish Jordan, executive director of Red Lodge Transition Center for Women, told the *San Quentin News*.

In Oregon, Native women are 7 to 8 percent of the state prison population and men are 4 to 5 percent of the state prison population, but Native people are only 1.8 percent of the state's population.

Jordan said that practicing Native culture daily will bring healing to their tribal nations, which are affected disproportionately by incarceration.

Jordan is from the Creek Nation, is a registered nurse and has worked with women in prison for 18 years.

"I'm a sun dancer. I'm a pipe carrier. I have a re-



Photo courtesy of Trish Jordan, Red Lodge

Native women celebrating centuries of accomplishments, pride and their heritage

sponsibility to my people," Jordan said. "I talked to my elders, and I thought, I can give up one day a month to volunteer."

Jordan started volunteering at one of the Eastern Oregon women facilities, where she began conducting sweat lodge ceremonies for the women.

"The facility made it very uncomfortable for us to do what we were doing," Jordan said. "That made me that

more determined."

For the women prisoners' annual religious ceremony, Jordan had to fight the administration to have traditional sacred foods served, she said. Since Native Americans traditional sacred foods were not USDA approved, the state Department of Correction (DOC) didn't want to allow it in.

"I said to them, 'These women need to be fed spiritually,'" Jordan said. "I kept

asking them about it. This is our religious freedom; we know how to serve our food."

It took her four years before the food was finally allowed. Jordan had to sign a waiver. Then she got the community involved to get deer, fish and four sacred foods of the Plateau tribe.

"All these foods have their own ceremony and order that they're supposed to go in," Jordan said. "It's essential to us as native people, and without our food we don't have much of a ceremony."

At the ceremony, the women performed a seven drum ritual with the four sacred foods. The drums represent the heartbeat of the people, and each dance step represents a prayer.

"We're able to teach culture and Native American spirituality at the same time," Jordan said.

After providing services in prison, Jordan saw the need to help the women transition back into society and establish a re-entry home.

"Women were saying to

me, 'I'm getting out soon. I don't know where I'm going to go,'" Jordan added. "All of them had experienced violence [or] sexual assault and prison is its own trauma."

"We made a commitment and we asked, 'where do we start?'" Jordan said. "It was so huge. Women are more vulnerable with less resources."

Jordan started the non-profit and received a little seed money to begin. They held a Native American Prison Art Project that raised additional money for a down payment on a house.

The traveling art show had more than 360 pieces of art donated since 2007.

"We ask the artists to sign the copyrights over to us, so we could make cards, calendars and prints," Jordan said. "All of the proceeds went towards the women's transition center."

The center provides a sweat lodge twice a month, and teaches life and computer skills. The women make huckleberry jam and

learn how to take care of the sacred foods.

Jordan's focus is to provide the women a safe place to live and not return to violent and addictive environments. There is no time limit for the women to leave the home. To get them a job and help them stay clean and sober is time-consuming.

"We're trying to get these women into permanent housing; that's really hard," Jordan said. "It sometimes takes a year. Rent is super expensive."

But Jordan remains undeterred. She successfully carried out negotiations with the corrections department and the county to establish the home.

"You have to be persistent. It's social justice work, really," she said. "People deserve to be treated humanely."

—Kate Wolffe contributed to this story.

Those who want to learn more about Red Lodge or how to get involved:

Visit its web site ([www.redlodgetransition.org](http://www.redlodgetransition.org))

## Alisha Coleman: Change Agent



Photo by Eddie Herena-SQ News

Alisha Coleman at the SQ News 100th Edition ceremony

Nobody needs to tell Alisha Coleman what jail is all about. She has been there and knows what it's like from the inside.

She spent time in the San Francisco County Jail in 2012. It was there that Coleman was introduced to the California Coalition for Women Prisoners (CCWP) through the FiredUp! Group.

Since her release, Coleman has been lending her voice and protest for change to California's criminal justice system. She participated in this year's "No New Jail Summit" in San Francisco and the national "Mama's Day Bailout" project.

Coleman is a part of the Spitfire Speakers Bureau for the CCWP organization.

At the "No New Jail Summit" last April several social justice organizations came together to discuss ending gang injunctions, strategies to close the 850 Bryant Street jail in San Francisco and fighting the criminalization of migrants.

Coleman presented a workshop on working with people inside.

"The summit was a success," Coleman told the *San Quentin News*. "It's always a plus when I'm able to speak

my truth. When asked how I felt about the idea of no new jails, I actually fell silent for a moment."

Coleman said she didn't know how to answer the question.

"I had to visualize San Francisco with no jails or sources of confinement, and that actually wasn't a pleasant thought," she said. "As a woman who has been to prison, I wouldn't wish those days on my worst enemy, but I still can understand why they were put into (that) place."

Coleman added that a new justice system is needed, where jails and detention centers are not the only recourse for fixing a problem.

"If you take race and class out of the equation, my thoughts on this may be different from others," Coleman said.

The summit also held training and panel discussions that allowed the different organizations to share information to better address the interlocking issues of imprisonment, policing and prosecution in San Francisco.

In May, Coleman found herself on the frontline of bail reform. She spoke and raised money for imprisoned mothers

in county jails so they might be home for Mother's Day.

Coleman partnered with the Essie Justice Group who made the event possible.

"The Mama's Bail Out was a beautiful event that I was proud to be a part of," Coleman said. "I think anywhere from 10 to 20 women were bailed out of Alameda County."

As for helping the women who were bailed out with re-entry, Coleman said CCWP has an open-door policy for those who keep in contact with the organization.

"The re-entry programs out here are all the same," Coleman said. "They lead folks to believe that the services are promising and in six months after completing a government-funded training program you'll find employment." Coleman warned that it does not work that way.

"All lies," Coleman said. "So for me, one of my goals here is to be able to provide re-entry help for those who remain in contact with us."

Coleman said they usually check on the women's well-being with a phone call.

"We do provide a safe space for those who are willing to come in and do the work via phone, letters, or in person," Coleman said. "If we can't help, we have a list of resources that may help them along the way."

Coleman is not naïve about the challenges she faces bringing awareness to combat new jail constructions, police shootings, the use of Tasers and bail reform.

"The fight against the justice system is an ongoing war, with many casualties as we lose battle after battle," Coleman said. "Someone has to always be willing to stand in the place of a fallen soldier. I choose to stand up and fight for our people locked away."

"The pen can sometimes be mightier than the sword for those of us locked away. Sometimes we can't fight for ourselves, so there always has to be someone willing to help a fellow soldier if they fall," Coleman concluded.

—By Marcus Henderson

## Pipeline protester takes plea deal

By Joe Garcia  
Journalism Guild Writer

Standing Rock activist Red Fawn Fallis recently accepted a federal plea deal in order to avoid facing trial for the attempted murder of a police officer that took place at a Dakota Access Pipeline protest, according to the website unicornriot.ninja. Authorities claim that Fallis fired three shots at them during her arrest while protesting against construction of the North Dakota pipeline in October 2016. Her supporters describe the charges as inconceivable.

"None of us could believe it. We just collectively burst into tears," Eryn Wise, a 26-year-old Native American protester opposed to the \$3.7 billion pipeline, told *The Guardian* in 2016.

"We are all terrified."

Another protester, Lauren Howland, 21, said Fallis personally came to the front lines to wheel injured activists out during one violent protest. She continually urged youth activists to stay "peaceful and prayerful" and never resort to violence, Howland said.

Fallis was arrested along with over 140 others when police stormed an encampment of protesters during an intense, large-scale raid, in October 2016. Many of the youth activists at Standing Rock looked to the 37-year-old Fallis as a mother figure who advocated peaceful, non-

violent tactics.

"Anyone at the camp that needs help, she's always been the one to stand up," said Mia Stevens, a 22-year-old member of the International Indigenous Youth Council, who has known Fallis from childhood. "She wouldn't do anything like that. Where is the proof?"

The North Dakota police painted a picture of Fallis as a violent and rebellious agitator. None of their officers were injured in the standoff.

"It wasn't because she was trying to aim away from law enforcement; it was just our lucky day," stated Capt. Bryan Niewind, who said he was standing two feet from Fallis during the incident. "Law enforcement showed restraint ... We did not fire upon her."

Most of the Dakota Pipeline protesters in camp with Fallis doubt that she would even carry a gun. The native elders at Standing Rock had admonished their own participants against arming themselves.

Police response consisted of a heavily armed assault that involved the use of military tanks, riot gear, pepper spray and tear gas. In addition to condemning North Dakota's local police for their severe use of force, human rights groups voiced concern for questionable jail conditions.

The Morton County Sheriff's Office refused to make

public any video footage of Fallis's arrest or photos of the firearm in question, a .38-caliber revolver.

"That is all evidence that will not be released until the investigation is complete," a spokesperson for the Sheriff's Office told *The Guardian*. Fallis entered a non-cooperating plea agreement and pled guilty to two federal crimes — "Civil Disorder" and "Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a Convicted Felon," according to the website unicornriot.ninja. Judge Daniel Hovland sentenced her to a total of 57 months, which includes the 18 months she already spent in jail, awaiting trial.

Maintaining her innocence, Fallis and her supporters had previously stated that they did not believe she would receive a fair trial. They claim that the prosecution has been allowed to withhold key evidence.

Judge Hovland's pretrial rulings limited Fallis's defense team by prohibiting them from citing treaty rights or mentioning other political issues at the heart of the fierce debate between sacred tribal lands and powerful oil corporations.

"No matter where I go from here, I am going to continue going forward," Fallis said in court before her sentencing, according to unicornriot.ninja. "I wanted to move forward in a positive way."

# Grammy Winner LeCrae Moore's inspirational message

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Two-time Grammy-winning rapper LeCrae Moore used a hip-hop performance at San Quentin State Prison on July 24 to deliver inspirational messages and show his Christian faith in action.

"On a personal level, I'm here because I have family behind prison walls: my father, my uncle," LeCrae said. "I'm attracted to being around people I feel like society has thrown away. People have value, souls have value. Coming here is saying my father and uncle matter."

During the show, LeCrae used a five-dollar bill to illustrate value.

"You see this five-dollar bill?" LeCrae asked the standing-room-only audience in Protestant Chapel. "I crumpled it up, what's it worth now? Still five dollars."

LeCrae rubbed the bill along his lower body, spit on it, dropped it on the ground, and stomped it. Then he told the crumpled bill it was worthless and would never be anything.

"What's it worth now?" "Nothing," someone in the audience yelled.

Correcting that person's mistake, LeCrae responded, "If I unfold it and take it to the store, it still spends. No matter what happened to it, it never lost its value—you matter, you have purpose. It doesn't matter what was said or done. If we use \$100 bills as wallpaper, we're wasting it. We didn't use it for the value and purpose it was meant for."

Incarcerated men in the audience openly sobbed as LeCrae's metaphor sank in.

"I saw three people cry



Photo by Eddie Herena-SQ News

Grammy-winning rapper LeCrae giving the crowd what they didn't expect to hear or see

when LeCrae talked about your worth," Eric "Maserati E" Abercrombie said. "He was like a modern-day Socrates."

LeCrae is a rapper who is a Christian. He has won Grammys for Best Rap Song in 2013 and Best Gospel Album in 2014. He also received a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Christian music. He sold over three million records, with several albums and mix tapes, including his latest, *Let the Trap Say Amen*.

LeCrae has performed at other correctional facilities including Riker's Island, Angola, and the Los Angeles County jail. It was the 6-foot-5 rapper's first time at San Quentin.

"I thought I would have to wait until I got out and go to a concert to meet him but he's here," said Jamai Johnson, who owns 10 LeCrae albums and mix tapes. "Moments like this allow you to see, feel and know exactly

how much you mean to God and how much love he has for the entire planet."

Send Musicians to Prison, an organization founded by Nathan Lee, brought LeCrae in with the help of a retired Warden Duffy, formerly with the NYC Department of Corrections, and San Quentin Public Information Officer Sam Robinson.

San Quentin's own Graced Out Youth Ministries member Ferrari Moody hosted the event, which opened with a prayer and rap performance by Harry "ATL" Smith.

Smith, one of the key players on the San Quentin Warriors team, stated before rapping: "Let's give it up for Jesus. It ain't about me. It ain't about LeCrae. It's about Jesus Christ."

LeCrae took the stage next, giving context before performing a nine-song set including a premiere performance of "Shine a Light on Me" and three songs from his newest album.

During "Shine a Light on Me," he rapped, "...introduced me to Jay Z, never (see) my dad but I met the music that raised me."

Before rapping, "Count Up My Blessing," he told a short story about meeting a man at Angola who said he was blessed, despite serving a life term, because his mother loved him, he woke up and when he died, he would be with the Lord.

"And I'm complaining about being in traffic," LeCrae said.

Before performing "Ain't Talking About Nothing," he used the story of David and Goliath to explain why he uses music the way he does.

"I grew up on Little Wayne, Snoop, Tupac," LeCrae said. "Then God showed me something. David went to the King and said, 'I'm going to fight Goliath.'"

"The King wanted David to put on armor. David replied, 'This don't fit me. Give me a sling and let me

fight the way I know how.' I don't do hymns or traditional gospel music but give me a beat and rhythms."

For an intro to his song, "Plugged In," LeCrae talked about how you can buy six gold chains or buy a barbershop that expands to six chains.

"Let the Trapped Say Amen," went on about the less glamorous side of the drug game that most drug dealers don't warn you about.

Before "Praying for You, Man," LeCrae said, "Our

purpose really ain't about us. It ain't really about you. You might be here to inspire a whole new generation. I'm listening to a podcast from San Quentin and I'm being inspired. Don't ever feel like your purpose was snatched from you. Your freedom is right here. Pray for the things he has pre-planned."

On his intro to "All Things Work Together," LeCrae rapped, "The Master artist

makes you a masterpiece, regardless."

LeCrae advised the audience to use their time to figure out who they need to be.

"My man learned how to cook in prison," LeCrae said. "Even if you have a life sentence, y'all already proved it. You ain't got to be out there to make an impact."

The night ended after the concert with an impromptu rap game kicked off by Abercrombie playing his guitar and rapping his song "Identity."

Antwan "Banks" Williams, the "Ear Hustle" sound designer and a talented artist, added a verse.

"Handpicked I can endure the conditions, because this might be the only way I acquire God's wisdom," Williams rapped.

A small crowd of mostly rappers joined in on the chorus, "yeah, yeah, yeah," to Abercrombie's second song, "Can't Hold Me Back," which turned into a free-for-all.

First Tevin "Cutty" Fournette, Abercrombie's older brother, joined in.

Then Calvin Johnson added a verse followed by Kenneth "HQ" Hawkins, who rapped, "I been converted since my King was murdered; only God can judge me, have you heard the verdict?"

LeCrae bobbed his head and smiled as the rappers gave him a show.

The Grammy-winning rapper left the church humming, "yeah, yeah, yeah."

"I'm fortunate and grateful to be here," LeCrae said. "If I inspired one person, I did my job. I leave more inspired by the folks in here using whatever they got to do incredible things."



Photo by Eddie Herena-SQ News

LeCrae performing in the Protestant Chapel

## COMMON

Continued from page 1

Common, a Chicago native, is a hip-hop icon, actor and activist. He's won two Grammys (2003 Best R&B Song, 2007 Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group) plus a 2015 Golden Globe award for Best Original song ("Glory"). He's also done several movies: "Aces," with Alicia Keys, and "American Gangster," with Denzel Washington, among many others.

Now he works with Scott Budnick, the "Hangover" movie producer, on a project called Imagine Justice.

Budnick, founder of the

Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), brought Common into several California prisons including Calipatria, Ironwood and Lancaster. He also performed at Folsom.

"When people see the humanity in our brothers and sisters locked up, they get to see human beings who made mistakes," Common said. "I think that's important for our society."

On Aug. 2, for the first time, Common visited San Quentin with Budnick and Jessica Sloan (Cut50), among others, to meet with Jassy.

"It was a productive meeting. I'm excited to see what it leads to," Jassy said.

Sloan added, "We have a shared goal of elevating the voices of people inside and

showing the incredible talent behind bars."

*"Dear prison, you've been stealing my time for too long ..."*

After the meeting, Common was given a prison tour by Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson, who came to work in the middle of his vacation. He saw a cellblock, the inside of a cell, a chow hall, the exercise yard and the media center.

As Common walked through the Lower Yard on his way to the media center, incarcerated fans greeted him. He took time to acknowledge each person.

He signed autographs and posed for pictures taken by an incarcerated journalist, with the permission of the prison officials.

As Common walked past the basketball court, he was challenged to a game of one-on-one and he accepted. Displaying the dribbling skills of an NBA point guard, he took San Quentin's former Warrior Blade Kittrell-Leaks to the hole, but missed the shot.

Kittrell-Leaks, a 6-foot-1, 215-pound North Richmond native, kept his body on Common, playing tough defense. Common responded in kind. It took several shot



Photo by Eddie Herena-SQ News

LeCrae putting it down in the Protestant Chapel

attempts before Common nailed a short-range shot for the win. The home crowd cheered for him.

Inside the media center, he was treated to a performance of "Break the Mold," written and performed by Eric "Maserati E" Abercrombie. On the spot, Common added a freestyle verse.

"We can break the mold, don't let the prison take control, God has the goal ...," Common rapped.

"That was dope," Jassy said. "That was real freestyle, off the dome. Common is a true MC."

Next San Quentin's Gregg Sayers performed a soulful R&B song: "Dear prison, you've been stealing my time for too long ..."

best how to solve issues that affect them the most.

"It has to be defined by the people from there," Common said.

For Jassy, the meeting was like a dream come true.

"I grew up listening to Common. 'I Used to Love Her' was one of my favorite songs," Jassy said.

Common has an album out with Robert Glasper called "August Greene" and he's working on a film called "The Hate You Give," based on a poem by Tupac.

The YOP mixtape is awaiting clearance from the prison administration for its release.

"It's going to happen; those kids have to be heard," music program sponsor Raphael Casale said.



Photo by Eddie Herena-SQ News

Blade Kittrell-Leaks giving Common the old school SQ defense

# San Quentin's 2018 Yearbook: GED, Build

Continued from Page 1

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is going through a rehabilitation revolution and education opportunities are a top priority, according to keynote speaker Shannon Swain, Superintendent of

the Office of Correctional Education.

"I've been volunteering on the set-up crew for two years now, and I've been inspired," said Juan Gonzalez, a vocational Building Maintenance student. "I hope to be in next year's graduation."

The curriculum and

courses that the students completed meet the College and Career Readiness Standards, which means that they are designed to prepare individuals for success in college, technical training opportunities, and work.

"A RAND Corporation study found that the single most cost-effective method

to reduce recidivism — the rate that people return to prison — and incarceration is education," Swain said. "I anticipate that in five years we will have education resource centers, where you can learn anything you want."

More than two dozen students completed either

their General Education Diploma (GED), a High School Equivalency class.

Almost a dozen students received a college degree, and close to 30 finished a vocational training course.

"I'm excited because I feel that I have accomplished something good," said Hieu Nguyen, a graduate from

Vocational Building Maintenance, "but, I'm also sad because today is the 18th year since I committed my crime. My victim, Jeffrey Rogers, would be about 35 years old and probably would have done more by now."

Graduate speakers shared stories of what the graduation meant to them and the



Photo by Harold Meeks

Javier Jimenez, wife Reshell Reyna, and son Angel Jimenez



Photo by Harold Meeks

James McFadden receiving his certificate with Ms. Searle



Photo by Harold Meeks

Hannah Luu, Hieu Nguyen, and aunt Teresa Nguyen



Photo by Harold Meeks

Wife Monique Richie, Robert Richie and his sister Christine Richie



Photo by Harold Meeks

Dad Craig Williams Sr., Craig Williams Jr., his sister Keanna Navarre with mom Valerie Jones



Photo by Harold Meeks

Lee R. Conley



Photo by Harold Meeks

Monet Watson (daughter), Darrel Smith and wife Kathy Smith



Photo by Harold Meeks

Instructor Dante Callegari and Joe Hancock



Photo by Harold Meeks

Michael Mackey with teacher Mr. Santos



Photo by Harold Meeks

Walter McGee and Tamra Wellington



Photo by Harold Meeks

Rayshawn Slaon and Sufi



Photo by Harold Meeks

Lennea Hubbard (niece) and Sidney Hubbard

# ing Maintenance and Plumbing Graduates



Photo by Harold Meeks

David Coulson getting congratulated by Principal Wheeler



Photo by Harold Meeks

Shannon Swain, Superintendent of the Office of Correctional Education



Photo by Harold Meeks

Yeng Lee, Son T. Nguyen, and Francisco Ortiz



Photo by Harold Meeks

Peter Shui and Alladin Pangilinan hold up their certificates



Photo by Harold Meeks

Harry Goodall and Lee Goins enjoying their day

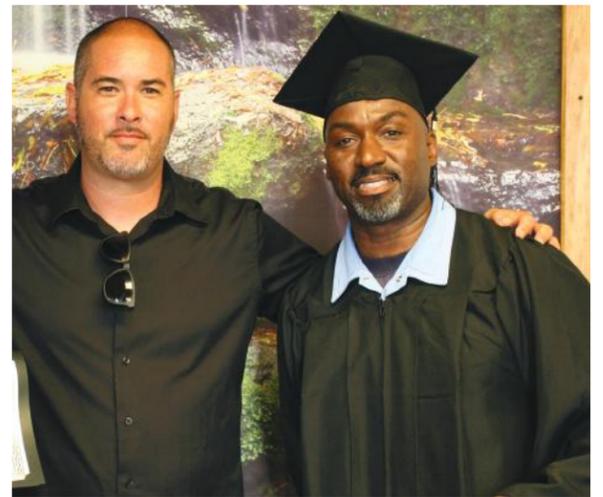


Photo by Harold Meeks

Vocational Plumbing Instructor Zack Pryor with Kevin Sample



Photo by Harold Meeks

Anthony Waldrip posing with his certificate



Photo by Harold Meeks

Will Brown in his cap and gown



Photo by Harold Meeks



Photo by Harold Meeks

Anthony Watkins receiving his Certificate of Achievement



Photo by Harold Meeks



Photo by Harold Meeks

struggles they encountered along the way.

CTE-Vocational Plumbing graduate Lee Goins spoke about his dropping out of high school and his troubled adolescence in New Orleans.

"When the consequences of my life of crime caught up with me, I was forced to participate in their education

department so I decided to pursue a GED," Goins said. "The first time I failed the test. I felt like it was a waste of time, but a teacher encouraged me to continue until I passed."

Harry C. Goodall Jr. received an Associate of Arts degree in Social and Behavioral Science from Coastline

Community College.

"I can remember times that the course I was taking didn't have a book available in the college library," Goodall said. "I had to choose between getting a quarterly package or the book I needed."

One of Ms. Searle's students, Peter Shui, struggled

with Reasoning Through the Language Arts section of the GED test because his first language is Mandarin. However, he wrote every paper in Mandarin and English until he passed.

"I'm so proud of what these guys were able to accomplish because the standards are so much higher

than before," Searle said. "The essay used to be the five-paragraph type. Now they have to write an argumentative essay to show that they can reason their way with the language."

Most of the students are planning to further their education.

Shui, who received his

GED, has enrolled in college, and Ortiz plans to move on to another vocational trade.

"Think very seriously about the opportunities that exist to improve your lives," Swain said. "Utilize the resources that are available to your benefit because education is a gift that no one can ever take from you."

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Photo by Ralpheale Casale

Scott Budnick holding a San Quentin News at the East Gate as he enters San Quentin State Prison



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Lt. Sam Robinson was awarded Correctional Officer of the Year for CALPIA's Employee of the Year Awards for Fiscal Year 2017-18. He was honored at the Prison Industry Board meeting on Thursday, June 28, 2018, by board Members, including CDCR Secretary and Board Chair Scott Kernan, right, and CALPIA's General Manager Charles Pattillo

# Snippets

Sir John Strange is resting in a grave that says, "Here lies an honest man." Strange because he was a lawyer in England.

Colds are caused by more than 200 different viruses that are not of the same viruses that causes the flu.

Human hearts can build up enough pressure to shoot blood close to 30 ft. away from it.

Oxygen that is attached to red blood cells creates the bright red color of our blood.

Orphans preferred is what a job wanted ad read in California. Young, skinny, wiry fellows. Not over 18. Must be expert riders. Willing to risk death daily.

Lincoln was known to enjoy the sport of wrestling.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

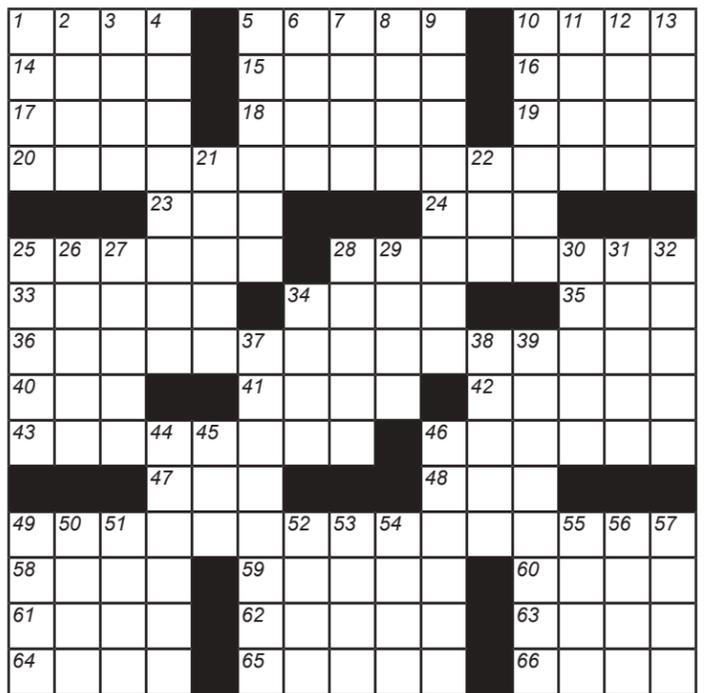
By Jonathan Chiu / Edited by Jan Perry

Across

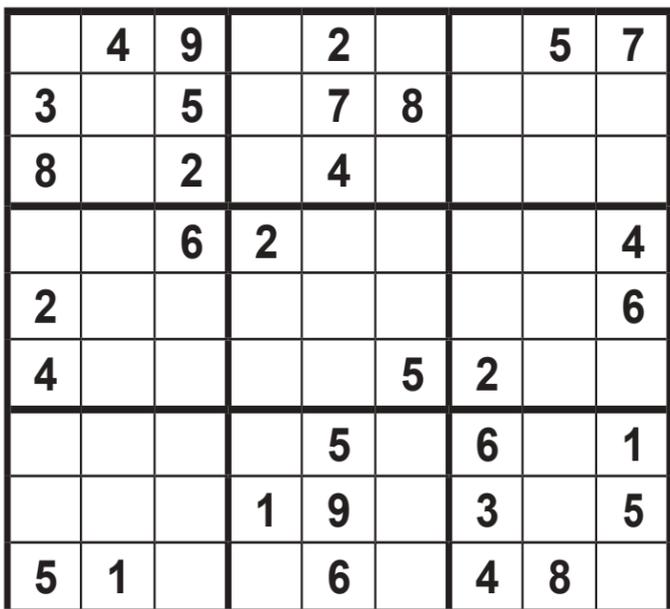
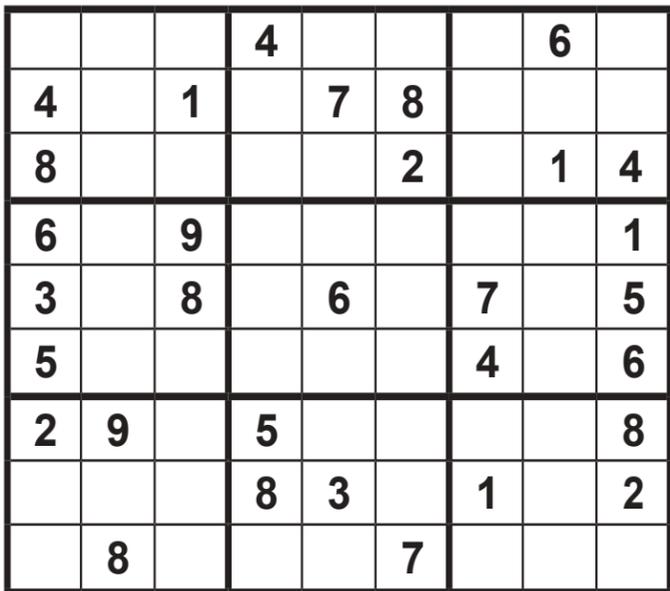
- Robert Patrick's char. on *Scorpion*
- Male deers
- Desire
- Female reproductive organism
- Jargon
- Stake
- Wave hairstyle
- Beavis and Butthead's* spinoff
- Restrict
- Unwanted promo campaigns
- Cambodian leader \_\_\_ Pot
- Color
- Precedes head, ball or steak
- Breakfast cereal
- Box form of entertainment
- Marvel's one-eyed superhero
- Milestone alternative (Abbr.)
- Running around for nothing
- Lincoln SUV model
- Not everything I said is \_\_\_
- Be careful who you \_\_\_
- Aquatic fur mammal
- Most extreme
- Indian Prime Minister \_\_\_ Narasimha
- Industrial city in SW Nigeria
- He has left the building
- The Lapps of northern Scandinavia
- Coconut liquor and a city in WC Iran
- Suspicion
- Horizontal passage leading into a mine
- Shi of Pixar's *Bao*
- Thousands of millions of years
- Soak in water to separate the fibers
- Fencing swords
- Portuguese lady (Abbrv.)

Down

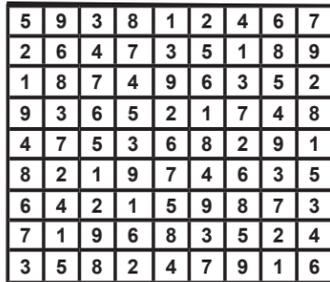
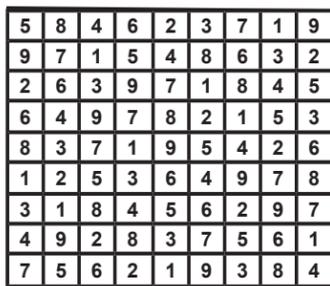
- Lung condition (Abbr.)
- Chevy car model
- Ancient medieval fortress
- Actress who starred in *The Avengers*
- Riding seat
- Deception
- Large southern constellation
- \_\_\_ Cocoanuts
- Scary or action-movie phrase
- Dryer companion
- He's just not that \_\_\_ you
- Fret
- Tailor's interests
- Long-\_\_\_ mongoose
- Peggy \_\_\_ Got Married*
- Packs
- Ethan of *Before Sunset*, *Midnight and Sunrise*
- Fear of Flying* author Mann Jong
- Precedes organ, stall or school
- Channel
- Fuming
- '90s British rock band
- Whiff
- Lacquered tinplate
- Replenishing sports drink
- Ridge
- Gravestone starter
- Rotates
- Deep red-brown Pacific sea bream
- Criticizes
- Ruler of Russia (historical)
- Inclination of a mineral vein
- Spout
- Precedes dead, cloth or kick
- Iron collar of a draught horse
- W. Africa tropical tree
- Funk
- Gone
- Rocket org.



# Sudoku Corner



## Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions



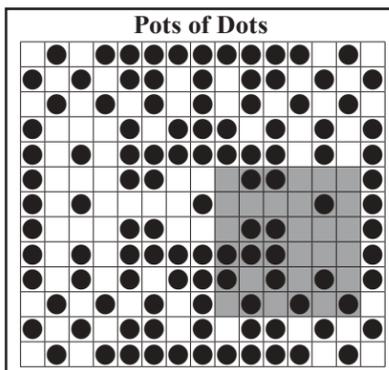
### Answers from last issue's Brain Teasers

**Synonym Trios**

- conceal, hide, cloak
- endure, abide, last
- louse, heel, cad
- value, statue, worth
- invent, create, devise

**Loop Link**

3	2	2	2	3
3	1	1	2	2
3	0	2	2	2
3	2	3	2	3
3	1	2	2	2



## This month's Brain Teasers:

**Lap It Up**

Each clue below leads to a two-word phrase in which the first word begins with LA and the second word begins with P, as in LATEX PAINT or LACROSSE PLAYER.

- Feature of books for those with falling eyesight
- Where the biggest loser finishes
- Handheld beam used to point at airplanes
- 1932 and 1980 Winter Olympics site
- Spacecraft's departure platform
- Google co-founder with Sergey Brin
- Football transfer that doesn't advance the ball
- Mary Tyler Moore's role on *The Dick Van Dyke Show*

**Pathfinder**

A path of 30 consecutive numbers, connected horizontally or vertically, and never diagonally, will complete the grid below. Some numbers are given to get you started. Can you fill in the rest of the path?

[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	44	[ ]
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	53	[ ]
24	29	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	33	40

**Checkers**

Make a move for white so that eight black pieces are left, none of which are in the same column or row.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	○	[ ]	●	[ ]
B	[ ]	○	[ ]	●	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
C	●	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	●	[ ]	●	[ ]
D	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	○	[ ]	●	[ ]	[ ]
E	[ ]	[ ]	○	[ ]	●	[ ]	●	[ ]
F	[ ]	●	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
G	[ ]	[ ]	●	[ ]	●	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
H	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	○	[ ]	[ ]	●

If you would like to submit a photograph to be placed in SQ News just because, please send it with name(s) and a brief message to go with your photo. Please understand, we may not be able to return your photo so send a copy and address the letter to:

San Quentin News, 1 Main Street, San Quentin, CA 94964

# Asistencia a con-nacionales Mexicanos deportados

Por Marco Villa  
escritor contrubuyente

En la comunidad de habla hispana que se encuentra en las prisiones de California, impera la incertidumbre sobre la travesía que les espera una vez que sean deportados al salir de prisión. En el año 2018, siete hispanos con sentencias de cadena perpetua que se encuentran en la prisión Estatal de San Quentin, obtuvieron la libertad condicional (por medio de la audiencia de libertad condicional); seis de ellos, de nacionalidad mexicana, tienen orden de deportación.

Sobre el apoyo que aquellos quienes son deportados reciben por parte de las autoridades mexicanas, no hay mucho que decir; y esto porque la información es escasa. Eleazar Cuaei, preso por más de 30 años, comenta: "lo que me han dicho a mí es que

la migra te deja en el puente; en la pura pasada para México. De ahí si uno no lleva dinero suficiente para irse a su lugar de origen, dicen que hay muchas iglesias que lo pueden ayudar." Manuel Murillo, quien recientemente fue transferido a un centro de detención para posteriormente ser deportado, dice lo siguiente: "lo que yo sé y me han dicho, es que existe una casa en Tijuana que se llama La Casa del Migrante donde te dan de comer, puedes hacer una llamada y te puedes quedar a dormir. Pero otras personas me han dicho que ya cerraron esa casa".

Así como en el caso de Cuaei y Murillo, muchos presos de habla hispana que enfrentan una futura deportación, están poco o nada informados: hay mucha información falsa y muchas veces la "información" son sólo rumores. Por ello, *San Quentin News* se dio a la

tarea de contactar al consulado mexicano en San Francisco California, para que nos proveyera de información confiable y certera.

Si es deportado por las autoridades de Estados Unidos, a su llegada a México será recibido por personal del Instituto Nacional de Migración (está ubicado en la frontera Norte y en el Aeropuerto Internacional de la Ciudad de México). Ellos le darán la bienvenida y le brindarán los beneficios que "SOMOS MEXICANOS".

"SOMOS MEXICANOS" es una estrategia del gobierno de México, coordinada por el Instituto Nacional de Migración y que tiene como objetivo acercar a los deportados a los servicios y apoyos de las instituciones para facilitar su reintegración al país. SOMOS MEXICANOS ayuda a todos los mexicanos que han sido repatriados o que planean regresar de manera

voluntaria.

Las personas repatriadas serán recibidas por personal del Instituto Nacional de Migración en las siguientes fronteras:

Frontera de Baja California – Tijuana, Mexicali.

Frontera de Sonora – San Luis Río Colorado, Nogales.

Frontera de Chihuahua – CD. Juárez, Ojinaga.

Frontera de Coahuila – CD. Acuña, Piedras Negras.

Frontera de Tamaulipas – Nuevo Laredo, Reynosa, Matamoros.

Aeropuerto de la Ciudad de México.

Le brindaran los siguientes beneficios:

Constancia de repatriación.

Servicios básicos de alimentación y salud.

Comunicación (podrás hablar vía telefónica con tus familiares).

Traslado local y apoyo para transporte foráneo.

Albergue (en caso de re-

querirlo).

Opciones laborales.

Servicios financieros (depósitos en efectivo, recibir remesas, cambiar divisas y acceder a otros productos como micro seguros).

Orientación en materia educativa.

Si desea obtener apoyo adicional una vez que llegue a su lugar de origen, contacte a "Enlace" de SOMOS MEXICANOS del Instituto Nacional de Migración.

Algunos de los apoyos disponibles son:

Recuperación de pertenencias y valores

Bolsa de trabajo

Servicios de energía

Programas de empleo

Opciones para continuar

con sus estudios

Números de teléfono del

Instituto Nacional de Migración en los diferentes Estados de México (llamando desde el extranjero):

Aguascalientes: 01 52 (449) 918-2464 ext. 210

Baja California: 01 52 (664) 682-3218 / 01 52 (664) 973-0054

Baja California Sur: 01 52 (612) 124-6349

Ciudad de México: 01 52 (555) 387-2400, exts. 18753 y 18612

Guanajuato: 01 52 (477) 716-9352, ext. 61606

Jalisco: 01 52 (33) 3942-0290, ext. 245 y 219

Michoacán: 01 52 (443) 317-1845, ext. 60711

Nayarit: 01 52 (311) 210-0773 / 213-1720 ext. 200

Nuevo León: 01 52 (81) 8486-1574 al 77 ext. 229

Sinaloa: 01 52 (669) 982-3904 ext. 224

Sonora: 01 52 (631) 312-1755 ext. 61183

Tamaulipas: 01 52 (867) 712-3147 / 712-8393 / 712-1177 ext. 14439

**Si necesita información u orientación puede encontrarnos en el correo electrónico:**

**atencionsomosmx@inami.gob.mx**

## Desplazados centroamericanos encuentran asilo en México

Por Beltranchuc Tare  
y Marco Villa

México se ha convertido en el destino de cientos de inmigrantes de Centro América, según el periódico *The Economist*. Ciudadanos de países del tan llamado "Triángulo del Norte", como El Salvador, Guatemala y Honduras, están buscando asilo político en México en lugar de intentar cruzar la frontera de los Estados Unidos; una de las razones es porque la actual administración del gobierno estadounidense "ha temporalmente prohibido aceptar refugiados y ha incrementado la deportación de inmigrantes indocumentados", señaló *The Economist*. Sólo en los primeros seis meses del [2017], 7,000 inmigrantes solicitaron asilo, la gran mayoría de Centroamérica, informó el artículo.

"Llegar a México es difícil, pero no tan difícil como llegar a los Estados Unidos", enfatizó Yessica Alvarado de 20 años, en una entrevista con el *LA Times*. Javier Eduardo Ferrera de 23 años y de nacionalidad Hondureña, comentó: "si no puedo

estar allá [Estados Unidos], prefiero estar aquí [México]".

México es un país en el que, teóricamente, los inmigrantes que son perseguidos por su religión, raza, nacionalidad, género, pertenencia social, clase económica o militancia política, son bienvenidos. No obstante, se ha documentado que muchas veces, el propio México discrimina contra las migrantes.

El artículo comenta que, bajo las leyes mexicanas, una persona que ha sido amenazada por una pandilla o el crimen organizado, cualifica [para pedir asilo político] por pertenecer a un grupo social en riesgo. No obstante, el gobierno mexicano agiliza de tal forma la detención y deportación de inmigrantes, que no se asegura de que el proceso de selección y deportación se lleve a cabo apropiadamente, informó Maureen Meyer del *Washington Office on Latin American* (WOLA). "En el 2014, México deportó a 77 de cada 100 menores de edad que fueron capturados al entrar al país ilegalmente", según el reporte de WOLA. Además, Salva Lacruz, del

Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Matías de Córdova en Tapachula, menciona que "México deporta hijos de inmigrantes nacidos en el país, lo cual va contra sus propias leyes".

Ahora que más inmigrantes Centroamericanos están llegando a tierras mexicanas para residir en ellas, las comunidades pro-migrantes están preocupados por los casos de extorsión y abuso a los que los inmigrantes son sometidos por las autoridades mexicanas, informó Kate Linthicum del *LA Times*. De acuerdo con una estimación del WOLA, "más de la mitad de las mujeres inmigrantes de Centroamérica son víctimas de abuso sexual". Según WOLA, "la violencia contra los inmigrantes es 'crónica' y rara vez es penalizada".

Sin embargo, debido a la presión de activistas y de los mismos inmigrantes, las actitudes de las autoridades mexicanas están cambiando. "El Presidente de México, Enrique Peña Nieto, ha prometido promover la integración de los refugiados a la sociedad e incrementar el personal del COMAR, comis-

ión responsable del bienestar de las personas que buscan asilo político", según el artículo. Mr. Lacruz subrayó que México "debería de empezar con el cumplimiento de sus propias leyes, incluyendo la ley que establece que los niños nacidos en este país no sean deportados."

Según Linthicum, los pro-migrantes han hecho un llamado al gobierno mexicano para que disminuyan las deportaciones y se aprueben más solicitudes de asilo político; en el año 2016, "de 3,486 solicitudes, únicamente 1,207 fueron concedidas".

Geoff Thale, Director de programas del grupo WOLA, mencionó que "lo que necesitamos ahora es una respuesta humanitaria a la situación de Centro América y que reconozca una verdad esencial: buscar refugio o asilo político no es ilegal, sino un derecho fundamental."

## 1,475 immigrant children lost

By Charles Stanley Longley  
Journalism Guild Writer

Months before the most recent border-crossing crisis, CNN reported that the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) was unable to locate nearly 1,500 immigrant children it had placed with sponsors in 2017.

The ORR reached out to 7,635 unaccompanied children in the final months of last year to check on them, but they could not "determine the whereabouts of 1,475 children." The ORR also learned that 28 children had run away.

According to CNN, the number of missing children was reported to a Senate subcommittee in April by Steve Wagner, a top official with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the acting secretary for

the Administration for Children and Families.

Wagner said the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had referred more than 40,000 migrant children to the ORR during the 2017 fiscal year, reported CNN. After a preliminary stay in an ORR shelter, typically they are sent to live with a close relative sponsor, though some may be placed with non-relatives.

Reportedly, the ORR has a series of evaluations to determine that a sponsor is suitable for providing care for the children.

According to CNN, Wagner told the subcommittee that "HHS's long-standing interpretation of the law is that the ORR is not legally responsible for the children after they are released from the ORR's care."

Wagner added that if the

ORR were legally responsible for the immigrant children's well-being, it would need a significant increase in resources.

Since the Senate subcommittee hearing, the Trump administration toughened its stance against admitting immigrant families. In June, migrant parents and children were being separated and placed at different detention or care sites.

After extensive news coverage and widespread (even bipartisan) protest, President Trump signed an executive order to end the separation of parents and children in late June.

By that point, the DHS estimated 2000 newly immigrated children had been shipped to detention care facilities far away from their parents at the border entry point.

## Suit alleges GEO Group operates 'deadliest immigration center'

By Noel Scott  
Journalism Guild writer

Eight Central American refugees have filed a federal lawsuit against the GEO Group, and the city of Adelanto in Riverside, reports Robert Kahn for Courthouse News Service.

The lawsuit alleges that the GEO Group operates the "deadliest immigration center in the country," and subjected persons locked up to inhumane treatment and abuses, such as assault and battery, pepper-spray attacks, intentional scalding, and denial of medical care and access to an attorney.

The suit claims assaults began June 12, 2017, after the plaintiffs started a hunger strike to protest against their conditions of confinement. Those conditions included a lack of clean drinking water, nearly inedible food, and issuance of "dirty and un-

washed" underwear, the story reports.

According to Khan, plaintiff Omar Rivera Martinez, an asylum-seeker from El Salvador, alleged that GEO guards slammed his face into a wall, which fractured his nose, knocked out a tooth, a dental crown and a 14-tooth gold mouthpiece that lined his bottom teeth. A year after the attack, Martinez said he still hasn't received the surgery a doctor ordered to repair his fractured nose.

The lawsuit alleges all eight plaintiffs were pepper-sprayed and then put into solitary confinement for 10 days, after the June 12 assaults. Martinez said that when he was released from solitary confinement, he was sent to the same "high-security ward" that housed the gang members "that murdered his family members and caused him to flee his home country."

Another plaintiff who fled from El Salvador was an investigative journalist who received death threats after he "exposed the connections between his local government, the police and the violent MS-13 gang." [A gang that President Trump recently described as "animals," who are illegally entering the United States.]

Amid the 26-page U.S. District Court lawsuit, the plaintiffs argue that most of the Adelanto's inhabitants are law-abiding foreign nationals who were merely seeking safety and refuge. Many of the abuses at Adelanto were documented by Human Rights Watch, which noted that many detainees had committed suicide in the early months of 2017, due to the deplorable conditions.

Since the lawsuit was filed, one of the plaintiffs told Kahn he has been granted political asylum.

## President Trump wants \$1.2 billion to lock up more illegal immigrants

President Trump is asking for \$1.2 billion to add 15,000 more beds to private prisons to lock up illegal immigrants.

California detention centers have run out of space to detain immigrants, *AZPM News* reported May 29.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) reports that detention centers for immigrants were up more than 40 percent from the past year.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has ordered his United States attorneys to prosecute and imprison illegal immigrants regardless of their circumstances.

Under the Obama administration, ICE was zeroing

in on undocumented individuals who were considered dangerous, the Arizona newspaper reported.

California Bay Area immigration attorney Otis Landerholm said because of the nearly 40 percent increase in arrests and detentions, most of the California facilities to hold immigrant detainees are full. "And so, what's the Department of Homeland Security to do? They ship my clients out to places in the middle of nowhere."

California built many prisons because of an increase in inmate population. That increase was prompted by tough penalty laws and longer prison sentences.

Landerholm observed,

"Really, in my opinion, one of the nastiest prison detention facilities in the country is the Eloy Detention Center." It is located about an hour northwest of Tucson.

The Eloy Detention Center is privately owned by CoreCivic, previously known as Corrections Corporation of America.

CoreCivic gave half a million dollars to Donald Trump's inaugural fund, *AZPM News* reported. Since Trump's election, CoreCivic's stock price has increased by more than 81 percent, according to public records that the newspaper cited.

—By Charles Stanley Longley

# SQ holds symposium addressing immigration policies

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

A symposium held at San Quentin State Prison discussed how restorative justice should shape U.S. immigration policy.

"The first step is our country taking accountability—a lot of the reasons why people are fleeing violence in their countries is because of what this country has done," said guest speaker Nayeon Kim, a paralegal who works on immigration issues for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of San Francisco. "We need to take care of these people because we caused it."

Dwight Krizman, an incarcerated Restorative Justice (RJ) facilitator, described restorative justice as a process that takes into consideration the needs of all parties. It requires people who have harmed someone to take accountability. RJ also considers the underlying reasons why the person did the harm and seeks to heal them and all parties hurt by their ac-

tions for the betterment of the whole community, instead of focusing on punishment, which often just does more damage.

"The thing that's powerful about restorative justice is that it sees the human first," Kim said. "I loved to see a justice system where justice is decided by the people in the community who are proximate to the pain."

The event which took place on Aug. 4 in the Catholic Chapel was hosted by the San Quentin Restorative Justice Roundtable's incarcerated facilitator Louis Scott.

The audience heard from Kim, fellow guest speaker and Mexican immigrant Enrique Yarce Martinez, and several incarcerated men who face immigration issues.

Martinez opened with a description of the fear he lives in each day as an immigrant. In 1998 his parents both had visas that didn't include him when he was three years old, so they smuggled him into the United States in the trunk of a car.

Martinez addressed the racism involved with immigration.

"The narrative is always Mexicans are jumping up over the border," Martinez said. "If a Russian gives birth in the United States, it's called birth tourism, but it's an anchor baby when Mexicans do it."

Martinez also fears the system won't change as long as people profit off deportation.

"The way this country benefits from undocumented people is disgusting," Martinez said. "There's a lot of dehumanization once people are put in second-class status. Private prisons have a quota in order to get money from the state; it's the same with detention centers. This country incentivizes deportation."

Martinez is now 23 years old. The only thing keeping him from being deported right now is a plastic card that allows him to stay under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). However, DACA is not a path to citi-

zenship, and his card, which cost \$500, expires in November. Renewal of his status is in jeopardy because he was arrested during a 2017 protest while helping a friend get medical attention. His friend was injured by a White supremacist.

**"The way  
this country  
benefits from  
undocumented  
people is  
disgusting"**

"I can't fight for what is right [without risk of deportation] and I hate it," Martinez said.

Kim discussed the difficulties immigrants face getting into the country both legally and illegally. She said that while working in Texas on immigration issues for a year, only one person, a torture

case, received asylum due to the difficulties of proving the need for the status.

"The American dream is more like a myth in practice for those who can't buy it," Kim said. "The immigration system is stacked against you from the moment you arrive. The right way is to go to a port of entry and present themselves, but our government turns people away or gives them ankle monitors. "People who climb the fence and weren't apprehended are vulnerable to arrest. If you are poor, like most dream seekers, it's really hard to find counsel."

Kim suggests that the community should have a say in who gets to stay in America.

For incarcerated facilitator Darnell "Moe" Washington, seeing fellow incarcerated friends who came from other countries being deported really hurts.

"There's a lot of guys right here who have changed their lives and can be productive citizens, but they're sending them back," Washington, in

tears, said from the podium. "We have people that support us; no matter what crime we committed, they welcome us back into the community; why can't we do the same for immigrants?"

Three men incarcerated at San Quentin discussed their immigration struggles.

Martin Walters cried as he described how his case led to his mother and aunt being deported.

Eusebio Gonzalez, who was found suitable for parole on May 2, will be deported back to Mexico. Now 33, he's lived in the United States since he was 15 years old.

Gonzalez took a life while driving drunk and served 18 years.

"These years I lived in prison have not been easy because of the heavy weight of the pain I caused," Gonzalez said. "I'm happy that I'm going home, but I'm sad my 13-year-old is staying behind. I accept my deportation because this is the ultimate outcome of my wrong choices."

**"Federal Agents arrested nearly 52,000 people at the Southwest border in May ...." "Arrests at Border Increase for Third Month in a Row."**

—By Ron Nixon, The New York Times [www.nytimes.com/national](http://www.nytimes.com/national)

## Prosecutors accepting guilty pleas in death penalty cases: no executions

By **William Earl Tolbert**  
Journalism Guild Writer

It's now been four years since a Georgia jury handed down a death sentence. In the majority of the capital punishment cases, prosecutors are allowing the alleged suspect to enter a guilty plea in exchange for a life-without-parole sentence, reported Bill Rankin in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

Many of Georgia's district attorneys still strongly support capital punishment. According to state records, last year prosecutors announced they were seeking the death penalty in 26 cases. But, this year they have filed notices to seek death in just two new cases.

Polls show that public support for the death penalty is falling nationally. Peter Skandalakis, Executive Director of the Prosecution Attorneys Council in Georgia, thinks the public is now more comfortable with a sentence of life without parole in capital cases.

"That's made a huge difference," Skandalakis told Rankin. "When you sit down with victims' families and discuss the process of a death penalty case with all the pre-trial hearings, then the years of appeals that follow, I have found families like the finality of life without parole. It

lets them get on with their lives."

Opposition to the death penalty has traditionally come from liberal activists, but recently more conservatives are turning against it.

Heather Beaudoin is the national coordinator of Conservatives Concerned about the Death Penalty, which now has chapters in 13 states. Beaudoin and others are concerned about the number of exonerations disclosed in recent years and the possibility of executing an innocent person.

"Many of our supporters are millennials, who are pro-life like I am," Beaudoin said. "We believe that life is created by God and has value no matter what the circumstances are."

After four years without a death sentence, Georgia's capital defender office, a part of the public defender system, has attracted national recognition for its intervention program.

"The average time to resolve a case in early intervention has been less than eight months," said Jerry Word, lead capital defender. "The average time to get a case to trial is over three years. This results in saving in court time and dollar saving to the state and county."

The office's intervention program had success in seek-

ing plea deals from prosecutors early on in the cases, Word said. The program has helped more than 20 defendants avoid a death-penalty trial.

Gwinnett County District Attorney Danny Porter still thinks there are some cases in which there is no question that death is the proper punishment. But, he told Rankin that "As more and more juries give fewer death sentences, prosecutors begin to think it's not worth the effort."

Last year, the only two death cases that went to trial both involved the murder of a law enforcement officer—a crime that usually results in a death penalty. Surprisingly, each jury returned a verdict of life without parole.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, this decline in death sentences is not unique to Georgia. Last year, there were only 39 death sentences imposed nationwide. This represents a steep decline—10 years prior, 126 capital sentences were imposed.

The replacement for the death penalty has been, in most cases, life without the possibility of parole. Those opposed to the death penalty see this as a victory and the security that no innocent person will ever be put to death

## India adopts capital punishment for rape of children under twelve

By **Charles Stanley Longley**  
Journalism Guild Writer

In April, India passed a law permitting the death penalty for rape of a child under 12, reigniting an international debate over capital punishment.

In India, only four people have been executed in the past 13 years. Three of those executed were convicted of terrorism and one for rape of a minor, Chaitanya Mallapur reported for the *Business Standard News*.

### SENTENCE

Of the 109 prisoners sentenced to death in 2017, 43 people (39 percent) were sentenced to death for murder involving sexual violence. Now, India is the 14<sup>th</sup> country to introduce capital punishment for child rape without an additional murder charge.

Despite this law change, the use of capital punishment remains a contentious issue worldwide.

### EXECUTION

"Execution kills the criminal, not the crime," said Ap Singh, a lawyer for two of the convicts set for execution in India. "How can judiciary decide as to who should live and who should die?"

India faces long delays in its trial process. Even after being sentenced, prisoners face years on death row before they are executed.

It takes so long to execute a prisoner because the conviction is sent to the High Court for confirmation. Then, after the High Court confirms the verdict, it can be appealed to the Supreme Court. A prisoner can also file mercy petitions with the governor and the president.

### APPEAL

According to the Law Commission of India 2015 report on the death penalty death row prisoners continue to face long delays in trials, appeals and thereafter in clemency. The report states that during this time, the prisoners on death row suffer from extreme agony, anxiety and fear arising out of imminent yet uncertain timing of their executions.

Human rights groups and the United Nations argue that the death sentence is inhumane and cruel, Mallapur reports. The primary argument in favor is that it deters people from committing crimes in the first place. Many, including India's Law Commission, disagree, saying that the threat of capital punishment doesn't stop criminals from committing crimes.

## Sex registry wrongly labels children

By **Wayne Boatwright**  
Staff Writer

The goal of the sex registry is to prevent sexual assault, but it is not working, according to a *Reason Magazine* article by Lenore Skenazy. A child is more likely to end up on a sex registry than to be molested by someone on it.

"Only a tiny fraction of sex crimes against children are committed by people who are on the registry," according to George Mason University sociologist Roger Lancaster, author of *Sex Panic and the Punitive State*.

Lancaster was cited in *Reason Magazine*, saying about 5 percent of people on the list go on to commit another crime, a far lower recidivism rate than most classes of criminal, including drug dealers, arsonists and muggers.

This is well known among academics, according to Lancaster, as "40-50 studies have come to the same conclusion."

What is not commonly known, however, is "The single age with the greatest number of offenders [on the Sex Registry] from the perspective of law enforcement was age 14," according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics.

**"Only a tiny  
fraction of sex  
crimes against  
children are  
committed by  
people who are  
on the registry"**

Kids can end up branded for life simply for horsing around. In New Jersey, two 14-year-olds lost an appeal to be removed from the registry for pulling down their pants and sitting on the faces of two 12-year-old boys. "I thought it was funny," said one.

While the NJ appeals court sympathized with the boys, they upheld putting the boys on the registry for life as "mandated by the legislature."

Once on the Sex Registry, a person has numerous restrictions on jobs and movement and can't live near a school, park or playground.

The courts impose these requirements on the "flawed but pervasive idea that those convicted of sex offenses become incurable and predatory monsters requiring — and deserving — lifetime punishment," asserts Emily Horowitz, a professor of sociology at St. Francis College and author of two books on this subject.

If the Sex Registry were to disappear, all other criminal laws would still apply — including stiffer penalties for repeat offenses, but the life-long stigma would disappear.

As a "crime-fighting tool [it] is not doing the job," said Lenore Skenazy of *Reason Magazine*.

# Inmate artwork showcased

By Rudy Morales  
Journalism Guild Writer

Art in prison comes from the depths of prisoners' souls as they struggle to understand and express their experiences.

These artistic emotions from Avenal State Prison inmates were showcased in the exhibition "Insider Art: Exploring the Arts within Prison Environments" at the Fresno Art Gallery in April. More than 100 pieces of artwork, including paintings, drawings and music, were on display for 18 days.

The project was bought together and hosted by Fresno State's Graduate Art Studios, the Center for Creativity and the Arts and Project Rebound.

"It was amazing how much support there was from different departments," said Emma Hughes, Fresno State's Criminology department chair, in an interview with *San Quentin News*. "We wanted people in the community to see what is possible behind bars, to open people's minds up to who is incarcerated."

"The humanity of prisoners is often lost along the way. We needed a forum where people could celebrate their artwork and the inmates could showcase their personal transformation of growth." The outside community had a chance to see and hear performances by the incarcerated men on monitors. There was a catalog of the artwork and the incarcerated artists wrote essays for it, explaining their work.

There were also video interviews. Music from five different prison bands played on a video screen during the show. It was produced and recorded by a The

Actors' Gang Prison Project and Avenal State Prison Information Officer, Lt. Mike Tuntakit.

"I purchased two pieces of artwork; one was this beautiful sunset that looked like you were standing on the cliffs of northern California," said Jennifer Leahy, of Project Rebound. "I bought another one that was a wolf mother and her cubs. The eyes are alive on this painting."

*"We needed a forum where people could celebrate their artwork and the inmates could showcase their personal transformation of growth"*

Project Rebound helps the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated with their college educational needs within and outside of prison. The organization helped with logistical support and paid for the food for the event. They encouraged the incarcerated students to submit their work to the gallery.

Most of the artwork was donated and half of them were up for sale. All of the proceeds went to support the art program at the prison. Some of the artwork was kept by the gallery to go on permanent display.

There were also 3-D pieces made from soap and cookie dough

"This kind of prison-

university partnership is such a two-way street. It's educational for everyone involved in it," Hughes said. "The more we have events like this, the more informed and empathetic our public will be."

"What we're trying to do is help with the breaking down of barriers, the breaking down of isolation for a constructive exchange of ideas and experiences. The more that can be done both in and out of the prison to open these lines of communication, the better."

The exhibition also moved to the Alice Peters Auditorium. The panel included Avenal's Warden Rosemary Ndoh and Lieutenant Doug Snell.

"The Warden at Avenal is remarkable and provided such support to make this happen and such a success," Hughes said. "I had been spending time at the prison, and one of my former students was a lieutenant and that is how I got to know the Warden."

There was a comment book at the art gallery, where people wrote how moved and inspired they were by this project. The remarks will be sent to the incarcerated artists.

"It was really amazing to watch people come in who were not associated," Leahy said. "It was obviously so emotional for family members who travelled so far to see the exhibit."

"Seeing those who had just wandered into the gallery and being able to talk about how it impacts recidivism and the emotional well-being of the prisoners—it was so emotional and eye-opening."

—Madeleine Gregory,  
U.C. Berkeley student contributor to this story

## Unarmed killing sparks conversation with legislators on deadly force law

*'Under current law, an officer can assume they are armed, and kill them if they flinch'*

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

The questionable killing of Stephon Clark, an unarmed Black man in Sacramento, by a barrage of police bullets may be the catalyst to raising the legal threshold on when police can use deadly force.

The police responded to a car break-in. They chased Clark into his dark backyard. An officer shouted "gun" and they fired 20 shots at the 22-year-old, hitting him eight times, mostly in the back, according to an NPR article by Martin Kaste.

Clark was armed with a cellphone.

### LAW

Currently, police in California may use deadly force when it's objectively reasonable. The law allows using "all necessary means to effect the arrest," according to a *New Republic* article by Matt Ford.

"That threshold almost always benefits the police, since judges and juries tend to be extremely deferential when assessing whether an officer was acting reasonably in the heat of the moment," Ford wrote.

The ACLU and Assemblywoman Shirley Weber co-wrote the proposed legislation to raise the legal threshold for the use of force. The bill that has been introduced in Sacramento would only allow officers to use deadly force to prevent imminent physical injury.

### DEADLY FORCE

"Under the current standard, if there's a threat, an officer can use deadly force even if there were alternatives to using deadly force," Lizzie Buchen, a legislative advocate at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of California, told Ford "This would shift [the legal standard] so that if an officer's feeling a threat, and there are alternatives to deadly use of force, then they need to use those first."

Craig Lally, a union president for Los Angeles police officers, said that the bill "will either get cops killed or allow criminals to terrorize our streets unchecked," according to the Ford article.

Buchen feels differently. "I understand law enforcement officers put their lives at risk. They have to make split-second decisions," but

the law needs to take more into account the fact that when civilians are approached by police with guns drawn, they also have to make quick decisions.

"They might be scared, they might panic. And under current law, an officer can assume they are armed, and kill them if they flinch or move in any way that can be construed as dangerous or reaching for a weapon. It's really disturbing."

### LEGISLATION

The proposed legislation would also consider whether police officers put themselves in unjustified danger before using deadly force.

"Under current law, if an officer jumps in front of a moving vehicle, they can legally kill the driver because now they're suddenly in harm's way," Buchen explained. "What this law would say is that officer needs to be held accountable for creating the necessity of killing the driver."

If the law passes, it will be the first of its kind.

"This would certainly be unique," Buchen said. "There's no other state that has a state law with this kind of protection for civilians."

# Using poetry to build bridges

By Marcus Henderson  
Journalism Guild  
Chairman

A Colorado group called Words Beyond Bars (WBB) is building bridges between prisoners and the public through poetry.

WBB hosts a poetry-reading event every other month at a public library in partnership with another organization, Unchained Voices. Community members listen to the thoughts and words of the prisoners and write responses to the compositions. The feedback is then given to the incarcerated poets.

"We build connections that our current injustice system endeavors to disrupt," Elie Zwiebel, a member of the Words Beyond Bars board of directors, said in an email to the *San Quentin News*. "(It's) just like the innovative programs at San Quentin that do not sacrifice connection for the sake of incarceration."

*"We build connections that our current injustice system endeavors to disrupt"*

"WBB reaffirms the humanity and dignity of everyone grappling with some of our harshest realities through education and art," Zwiebel added.

WBB is a rehabilitative book club within some of Col-



Photo courtesy of Words Beyond Bars

Elie Zwiebel

orado's prisons. The group's volunteers select books that promote literacy and reflection for the incarcerated.

Zwiebel praised San Quentin Prison as a pioneer in implementing programs that help establish connections with the public. Programs such as the *San Quentin News* and the "Ear Hustle" podcast promote public safety through education, he said.

"The sharing of truths and opinions is a prioritization of humanity and dignity," Zwiebel said. "This is justice in black-and-white. In the criminal justice system, punishment and isolation have taken primacy over the values of restorative justice and rehabilitation."

The stripping of a person's name and renaming him as a number or calling him simply an "offender" is the first disconnection, according to Zwiebel. The use of indeterminate solitary confinement and the punishment of children, who cannot understand the consequences of their actions, also serve as disconnections, he said.

"We all share in the shame

and responsibility of fostering, supporting, or condoning a system that severs connection," Zwiebel said. "We are seeing the error in our ways on a scale like never before."

"We are more willing than ever to recognize the uniform disconnections that have brought about further injustice instead of laying the foundations to rectify."

Connecting people both inside and out through dialogue and exchanging ideas, be it with poetry, literature or a podcast, will forge the bonds that true justice needs to thrive, Zwiebel noted.

He said this kind of reform may alter the public's views on mental health, human development and community-based justice.

"It can help shift how a stay-at-home mom living in the suburbs of Denver views a father inside who is struggling with the responsibility of his actions and the distance from his children who are becoming young men and women without him," Zwiebel said.

That is what Words Beyond Bars is aiming to build through its programs.

"Gratitude to the artists and creators who connect us to ourselves, one another, and to the wider world," Zwiebel said. "And gratitude to the men and women inside who are willing to do the hard work essential to retaining and restoring humanity, dignity, and justice to an otherwise fractured society, when society is not always willing to meet you halfway."

But, as songwriter Leonard Cohen reflected: "There's a crack in everything — that's how the light gets in," Zwiebel concluded.

## Susan Burton advocating for justice

By Harry C. Goodall Jr  
Journalism Guild Writer

Susan Burton was exactly where she wanted to be that day in May—back in prison. It had been twenty years since her last incarceration but this time, she wasn't in the California Institute for Women (CIW) to serve time. She was there to talk.

"Your life matters," she told her audience of 100 inmates before signing copies of her book for the women. The memoir, *Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women*, tells a story of "unspeakable violence" according to the *Los Angeles Times*. Violent incidents are common in the lives incarcerated women. But Burton managed to turn her life around and translate her story, which included six incarcerations in prison, into her life's work.

Burton's Watts-based group, A New Way of Life Reentry Project, has thrown a lifeline to approximately 1,000 formerly incarcerated women trying to break the cycle of repeated incarceration.

She was inspired by the treatment she finally received at a substance abuse center in Santa Monica California, a predominantly white area.

"People are treated differently in Santa Monica than they were in South L.A.," Burton told the CIW audience, drawing "um-hums" from the largely black and Latino crowd. She said she received counseling and resources unheard of in the Black community.



File Photo

Susan Burton in a lock up facility

"We tell our people they had a normal response to a violent society,"

Ms. Burton grew up in the Boyle Heights projects in South L.A. She suffered continuous sexual abuse, first at the hands of her aunt's boyfriend at the age of four and then by a man she met going door to door for a program for underserved children. She had a daughter at the age of 14, following a gang rape and later lost her 5-year-old son when an off-duty LAPD officer ran him over.

The culmination of these events led her into deep depression and substance abuse. Even though most of her charges were for drugs, she never got any treatment in prison.

Today, her New Way of Life Reentry Project has grown to five residences, and staffs 25 employees, including a social worker, public policy advisor, and various organizers. Burton has used her voice to fight against long prison sentences, and has created a movement to restore full rights to ex-felons. Some refer to her as a modern day Harriet Tubman.

"I try to be humble, but I want you to know I am powerful," she told the CIW inmates. "I feel like I'm building an underground railroad."

A New Way of Life has fewer restrictions than most halfway houses, making it feel less like prison. The program's attorney will help residents gain custody of their children, who can live there too and visitors are welcomed.

All houses have a mandatory sobriety policy. Residents are up by 8 a.m. for meditation and then set off to school or work. Yet the houses have a family atmosphere. They celebrate birthdays and have barbecues.

Burton wants to develop these women into leaders and advocates. She speaks out against the Trump administration effort to maximize drug-sentencing laws and eliminate federal prison halfway houses.

"We tell our people they had a normal response to a violent society," she told the *Los Angeles Times*. "We can help them become knowledgeable and better people."

# The women of 'Just Sit' recommend meditation

## BOOK REVIEW

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

Authors Sukey and Elizabeth (Beth) Novogratz didn't write their book on meditation exclusively for prisoners, but much of their approach seems tailor-made to deal with the issues we at San Quentin confront in our everyday lives. On August 1, they traveled from New York to the Q on a quest to discover how their approach to meditation could intersect with our programs.

*Just Sit: A meditation Guidebook for People who Know They Should But Don't* emphasizes the importance of story and the writers alert readers to pay attention to the stories they tell themselves about who they are.

"... we talk about story because a lot of negative things in our lives end up going back to story," Beth said. "We need to give ourselves permission to take a break and realize that it's not the fact. Those stories don't have to define who we are."

According to coauthor Sukey, stories are really just habits of thinking. When we sit in meditation, we fil-

ter out the daily stuff so we can see the space between behavior and choice.

A story, whether true or not, is still a story. It doesn't mean anything unless you assign meaning to it. We forget that all the time. Meditation pulls you outside of the story so that you can see it.

"When you realize it's just a story, you realize that you don't have to live like that," Beth said.

For too many of us, "living like that" results in depression, the exercises they present are designed to combat depression. (see sidebar)

When they toured San Quentin, the authors, who are sisters-in-law, visited several programs they believed would either benefit from meditation or would be complementary to it.

-- First stop: the prison's computer coding program, Code.7370.

-- They subsequently met with Karena Montag, facilitator of Insight Prison Project (IPP).

IPP conducts self-help programs in 26 jails and prison, nationwide. Included in the meeting was inmate, Phoeun You, who helps facilitate Victim's Offender Education Group (VOEG, pronounced

vogue).

The four discussed advantages that meditation has for group therapy settings as well as how trauma therapy could improve by listening to incarcerated participants' take on what works.

Montage explained that she seeks expanded access to IPP programs to more incarcerated people, but needs more trained professionals.

-- Next on the tour was James Fox who has taught yoga in San Quentin for 16 years. He described the Prison Yoga Project, a worldwide effort aimed at expanding the practice of yoga to include incarcerated people. Fox and the book's authors discussed the relationship between yoga and meditation.

In the current edition, there are tips for finding a place for a great retreat. The authors suggest asking questions such as, Is there air conditioning? Is there Wi-Fi? Can I keep my cellphone with me? What's the bathroom situation? These are clearly not questions the average prisoner at San Quentin would be asking. This gave Sukey and Beth the incentive to develop another edition of *Just Sit*, geared

more toward prisoners.

At the end of their visit, Sukey and Beth were excited to learn that they are invited to come back to teach meditation techniques to our guys.



## Thought Detox Meditation

**Take a seat**  
**Close your eyes**  
**Take 3 deep breaths**  
**Notice each inhale and exhale while breathing deeply and slowly**  
**Choose a place to send mind chatter and consciously notice each thought and sent it to your chosen place**  
**Continue for 5 to 15 minutes**  
**Feel your feeling: A Meditation**  
**You sit.**  
**You take 3 deep belly breaths.**  
**You locate and identify the physical feeling that is operating within you.**  
**You feel and experience that feeling in your body.**  
**You watch that feeling.**  
**You watch what it connects to.**  
**You watch the anxiety or depression or pain or all three.**  
**You watch the craving.**  
**You watch the desire to quash the feeling. Do it again.**  
**That's it.**

## Overworked Texas correctional officers adopted unsafe practices

By William Earl Tolbert  
Journalism Guild Writer

Mentally exhausted correctional officers practiced unsafe work habits, which led to the murder of a correctional officer and inhumane treatment of inmates at Telford maximum-security prison in Texas.

Understaffing forces the officers to cut corners and work too much overtime, according to sources of *The Texas Tribune*. The prison has the state's highest rate of assaults on staff and following the murder, the number of vacant positions has skyrocketed.

"Working those longer hours and having that safety aspect in the back of your mind that maybe you're not as safe as you should be or as you were, it wears on you," said one former officer who asked to remain anonymous. "I've known [officers] to get physically ill at the mere thought of going to Telford."

It's not just Telford; Texas has a widespread problem of understaffed prisons. During the last fiscal year, three out of every 10 officers quit the department. Prison wardens have the authority to enforce mandatory overtime for up to 10 consecutive days or more than 16 hours in a day.

"I knew I'd be doing a dangerous job," said one former Telford correctional officer who wished to remain anonymous. "But they were making me work so much overtime, I didn't get to spend any time with my family."

Understaffing concerns at Telford took center stage after Correctional Officer Timothy Davison was murdered. He had just opened the cell to Billy Joel Tracy's cell in the highest security area of the prison, when Tracy slipped free of his handcuffs. Tracy knocked Davison to the floor, beating him with the metal bar used to open the food slot on the cell door.

An internal investigation found that protocol wasn't followed. Tracy's handcuffs weren't fully secured, and a second officer wasn't around. Tracy was sentenced to death last year for the murder.

Two former correctional officers confirmed that prison staff didn't follow departmental policies even after Davison's death, partially because of understaffing.

The Department of Criminal Justice says that no clear correlation has been found between staff assault rates and staffing numbers. Even so, inmates say that they too suffer because of the shortage.

The meager diet, the morale and the leadership make this prison the worst, inmate Omar Edwards told the *Tribune*. He has been housed in nine different prisons over his 25 years of incarceration. "This unit to me is like a bunch of dead souls."

Telford was on lockdown for about 100 days last year. During lockdown the men aren't allowed to leave their cells to go to the dining hall or buy food from the commissary. The men claimed they were underfed and given spoiled meat in sack lunches that sometimes contained bugs or showed signs of being gnawed at by rats.

The department responded to claims of inadequate nutrition by stating that the department follows federal dietary guidelines in planning nutritionally balanced meals.

While the correctional officers may not be overly sympathetic - "It's prison," one said - lockdowns weigh on them. During normal prison operations, the cooking and cleaning is done by inmates, but all that work must be done by prison staff during lockdowns.

To ease the burden, the department has begun the process of transferring nearly 400 men who have a history of disciplinary issues.

## NEWS BRIEFS

1. USA - The stocks of two of the world's biggest private prison companies are outperforming the market amid the current immigration crisis. Both the GEO Group and CoreCivic supported Donald J. Trump's presidency. The companies donated \$250,000 to Trump's Inaugural Committee, with GEO having donated \$225,000 to a Trump Super PAC during the 2016 election.

2. USA — There were 56 percent fewer criminal convictions of illegal immigrants than of native-born Americans in Texas in 2015, a new report shows. The report by the Cato Institute found that the criminal conviction rate for legal immigrants was about 85 percent below the native-born rate. The data shows comparable patterns for violent crimes such as homicide and property crimes such as larceny. The study did find that immigrants in the United States illegally were more likely than native-born people to be convicted of "gambling, kidnapping, smuggling, and vagrancy." But those crimes represented little effect on overall crime rates in Texas that year. Another study, published in March in the journal *Criminology*, showed that states with larger shares of undocumented immigrants tended to have lower crime rates than states with smaller shares in the years 1990 through 2014. Among other things, they found that the relationship between high levels of illegal immigration and low levels of crime continue even after controlling for factors such as age, urbanization, labor market conditions and incarceration rates.



The studies conclude that not only does illegal immigration not increase crime, but it may contribute to the drop in overall crime rates seen in the U.S. in recent decades.

3. Texas — Chris Young, 34, was executed by an injection of compounded pentobarbital on July 17 for a 2004 robbery and murder of a San Antonio storeowner.

4. Ohio — Gov. John Kasich commuted the death sentence of Raymond Tibbetts to life in prison without possibility of parole, reports UPI. Kasich's office cited "fundamental flaws in sentencing phase of his trial," as the reason for commuting the death sentence in a statement regarding his decision July 20. In particular, "an inaccurate description of Tibbetts' childhood by the prosecution, essentially prevented the jury from making an informed decision about whether Tibbetts deserved the death penalty," the office said. On the same day, Kasich also granted a reprieve to delay the execution of Cleveland Jackson, who was scheduled to be executed between Sept. 13 and May 29, 2019.

5. Pennsylvania — Gov. Tom Wolf signed a bill that allows Pennsylvanians to seal nonviolent misde-

meanor records that carried a sentence of a year or more in jail if they have stayed out of trouble for 10 years and paid all fines and costs, reports *Tribune News Service*. The law also automatically seals records for second-degree or third-degree misdemeanor convictions that carried sentences of two years or less if the individual has no other convictions for a decade and for arrests that did not result in a conviction. Offenses involving guns, sexual assaults/rapes, murder, kidnapping, child endangerment and endangering the welfare of children are not subject to the law.

6. Phoenix, Arizona — A judge found the state's prisons chief to be in civil contempt of court and imposed a \$1.4 million fine to the state for not improving, adequately, health care for inmates. The lawsuit said some prisoners complained their cancer went undetected or they were told to pray to be cured after begging for treatment, *The Associated Press* reports. It also claims the failure of the medical staff at one prison to diagnose the metastasized cancer of an inmate resulted in his stomach swelling to the size of a pregnant woman at full term.

## Court order give lawyers a raise

By Harry C. Goodall, Jr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Court-appointed lawyers in Wisconsin are getting a raise in an order meant to address a chronic lack of attorneys willing to take on public defense cases.

In May, the Wisconsin Supreme Court ordered that private attorneys assigned to defend cases must be paid \$100 an hour—up from \$70—beginning in 2020. While defense lawyers welcome the higher rate they say it may not reach far enough, as the court declined to declare lower rates unreasonable.

The Wisconsin Public Defender's Office assigns about 40 percent of its cases to private attorneys, but it also pays the lowest rate in the nation, only \$40 an hour—lowered from \$50 in 1995, according to *NPR*.

The state struggles to find lawyers at this rate, which results in criminal defendants remaining in jail for months

despite the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of a speedy trial.

"If our legislature fails to act, we will see the deepening of this constitutional crisis and a collapse of the system itself," lawyers John Birdsall and Hank Schultz wrote in a statement for the Wisconsin Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, which petitioned the court.

"The cost to reconstruct after that forgone occurrence will be astronomical—compared to the meager price of simply paying lawyers a minimally reasonable hourly rate," they continued.

The court also refused the association's petition to index the new rate to inflation and prohibit flat-fee contracts. Justice Daniel Kelly and Justice Rebecca Bradley wrote a dissenting opinion, stating that while the current compensation is "absurdly inadequate," the court shouldn't trespass on "authority that belongs to others," meaning the Wisconsin lawmakers.

In what seems like a warning to the legislature, the order not only lays out the summary of the problem it responds to but also recounts how other states have had to address the same issues following expensive class action litigation.

Ultimately, the problem isn't just in finding lawyers to take public defense cases but in getting them to focus their energy when they do.

"If you have a financial conflict that you're going to lose more money the more you work on a case, it's going to have a tendency to try to get the lawyer to get the person to plead quicker," said David Carroll, with the Boston Based Sixth Amendment Center.

According to a 2015 survey of Wisconsin criminal defense lawyers, they do in fact spend less time with public defense clients than with private clients. About half of those surveyed are taking fewer public defense cases than in years past.

# Father-and-son team sweeps A's, 10-8, 13-3

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Victory, a baseball team made up of fathers and sons from Southern California, ventured into San Quentin State Prison for a double-header against the A's and lived up to their name. They won the morning game, 10-8, and the evening game, 13-3, on a day more about family than baseball.

"It's great to be here – a lot of fun," said Bob Pone, who brought his son Turner. "Cherish every moment you can spend time with your family."

A's Coach Mike Kremer, who brought his sister Caroline in to watch the game, added, "It's not about winning or losing – guys came from (Southern California) to be here to play in a differ-



File Photo

Victory baseball team at San Quentin

ent setting, with a different team."

Kremer said he brought in his sister to show her where

he spends a big part of his life. "It's valuable to show her the people that I care about and build up this team

as a family."

A's pitcher Jeff "Duey" Dumont pitched the whole first game, and Robert "Big Smooth" Polzin had two RBI's on a double and a single. However, the game came down to a battle between Victory closer Ethan Emery and A's Brandon Riddle-Terrell.

The A's had two outs with two men on base in the bottom of the ninth, down 10-8. A homer from Riddle-Terrell could have won the game.

"This is a game of will right now," said Victory player Frank Bons, who pitched three shutout innings himself. "He's their best hitter against a speed pitcher, and now it's a game of chess."

Emery, who came in with his father Steve, played baseball in college for Cal Poly in

San Luis Obispo.

The first pitch was a strike. The next a foul ball. With two outs and two strikes, it came down to the last pitch – a changeup.

It looked like a fastball as it came out of Bons' hand, but then it dropped and landed in Victory back-catcher Doug Thigpen's glove as Riddle-Terrell swung at air.

"I've never seen a changeup that good," said Thigpen, who hit a two run shot over the education building in the fourth inning.

Riddle-Terrell added, "I was sitting on a fastball the whole time. I was trying to win it for the team instead of relying on who's behind me."

After the close game, Thigpen worried about the next one.

"I want to quit while I'm ahead because I know ya'll

going to C-block to put a Longest Yard team together," joked the Victory back-catcher.

Victory left the prison while the incarcerated men reported to their cells for count time. After count cleared, the evening game began.

At the top of the ninth inning, the A's were behind 7-3, and they needed a rally, but i Victory poured on six more runs.

After the game both teams lined up and "good gamed" each other.

"We love the game of baseball," Bons said. "Guys here love baseball. If we can give them a little bit of relief from what they're going through ... and we're grateful they allow us to play here because not everybody gets this privilege."

# A's shipwreck Sacramento Pirates seniors, 8-4

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Journalism Guild  
Chairman

Strong pitching by the San Quentin A's easily knocked off the visiting Sacramento Pirates 8-4 in a late July contest. The game marks the first visit for the Pirates, who are part of the Sacramento Senior

Men's League for those 35 and over.

"I've never been to or visited a prison before," said Dan Martinez, Pirates head coach. "But it was a great opportunity to come to San Quentin to play ball. It was surreal. I didn't know everybody was going to be so open."

The A's ace pitcher J.

"Duey" Dumont dismantled the Pirates' batting core with surgical precision. He threw curveballs, fastballs and sliders with the poise of a professional. He sent at least five Pirates back to the dugout after striking out.

"These guys can play; everybody's in great shape. When they get out they can

come and play for us," said Ever Maldonado, Pirates manager. "We want to be a part of this baseball program and do this annually."

The A's dominated the first four innings, racking up a 5-0 lead through power hitting and solid base running. But the Pirates didn't lie down. In the fifth, they found creases in the A's defense. The Pirates hit singles between the shortstop and third base. A walk helped them load the bases. Chavo de la Cruz smashed a double to centerfield to score two runs and closed the gap 5-2.

"This is not your everyday experience," said Elias Mendoza, Pirates pitcher. "With all the racism going on in the society, you just can look at the diversity on both

our teams. It's not about your color or your size; it's about your talent.

"I know this is not your stereotypical prison yard, but I do know this program is a great incentive in these circumstances," Mendoza added.

The Pirates tightened their defense, making diving and sliding catches to end innings and keeping the game within reach. They added two more runs in the seventh with RBI's from Levi Williams and Chad Carrington. The Pirates felt a comeback on the way. They slapped a round of high fives as the scoreboard reflected a 5-4 game.

But the Pirates' cheers were short-lived as the A's scored three runs in the

eighth. The A's Leigh Olden smashed a big double to rally the team. Veteran Brandon Terrell Riddle whacked a deep triple to centerfield and Olden scored. Terrell scored off a single. The A's added another run for the 8-4 lead.

Dumont took the mount to close the game. He stared down the next three batters, fanning one and ending the contest on a fly ball.

"Duey pitched a terrific game," said A's John "Yah Yah" Parratt, inmate president of baseball operations. "Everybody played, everybody hustled. We did a good job all around."

"We thank the Pirates for coming in and giving us their time. I think they will go out and spread the word about the program," Parratt added.



Photo by Eddie Herena - SQ News

San Quentin A's player at bat against the Sacramento Pirates

# SQ soccer extends winning streak

By **Eddie Herena**  
Staff Writer

With new talent added to its roster, San Quentin's revamped soccer team extended its winning streak to two games by beating a tough Outsider squad, 3-2, June 21.

"Our plan was to attack on offense and pressure the ball on defense," SQ team captain Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc said.

For most of the Outsider players, losing on San Quentin turf was foreign.

The Outsiders have dominated the SQ club since changing their team name from the All Blacks to the Outsiders about year ago.

"It was my first loss," said Kevin Lin, who made his third appearance as an Outsider. "I'm a bit disappointed about that."

San Quentin came out aggressively, pushing the ball as if it were their last drive.

The strong wind gusts aided SQ's attack.

In the 15th minute, midfielder Beltranchuc blasted the ball through the Outsider defense and into the back of the net for a score. Outsider goalie Jake Bishop, who

wore a neon pink and yellow Mexican National Team jersey with the name "Campos" on the back, never had a chance.

In the 37th minute, SQ winger Tu Long scored an impressive goal from well outside the box. It looked like the wind might have assisted Long. The Outsiders subbed out Juan Basulto for SQ's own Jaime Sanchez, because Diana Gama, representing the Outsiders, was unable to play due to institutional policy, which disallows women from participating in contact sports.

"I was expecting to play," said Gama, who plays in coed matches outside prison walls.

The score remained two-nil at the half.

In the 70th minute, Brian Nichols brought the Outsiders within one goal, scoring his first goal in his first appearance as an Outsider at San Quentin. "I told you," said Nichols, who prophesied during pregame warm-ups that he would score at least once.

As soon as the Outsiders started to gain momentum, the prison alarm sounded and

stopped the game.

"That alarm killed our momentum," Nichols said.

The match resumed in the 110th minute, with 20 more minutes of extra time.

San Quentin remained aggressive on offense and retreated quickly to defend. They were relentless.

Newcomer Ronald Luna scored the last SQ goal in 105th minute, making it 3-1 SQ.

"I've been playing soccer since I was kid," said Luna, who practically walked on to the team with his family and passion for the sport. "I'd rather do that than anything else."

"I wasn't expecting to play an outside team," said Luna, who came to the U.S. from El Salvador with his family when he was 12-years-old. "That's kind of cool," the El Salvador native added. "That's kind of cool."

The Outsiders scored their final goal in the 110th minute with the help of incarcerated player Carlos Ramirez, also a native of El Salvador.

Like soccer matches all over the world, the game ended with hugs and handshakes from both sides.

# SQ Soccer team looks good losing



Photo by Eddie Herena - SQ News

Outsider Rohit Ramchandani trying to kick past the SQ Soccer A-Team's Juan Meza

Dressed in brand-new San Quentin soccer jerseys, the A-Team came back from a two-goal deficit against the visiting Outsiders, but lost in penalty kicks, 7-4.

"This is another part of the program developing," sponsor Andrew Crawford said about the new garb. "Now the San Quentin team looks like a real soccer team."

During the July 21 game, the Outsiders jumped ahead with a goal scored by Sugandan Barthy and two by San Quentin resident Don Spence, who played against the home team.

"Spence scored two screamers," Crawford noted. The A-Team was down 3-1 at halftime.

"I came out to get some exercise but there was no room on the home team so the (outside) team gave me an opportunity to play and we destroyed them," Spence said.

Spence replaced Dario Abramskiehn, who has scored many goals on the prison yard, but couldn't play due to injury. He still came into the prison to provide moral support.

In the second half, the A-Team scored off the foot of new SQ resident Rodrigo Guarderas, making the score 3-2.

Guarderas said he grew up playing soccer, including at Birmingham High School in San Fernando Valley and for the Granada United Soccer Club.

"I'm always going to love soccer," Guarderas said. Outsiders Brian Nicolas responded.

While the offense moved the ball down the field, Nicolas was tackled by a defender, but barreled through and placed the ball in an empty space in the left corner of the net for a goal.

The A-Team rallied back.

In the 60th minute, Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc's goal made the score 4-3.

With three minutes left in the game, Guarderas tied the score at 4-4 with his second goal.

Time ran out with the score 4-4.

The Outsiders dominated the penalty kicks, making three straight off the feet of Reid Rosenberg, Rohit Ramchandani and Jared Bernstein.

Eusebio Gonzalez, another Quentin resident borrowed by the outside team, blocked all three of the A-Team's kicks.

Beltranchuc smiled after the game as both teams huddled up together in a large circle.

"When you guys come in here, you make us feel seen and relevant," Beltranchuc said. "Thank you; it rejuvenates us every time."

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

# Eddie Hart shares his gold medal experiences

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Eddie Hart, a 1972 Olympic gold medalist, likes to go where he feels the love. He returned to San Quentin State Prison July 20 for the 11th annual Eddie Hart-Ralph Ligons Track Meet to share his time, story and running tips.

"When I first came here, I was a bit concerned for my safety," the 69-year-old Hart said. "Now I look forward to seeing the guys. Where I am getting love from is where I want to be."

For the fifth time since 2013, Hart stood before members of the 1000 Mile Club, a group of incarcerated runners. Club sponsor Frank Ruona wore an autographed hat from Hart's first visit. This year, fresh from an Olympic clinic in Atlanta, Hart wore a black Olympic jacket and held his gold medal.

"I had never met an Olympian before," new 1000 Mile Club member Mark Jarosik said. "He's inspiring. I'm grateful he took time out of his schedule to give us some running tips and share his life experiences with us on and off the track. It gives us hope for our futures."

As Hart began to tell his story, an alarm sounded,



Eddie Hart (gray jacket) with 1000 Mile Club coaches Mark Stevens, Jim Maloney, Frank Ruona and Kevin Rumon.

which signaled a disturbance somewhere in the prison. While all the incarcerated people sat on the ground, he shared about the race he never ran.

"I've loved to run since I was a little kid," Hart said. "I wanted the title that goes with winning the Olympic 100-meter race: 'the world's fastest human being.'"

Hart trained religiously for 10 years to reach the Olympics, setting the 100-Meter

World Record along the way.

Once in Munich he awaited the event that he had prepared a decade for; however, his coach had the wrong start time. Hart ended up seeing the race on TV while trying to get there.

"It felt like someone took my 10-year-old child," Hart said. "I learned how to respond, not react to life's circumstances."

Still, Hart achieved a gold medal as the anchor for the

U.S. 4x4-relay team.

Hart shared the following running advice.

For long distances, plant the ball of the foot before the heel. (The faster you run, the higher up on your toes you should be.)

Relax. Don't run stiff.

Keep arms at 90 degrees.

Breathe in rhythm of your stride.

Rest. Your muscles get stronger during the recovery phase.

Afterward, the runners got to apply the advice in several different races. Larry Ford, who is 62 years old, broke the 60-years-and-over half-mile record with a time of 3 minutes, 22.51 seconds.

Newcomer Erik Rives won the open 100-yard dash. (15.6 seconds)

Tone "Barefoot Tone" Evans, in his first running event since an injury two years ago, ran the 50-years-and-over 100-yard dash without shoes or socks. He had the lead two steps from the finish line, where he suddenly pulled up, and Clifton Williams dashed by to take first place in a time of 14.63 seconds. Evans came in at 15.19.

"I felt my muscle cramp and pulled up off it, but I'm fine because the ankle isn't reinjured," Evans said.

The 1000 Mile Club's fastest long-distance runner, Markelle Taylor, won the One-Mile Race in a time of 5:16.66.

In the 1600 meter relay, a team of newcomers and veterans won. New members Kevin Rojano and Charles Simmons teamed up with veterans Chris Scull and John Levin to win with a time of 5:21.84.

Scull and Jarosik battled for the open half-mile race. Scull

pulled ahead at the end to win 2:46.91 to Jarosik's 2:51.64.

Rojano won the 200-meter dash with a time of 29.79 seconds.

For the 50-years-and-over 200-meter dash, Larry Ford edged out Tommy Wickerd 43.02 to 43.21 seconds.

The 400 meter race went to Taylor with Wickerd and Ford winning their respective 50-and-over and 60-and-over divisions.

In the final event, the Distance Medley Relay, Steve Reitz, Jarosik, Ford and Wickerd won by a second over Scull, Rojano, Jonathan Chiu and community volunteer Mark Stevens.

"It's awesome for me to be out here," Stevens said. "It's cool for me to come in and be able to be a teammate; there's camaraderie amongst this team."

Their respective times were 16:18.97 to 16:19.95.

"Wow, that was close," community volunteer Jim Morris said.

The event ended with the 1000 Mile Club members thanking Hart for his time. Hart said he came to help because that's what he does.

"No matter where you are in life, having support and relationships is good," Hart said. "No man's an island."

## Valley Boys teach Warriors to guide loss into power

The Valley Boys, nine basketball players from Marin, came into San Quentin and beat the Warriors 81-75 in a thrilling game that came down to a blocked shot and last-minute turnovers.

"It was awesome, a good opportunity for everyone to have fun," said Valley Boy Skylar Chavez, who led all scorers with 23 points, mostly off pull-up jumpers. "On top of that, we got the win."

It was the first time the Valley Boys played basketball inside a prison. The team included three former players from the Drake High School team that went to the State finals in 2014. Jasper Verduin organized the team in response to a call-out by Warriors Coach Rafael Cuevas.

Jasper's father, Jacques Verduin, created the Guiding Rage Into Power (GRIP) program, in which Cuevas is involved. GRIP teaches inmates how to control anger.

"I'm really glad this finally got done," Cuevas said. "They brought in a really talented group. We lost to a good team, but it's a good



Valley Boy Skylar Chavez driving on Warrior Allan McIntosh

day because the program grew a little today."

Jacques said, "This game brings my professional life and personal life together in a way you couldn't have more fun."

Jasper, who interns for GRIP, played for Drake. He was the No. 2 scorer when Drake went 26-8 before falling to Chaminade in the Division III California Interscholastic Federation State Championship finals.

"He (Jacques) asked if we

wanted to give it a go and course we said 'yeah,'" Jasper said. "We formed a super team to come and beat the Warriors."

Wearing black jerseys donated by an Italian restaurant called the Loft at Vinantico, the Valley Boys took the court on a clear, sunny July 21 game and took the lead.

"They came in with no fear and played their butts off," Warrior Anthony Ammons said.

In the first quarter, Dane Wells, 6-foot-5 Drake alumni, caught a pass under the rim, went up strong and dunked on two Warriors for a 13-7 lead.

Wells finished with 14 points, 11 rebounds, and 3 assists.

The Warriors came back to within one point at 16-15 when the duck whistle signaled the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Warrior Dejon "The Blender" Joy gave his team their biggest lead of the game with an up and under reverse layup to make the score 28-22.

Joy finished with 12 points, 13 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 assists and a block.

The Valley Boys responded. Colin Carmody hit a baby hook that impressed Aaron "Harun" Taylor, the play-by-play announcer. Taylor gave Carmody the nickname "Vitamin C."

At the end of the second quarter, the Warriors were up 35-34.

Both teams circled up at half court to share a few

words and pray together.

Warrior Tyrrell Price, Sr. talked about his growth over the 10 years of his incarceration.

"This journey has been a lot of ups and downs," Price said. "I learned to be conscious because being unconscious of the consequences of our decisions and uncontrolled anger got me here. I thank God we get a chance every time we wake up to fulfill our purposes."

While the teams warmed up for the second half, Eric "Maserati E" Abercrombie played an original song about identity.

The fourth quarter decided the game, while Taylor kept the crowd laughing with comments like, "Ooo, that was a hard foul. He'll be getting a 115 (disciplinary infraction) for that play."

With the Warriors down two points with 1 minute and 10 seconds left in the game, Veteran Warrior Allan McIntosh, who scored 20 points from off the bench, mostly with his jumper, went up in the face of Chavez.

Chavez blocked the shot

and recovered the ball. It was his fourth block of the game to go along with 10 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 assists and 23 points.

"I knew he's a shooter; I knew what his move is and anticipated," Chavez said. "If he would have pumped, he would have had me."

McIntosh responded, "It's crazy I was thinking pump-fake him, but in the moment, I thought I was by him."

Valley Boy Beau Keeve, who plays for College of Marin, increased the lead 2 more points from behind the free-throw line.

Warrior guard Delvon Adams turned the ball over twice in the last 40 seconds.

"He played well early; he had a bad two minutes," Cuevas said.

The Warriors fouled to stop the clock.

Chavez nailed both free throws, which increased the lead to 81-75.

"Basketball is fun," Chavez said. "If it was little bit of happiness for everyone, then that was all good."

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

## Kings basketball team survives Outsider rally, 71-70

At halftime, the visiting Outsider basketball team was losing 40-25 against the San Quentin Kings, but they came back to within two points in the fourth quarter and missed three chances to win the game.

"We turned it up!" Outsider guard Brandon Hargrave said. "It was a great game, unfortunately not in our favor."

Hargrave led the Outsiders in the comeback that fell a point short.

The Outsiders tried to start their comeback run in the third quarter where Steve Watkins nailed two threes. However, Demond "Oola" Lewis answered with three

both times, keeping the Outsiders in the rearview mirror.

In the fourth quarter, Hargrave led the way. He mugged Oris "Pep" Williams and went coast to coast for an and-one, which made the score Kings 69, Outsiders 64. There was 2:49 left on the clock.

Williams answered from the free-throw line after a foul call. He made both, which put the Kings back up 71-64.

Then new Outsider Ryan Guerrero nailed a three pointer in the face of a King defender.

The Outsiders fouled Lewis to stop the clock, but he missed both free throws.

Again Hargrave scored, to bring his team within two at 71-69 with 57 seconds left.

Guerrero stole the ball

from the Kings and passed to Hargrave. Kings guard Joshua "JB" Burton tried to wrestle the ball from him, and the referees called a jump ball.

The Outsiders won the tip. Hargrave was fouled but he missed both free throws that would have tied the score.

He recovered the ball on a steal and passed it to Outsider sponsor John Brewster, who missed a wide open five foot shot.

"It was like a five footer, and I shot it like a 6 1/2 footer," Brewster said.

Burton missed two free throws after an intentional foul, which left the Outsiders another chance to tie the score or win.

Hargrave went to the rack, but King's center Jason

Robinson grabbed his arm, which sent Hargrave to the foul line.

He made one of two free-throws, which left his team down one point at 71-70 with seven seconds left.

Robinson led the Kings with 17 points.

Hargrave had the ball and the game in his hands. He went up with two defenders on him, kissed the ball off the glass, but it did not go in.

Hargrave finished with 19 points.

"We didn't want to lose by 30," Outsider Center Watkins said. "A close game is what it's all about."

The lost made the Outsiders 2-1 against the Kings and the Kings 3-9 overall.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**



Brandon Hargrave facing off against Joshua "JB" Burton

# Center Point graduates 100 San Quentin men

## PACKING THE HOUSE IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

By Jesse Vasquez  
Managing Editor

San Quentin's Garden Chapel was filled to near-capacity, with almost 400 seats occupied during Center Point's annual graduation ceremony.

One hundred men received recognition for their participation and successful completion of a Center Point program.

"This program has helped me see addiction in a new light," said Troy Dunmore, a graduate of the Substance Use Disorder Treatment class. "I understand now that I used drugs to cope with the pain of reality."

According to Dunmore and other graduates of Substance Use Disorder Treatment, the Center Point approach to recovery is a bit more comprehensive than other programs because it lays out the connection between thoughts and behavior.

"My group had a great facilitator that actually had lived our experience, which kind of helped her make the material practical to us," Dunmore said of Ms. McGuire, also known as Ms. Mella to her class.

Celebrity speaker at the graduation, reality TV host Andrew Zimmern, shared his story of struggle and the road to recovery.

Most of the incarcerated audience found out that Zimmern was a celebrity chef after the event because San Quentin State Prison does not have Cable TV. "One day I realized I was a loser," Zimmern said "[Addiction] is a progressive disease; it will lead you to jail, hospitals and it will kill you."

Zimmern emphasized the need for addicts to stick closely to the steps of their recovery program.

"I have come to realize that the road to recovery is body, mind and spirit and the road out of recovery [also] is spiritual, mental and physical," he said.

Center Point's curriculum is a cognitive-behavior therapy model, which helps participants reprogram their thinking by learning new coping skills such as: identifying risky lifestyle factors, thoughts, feelings, and actions associated with high-

risk situations and warning signs.

"Life is about taking advantage of the healthy opportunities that are available," Program Director Mike Davila said, "The state is com-

mitted to giving you the best resources so that you can succeed."

This year's ceremony included San Quentin's first Denial Management graduation.

"The curriculum challenges our belief systems," Denial Management facilitator, Mr. Bradley said, "Dealing with denial is tough but these were very forthcoming individuals."

It took the 10 participants in Mr. Bradley's class 78 hours of introspection and dialogue to complete the course.

Zimmern also underscored the importance of group sup-

port and dialogue.

"Once I put away the chemicals I realized I needed the 'We' of this program," Zimmern said. "The support made a big difference."

Phirak Kim, who struggled with substance abuse issues since he was 11 years old, said that his group counselor, Ms. Jackson, encouraged him to work through the material when he wanted to quit.

"I'm glad they didn't give up on me because now I have a coping strategy that is going to keep me from relapsing," Kim said. "I finally understand the chain of my behavior that kept me trapped in the cycle of addiction."

There were 48 graduates from the Substance Use Disorder Treatment class, 28 from the Criminal Thinking class, 22 from Anger Management, nine from Family Relations and eight from the Victim Impact group.

"I am privileged to oversee In-Prison Programs throughout the state of California," said Landon Bravo, Chief of Program Operation, Division of Rehabilitative Programs, "What you have acquired are tools to take with you in order to be a success."

"Remember to have a positive mental attitude because it changes everything."



Graduates of Center Point holding up their certificates with Ms. Winston

Photo by Eddie Herena - SQ News



Reality TV host Andrew Zimmern giving a speech

Photo by Eddie Herena - SQ News



Ms. Ashley smiling as the graduates celebrate their achievements

Photo by Eddie Herena - SQ News



Center Point staff smile after the graduation

Photo by Eddie Herena - SQ News



Center Point graduates posing with their certificates

Photo by Eddie Herena - SQ News