

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN



VOL.2012 NO. 6

June 2012

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 3,705

Senator Changes Prisoner Fund Spending Plan

By Aly Tamboura
Design Editor

The California Legislature is considering the most effective use of \$68 million collected from state prisoners for their benefit.

At issue is Senate Bill 542, introduced by Sen. Curren Price, D-Los Angeles. The proposal deals with allocating Inmate Welfare Funds, which are collected by adding a tax to products prisoners are allowed to purchase, as well as taxing crafts they sell to the public.

State law requires that the funds benefit prisoners in state custody. The money has been piling up in a bank account overseen by the Department

of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Initially SB 542 sought to redirect a portion of the IWF to pay for mental health care for prisoners not in state custody. On a recent visit to San Quentin, Sen. Price heard objections to using the funds to pay for services currently paid for by the state.

Price's bill was subsequently amended to shed the language that would redirect funds to local governments for prisoners not in state custody. The changes shift its purpose to fund "educational programs, hobby and recreation programs, and reentry programs" for prisoners in state custody.

See *Welfare Fund* on Page 4

Government Analyst Critical of Prison Plan

By San Quentin News Staff

The independent Legislative Analyst Office says California could meet its court-ordered inmate population cap and save more than a billion dollars during the next seven years. However, the LAO cautions that the state officials' recently released plan is more costly than necessary.

The LAO says the Legislature should consider much of the plan. However, the plan assumes the federal court will approve their request to increase the inmate population cap from 137.5 to 145 percent of design capacity. Prison officials should have a backup plan in case the court does not approve this request, according to the LAO.

The LAO offered six alternative plans — three if the federal court approves raising the population cap, and three if they do not — that could save between \$54 to \$159 million more than the state's plan. The alterna-

tive plans involve reducing or eliminating out-of-state contract beds, rejecting the renovation of the DeWitt Nelson Youth Correctional Facility to house adult offenders, cancelling the \$810 million in new lease revenue bond authority to construct additional low-security housing at three existing prisons, and closing the California Rehabilitation Center in Norco.

The LAO report concludes: "While the administration's blueprint merits careful consideration by the Legislature, we find that there are alternative packages that are available to the Legislature. Each alternative, including the CDCR blueprint, comes with significant trade-offs to consider. However, we find that the state could meet specified population cap targets at much lower ongoing General Fund costs in the future than proposed by the administration, potentially saving the state over a billion dollars over the next seven years."



Photo By Lt. W. Baxter

Gregory Smith Sr. visiting with his family during the 'Get on The Bus' event

Buses Full of Joy Arrive For an Early Father's Day

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

The San Quentin Visiting Room was turned into a joyous, festive place with smiles, painted faces, and children hugging their dads, some for the first time, in celebration of Fathers Day.

"This is the first time I've seen my daughter since she was

a week old," said Troy Phillips, whose family lives in Bakersfield. His daughter, Troyanna, was too shy to say anything, but smiled and played with a board game. She had just turned 10.

"All the kids sang her happy birthday yesterday. This was a great birthday present for her," said Cathy Kalin, one of the community volunteers who co-

ordinated the event, sponsored by a group called Get on the Bus.

Each year around Mother's Day and Father's Day, hundreds of children and their caregivers board buses and travel from cities all over the state to unite with incarcerated parents. Get on the

See *Get on the Bus* on Page 4

Blueprint for Prison Future A Boost for S.Q. Programs



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Prisoner building a cabinet in Vocational Sheet Metal

By Thomas Winfrey
Journalism Guild Writer

California's blueprint for the future of its prison system proposes significant changes to programming at San Quentin. The plan would add nine new vocational training programs that would teach nearly 300 inmates skills that could help them find jobs once released. Prisoners' housing would also be dramatically restructured.

If the plan is approved by the legislature and signed by the governor, it would be put in

place gradually, beginning July 1, 2012.

Under the proposal, the new vocational programs would be building maintenance, computer literacy, and electronics. Current programs are machine shop and sheet metal.

Carpentry, high-voltage electricity, masonry, plumbing, and small engine repair are proposed to be added the following fiscal year. Another unnamed program will be added in the future.

Vocational programs could affect California's high recidivism rate. One study shows that

for every dollar spent on prison vocational training, prison costs are reduced by \$13.01. The same report shows that even a small decrease in recidivism saves a significant amount of money for taxpayers.

San Quentin's housing would be restructured in the following manner:

- West Block would house 674 Level II inmates
- Fire House would house 15 Level I inmates
- The Adjustment Center would house 102 inmates
- Alpine would house 371 Level II inmates
- Badger would house 371 Reception inmates
- Carson would house 96 Death Row and 137 Administratively Segregated inmates
- Donner would house 146 Level II inmates and 144 Administratively Segregated inmates
- East Block and North Seg would house 588 Death Row inmates
- North Block would house 621 Level II inmates
- H-Unit would house 750 inmates

See Father's Day special,
including quotes from prisoners
and their children, on pages 6&7.

Prison Not the Answer for Juvenile Offenders

Editor's Note: The following story by San Quentin News sports editor Gary Scott was published in the June 5, 2012 edition of the New York Times. Scott was arrested at age 15 for second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years to life at age 17. He has served 14 ½ years. He works with at-risk youth and is studying toward an associate of arts degree.

Like many states, California allows youth offenders as young as 14 to be transferred from the juvenile system to adult courts. From there, most of the teenagers who are tried as adults and sentenced to life in adult institutions are placed in Level 4 maximum-security prisons that are extremely violent.

If rehabilitation is the goal for teenagers who are tried and sentenced as adults, then prison is not the answer.

This happens even though courts have said that juveniles are different from adults and in some situations must be treated differently. For example, in 2005, the Supreme Court banned the death penalty for juvenile offenders because "people under 18 are immature, irresponsible, susceptible to peer-pressure and often capable of change." However, the justices have not yet applied this same logic when considering the sentencing and housing of juveniles in the adult system.

In my observation, the incarceration of young prisoners in adult prisons has an extremely destructive effect. Young prisoners

OPINION



Gary Scott

are more susceptible to negative influences than adults. Facing the reality of their lengthy sentence and potentially never going home makes them seek protection and try to fit in somewhere in their

new world. Because a juvenile's identity is still developing, he or she can potentially adopt negative behaviors that are the norm in a hostile prison environment. The fear of being victimized or assaulted produces a need for security, which leads many young prisoners to rely on gangs and weapons for survival. Young prisoners overwhelmed by feelings of helplessness and hopelessness cannot focus on changing their thinking and behavior, because they are focused on how to survive. Younger prisoners are also at a disadvantage because they are not as mature (mentally and physically) as older prisoners. The suicide and sexual abuse rates of younger prisoners are higher than those of the physically mature. How

can rehabilitation be possible in such a dangerous environment?

The only way to change the behavior of young prisoners is to provide them with the opportunity to gain insight into why they think and behave the way they do. If rehabilitation is the goal for teenagers who are tried and sentenced as adults, then prison is not the answer. There should be a different place for youth offenders. Prison is too violent, and the necessary programs that can contribute to young prisoners' rehabilitation are underfunded. Rehabilitation is more possible in an environment that is conducive to education, where young prisoners can gain insight into their behavior to produce a positive transformation.

Marin County Grand Jury Focuses on Reconciliation

By Gary Klien

Marin Independent Journal

The Marin County Civil Grand Jury is calling for broader use of "restorative justice," a law enforcement philosophy that emphasizes reconciliation over punitive retribution.

In a new report, "Restorative Justice: Its Time Has Come in Marin County," the grand jury acknowledged that the practice strikes some as "soft on crime."

But after studying its use elsewhere — in places such as New Zealand, Brazil, Vermont and major California cities — the grand jury said its expanded use in Marin could save the taxpayers money, reduce recidivism and ease the burden on courts, the county jail and Juvenile Hall.

"Expansion of restorative justice in Marin County — by schools, the adult and youth criminal justice systems, and neighborhoods and communities — must be undertaken," said the grand jury, a 19-member investigative watchdog panel empowered by the judiciary.

Under the restorative justice approach, offenders meet with community facilitators

and sometimes the victims, discuss the impact of their actions, and negotiate how to make appropriate amends.

The offender then has a chance to perform community service, make restitution or seek therapy for addiction or behavioral problems. If the offender meets the agreed-upon obligations, he or she can avoid prosecution.

"Proponents assert that this approach provides satisfaction to the victim as well as to the community affected by the crime and prepares the offender for a crime-free future in ways the traditional punitive justice system does not," the grand jury said.

The report noted that some restorative justice programs have been instituted in Marin, with good results:

- Peer-to-peer "courts" and other initiatives at Del Mar Middle School in Tiburon, Davidson Middle School in San Rafael and the Novato Unified School District have reduced bullying and disruptive behavior, while keeping students in school rather than suspending or expelling them.

- The Marin County Youth Court, run by the YMCA with the backing of Marin Super-

ior Court, puts misdemeanor offenders before lawyers and jurors of their own peers. Offenders who succeed with community service or counseling requirements can avoid having a criminal record.

- The Victim Offender Reconciliation Program, for offenders 12 to 17 years old, provides mediation between juveniles and crime victims, and lets the offender make direct amends.

- Adult drug court, family violence court and other special court programs, which seek to reduce offenders' contact with the criminal justice system and keep families together.

But the grand jury said officials should do more. Among other recommendations, the report calls on the district attorney's office to cut back on resource-consuming misdemeanor prosecutions in favor of diversion or citation hearings; the Board of Supervisors to provide funding for restorative justice programs and training; all Marin school districts to introduce restorative practices; and the sheriff's department to initiate restorative justice programs at the county jail.

"Although the District Attorney's Office provides mediation services and citation hearings for various civil and criminal disputes, it and the Sheriff's Department appear to be significantly less supportive of expanded use of restorative justice techniques," the report said.

Undersheriff Mike Ridgway disagreed, saying the county jail offers preparation for high school equivalency exams, English language instruction, addiction treatment, safe sex education and support groups.

"The sheriff's office has long operated and supported programs within the Marin County Jail that attempt to address the reduction of prisoner recidivism and improve their chances for successful reintegration into the community," Ridgway said.

The grand jury ordered formal responses from the sheriff, the district attorney, the public defender, the county superintendent of education, the Board of Supervisors, the county education department and the local school districts. They have 60 to 90 days to respond.

Defense attorney Charles Dresow, who handles many

juvenile cases, said the grand jury "is absolutely right that the time for restorative justice has come to Marin." He said the practice works, but even if an offender fails, prosecutors are still free to file charges.

"The filing of a criminal case can be catastrophic to a young adult's job, education and future contribution to society," Dresow said. "There is no need to derail a young individual's future because they made a mistake in their youth."

Defense attorney Tracy Barrett said the grand jury was correct to counter the notion that restorative justice is "soft on crime."

"My experience is that there is actually far more accountability for defendants participating in those programs than there is for the defendant who is simply sentenced to jail time," she said. "Ask any drug court graduate whether the program was easy. I'm sure you would get an earful."

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Initiative Said to Seek Original Intent of 'Three Strikes'

By Forrest Jones

Journalism Guild Writer

A Three Strikes initiative slated for the November ballot is designed to reflect the voters' original intent for the law, according to Geri Silva, the founder of Families to Amend California Three Strikes, a group that supports the initiative. She discussed the measure in May at the San Quentin Catholic Chapel.

Silva said the voters who originally passed the law were not aware they were sending petty offenders to prison for life. Under the existing Three

Strikes Law, a defendant could receive sentences of 25 years to life for almost any crime — even minor, nonviolent crimes such as shoplifting or simple drug possession — if he or she has two prior serious or violent felony convictions. People have been sentenced to life in prison for shoplifting a pair of socks or stealing bread, Silva said.

The Three Strikes Reform Act of 2012 would amend the law so that only those with serious, sexual or violent third strike offenses, including using a firearm while commit-

ting an offense or possessing a large amount of controlled substances, will be behind bars for life. Defendants with prior convictions for any serious or violent felony punishable by life imprisonment, including child molestation, rape, and murder, will not be affected by the new initiative, even if their third strike was not serious or violent. A recent study by the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office estimates the ballot measure could save more than \$100 million per year related to prison and parole operations.

Silva said an estimated 3,000 inmates would be eligible to apply for a new sentence if the initiative passes.

She says the Reform Act has broad bipartisan support from law enforcement leaders like Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley, a Republican, and San Francisco County DA George Gascon, a Democrat; and a range of academics, civil rights organizations, and retired judges and prosecutors. Also supporting the measure is Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform.

Silva concluded by saying she believes the Reform Act doesn't go far enough, but her organization will support the bill and promote it in the months ahead through town hall meetings, rallies, candlelight vigils, forums at colleges and universities, churches and in communities across California.

FACTS was formed by small groups of local family members, which merged in 1997. FACTS has grown into the leading organization in the state fighting to change the Three Strike Law.

Lewis Murder Suspect To Stand Trial

By N. T. "Noble" Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

After 10 months in a mental hospital, the accused killer of a prominent East Palo Alto community leader and former San Quentin inmate has been deemed competent to stand trial for the 2010 murder.

A San Mateo judge ruled in July 2011 that Gregory Elarms, 59, from Pittsburg, was mentally incompetent to face trial for the murder of David Lewis.

Elarms was sent to Napa State Hospital for treatment. Two doctors at the state mental facility reported in May 2012 that Elarms was now competent to stand trial.

This determination opens the door for San Mateo Coun-



Official Photo

The late David Lewis posing outside S Q.'s main gate

ty District Attorney Steve Wagstaffe to proceed with the criminal case against Elarms.

Elarms is accused of shooting Lewis, his childhood friend, in a parking lot of the Hillsdale Shopping Mall in San Mateo on June 6, 2011.

After his parole from San Quentin State Prison, Lewis became a community leader, drug counselor and motivational speaker. He founded Free At Last, a drug treatment program in the heart of the city that at one time was called the "murder capital" of the country. Lewis also helped to create the "Breaking Barriers" cognitive behavior program

that is used widely throughout the California prison system and in other states.

Lewis' murder went unsolved for six months until Elarms implicated himself in the shooting, authorities said. Elarms told investigators he believed Lewis had turned against him, but that was not true "as far as police can tell," prosecutor Al Giannini said.

Elarms is facing charges of murder, weapons violations and laying in wait, a special circumstance. Elarms faces a maximum sentence of life without parole because prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty.

Study Shows Fear of Arrest, Jail Are Top Crime Deterrents

By San Quentin News Staff

A new report says the best way to keep crime down is by increasing the certainty of arrest and incarceration, rather than the severity of the punishment.

The report evaluated how much the chance of arrest, imprisonment, the length of imprisonment had on property

and violent crime rates in New South Wales, Australia.

A one percent increase in the arrest rate for property crimes produced a 10 percent decrease in those types of crimes. The same increase in arrests for violent crime produced a 19 percent decrease in violent crime.

If the one percent increase in arrest rates is sustained, the study concluded, the long-term

effect is estimated to be a 14 percent decrease in property crime and 30 percent decrease in violent crime.

There was no evidence that increases in the length of imprisonment have any short- or long-term impact on crime rates.

The study was conducted by the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research.

Pending Criminal Justice Legislation

The following is reprinted with permission from the March 2012 edition of the Friends Committee on Legislation of California's newsletter, FCLCA.org.

Senate Bill 9, by Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, came within one vote of passing the full Assembly late last summer. This legislation – which permits prisoners serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole for offenses committed as a minor to apply for a reduced 25-year-to-life sentence – is still on the Assembly floor. It is still a couple votes short of passage and will be reconsidered when it is believed there are 41 votes to pass and send the bill to the governor.

Assembly Bill 1270, by Tom Ammann, D-San Francisco, would require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to permit media representatives to interview prisoners in person and would forbid

retaliation against prisoners for participating in interviews or communicating with members of the media.

Assembly Bill 1577, by Toni Atkins, D-Sacramento, would require the Department of Motor Vehicles and CDCR to enter into interagency agreements in order to assist prisoners in obtaining a valid California driver's license or identification card immediately upon their release from prison. CDCR could issue a parolee identification card, which the DMV would honor for the purposes of applying for a driver's license, or identification card. Having a valid identification card is necessary for applying for a job, establishing a checking account and obtaining housing.

Assembly Bill 1831, by Roger Dickinson, D-Sacramento, prohibits local government agencies from asking about an applicant's criminal history on an employment application. Agen-

cies could only inquire as to an applicant's criminal history after the agency has determined that an applicant meets the minimum requirements.

Senate Bill 983, by Toni Strickland, R-Thousand Oaks, would authorize county boards of supervisors to contract with out-of-state correctional facilities to house local jail prisoners.

Senate Bill 1060, by Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, would end the lifetime ban on receiving CalWORKS benefits for persons with felony drug convictions.

Senate Bill 1441, by Bill Emerson, R-Riverside, would require persons convicted of felonies otherwise punishable in a county jail who are sentenced to more than three years to serve their sentence in state prison.

Senate Bill 1506, by Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, would reduce simple drug possession from a felony to a misdemeanor.

'Free to Succeed' Works to Expand Prisoner Literacy

By San Quentin News Staff

Improving the reading skills of incarcerated people opens up a world of opportunities for them and their families, says a community organizer of a volunteer-run literacy program.

"Helping someone read better is like tossing pebbles in a pond, except the ripples transform generations," said George Dykstra, program director of the non-profit Free to Succeed.

Free to Succeed has been helping prisoners at San Quentin State Prison improve their reading skills for 15 years. The volunteers hope that once the students become better readers, they will earn their GED, which will allow them to enroll in San Quentin's college program.

"I think if more people knew about the program, they'd participate in it," said participant Stanley Durden. "Since I began the program seven years ago, I know that my reading has improved. All of the volunteers help me in different ways."

"People feel better about themselves when they learn to read. They can pick up a book and learn new things," said Jane Levinsohn, a volunteer for six years.

Volunteer Daniel Costello said he wants to do something about California's high recidivism

rate. He said the more education an inmate gets, the better his chance of not coming back.

Costello said better reading skills enrich the person's ability to communicate with those around them.

"There's a lot of Spanish guys who come in the class to learn English," said Durden.

One of the newest volunteers



Official Photo

George Dykstra left back row and volunteer tutors

is Chirag Dalibar. "I identify with people who want to get an education against overwhelming odds," he said.

Dalibar, a native of Istanbul, Turkey, said coming inside San Quentin and working with prisoners is inspirational. "It's hard to make someone understand what I get out of this experience," he said. "It's like food for my soul."

Dykstra is seeking to add to his staff of volunteers. He says the recent influx of new inmates at San Quentin will quickly fill the open seats in the classroom.

The program is located in the Education Department and is open Monday through Friday from 6-8:30 p.m.

HEALTH & FITNESS

By David Bennett
Contributing Writer

Editor's Note: David Bennett is a certified personal trainer.

A healthy lifestyle is an important foundation for lifelong happiness. Unfortunately, it can't be attained through a magic pill or temporary fixes.

Regular exercise and a nutritious diet are the best ways to reduce the likelihood of chronic health problems, such as heart disease, cognitive impairment, diabetes, and cancer. They will also make you look and feel better now and in the years ahead.

Many people believe they do not have enough time to exercise on a regular basis because their schedules are too full. This could not be farther from the truth. Fifteen to 45 minutes of light exercise, a few times a week, is enough to see significant improvement to your health.

Join one of the many intramural sports teams, play catch, take a few laps around the yard. It may be tough to motivate, but it comes down to a choice between comfort now or comfort for the rest of your life.

The best way to start a fitness program is to set some goals. Start with something small and achievable. Walk or jog five laps three days a week, for example, then gradually increase the frequency and number of laps.

Before any strenuous exercise, be sure you are cleared by a doctor if you have any chronic health problems.

Think about it: comfort now or comfort for the next few decades. The choice is yours.

Men in Blue Come Together To Attend Religious Retreat

By A. Kevin Valvardi and Jose Camacho
Journalism Guild Writers

A two-day retreat designed to equip prisoners with the skills to improve their lives and communities was held at San Quentin in May. The retreat, entitled "Warriors of Light: Building Community with Jesus," involved spiritual exercises and thoughtful prayer and reflection.

"We are bringing the message of love, in hopes of instilling peace to the people of San Quentin," said Paul McMahon, one of the facilitators of the event.

The retreat was held for men in blue and outsiders and included guided prayer and meditation

conducted in both Spanish and English. "I enjoyed it so much," said participant Kenny Sapien. "The soul-searching, it was beautiful."

"We go in with a sense of hope for the inmate," explained McMahon, "that through our meditation we can build a large community of participants that are well-equipped to love, respect, and implement meditation in their everyday lives."

McMahon acknowledged difficulties for Latinos in "opening up" about personal issues and memories, considering the role "machismo" plays in the Latino community. "Latinos have played a tremendous role in the

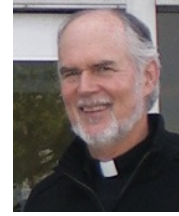
healing process," he says. "They open up with testimony that perhaps would not take place if they did not have the movement of the Spirit in what we call a 'comfort zone,' that allows them to actually be themselves."

Participant Roger Chavez said of the retreat, "It's a life-changing experience."

"There were times when I thought I was opening up old wounds but, in actuality, I was healing wounds that were never closed," added James Flanagan.

McMahon pointed out that San Quentin offers a unique opportunity for events like this. "We visit Corcoran, Chino, and other CDCR prisons, to carry

Retreat leader Father Michael Kennedy



Welfare Fund

Continued from Page 1

However, the most significant part in the legislation is that the funds will "not be used for programs that the Department (of Corrections and Rehabilitation) is required to provide."

The legislation also proposes to give more discretion to individual prison wardens and prisoner advisory councils in determining how the funds could be used to best benefit the inmates of the respective institutions.

If the bill is approved by the Legislature and governor, it would authorize the IWF funds for athletic and recreational supplies, which currently is forbidden under state law.

The Legislative Counsel comments, "Under existing law, funds from the Inmate Welfare Fund are prohibited from being used for specified expenses, including overtime for staff, television repair, and athletic or recreation supplies. Under existing law, moneys in the fund, as they relate to state prison camps, are continuously appropriated. This bill would authorize the use of fund moneys for athletic and recreation supplies, and reentry programs, thereby making an appropriation."

The analysis also reports: "Existing law requires the Department of Finance to conduct a biennial audit of the fund and, at the end of each intervening fiscal year, to prepare a statement of operations."

Rastafarians Start New Group in Chapel

A new group of African-based religion followers has announced plans for regular worship in San Quentin.

The group, called Universal Rastafari, has beliefs based on the symbols, rituals, axioms and teachings of Ras Tafari Makonnen, who was crowned king of Ethiopia in 1928. He became known as Emperor Haile Selassie I,

The Patriarch Abuna Basilios of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church coronated Ras Tafari as "His Imperial Majesty, the 225th king of Ethiopia, on Nov. 2, 1930.

The Rastafari faith says it has documented the lineage of Emperor Selassie as a direct descendant of the Biblical Kings David and Solomon.

"I started the group called House of the Lions of Judah Ecumenical Rastafari in Santa Cruz," said Shai Alkebu-Lan, a resident of San Quentin. "When I came here to San Quentin, I found there were no Rastafari services."

Alkebu-Lan said two other prisoners said they attempted to start Rastafari services without success.

"I had participated in Rastafari religious services at other institutions," Alkebu-Lan said. "We also had special diets for our religious needs."

Incarcerated for 15 years, Alkebu-Lan, 54, said he talked with Catholic Chaplain George Williams, Jewish Chaplain Carol Hyman and the prisoner-staff Religious Advisory Committee and Community Resource Manager Laura Bowman-Salszieder.

"They were very helpful in assisting us," Alkebu-Lan said. "After three months of

lobbying with San Quentin's administration, we've got a place of worship."

The Universal Rastafari services are held Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Islamic-Jewish Chapel, with the exception of the first Saturday of the Month.

"Rastafari is inclusive to everyone," said Alkebu-Lan. "I encourage those interested to come and reason together with sounds and chants in the Nyahbinghi, the holy ground." Anyone wishing to attend should sign up with Chaplain Hyman.

Get On The Bus

Continued from Page 1

Bus provides free transportation to three women's prisons and seven men's prisons. The non-profit provide travel bags, comfort care bags for the caregivers, a photo of each child with his or her parent, and meals for the trip (breakfast, snacks on the bus, lunch at the prison, and dinner on the way home), all at no cost to the children's family. On the bus trip home each child receives a "stay connected bag" which con-



sists of pens, paper, stamps and other goodies to keep the children connected with their incarcerated parents.

"This is a very special day for the men," said Kevin Chappell, San Quentin's acting warden. "It's always

good to see family come together. Reunifying families that have been disconnected brings good morale, which helps the men stay within the rules. Get on the Bus has brought much joy to many here today."

Children of all ages pranced around in purple T-shirts, getting refreshments, or headed to the cameraman to take a picture with their mom and dad. Kids took up all the seats as they played board games with their dads or newly found friends.

"Troy is a great father and role model," said Troyanna's mother Zunkie Newell, whose name means Morning Star in Swahili. "Bakersfield is so far away, and Get on the Bus provided us with this opportunity." She added, "I have a 19-year-old son doing a

40-to-life sentence in Pelican Bay right now. I am sure if Troy was in his life, he would not be in prison."

"This is our third time using Get on the Bus," said Eric Davis, whose family lives in Sacramento. "This has given me the opportunity to see my wife and kids an extra time each year." Keysha, Eric's wife, smiled and said the visit was timely because June 4 was their 20-year wedding anniversary.

Children of Incarcerated Parents reports that regular visits between children and their incarcerated parents reduces recidivism for the incarcerated parent and improves family reunification following the parent's release.

An estimated 297,000 California children have a parent in jail or prison, and 60 percent of those parents are held more



than 100 miles from their children.

Information about the faith-based organization can be found at www.getonthebus.us



Teachers Assistant Leaving S.Q.

HAZEL KOONS SPEAKS OF EDUCATION AT SAN QUENTIN

By Tom Bolema,
Literacy Coordinator

Hazel Koons is a teachers assistant in San Quentin's Education Department. Her contract expires in August. Ms. Koons has a B.A. from University of California, Irvine in Psychology and Social Behavior, and a minor in Criminology, Law, and Society.

What got you interested in working inside a prison?

I wanted to be a part of something that helps people change

"My family and I have always believed that everyone deserves an education"

and get on the right track in life. I grew up in an area where it wasn't really safe to stay out on the streets after dark, and I went to a high school where a lot of people dropped out. I knew prison is where they ended up.

EDUCATION CORNER

Working inside a prison gives me an opportunity to help my people in the community.

How did you feel about working inside an all male prison?

It was challenging at first. There is always an adjustment period with co-workers and new people in a new environment, but once trust and respect is established then everything runs thoroughly. They know what I came here to do and all I do is that.

What is your opinion about making education available for prisoners?

I used to tutor at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey so I was familiar with juvenile facilities. I also took a tour of CIM (Chino) in college, but this is my first job working inside a prison. My family and I have always believed that everyone deserves an education, but it is just harder

for those who work and struggle on the street, not seeing why or the importance of school.

Since working in the San Quentin's Education Department how do you think your work has affected the lives of the men?

It is always rewarding to see a man succeed. To have a man stand on his own two feet, disciplined, focused, and achieve his goals, no matter how big or small, no matter what the obstacles are or what their peers think about them. I am always reminded from a book called *The Black Hand*, change is always possible and it makes a strong impact on others.

If you could change one thing in San Quentin, what would it be?

I would close it down. As long as parents, families, and communities raise their children, keep them out of trouble,

and show them the difference between right and wrong, then there would be no need for prisons.

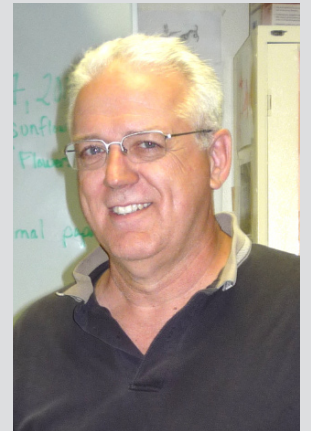
If your contract is not renewed do you plan to do any future work with CDCR?

I will always go back to my old neighborhood to remember where I came from to make sure those kids try to stay in school or stay working to keep out of trouble, and keep away from those who get them into trouble. When I get a teaching credential, I would like to continue this work. Then, maybe work in a women's prison, too.

What do you think will happen to the program in your absence?

I think it will be a challenge in the classroom for teachers to accomplish things like copying worksheets and workbooks while they cannot leave the classroom. Teachers can become bombarded with questions and having to problem solve. The more help in the classroom for the students, especially in math, the better.

Interim Community Partnership Manager



Steve Emrick, a former bridging teacher who also worked with inmates in the Arts in Corrections program, has been appointed Interim Communities Partnership Manager. Emrick is currently handling the CPM duties, taking the place of Laura Bowman-Salzsieder who is relocating to Florida with her family.

Lawsuit Targets State's Prisoner Isolation Policy

By San Quentin News Staff

Ten men who have spent between 11 and 22 years in a segregated section of California's prison system filed a lawsuit to stop the conditions of "isolation, sensory deprivation, lack of social and physical human contact, and environmental deprivation."

The men are suffering serious mental and physical harm due to their prolonged confinement in the Pelican Bay Segregated Housing Unit, according to the lawsuit.

More than 500 prisoners (about half the population at the Pelican Bay SHU) have been there for more than 10 years. Of those people, 78 have been in the SHU for more than 20 years, according to prison records.

The complaint alleges that the men "languish, typically alone, in a cramped, concrete, windowless cell, for 22½ to 24 hours a day."

Here are the plaintiffs and their status as listed in the lawsuit:

Jeffrey Franklin is a member of the Black Guerilla Family. He has spent the last 22 years in the Pelican Bay SHU. In 2006, he was denied inactive BGF status based on evidence that he associates with other gang members, shares a common ideology, and attempts to educate the community and other prisoners to his philosophy.

Todd Ashker has spent over 25 years in solitary confinement, and 22 years in the SHU. He was validated as an Aryan Brotherhood member in 1988, and has



Photo By Nancy Mullane

General Population tiers at Pelican Bay State Prison

been denied inactive status based on confidential memoranda from informants and artwork found in his cell. Ashker has never been charged with or disciplined for a proven gang-related act. Authorities told Ashker, unless he renounces his membership in the AB and "divulge all of their secrets to the authorities, he will remain incarcerated in the SHU for the rest of his life."

George Franco spent 20 years in solitary confinement in the SHU. In 2008, prison officials said Franco is an active Nuestra Familia member based on confidential statements by informants regarding his role within the gang, and the fact that his name appeared on gang rosters found in other prisoners' cells.

Gabriel Reyes has spent almost 16 years in continuous isolation, and has been kept in the SHU for 14½ years. Reyes is serving a sentence of 25 years to life under the Three Strikes Law. In 2008, prison officials said he was an active Mexican Mafia associate because artwork found in his possession contained gang symbols.

George Ruiz has spent 22 years in the SHU, and the last 28 years in solitary confinement, because prison officials say he is a member of the Mexican Mafia. Ruiz has had no significant rule violations since his incarceration began in 1980. He has only had one disciplinary violation of any kind since 1986. Ruiz is serving a seven year to life sen-

tence and has been eligible for parole since 1993.

Richard Johnson has spent almost 15 years in solitary confinement at the Pelican Bay SHU due to his validation as a BGF member. Johnson's Third Strike was a drug-related offense. He is serving 33 years to life. He has never incurred a major disciplinary offense in prison.

Danny Troxell has spent over 26 years in solitary confinement, and 22 years in the SHU due to his validation as a member of the AB. Troxell's only act of violence in the last 30 years involved a fistfight in 1997 in which nobody was seriously injured. He has been eligible for parole since 1996.

Paul Redd has spent almost 33 of the past 35 years in solitary confinement in California and has spent the last 11½ years in Pelican Bay's SHU. Redd was first validated as a BGF member in 1980 based on six confidential memoranda stating that he had communicated with other BGF prisoners and that his name was on a coded roster found in a validated BGF member's possession. Over 30 years later, Redd continues to be labeled a gang member based merely on association.

"Of these people, 78 have been in the SHU for more than 20 years"

Luis Esquivel has spent the last 13 years in solitary confinement in the SHU. He has never incurred a serious disciplinary violation. In 2007, after more than six years in the SHU, Esquivel was determined to be an inactive gang associate, but was nonetheless retained in the SHU. He was revalidated as an active Mexican Mafia associate a year later because he possessed allegedly gang-related Aztec artwork.

Ronnie Dewberry has spent the last 27 years in solitary confinement. He has been repeatedly validated as a BGF member based on his associations and his political, cultural, and historical writings. He has had no major disciplinary infractions since 1995.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

The San Quentin News invited several prisoners to express their thoughts about their dads as Father's Day approaches. Here are some of the responses:

"I had a good relationship with my dad. He is one of the smartest individuals I know. I have a daughter and a stepdaughter. I love them both very much. I mostly love my daughter's energetic assertiveness and my stepdaughter's outgoing personality." — Angelo Falcone

"I think the best quality in a dad should be that he spends time with his kids." — Mike

"To our fathers, whom we love so much, although sometimes we don't say it to them. But, forgive us for the lack of confidence in explaining one's feelings. Today, we wish you all the happiness of the world and for you to enjoy the happiness of the world and for you to enjoy this father's day." — Arturo G. Pureco

"Every good father should spend time with his children." — Project REACH volunteer Sue.

"I love that my dad always smiled." — Pete

"I didn't have a father and no father figure, but I believe every good father should love his kids unconditionally. I have a daughter and she loves me even though I wasn't there for her." — Dexter Coleman

"I had a father, but he didn't pay attention to me. I had no father figure and I never had any kids, but I think that every good father should be responsible." — Nate Collins

"I didn't have a father, but other men I looked up to treated me like a son. My father figures were my coaches, older male family members and even my friends' dads. Every good father should be loving and present." — Kenyatta

"I grew up with a dad and I liked the way he cared for me. I have two daughters and I am very proud of them because they are educated and they inspired me to get my education." — Valeray Richardson

"I didn't grow up with a dad. My father figures were my grandfather and an uncle. A good father is always concerned about his kid's future. I especially love my daughters' shyness and their gentleness." — Larry Histon

"I didn't grow up with a father, but I had an uncle who treated me like a son. I do not have any children, but I believe every good father should be understanding with his kids." — David Monroe

"I had a good relationship with my stepfather. He was my dad. I have no kids but I think every good father should be willing to sacrifice himself for his kids, like my dad. He was the epitome of what it means to sacrifice for his kids." —James Cavitt

"I grew up with my dad and I have no kids, but I believe that every good father should be loving and understanding." —Robert Frye

"I had a father and I had a good relationship with him. He was very passionate. I have a daughter and I love her beautiful persona." — Philip Senegal

"I had a father but my relationship with him was in the middle. It was okay. A couple of my uncles were good role models and father figures in my life. I have had no kids but I believe that every good father should have patience." —John Neblett

"Pops, you are an example of who I want to be. You've always been there for me and I'm thankful for that. May time continues to bring us closer and allow you to teach me the lessons I need to know. Know I love you and wish you a happy Father's Day." — Michael Tyler

"Thanks to an awesome father for always being there, for leading by a legal example, for admitting your mistakes, but most of all thanks for being a true friend my best friend." — Will Shipley, Jr.

"A man armed with excellence, love, strength, integrity, structure, guidance, discipline, sacrifice, commitment and pride is forever our dad. With honor and respect, we salute you. We love you pops Happy Fathers Day." — G.R. Mendez

"My mother is my father. I want to wish her the best on "Fathers Day" for being there for me and the family. I love you." — Theotis Stewart

"Happy Fathers Day. I hope you have a great father's day. I wish you all the best in life. Dad, today I say thank you for being in my side along all this hard time. I love you Dad." — Fabian Vazquez

"Although I have gone astray from your teachings, today my guides are your values and principles. It is an honor and a privilege being your son. Quezada, Chivero and Michoacano all the way to the end." — Miguel Quezada

"Happy Fathers Day, Ernest Chavez. This is your special day to be honored by your family for all you've done and continue to do for all of us. We all want you to know you are appreciated and loved with all our hearts. From all your children and grandchildren, thank you for all the love you give all of us." — Roger Chavez

"Father, dear father, I miss you with all my soul. I love you and adore you without resentments. Happy father's day. You are a dad who has always wanted the best for your children. You are unique, and I hope to see you soon. Your son, who appreciates you." — Eddie Cruz

"Dad I'll never forget how you used to watch soul train every Saturday and afterwards you'd play all of your music cassettes and sing along on your mic. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was being schooled on how to appreciate good music, this is something that is now an important part of my life and I thank you. Love ya pop's! Happy Father's Day." — Jerome Boone

"Dad, you showed me how to live and how not to live. I used it and raised a great son (Ricky) thank you! 'You gave what you knew and I gave what I knew better.'" — Moses Duran

"Pops, God knows you've been a better dad than I ever had a right to, always there for me even now, you will always be my hero Love you always." — Ricky Abeyta

"Growing up my mother was my father. Mom was never bashful to step in and take on the roles that are traditionally reserved for fathers. Here is to you mom, "Happy Fathers Day". — Charlie Spence

"For my father, Fransisco (Don Pancho) Barboza, a strong and honest man. And, for my brother, Antonio Barboza who had a heart bigger than Texas. In peace they rest" And, for my brothers, nephews and cousins in Texas and here in California, I send you a happy father's day. With respect." — Adam Barboza

"I would like to say happy Fathers Day. I have so many memories when I was growing up, especially on Christmas day when you were dressed up as Pancho Claus. As I grew older you were teaching me the value of life. I'm so lucky to have you as my father. You are my number one. Regardless of our differences hopefully this would put a smile on you and on the same token I'm glad I'm your son. Happy Fathers Day tu hijo Claudio." — Apa Armando

"To my dad Arnulfo Rioas, who is watching me from heaven, who tried to teach me right from wrong, who worked in the fields and like to play la arcedon and love to sing corridos old school. When my time comes I'll be with him in heaven too, but for now straight from mi cora. I miss you and love you Happy Fathers Day tu hijo en Quenmas." — Juan Rioas

Dad thank you for being the greatest father that a son could ever ask for. Always being there for me when I needed you really shows the father that you've always been. After being married for 50 or more years I want to thank you for showing the inspiration of a father when mom passed away. Showing us that example of the husband and father, Dad I love you. — David Baker

Jess, writing to someone who I have lost respect for and came to hate, is not easily done. First. I had to forgive myself for all the things I have done and blamed you for. I have forgiven you and I pray you forgave me. I never honored you, today I do, not with what I did in the past, but with who I am today. I always loved you despite the ugliness. Rest in peace. —Dennis Pratt

I want you to know on this day Dad that I love you and you always have been and continue to be a wonderful father. I love you and I want you to know that I am there with you in spirit and in thought. Happy Father's Day Dad. —Steve Phillips

Dad I want to thank you for being there when nobody else is. You are my father, my inspiration and my reason for being a man now. I love you Happy Father's Day. — Randy Carey Jr.

Quotes from Get on the Bus day:

"This is an awesome event where you get to see the children interact with their fathers. The looks on the kids' faces make it all worth while." — Jessica, volunteer

"Today kids get treated like super stars." — Karen Vandelaat, volunteer

"I am so thankful that Get on the Bus brought me to see my daddy. This is the first time I met him. I love him." — Troyanna

"I'm feeling good and tired. I got up at two in the morning because I was so excited that I was going to see my daddy." — Eryka

"I feel good about seeing my dad. It's been since Christmas. It's good that they do this for us. It wouldn't possible to see my dad without Get on the Bus." — Isaiah

"I don't see my dad as often anymore, but now he's coming home and I'm really excited. I've been visiting him for 17 and a half years. Honestly I'm in shock that he's finally coming home. Get

on the Bus is an awesome program." — Desiree

"I am so happy for the Get on the Bus program. I thank all the people involved in this program. This gives us a chance to do things as a family." — Jessica Armengo

"My daughter makes me feel proud. This is just a wonderful program. I can't say enough good things about it. It's special and makes you feel special." — Abel Armengo

"I think this atmosphere is appropriate, it's a lot more relaxed. I think it's happier for the families. Especially the fathers, having the opportunity to know their children reconnect with their children's roots. Get on the Bus does a really unique service and coming into this situation makes the father proud." — Correctional Officer M. Bock

Meeting My Son for the First Time



By D. Rasheed Smith
Contributing Writer

Last year I met my son, Haikem, for the first time. He was 24 years old. It was Get on the Bus weekend at California State Prison, Solano, and I noticed a tall, slender young man anxiously pacing in front of the window in the visiting room. I knew it was Haikem and I was completely petrified.

When I entered the visiting room, my son smiled brightly at me. It felt like the sun shined only for me. He looked directly into my eyes for a moment or two, and greeted me with, "What's up, pops!?"

I felt an instant connection between us. Maybe it was just my imagination, but it felt like everyone in the visiting room seemed to be focused on us. Besides Haikem's birth, it was the most amazing experience I had ever felt. He hugged me and said, "Happy Father's Day."

I pulled my son close to me and pressed my face up against his, both our cheeks wet with tears. I told him, "Son, I apologize for failing to fill the long void you've must have felt these many years because of my absence."

In addition to that blessing, the weekend also included a surprising twist. As fate would have it, Haikem's half-brother's grandmother, Mary, was visiting her son at Solano that same weekend. Haikem and Mary sat beside each other on the shuttle bus, not knowing their relationship. They struck up a conversation, as strangers often do. Haikem told her that it was the first time that he would meet his dad, and he was very nervous.

Mary reassured him that things would be just fine. "Just relax. I'm sure that your dad is just as excited about meeting you." Mary couldn't help feeling something familiar about the young man and told him he looked like her grandson.

When Mary walked into the visiting room, I recognized her immediately. My son and I walked up to her, and we stood there holding hands trying to understand what was happening.

During my incarceration, I constantly prayed, asking Allah to reunite me with my family, and if it was His will and wisdom, to please bring my children together.

Months later, my family experienced another surprising reunion. I had sent Haikem photographs of his half-brothers, whom he had never met. While riding the light rail from home to school, Haikem noticed a kid waiting at the station

who looked like his older brother, Chris, in the photos. He got off the light rail, approached Chris, and tapped him on the shoulder. "Hey, man, I know you!"

Chris looked at Haikem, not recognizing him. "Man, you must be mistaken," Chris said. "It's no mistake. I'm your brother, Haikem. Our dad has sent me pictures of you." Chris later told me they instantly connected. Allah was answering my prayers.

With more than 130,000 people incarcerated in California, the relationships between imprisoned fathers and their children are strained, and sometimes shattered. But fatherhood does not stop for the incarcerated, and it is more than just biology. It is a lifetime commitment to being there, devoting your time and attention, and giving your love unconditionally.

My visit with Haikem was the best day ever. Never underestimate the power of your child's love. Even in a place like prison, there is always prayer that we can turn to hope.

Editor's note: D. Rasheed Smith is a San Quentin prisoner.

SPORTS

Baseball Players Ready for Season



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Nghiep "ke" Lam

San Quentin has two baseball teams—the Giants and the Athletics. Players from teams discussed their preparation for the up and coming season:

Christopher Deragon, Left Field, San Quentin Giants - "My approach to hitting is simple, I try to work the count in my favor, 3-1 and 2-1. That way I know the pitcher has to throw me a fastball. As for my off-season preparation, I do weighted legs as much as I can and run as many baseball related drills as time allows."

Michael Tyler, second base/catcher, San Quentin Giants - "I do the same I do every year, I think about the situation, what am I going to do if the ball is hit to me. I also stretch and exercise. I always try to maintain a positive attitude. This is just a game, and it shouldn't change me for the worse."

Dwight Kennedy, Center Field, San Quentin Giants - "My approach has to stay and be fundamentally sound. For baseball, there is a constant need for being mentally prepared. Especially having a new brand of players, the veterans have to set the right example

throughout the season, on and off the field. Lastly, I have to maintain a tremendous work ethic and attitude."

Nghiep "Ke" Lam, Shortstop, San Quentin Athletics - "My approach to the upcoming baseball season is watching games on TV and studying all the knowledge that was taught to me by my former coaches Earl Smith, Bobo, and Mr. T to name a few."

Ruben Harper, Catcher, San Quentin Athletics - "This is my first time catching and it's a new experience for me, which I'm looking forward to. As a catcher, you have to get certain signs from the coach and pitcher so you have to have a positive mindset. We're practicing situational baseball. You have to prepare for what to do if the ball is hit to you as an infielder or outfielder. As a catcher, and me starting a new catching position, I pretty much have to stay observant of my teammates in the field regarding letting them know how many outs it is and what to do with the ball if it's hit to them. My observance includes looking out for my teammates off the field as well."

Cleo Colman, Second base Athletics - "My approach is to stay focused and to get as many reps as I can. I take ground balls and throws to first and second, charging the ball. I get batting practice twice a week. The main thing is to have fun and live in the moment."

—Gary Scott

Warriors Lose Battle To the Sports Ministry

By Gary Scott
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Warriors basketball team's zone defense crumbled against the outside Sports Ministry basketball team, losing the game 92-78.

The Warriors started the fourth quarter down 65-58. After Richard "Mujahid" Munns knocked down two free throws, The Sports Ministry answered as Mike Juco made a fast break assist to Ben Ilegbodu.

After a Sports Ministry free throw, the Warriors returned as Munns buried a three pointer and Jhavonte Carr scored on a put back.

The Sports Ministry answered as Ilegbodu scored on a put back and Mark Ivy scored on a layup increasing their lead to 73-65.

Later in the fourth quarter, Ilegbodu drove to the basket for a layup, and then knocked down the free throw for a 76-68 lead.



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Stokes-Gulley taking a jump shot

Jahkeem Stokes-Gulley made many plays for the Warriors throughout the first three quarters. Late in the fourth quarter, he scored on a floater from the free throw line.

However, that's when Ilegbodu of the Sports Ministry exposed the Warriors zone defense. He scored on layup, knocked down a three pointer, made another layup and buried another three pointer respectively.

Stokes tried to carry the Warriors to a comeback by making two free throws, a layup and a put back, but it was too late for the Warriors. They could not make the necessary stops on defense to win the game.

Ilegbodu finished with a game high 30 points. "I wanted to close the game out and be aggressive to the end," he said after the game. "It's always great coming out here. It's definitely fun"

Stokes-Gulley of the Warriors finished with a team high 19 points. Said Stokes-Gulley, "My mind-set was tough defense, smart offense, and team work. Coach Wright told me to go 'head, play my game, and play as a team. Although we lost, we played our game."

Intramural Basketball Held First Annual All-Star Game

San Quentin's Intramural Basketball League held its first annual All Star game last month.

Rebounding made the difference in the game as West dominated East, defeating them by a score of 93-77.

Mid-way through the second half of the game, the East attempted to overcome a 63-47 deficit. James Burton made a fast break lay-up, Daniel Wright hit a jumper, and Charles Pete made an assist to Burton. After the West made two free throws, Wright completed a three-point play and Billy Wilson made a lay-up for the East to draw within seven points.

Both teams began to trade baskets, as Kittrell Blade completed an assist to Paul Davidson for the West and Wilson hit a jump shot for the East.

Pete made an assist to Burton to cut the East deficit to 69-64.

Later, the West proceeded to pull away as Davidson hit Blade on an assist and then Blade returned to complete a three-point play after a foul call on a floater. Then, Dozier finished a coast-to-coast layup and Blade made a strong move for a lay-up. Mike Ware hit K. Dozier on an assist to increase the West lead to 10.

The West never looked back as they went on to finish five lay-ups. Most of their success came off offensive rebounds as they dominated the boards.

Blade Kittrell, J. Robinson, and K. Dozier each had double-digit rebounds, contributing to the West's victory.

Blade finished as the most valuable player of the All Star

Game, scoring 28 points along with 16 rebounds.

"In the game, I had to be focus," Blade commented. "We came out to have fun for the first half, but the second half we was going for the win. I know I had to play my role and play it well. It was easy to run the floor with my teammates and it made it easier for me."

Notes:

Ishmael Freelon won the free throw contest, making nine out of 10.

Allen Branch, of the San Quentin Kings basketball team, won the three-point contest, making seven out of 12.

Travis Adams won the slam-dunk contest by completing a lob and a strong jam.

—Gary Scott

Member of Thousand Mile Club Discusses the Discipline of Running

By Miguel Quezada
Journalism Guild Writer

Angel Gutierrez of the San Quentin Thousand-Mile Club discussed being a member of the Thousand-Mile Club.

When and why did you begin running?

I started running in prison. I wanted to lose weight so I could be physically healthy and in the best shape possible. Running is the key in my goal of being fit.

What life skills have you gained from running?

I am more disciplined, not only in running but also in all

that I work to accomplish. I have a greater sense of responsibility that will help me succeed in life. Importantly, running has given me the ability to better cope with stress.

As an athlete, what running events do you compete in?

So far, I have competed in the half mile, mile, and three mile events.

Which event would you say is your strong suit?

I am a long distance runner, so my performance is a lot stronger on longer runs. I excel in the three-mile competition.

You run with the San Quentin Thousand-Mile Club. Are members required to run and eventually complete that many miles?

For many members that is a yearlong goal that they do achieve, but it is not required. The goal is to bring people together in camaraderie no matter who you are and become healthier together.

When and where does the club train?

We train on the lower-yard, mostly on Monday nights at 6 p.m.

If someone wants to run with the club, must they first be a member?

No. Anyone interested can show up to have fun and do his best. Throughout the week, club members run by themselves or others members, after or before work and school. Anyone can join in at his leisure.

There will be a half marathon in August and a marathon in November. What training do you do for such events?

Training is intense. It involves long distance running, speed running, and interval training for four to five days a week with the rest periods. Recovery is very important to allow time to heal and avoid injury.

What advice can you offer to anyone who is considering running as a hobby or joining the San Quentin Thousand-Mile Club?

Running is not just about competition. Give the club a try and if you like it, stick to it. You may find joy and new friends.

San Quentin Alumnus On Life After Prison

Kevin "Big Sticks" Hagan paroled to Los Angeles on April 14, 2011 after spending 28 years in prison, the last 16 of which were at San Quentin. Now he divides his time between the California Youth Authority, where he's a teacher and mentor for incarcerated youth, and the security team at GBK productions, where he has worked at events like the Academy Awards, the American Music awards, the Golden Globe Awards, the NAACP Image Awards, and the Kids Choice Awards.

How are you staying on the right track?

By remembering where I came from, and in knowing that those I left behind are counting on me to represent to the fullest. I hope to pave a way for them by leading by example.

My family has been so supportive and loving. My job is to help raise the little ones coming up. I love doing it and sharing quality time with them. I have a very special lady in my life, Lesia, and she's just everything I was looking for in a woman. I am blessed to have a 5 year old grandson that keeps me on

my toes and has become a very big force in my life, as I have his.

What are the most difficult aspects of life on the outside? How do you work through them?

The most difficult aspect of life is how rude and inconsiderate people are out here, and how everyone is so impersonal. I also had to learn not to take it personally. I had to take a good look at myself and reevaluate the way I viewed things and shed that

"Don't let your situation take your spirit, nor change the unique individuals that you are"

prison mentality. I work through these times by using many of the philosophies that I learned in the self-help groups that I was able to utilize at "The Q". I don't let much get me down, because the big picture is freedom and being out here with family.

What were some of the most valuable programs you participated in at San Quentin?

The programs that really made an impact on me were the SQUIRES program, The Catholic Church, IMPACT, VOEG, The VVGSQ, Brothers Keeper's, The Arts In Corrections. I gained a lot of insight about the triggers that made me think the way I did before I committed my offense. And of course putting myself in the shoes of those whom I have hurt — empathy is the word I am looking for.

Were there any turning points during your time at San Quentin?

One turning point for me was watching several of my friends pass away in there, and saying to myself that when my time comes, I would like to pass at home with my family. The other turning point for me was returning to Jesus Christ.

Any messages for the men still inside?

I love all of you guys. Don't think for one minute that I have forgotten you. I keep you in my prayers and in my heart



Official Photo

Kevin Hagan at home

as I walk this walk and not just talk. You guys are with me every step of the way. As we say, before you can help anyone else, you have to have yourself straight. The only thing that stops us is ourselves, and every one of you has the ability and know how to make things work for you. I am very proud of all of you, and waiting for the day when

we can go have lunch. Don't let your situation take your spirit, nor change the unique individuals that you are. Always see yourselves outside of those walls, and keep it one hundred percent with you.

— Lizzie Buchen, San Quentin News adviser

Uncertainty Surrounding San Quentin Hobby Craft

By A. Kevin Valvardi
Journalism Guild Writer

San Quentin prisoners are appealing new restrictions on the popular in-cell hobby program. The appeal was denied by the Warden and is being appealed to Sacramento.

The curbs were imposed on Mainline inmates effective in January by former Acting Warden Michael Martel. The changes effectively eliminated leatherwork, woodwork, stained glass, beading, jewelry and paper craft. It permits pen and pencil drawing, charcoal/pastel sketching, and watercolor painting.

The current acting warden, Kevin Chappell, was asked about his position on in-cell hobby during a recent Men's Advisory Council meeting. He said, "As long as it does not cost the state any money or is a security issue, I see no problem."

A memorandum from San Quentin Hobby Manager Andre Williams to all handicraft Mainline inmates informed them that a new allowable property list had been issued. The memorandum instructed them to turn in all no-longer-allowed tools and reduce their handicraft materials to the allowable limits, in order to avoid being in violation and



Official Photo

Prisoners working in the hobby craft building

having their hobby privileges suspended.

Williams is the hobby manager for Condemned Row, which is not subject to the changes made to Mainline programming, according to the Hobby Operational Procedure.

According to Williams, who has also taken over the responsibilities for the Mainline in-cell and in-shop program, the main issue regarding the changes is the number of hobby managers at the prison has dropped from three to one.

Williams explains that there are almost 200 inmates currently enrolled in the in-cell program but only 46 positions for the in-shop program.

"I've had maybe two to three in the past year or two," stated Williams, when asked how often positions become available for the in-shop program.

Some of the Mainline in-cell hobby inmates decried these changes as "discouraging" and "ridiculous."

Jasper Alford, a leatherwork and beading craftsman, said "not being able to have the right tools in my cell to work

on things, like crimp pliers, lacing pliers, and things like that" make it impossible to do his work.

"It's pretty ridiculous," complained Valentine, another participant who works on plastic and paper models. "The only thing we really use to make models is tweezers; children's scissors—the rounded, blunt kid's scissors—sandpaper; and non-toxic, non-flammable model glue."

"These things you make are all time consuming and, if you work (as at prison job), you can't always make it to the

shop," states Richard Honea, a hobby participant who's been in the in-cell program about 19 years. "The hobby manager can't always be here 24 hours a day. He has a life of his own."

"I've never had any problems," Williams said when questioned about whether there have been any safety or security-related problems or issues with the Mainline in-cell hobby program.

Regarding the hobby program in general, Williams said, "I think it's a great thing. I think there's nothing like it. It's one of the few things a person can do to stimulate their mind on the creative side. You're giving them a skill that's a gold mine out there... people still want it."

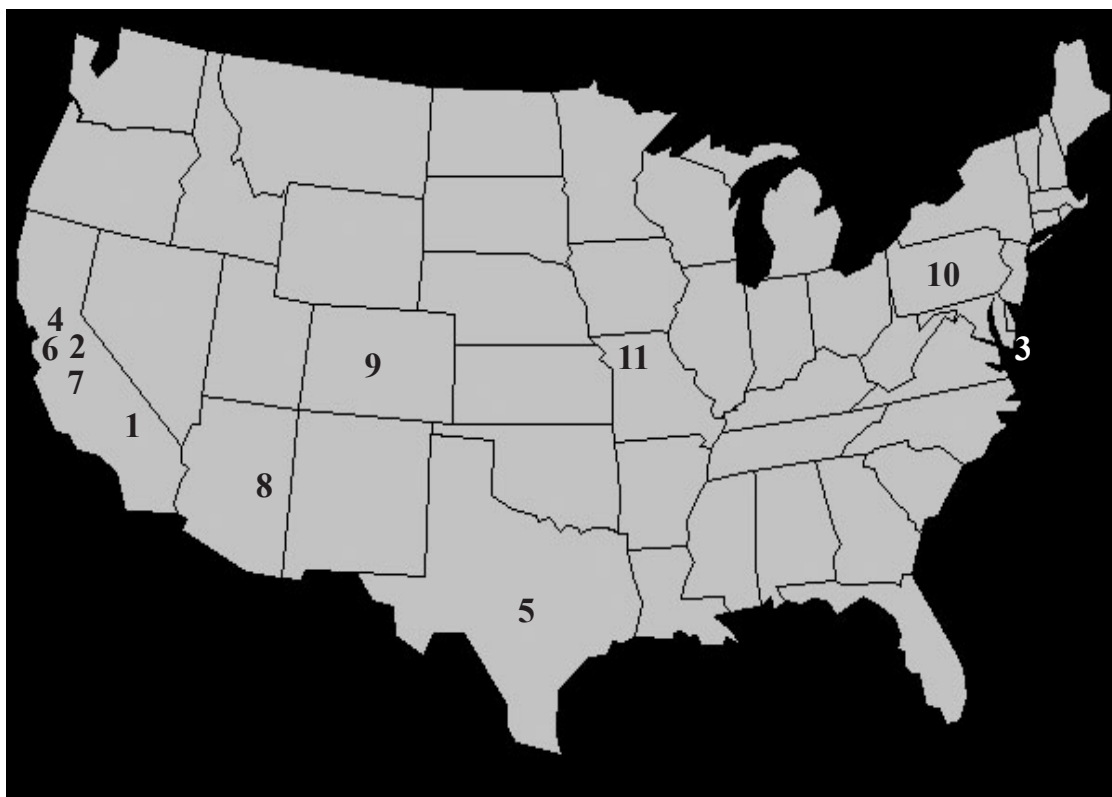
Research shows that inmates actively engaged in positive hobby activities are less likely to have serious disciplinary problems.



Official Photo

Prisoner Nick Garcia building wooden boxes

News Briefs



1. LOS ANGELES — A former top college football prospect was cleared of rape charges after his accuser said that she lied and the conversation was recorded. Brian Banks had served five years in prison after pleading no contest to one count of forcible rape and spent five years behind bars. Banks spent nearly five years as a registered sex offender before a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge cleared his name. Banks is now trying out for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks.

2. SACRAMENTO — County jails showed a slight increase during the last quarter of 2011. The jail population went from 71,293 to 72,132. Maximum-security detainees rose from 22,478 to 23,339, according to corrections authorities.

3. WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that California's use of its "three strikes" law to increase prison sentences for defendants who had convictions as juveniles is legal. *The case is Staunton vs. California, 11-8851.*

4. SAN FRANCISCO — Carl Wade was granted a compassionate release from prison because he is confined to a wheelchair, needs oxygen to breathe, and is terminally ill.

After prison officials and the parole board granted his release, a Lake County judge disagreed and said Wade belongs in prison for his 1986 murder. The state appeals court overruled the Lake County judge and ordered Wade's release.

5. AUSTIN, TX — State officials were ordered to pay about \$2 million to Billy Frederick Allen, who spent 26 years on a murder conviction that was overturned.

6. SAN QUENTIN — A Death Row prisoner committed suicide in late May, prison officials report. James Lee Crummell, 68, was found hanging in his cell at San Quentin State Prison.

7. SACRAMENTO — A federal judge rejected the state's request to retake control of the prison system's medical delivery system. Judge Thelton Henderson ruled the state did not show they are ready to retake control of the system.

8. FLORENCE, AZ — At least seven prisoners died from drug overdoses in the past two years. State officials classified the deaths as suicides, according to *The Republic*.

9. FLORENCE, CO — After spending more than six years in one of the most isolated prisons in the United States,

Jose Martin Vega was found hanging in his cell, according to *The Atlantic*. Vega had a long history of psychiatric problems, prison officials told Fremont County Deputy Coroner Carlette Brocius. The prison's mental health practices and policies are now subjects of a new federal lawsuit.

10. PENNSYLVANIA — With state prison spending becoming the state's fastest-growing expense,

Gov. Tom Corbett congratulated a think-tank for providing ways that the state could focus on rehabilitation, efficiencies in the system and reinvesting money in public safety to bring down prison costs, reported Donald Gilliland in the *Patriot-News*. "The proposals would send millions to counties for improved policing and probation at the local level, and offer millions more to counties that reduce the number of people they send to prison with less than one year to serve."

11. KANSAS CITY, MO — A shortage of the state's death-penalty drug was resolved when they decided to use a single drug instead of the three-drug method to implement capital punishment. The drug, propofol, is the same one that killed Michael Jackson.

Economy Benefits From Prison Labor

By San Quentin News Staff

If California's prisoners did not make many of the goods used by the state's agencies, its economy would be negatively affected.

A 2010 report said sales would decline \$295.5 million, state household income would decline \$75.6 million, and 1,170.5 jobs would be lost statewide.

The California Prison Industry Authority employs about 619 free persons and about 6,010 inmates in its adult correctional institutions. They fabricate office furniture, mattresses and bedding, clothes, license plates and other items, used by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the public universities. Some facilities also have dairy and poultry farms.

CALPIA sales and in-state expenditures for fiscal year 2008-09 totaled \$282.8 million. The total impact of CALPIA activities on the economy of the state of California was \$497.1 million in sales, total household income impact \$132.7 million, and total impact of 2,394 jobs.

Inmates work approximately 30 to 35 hours a week and receive wages of 35 cents to 95 cents per hour. CALPIA inmates contribute up to 55 percent of their wages to court-ordered restitution and fees. These contributions help crime victims and reduce court processing costs.

The report issued by the University of Nevada, Reno is called *The Economic Impact of the California Prison Industry Authority on the California Economy for FY 2008/09*.

Oversight Recommended For Prison Medical Care

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

Creating an independent oversight program and controlling costs should be long-term goals for prisoner medical care, the independent Legislative Analyst Office advised state lawmakers in an April report.

"We recommend that the Legislature create an independent board to provide oversight and evaluation of the inmate medical care program to ensure that the quality of care does not deteriorate over time. We further recommend that the state take steps to address current operational inefficiencies and establish a pilot project to contract for medical care services to bring state expenditures to a more sustainable level," the agency stated.

In 2006, a federal judge placed the California prison medical department under receivership because of it failed to deliver

constitutional medical care to its inmates. Since that time, the receiver has increased the quality of inmate medical care but also increased state expenditures.

The LAO said the increased cost of the inmate medical care program resulted from not consistently delivering the appropriate level of care, not taking advantage of audio and video technology that could link patients to outside specialists, and an inefficient management structure.

In January 2012, federal judges found substantial progress towards achieving a constitutional level of medical care for prison inmates. But they ruled more improvements are needed.

The court ordered prison administrators, the receiver, and attorneys representing prison inmates to jointly develop a plan for transitioning the responsibility for managing inmate medical care back to the state.

Appeals Court Ruling Says Jury Must Decide Strikes

By Richard Richardson
Graphics Editor

A recent court ruling gives renewed hope to prisoners sentenced under the nation's harshest Three Strikes law.

The May 3 ruling overturned James Calloway's 2001 sentence of 25 years to life for failing to comply with California's Sex Offender Registration Act — his third strike.

Calloway appealed, arguing that a Superior Court judge had erred in classifying his 1993 assault as a strike. The judge had relied on transcripts and records to determine that the assault inflicted great bodily

injury upon his victim, but a recent federal decision ruled that a judge must rely on facts found by the jury.

The decision, which reversed Calloway's second strike, may have implications for a number of California's prisoners. CDCR records show that more than 5,858 second strikers and 1,091 third strikers have strikes for assault.

Recently, a San Quentin inmate name LaQuan Hayes was sent back to court under a similar issue that Calloway found his relief under.

(see February 2012 issue of *The San Quentin News*).

Over 2,000 Falsely Convicted of Crimes

By San Quentin News Staff

In the past 23 years, more than 2,000 people were falsely convicted of a serious crime and exonerated, a newly compiled database revealed.

The University of Michigan Law School and the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern University School of Law compiled the information and found nine out of 10 of the exonerations were men and half were African-Americans, reported the *Associated Press*.

About 50 percent of the 873 exonerations were homicide

cases, including 101 death sentences. More than one-third of the cases were sexual assaults, the report discovered.

In half of the 873 exonerations studied in detail, the most common factor leading to false convictions was perjured testimony or false accusations. Forty-three percent of the cases involved mistaken eyewitness identification, and 24 percent of the cases involved false or misleading forensic evidence.

In two out of three homicides, perjury or false accusation was the most common factor leading to false convictions.

In four out of five sexual assaults, mistaken eyewitness identification was the leading cause of false convictions.

DNA evidence led to exoneration in nearly one-third of the homicides and in nearly two-thirds of the sexual assaults.

The registry excludes at least 1,170 other defendants whose convictions were thrown out beginning in 1995 when 13 police scandals were uncovered nationwide. In all the cases, "police officers fabricated crimes, usually by planting drugs or guns on innocent defendants," the report finds.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Complete This Puzzle And Win a Prize!

In the Yolas family, every boy has as many brothers as sisters, and every girl has twice as many brothers as sisters. How many siblings are there in the Yolas family? How many girls are there? How many boys?



The answer to last months puzzle is 300, it is the only number that is not a perfect square.

Congratulations to: Binh Vo and Anthony Gallo for winning last months puzzle.

Congratulations to: Kevin Alexander, Bernie Castro, Stephen Liebb, Timothy Long, William Robinson, Chris Schuhmacher, Mark Tedeschi, Charlie Thao, and Dave Westerfield for correctly answering the puzzle. Last months winners were drawn from a hat.

Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. Prizes will be given to the first two inmates who respond via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department.

If there are multiple correct answers, the winners will be picked by drawing two of the winning answers from a hat.

First Place: San Quentin Fitness Gray Ball Cap

Second Place: 4 Granola Bars

Prizes will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

The answer and winner's names will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

POETRY

Unchain

By Keung Vanh

*innocents at play, until life at stake
death came knocking, and almost collected
only to be saved, by a black silhouette
given a new life, by the two face gavel
a new life, too unworthy
for a life taken, and a life given
a token is certain, but not concrete
for no blood on my hands, but my shoulders cakes of
crimson paint
years I intend to give, years I'm willing to offer
for wrinkles shall be pure, for death shall be pleasant*

JULY EVENTS

July 1st
S.Q.U.I.R.E.S food sale

July 4
H-Unit
Tournaments

July 7-8th
Avon walk for breast cancer

July 15th, 1:30 - 3:00
Last Mile orientation (Prot. Chapel)

July 29th
S.Q. Arts food sale

Snippets

First to speak Egyptian in her family, Cleopatra spoke nine different languages and was very educated.

Arkansas Black Hall of Fame inducted the first white person on October 17, 2002, President Bill Clinton.

Two days before Valentine's, on February 12, 2004, Mattel announced that Barbie and Ken had broken up. Quoting the famous line, "It's not you; it's me."

Honored in 1938, Adolf Hitler was voted Man of the Year by *Time Magazine*.

Every minute, 750 ml of blood pumps through the human brain.

Rats are lactose intolerant and do not like cheese. They can also live just as long as camels without water, and sometimes even longer.

Steven Seagal, Angelina Jolie, Richard Gere, Tina Turner, and Tiger Woods are all Buddhists.

David Livingstone died in Africa in 1873 of malaria and dysentery. His heart was buried under a Mvula tree at Chitambo and his body at Westminster Abbey in London.

Acadia was the name the French gave Canada and Maine after they claimed it in 1498.

Young unmarried women in Japan wear long-sleeved kimonos, called "furisode." The length of a woman's sleeve on their kimono can indicate their marital status. Older and married woman usually wear a short-sleeved kimono.

Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



202 HIGH-PLAYING JOBS YOU CAN LAND WITHOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE (By Jason R. Rich) *Over-hyped title aside, it does explain this easy-to-follow guide to possible jobs.*



THE PRINCE (By Niccolo Machiavelli) *Classic work on how to gain and hold power for the welfare of the state.*



THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS (By C. S. Lewis) *Master devil Screwtape mentors junior devil wormwood in the art of temptation.*



GENGHIS--BIRTH OF AN EMPIRE (By Conn Iggulden) *Temujin's (Genghis Khan) colorful adventures before his full-time empire-building phase.*



WATERSHIP DOWN (By Richard Adams) *A desperate warren of rabbits flee their crumbling community for a new home in this imaginative tale of survival and rabbitocracy.*

RATINGS:

Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one:

Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.



Featured artwork of Chad Tobias

*He who has
a thousand Friends
has not a Friend to spare,
and he who has
one enemy
will meet him everywhere.*

Ali ibn - Abi - Talib

Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The men on the mainline and outside volunteers have a variety of experiences with fatherhood. "Asked On The Line" asked 46 mainliners and six outside volunteers: Did you grow up with a dad? If not, did you have a father figure? Are you a parent? What

characteristic do you love about your dad or what characteristic should every good father have?

Thirty, or about 65 percent, of the men in blue grew up with their fathers. All six of the outside volunteers grew up with their fathers. Most of those that did not grow up with a dad looked up to uncles,

grandfathers, coaches, neighbors, and even their friends' dads as father figures.

Twenty-eight or about 61 percent of mainliners interviewed have children. Only two of the six volunteers interviewed have kids. The majority of men in blue have daughters — about 57 percent of those who were interviewed.

'Abolishing Death Penalty Could Save State Millions'

By San Quentin News staff

Supporters of a ban on capital punishment say it would save at least \$139 million a year, the equivalent of hiring 2,500 new teachers or hiring 2,250 new California Highway Patrol officers.

That is one of the conclusions in a new report by the American Civil Liberties Union, entitled *The Hidden Death Tax: The Secret Costs of Seeking Executions in California*. The study finds capital punishment generates a host of unavoidable costs.

Mandatory appeals and legal fees take up much of the expenditures; however, the largest expenditure is the annual cost associated with housing more than 720 condemned men and women, according to the report.

Death penalty trials cost at least \$1.1 million more than non-death penalty trials, the report says. California counties may spend at least \$22 million more per year seeking execution than other prosecutorial options, according to the report.

The report also emphasizes that more than 125 innocent peo-

ple have been freed from Death Row in the U.S. since 1973.

"Executing all of the people currently on Death Row or waiting for them to die naturally — which will happen first — will cost California an estimated \$4 billion more than if all of the people on Death Row were sentenced to die of disease, injury or old age," the report says.

California voters will decide in November whether to eliminate state executions and substitute life imprisonment without the possibility of parole as the state's harshest punishment.

'Breaking Barriers' Self-Help Group Graduates First Class

By San Quentin News Staff

The inaugural class of a new self-help program in San Quentin celebrated how it changed the way the students think, so they could change the way they live.

"You made a conscious choice to change."

Breaking Barriers shows participants the connection between distorted beliefs, negative behavior and incarceration.

"You made a conscious choice to change," said Nathan Rapp, a representative from the office of state Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley.

"The decisions you make in the moment will help shape things going on into the future."

Chrisfino Kenyatta Leal, a peer educator, provided participants with a curriculum that focused on self-examination as a means to change the behavioral patterns that led them to prison.

Also supporting the program were peer educators Alfonso Carranza and Ed Smith, plus free staff intervention specialists Naomi Prochovnick and Abayomi Bramem.

"You've invested in yourself and you said you can do this," said Carol Burton, executive director of Centerforce, which sponsors the program. "However, your re-

sponsibility goes beyond today. I'm looking forward to seeing you change the world."

The event concluded with some of the graduates giving testimonies to the effectiveness of the program in their lives. Lorenzo Robinson told the class that his main problem was reacting too quickly to other people's actions. He said Breaking Barriers taught him, "No one has control over you, unless you give it to them."

"I felt like a broken down car, and you guys gave me the tools to fix myself," said Pete Thao. "Now, I know that I have to perform regular maintenance on myself to stay on the right track."

Graduates received a certificate that will be documented in their prison record and a bracelet reading "I'm Breaking Barriers."

We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is the only prisoner-produced newspaper in the California prison system and one of the few in the world. Prisoners do the reporting and editing work inside the prison, but they need help paying to have the paper printed.

From its founding in 1940 through 2009 the paper was printed by prisoners in the print shop. But in 2010 the print shop was closed due to statewide cost cutting measures.

Since then the paper has been printed at Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. The cost has been covered by private donations through a non-profit established for that purpose, the Prison Media Project.

Those donations are shrinking and if the paper is to continue, new support is needed. Please go to our website, www.sanquentinnews.com, to see how you can become a supporter. You get a tax deduction...plus a year's worth of copies of the newspaper mailed to you.

Many thanks, San Quentin News Staff and Advisers.

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles.

All submissions become property of the San Quentin News.

Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles may 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 art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.

- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

Send Submissions to:
CSP - San Quentin
Education Dept. / SQ News
San Quentin, CA 94964
(No street address required)

San Quentin News

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BEHIND THE SCENES

The San Quentin News is written, edited and produced by prisoners incarcerated at San Quentin State Prison. The paper would not be possible without the assistance of its advisers, who are professional journalists with over 100 years of combined experience. A special thanks goes to Marin Sun Printing in San Rafael. These public-spirited groups and individuals have defrayed the cost of printing this issue:

Marin Community Foundation
Pastor Melissa Scott
The Annenberg Foundation
RESIST Foundation

Alliance for Change

Anonymous

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