

San Quentin News

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Photo By Ernest Woods

Registered Dental Assistant Shawnett demonstrates proper brushing techniques

Ninth Annual Health Fair

By San Quentin News Staff

Hundreds of inmates flooded the Lower Yard and gym for the ninth annual San Quentin TRUST Health Fair, lining up to learn how to live healthy lives in prison.

Inmates received testing for blood pressure and cholesterol,

education on diabetes and nutrition, chiropractic services, and classes in Tai Chi, yoga and Qi Gong.

"The Health Fair began with just ten volunteers; today there are a hundred and eighty-three," said Dr. Arnold Chavez, Ed.D., an Alameda County Public Health Department official.

The event was sponsored by the inmate self-help activity group Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training (TRUST). Major contributions were provided by Elena Tootell, the prison's chief medical offi-

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Literacy Program Celebrates 13 Successful Years at S.Q.



Photo By Lt. Sam Robinson

Graduates receiving their certificates

By San Quentin News Staff

Community volunteers and prison educators shared hamburgers and pizza with inmates to celebrate a literacy program's 13th annual Student Acknowledgment Night.

"In order to connect and be an effective member of the community, education is paramount," said Tom Bolema, San Quentin literacy coordinator and chief

sponsor of a literacy program called Project REACH (Reaching Education Achievement and Change with Help). "Getting a GED is a meaningful accomplishment, and the gateway to a higher education."

About 25 prisoners are enrolled in the program, which Bolema took over two years ago when its sponsor, Debra Shelton, retired. She attended the event to offer her continued support.

The program was founded in 1999 when Jane Curtis collaborated with San Quentin inmates with high school diplomas or GED certificates who wanted to help other inmates prepare for GED certificates. New inmate tutors are trained by Madeleine Provost of Marin Literacy Library.

Supplemental classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays nights, led by community volunteers Jacqueline Nelson, Kony Kim, Nicole Lindehl, Yvette Copper, June Fesler and Carly Stair.

"The students are incredibly dedicated," said math instructor Sue Pixley. "A lot of students pass the GED test, and then return as tutors to help others improve themselves."

"I was fortunate enough to go through PUP (Prison University Project). and that experience changed by life," said program Chairman Bobby D. Evans Jr. "Now Project REACH has given me a way of giving back,"

See *Project* on Page 4

Judge Rejects Ending Medical Receivership

John Eagan
Senior Adviser

The federal judge who ordered major improvement in California prison medical care has refused to end the receivership he imposed in 2006.

"Evidence of progress made under the direction and control of the receiver does not constitute evidence of [the state's] own will, capacity, and leadership to maintain a constitutionally adequate system of inmate medical care," U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson wrote in a Sept. 5 decision.

He also wrote that state officials have "not always cooperated with, and have sometimes actively sought to block, the receiver's efforts."

Henderson said he'll require tougher reviews than the state wanted before he would discontinue the receivership.

The state originally asked Henderson to end the receivership in 30 days. Henderson rejected that idea and the most recent request to dissolve it in six months.

See *Prison* on Page 4

Building Named In Honor of Lewis



Photo courtesy Margie Lewis

The David Lewis community re-entry building

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

David Lewis spent many years turning his life around, and helping other convicts and ex-cons get their lives on track. The East Palo Alto City Council honored him by naming a social service building The David Lewis Reporting Center.

The 54-year-old father of four was murdered in 2011, years after winning parole from San Quentin.

Lewis is best known for his fight against substance abuse when he co-founded Free at Last in East Palo Alto. His role with Free at Last gave him recogni-

See *Palo Alto* on Page 4

Changes To Juvenile LWOP

The California Legislature has approved a bill giving prisoners sentenced as juveniles to life without parole a chance to one day be released.

Gov. Jerry Brown has not indicated whether he will sign or veto the bill.

The measure, SB 9, would allow such prisoners who have served at least 15 years to ask a

judge to reduce their sentence to 25 years-to-life if the inmate has shown remorse and is working toward rehabilitation.

Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, says his bill recognizes that young people do foolish things but change as they age. Sen. Joel Anderson, R-La Mesa, called the bill "absolutely outrageous."

Insufficient Funding Leads to Slow Death Penalty Appeals

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

Inadequate funding of capital defense attorneys has drastically slowed the appeals process in some states. The result: overflowing Death Row populations, including California's, reports show.

A 2008 report evaluating California's death penalty found "to achieve the goals of justice, fairness and accuracy in the administration of the death penalty in California, and reduce delays at least to the national average, there is urgent need to increase the funding at every level: trials, direct appeals and habeas corpus review."

A commission that included Gov. Jerry Brown, then attorney general produced the report.

In Kentucky, capital defenders, investigators, and mitigation specialists are "routinely overworked and underpaid, carrying caseloads ranging from 12 to 25 capital cases at any given time," according to a report in The Augusta Chronicle.

Kentucky's capital defenders complain that heavy death penalty caseloads caused 50 of the 78 cases to be overturned on appeal. Public Advocate Ed Monahan said he believes the reason is defenders had inadequate time to complete their cases before trial.

The American Bar Association says a capital attorney can handle a maximum of four death penalty cases at a time. However, in Georgia, court papers show that defenders often

handle more than six. "Current funding levels in Georgia, capital trials have resulted in seven death penalty verdicts out of 125 cases since 2005," according to the Augusta Chronicle. In five cases, the district attorney withdrew death notice, and in one case, a client died in custody. There remain 51 cases pending in Georgia, the report said.

Pennsylvania has twice the Death Row population as Georgia. There, capital defenders are paid based on a 15-year-old fee schedule, which a Philadelphia judge recently ruled was "woefully inadequate."

"I think ultimately, there's no such thing as death penalty on the cheap," said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center.



Photo By Tom Bolema

The Green Life environmental education group

Prisoner Activists Adopt a Green Life

By San Quentin News Staff

A group of San Quentin prisoners is learning how to protect and preserve the environment.

"They are clear that in order to do this, they need to understand the environmental implications of their actions and learn viable alternatives," said the program's chief sponsor, Angela Sevin. "They, their families, and members of our communities all depend on the skills they will gain through this project."

Twice a week Sevin ventures inside San Quentin State Prison to help organize about 25 inmates in the eco-literacy program.

The idea came from an April 2009 San Quentin lecture by environmental activist and leading voice for a green economy, Van Jones.

Jones' lecture was a catalyst to form The Green Life program at San Quentin.

The program is seeking ways to fix some of earth's toughest

environmental problems, says Sevin.

Sevin works with a worldwide environmental expert, Pandora Thomas, along with inmate facilitators to teach environmental sustainability and self-sufficiency to the program's participants.

Inmates share examples about how to integrate sustainable practices into their lives and the lives of their loved ones. Inmates also develop individual projects — including the greening of San Quentin by supporting prison's recycling program, and performing a water and food audit.

The program's mission works as "a collaboration of solutionaries from inside and outside communities that inspires and awakens our connection to the earth and each other, by contributing to individual, community and global transformations."

The Green Life is scheduled to graduate its first class in November. It is also planning to stage a Green Fair.

State Losing Firefighting Resources

INMATE FIREFIGHTERS SENT TO COUNTY LOCK-UPS

By N. T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

The state is about to lose a very valuable and crucial weapon in the fight against wildfires, prison officials warn: inmate firefighters.

Within the next year, the number of state prison inmates that are available to battle wildfires will be reduced dramatically, various news media report, including the San Francisco Chronicle.

This drop-off is the result of Gov. Jerry Brown's realignment plan, which shifts some of the responsibility for housing some prisoners from state prisons to county jails. The shift impacts low-level offenders, who make up the bulk of inmate firefighter crews.

FIRST RESPONDERS

Inmate firefighter crews are, oftentimes, some of the first responders when a wildfire erupts, state fire officials say. These inmates are volunteers who are specially trained to perform essential firefighting duties, such as create fire containment lines.

Presently, there are approximately 4,000 inmates who have received this training, but officials with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) said they expect to lose approximately 1,500 of those inmates

by June 2013, since more inmates will remain in county jails instead of being sent to state prison.

Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, recognizes the value of these men and women. "They're able to provide a large workforce," he said in a Chronicle interview. "Oftentimes, we have just as many, if not more, inmate firefighters on the fire line than regular fire crews."

INACCESSIBLE

Those inmate firefighters have been an important element in battling several recent large-scale fires throughout the state. Inmate firefighters were instrumental in containing the Robbers Fire, which burned 2,650 acres of steep terrain in the American River Canyon, Berlant said. The fire was inaccessible to bulldozers and using fire-retardant chemicals was not an option since they could runoff into Folsom Lake, part of the California water system.

Berlant added: Most of the work creating fire-lines was done by over 800 inmates using chain saws and hand tools. The fire forced many residences to evacuate and endangered 170 homes. But, because of the inmate firefighters' efforts, only one house and four outbuildings were destroyed. More than 2,500 inmates fought fires in

several other California counties, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Lake, Mendocino and Napa.

State officials are currently negotiating with county sheriffs to have counties pay the state to house its inmates in CDCR fire camps and still enable them to perform this vital function. However, according to Dana Simas, spokeswoman for CDCR, the discussions have not resulted in an agreement as of the end of August. There are 42 conservation fire camps throughout the state, allowing inmates to respond quickly to an emergency.

OTHER DUTIES

Inmates also handle other duties when not fighting fires, such as clearing brush and vegetation, and performing community service projects, such as restoring historic structures and upkeep of local parks.

The point of contention between the counties and CDCR is the amount CDCR wants sheriffs to pay in order to house the inmates. Nevada County Sheriff Keith Royal said state officials and county sheriffs are negotiating a deal where the counties pay the state \$46 per person to house inmates in the camps. However, Royal, who is the president of the California State Sheriffs' Association, doubts many of his counterparts will opt into the program.

ed two cases where men were convicted based on faulty hair sample tests by the FBI lab.

The Innocence Project, an advocacy group that works to exonerate wrongly convicted persons, will provide an independent, third-party oversight of the review. National

Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers will also assist in the review.

The effort is "a step in the right direction," said Michael R. Bromwich, a former Justice Department inspector general, quoted in an AP report.

Campaign to Stop Transfers Sparks Plea to State Leaders

Opposition has surfaced to transferring most of the prisoners in a popular program at California State Prison at Lancaster.

More than three-quarters of the men who partake in the Honor Program/Progressing Programming Facility at Lancaster are being shipped away to other less well-functioning prisons, according to the report.

The program was created in 2000 by prisoners and non-custody staff with the desire to lower violence, crime, racism, and drug use, according to a report issued in 2007.

Hundreds of friends and family members of the men have launched a campaign to save the program in the only state prison in LA County. A petition opposing the transfers has been

sent to Gov. Jerry Brown, legislators, policymakers and top prison administrator Matthew Cate, the report says.

Friends and families are reported as saying these transfers are imposing needless hardships. Furthermore, critics say they waste money. Transfers jeopardize the stability of a program that should be the template for future corrections in California, critics say. The transfers will result in the collapse of the only fully functioning maximum security prison in a dysfunctional prison system, the report said.

To view the documents visit www.prisonhonorprogram.org. Interested persons can send emails to prisonerprogram@hotmail.com.

—Charles David Henry

Faulty Lab Testing Spurs Review of Convictions

By A. Kevin Valvardi
Journalism Guild Writer

Federal officials are reviewing convictions based on potentially flawed hair sample lab analysis.

The concern surfaced when The Washington Post report-

Actors Relate Personal Stories in Famed Hamlet Play

By Jessica Floum
Marin Independent Journal

The Hebrew prayer sung by Julian Glenn Padgett rang through the auditorium just inside San Quentin State Prison’s gates. It opened Padgett’s performance that included songs such as “My Girl” by The Temptations, sung to a swaying crowd, and a performance in which he told his childhood memories to a tearful audience.

At age 5, Padgett’s mother enrolled him in ballet. At 7, he shot a gun at his stepfather after watching him beat his mother unconscious. At 41, Padgett sang to his dying mother by telephone from within prison walls after she informed him of his sister’s sudden death.

Padgett, 48, is serving 32 years to life at San Quentin State Prison on charges of arson, burglary, car theft and first-degree murder.

He was among 10 San Quentin inmates who brought some 200 people — fellow inmates and audience members from outside the prison — to laughter and tears Sept. 7 when they performed stories about their past in “Parallel Play: Original Theater Inspired by Hamlet.” Themes included love, betrayal, revenge and abandonment, feelings that resonated with the prisoners and audience members alike.

Here are some quotes from the actors and audience:

LESLIE CURRIER, assistant managing director of Marin County Shakespeare Co.—“All of the men acted in Hamlet earlier this year. The parallel play is autobiographical stories written by the actors in Hamlet, which is part of the S.Q. Shakespeare Project. All these men have depth of character. They can relate to their characters in their own lives. The guys selected these stories because there’s a need for them to come out. The themes they chose from Hamlet are love, abandonment, imprisonment of the mind, and others.”

JOHN NEBLITT—“We’ve been rehearsing seriously for the past three months. I also have an appearance in the introduction and in Angelo’s piece. My personal piece is about life circumstances of my crime, also regarding mixed feelings of ‘mother love,’ which was inspired by my character King Claudius, Hamlet’s stepfather. It’s about love and repentance.”

LAURIE BROOKS, from the William James Association, primary supporter of the Arts in Corrections program. -- “We have a wonderful, thriving program here at S.Q.” A.I.C. program was started in 1977 with the William James Foundation. The pilot program started at CMF until the state took over the program about 1981. “I’ve been with the program for the last two years.”

KIMINI RANDALL—“This play (Forgiveness) is based on the first time I felt betrayed by my mother.”

JONATHAN WILSON—The Search for Love—“This is a story about my feelings of betrayal. All I know is that I’ve always felt alone as a little boy. Even surrounded by 1,200 men, I still feel alone all the time. How could someone who always had everything else have nothing that he really needed? Why did they (my mother and father) both have to lie to me? If I have learned anything, I’ve learned that loving someone who may hurt you is trusting that they won’t.”

JOHN NEBLETT—Rain Enough—Acted out his part in a song about empathy.

TRISTEN JONES—Because I Said So—About being raised as a Jehovah’s Witness. Had the entire audience laughing. “It left me so unprepared for life that I wasn’t able to handle it when I was out on my own. I asked myself, ‘How did I get here?’ The answer was, ‘I’m an idiot.’”

ANGELO FALCONE—Betrayal—His story was a short, Hamlet-style play about betrayal by his wife.

—Kevin Valvardi

“In prison you have to wear a mask,” said Padgett, who goes by the name of Luke in prison. “I told myself that it’s OK to be open. It’s OK to bring these memories up and ride the dragon, as my sister would say. I was able to ride the dragon and it was rough.”

Produced by the Marin Shakespeare Company, the performance was directed by Suraya Susana Keating with assistance from Lesley Currier, founding

managing director of Marin Shakespeare.

“They are so intelligent and have so much depth of feeling,” Keating said. “They are brave, they are honest and they are entertaining.”

In addition to beckoning cheers from fellow inmates, the performance embodied themes that reflected human emotions that moved visiting audience members and prisoners alike.

“When I’m sad or depressed, I can feel very alone,” Novato resident Henry Frummer, 61, told the performers. “Your stories penetrated that. I’ll never feel alone again.”

Frummer, a host of a zen group at San Quentin, said the vulnerability of the performance evoked his emotional response.

“This play literally changed my life,” he said. “I can’t look at my tragedies the same ever again.”

Prisoners in the audience expressed appreciation for the performance, sharing similar experiences of difficult childhoods and life experiences.

Samuel Hearnese, 34, serving a sentence of 25 to life for second-degree murder, watched the performance to support his friends and find connections between “Hamlet,” the prisoners’ stories and audience members.

“I’m hoping that people will understand the experiences that led us to get here,” Hearnese said. “I hope people see the humanity that still exists within us.”

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Study: Police Should Help Ex-Cons

By A. Kevin Valvardi
Journalism Guild Writer

Police should help former prisoners reenter their communities, but too often are reluctant to be involved, a Harvard study says.

“Police should embrace the reality of people returning to their communities as a public safety challenge and promote a problem-solving strategy for reducing the re-arrest rates of people coming home from prison,” the study concludes.

The study says early police intervention in the reentry process could reduce crime and recidivism.

There are complications to collaboration between community-based rehabilitation programs and police, the report notes: Communities with high crime rates view police

“as agents of an unjust system deeply rooted in a history of racial oppression” and police view those communities “as tolerant of criminal behavior and resistant to police intervention.”

The relationship is further complicated because police often view themselves as strictly enforcers of the law and consider additional responsibilities of engaging in the reentry process as contrary to their mission and a waste of limited resources, the study reports.

Early research shows combining police community-based programs in the reentry process have been successful “when intensive supervision was coupled with treatment-oriented programs,” according to the study.

After years of increasing prison populations, policy-

makers, elected officials and criminal justice practitioners are belatedly focusing on the consequences.

The Chicago Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative has shown a 37 percent decrease in the homicide rate and the Boston Reentry Initiative showed a 30 percent reduction.

The Harvard study cautions that police should not become an extension of the supervision mission of parole and probation nor should those agencies simply adopt a law enforcement stance. It also notes the subject is still “largely uncharted territory and...still being debated.”

The report, *Exploring the Role of the Police in Prisoner Reentry*, can be found at http://www.hks.harvard.edu/criminaljustice/executive_sessions/policy.htm

Journal Seeks Prisoner Writings

The Journal of Prisoners on Prisons is a prisoner written, academically oriented and peer reviewed, non-profit journal, based on the tradition of the penal press.

The journal is currently seeking submissions.

Submission guidelines may be obtained by writing to either:

Journal of Prisoners on Prisons
c/o Justine Piché, PhD
Department of Criminology
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1N 6N5
or
San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964
Re: Prisoners on Prisons

Private Prison Corporations Seek Tough Laws for Immigrants

MILLIONS SPENT LOBBYING CONGRESS TO INCREASE IMMIGRANT DETENTIONS

By Kris Himmelberger
Journalism Guild

Private prison companies are spending millions of dollars lobbying congressional lawmakers to pass legislation that increases immigrant custody, according to the Associated Press.

“It’s a millionaire’s business, and they are living off profits

from each one of the people who go through there every single night,” said Pedro Guzman, a former detainee in a Corrections Corporation of America facility.

This year alone, U.S. taxpayers will pay private companies more than \$2 billion to detain 400,000 immigrants, according to the AP.

In the last decade, CCA, the GEO Group, and Management and Training Corporation spent roughly \$45 million on campaign donations and lobbyists at the state and federal level, according to the AP.

Top recipients were the Republican and Democratic parties, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Republican House Speaker John

Boehner, Kentucky Rep. Hal Rogers and former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

Brain Evans, the chief financial officer for the GEO Group, told investors: “Another factor driving growth... for the private sector is in the area of immigration and illegal immigration specifically,” the AP reported.

A decade ago, the Federal Bureau of Prisons signed two 10-year contracts to pay CCA \$760 million to house more than 3,300 criminal immigrants. The FBP is now under 13 different contracts with private prison companies, housing more than 23,000 criminal immigrants. The taxpayer cost of the contracts is \$5.1 billion.

Bay Area Women Support Veterans

By Richard Lindsey
Staff Writer

The academic futures of some deserving students are looking a little brighter after two Bay Area women donated \$2,000 to a scholarship award program operated by the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin.

Marcy Orosco and Marlynn Murphy donated the money. Since 2009, they have annually contributed to the vets' scholarship fund.

This year, Orosco presented their check to an appreciative group of vets.

The Veteran's group award annual scholarships to children of military families. Since their first award of \$1,000 in 1990, they have provided nearly \$45,000 to 35 students. Their donations totaled nearly \$90,000 to a variety of charitable causes.



Marcy Orosco and V.V.G.S.Q. Sponsor Lt. Evans

Orosco is director of Harbor House, a program that assists veterans and their families. She said she also works with the Veterans Administration to help find housing and specialized programs for veterans in more than 10 counties.

"She has been monumental in helping vets find housing and jobs upon discharge from prison," commented Ron Self, then chairman of the veterans' group. He lauded her "unwavering loyalty to vets."

Orosco said her VA connections bolstered her ability to assist veterans. "I'm the only person in the Bay Area that will

house a vet in 24 hours," she said.

Expressing sentiments of the group, one member said, "Recognizing the charity she has given us is long overdue."

The incarcerated vets also give toys to needy children at Christmas time, provide care packages for deployed service members, recycle used soda tabs for money to support disadvantaged families of hospitalized children, and collect used stamps for use in the physical rehabilitation of injured veterans.

The Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin web site is <http://vvgqs.tripod.com>

S.F. Launches Neighborhood Courts

By Mehera Reiter
Contributing Writer

San Francisco's Neighborhood Courts were created by the District Attorney's Office as a means to use restorative justice to reduce recidivism and increase community input into low-level crimes in the city. Neighborhood Courts began adjudicating its first cases in June 2011.

It allows those directly affected by low-level crimes to have a say in their community and decide how they can use this experience to help the participant not re-offend by creating ties with the community and addressing their needs in a more effective way than incarceration and punishment.

A Neighborhood Court usually includes three panelists to meet with a participant.

Panelists are community volunteers who are trained in restorative justice, cultural competency and facilitating community panels for misdemeanors and infractions.

Neighborhood Courts are not meant to be punishment, but to be reparative.

Offenders become participants, the judges are community panelists, and participants are not convicted, but are given directives.

Courts meet in neighborhood's community centers throughout San Francisco.

The community and the participant discuss the incident, the impact and harm upon the community, and what the person thinks they should do to make things right with the community.

The panelists then decide a creative and non-punitive directive for the participant. The

panelists can even dismiss a case if they believe there was no harm or the person has already made substantial effort to repair the harm.

Participants are often directed to do community service, attend anger management or harm reduction classes in lieu of court dates, fines, or jail time. This avoids possibly becoming involved in the criminal justice system.

The participant has one month to complete their directive. If they do not re-offend within a year, the violation will disappear from their criminal record.

—Mehera Reiter is a volunteer Neighborhood Court panelist in San Francisco. She has been a panelist for about a year. Reiter says, "It is a great thing for the community."

Project REACH Recognizes Achievements

Continued from Page 1

"My motivation to be involved with Project REACH is the zeal to help others achieve greatness and for me to be an example to youngsters who want an education," said Kevin Carr, secretary of the group who has been with the program since 2007.

Danny Cox said working as a project tutor has given him the opportunity "to enrich others' lives as well as to make sure every individual who pursues a GED can accomplish their goal."



Project Reach event attendees

Visits to Prisoners Make a Difference

By San Quentin News Staff

Reinstating a free bus visitation program in New York prisons could save money, lessen prison violence, reduce its recidivism rate, and even put a smile on a young child's face, according to a report by the Vera Institute.

From 1973 until early 2011, the state's free bus visitation program helped families stay connected, the report says. However, budget restraints ended the program.

The goal of the service is to "preserve, enhance, and strengthen relationships between incarcerated individuals and their family and friends," the report says. In addition, the program provides "transportation to those who could not otherwise afford to make the expensive and often lengthy trips on their own."

Incarcerated people who received regular visits from fam-

ily members are six times less likely to be involved in prison rules violations, according to a study by the Washington State Department of Corrections. Furthermore, the Minnesota Department of Corrections said inmates who receive visits from relatives and clergy are 13 percent less likely to recidivate.

New York prison officials say the reduction in recidivism saves the state (in prison cost) \$60,076 annually per person.

The report says that New York's free visitation buses "promotes public safety and a safer correctional environment, but also the well-being of New York's children and families."

"By reinstating the bus program and increasing its usage, New York can make better use of public resources while affirming its commitment to successful prisoner reentry and long-term public safety," the report concludes.

Prison Receivership

Continued from Page 1

The case arose from a prisoners' lawsuit claiming prison healthcare was unconstitutionally poor and constituted cruel and unusual punishment. Henderson agreed. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld his decision.

The state responded with its realignment plan, which keeps low-level offenders in county jails, rather than sending them to state prison.

"The end of the receivership will be based on need and not

within a specific timeline," the receiver, J. Clark Kelso, said in a statement.

State officials said they respectfully disagree with the judge.

"The state has demonstrated through its progress in its medical delivery, and recent success in mental and dental health delivery, that it has the will, the leadership and capacity to resume full responsibility," said Terry Thornton, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Palo Alto Honors Lewis

Continued from Page 1

tion as a certified master facilitator.

He worked with a variety of people, from substance abusers to former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown to former President Bill Clinton.

Lonnie Morris, a current San Quentin inmate, said he met Lewis in the early '80s. Lewis was serving a 10-year- to-life sentence.

Morris said he remembers the day Lewis told him how the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake changed his life.

"David and I were standing in the South Block Rotunda," Morris said "We ran out because we thought the air-ducts were going to fall on us."

Morris said the correctional officers went to the upper yard, leaving several inmates in their cells unattended. "I've got to stay out of here," Morris said Lewis told him. "I don't ever want to be in a situation where someone has so much control over my life," Lewis concluded.

Julie Lifshay recalled working with Lewis in a San Quentin self-help program called Breaking Barriers, which teaches participants to change their thinking by using a cognitive reality model.

"He was training us on the Breaking Barriers concept," said Lifshay. She added that the newly named building "keeps his name and spirit going."

The building at 2277 University Ave. offers ex-convicts assistance in re-entry.

Lewis's name will appear on all relevant documents, signs and materials, according to a resolution passed unanimously by the East Palo Alto City Council.

Acting City Manager Ron Davis said Lewis' leadership gave credibility to the program, which provides housing, substance abuse treatment and job training and placement to released prisoners, reported the Palo Alto Daily News.

Gregory Elarms, 59, a childhood friend, is accused of the killing. He was recently found mentally competent to stand trial.

Eboni Jackson Departs S.Q.

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

“The goal of the Education Department should always be to provide students a safe environment to learn, promote academic excellence, help them make better decisions, assist them to develop their self esteem and to provide them with tools that will prepare them to realize their potential,” said a prison educator.

When Eboni Jackson first entered the San Quentin’s Education Department, she said she was ready to educate.

Jackson said her first time inside San Quentin was not what she expected as she transitioned into the world of the prison one day at a time. She said she soon found that most men were eager to learn.

Leaving San Quentin with what she calls “valuable life lessons,” Jackson said, “I hope that



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Eboni Jackson

I’ve made an impact to those in the classroom,” adding, “I hope the men will continue to move forward in a positive way.”

Inmate Bobby D. Evans Jr said he was “humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work with a remarkable human

being who has made a major contribution to the Education Department. Ms. Jackson has made a positive impact to the men. Her dedication and relentless efforts to help bring change will be missed.”

“Prisoners need guidance because it is inevitable that these men will be going back into the communities,” Jackson, said. “Why not help guide them with a better education? This will empower them with better opportunities.”

Jackson is known by staff and inmates for her upbeat attitude and constant smile. “Wherever we are in life, when opportunity arises, we need to be ready to meet the challenge,” she said.

Jackson said she has the “utmost respect” for Acting Principle Tony Beebe for his leadership. “He has a way of bringing the best out of all those who we’re teaching and assisting them with dignity.”

EDUCATION CORNER

Parents in Prison Can Still Help Their Children

By Karen Wright
Contributing Writer

Incarcerated parents have the power to make positive differences in their children’s lives.

As a teacher in alternative education, my children often have incarcerated parents.

I remember one male freshmen student in particular on whom I would not give up. He often reflected on fine memories with his father, showing the utmost respect.

He was spending shared time with his grandmother and mother. The grandmother had taken over custody until his father’s release. I, his mother and grandmother became frustrated with his lack of motivation and achievement.

Just like the dinos in Jurassic Park tested for weak spots in the fence, I too searched for some positive avenue to reach my disconnected students. Because my student admired and looked up to his father, I asked mom if we could include his father in the son’s communication

circle. Mother eagerly agreed, but referred me to the grandmother, who agreed too. I gathered grades, teacher comments, and homework records and sent them to the grandmother.

After the next visit to see his father, the student was suddenly accountable and amazingly began achieving success with class assignments.

My student and his father shared a valuable moment where the parent realized his worth in the son’s eyes, and in turn the son worked to earn the respect of his father.

Simply because parents are not in the home doesn’t mean children’s needs and wants are less due to incarceration. Children long to have connections with parents. Incarcerated parents have incredible power to touch their children’s lives forever.

Parents: Don’t miss significant opportunities. You have incredible power.

— Karen Wright is a high school teacher and counselor who lives in Riverside, Calif.

Massachusetts Aims for Harsher Drug and Three Strikes Penalties

By Forrest Jones
Journalism Guild Writer

Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick has signed into law a bill that revises the state’s mandatory drug laws and enacts a Three Strikes rule, making an offender convicted of three violent crimes ineligible for parole, according to Reuters.

Crimes that will be counted as strikes include murder, rape, armed robbery, manslaughter, incest, assault with serious bodily injury, assault with intent to murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, inducing a mi-

nor into prostitution, and child pornography, according to the article.

“The bill will put more people in prison and keep them longer at a price tag of nearly \$50,000 per prisoner each year,” said Carole Rose, executive director of the ACLU of Massachusetts in an interview with the Telegram & Gazette. “We need to repeal mandatory sentencing, not expand it,” she added.

Mandatory sentences will be given to first, second and additional offenses for distribution or possession with intent to distribute heroin, cocaine, mari-

juana and other illegal drugs, according to the report.

The area of school zones for drug sales would be reduced from the current 1,000 feet to 300 feet and the bill eliminates application of sentences for such crimes in school zones between midnight and 5 a.m., according to the report.

The bill also contains a retroactive provision allowing some inmates currently serving mandatory drug sentences to apply for re-sentencing, which Patrick said would allow nearly 600 prisoners to be paroled, according to Reuters.



File Photo

Phyllis Diller entertaining prisoners at San Quentin in her trademark dress and boots

Phyllis Diller: The Queen of Comedy

1917-2012

She was a regular in night clubs and on television, and once graced the inner walls of San Quentin with her comedy act. She was Phyllis Diller, known for her big laughs and sharp wit, who died last month in her Los Angeles home.

A TV regular in the 1950s, Diller took time to entertain the men in blue with her trademark standup routine. She performed as part of “Le Cage,” the prisons one-time drama workshop, which on occasion also featured other notable entertainers such as Lee Marvin and Eartha Kitt.

“She died peacefully in her sleep, and with a smile on her face,” said Milton Sachin, her manager, according to The Associated Press. He didn’t disclose the cause of death.

Diller left two adult children, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

She was 95.

Stunted Economy

MICHIGAN SPENDS TOO MUCH ON PRISONS,
NOT ENOUGH ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Michigan’s economic growth is in jeopardy because of fewer college graduates and disproportionate spending on prisons, instead of universities, says a new report.

“Our public universities are a major driver of Michigan’s economy yet we are spending more on a prisoner in one year than we are to help a Michigan student go to college for four years,” said Doug Rothwell, president and CEO of Business Leaders for Michigan (BLM). “This investment strategy is upside down if we want to attract business investment and good-paying jobs.”

UNEVEN PLAYING FIELD

By 2018, 62 percent of jobs in Michigan will require a post-secondary education, according to a BLM turnaround plan. “The best-paying jobs will move away or never be created. This is due to Michigan state law giving preference to prison budget cuts over university budgets, making it an uneven playing field which results in universities suffering deeper cuts to their budgets.”

The report says special interest groups like prison guard unions and private prison corporations lobby for lengthy sentencing laws and strict parole policies. The study shows

Michigan imprisons 51 percent more of its residents than its neighboring states and spends more money per prisoner per year to keep prisoners incarcerated.

TOUGH LAWS

Moreover, other studies have shown those states with large and influential guard unions have large prison populations, according to Zimring, Franklin E. Gordon J. Hawkins, and Sam Kamin. 2001. Punishment and Democracy: Three Strikes and You’re Out in California. New York: Oxford University Press.

EDUCATION SPENDING

The study concludes by making a comparison to states that benefit from investment spending on education. For example, North Carolina whose economy is similar to Michigan’s receives nearly four times as much state support per student as Michigan by spending relatively less on prisons. As a result, a four-year degree costs \$18,887 in North Carolina, and \$38,215 in Michigan.

According to the study, 30 to 40 years ago North Carolina lagged behind Michigan in economic performance, but today is even.

—Forrest Jones

T.R.U.S.T. Fellows Annual Health Fair

Continued from Page 1

cer, and Bay Area health care providers.

One of the most well-attended booths in the gym was run by San Quentin's dental services, which offered information on oral hygiene, sign-up sheets for dental exams, and — the most popular perk — a free toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.

"A lot of people are ignoring their dental health," said Amir Zia, a San Quentin dental hygienist. "Dental disease can affect a person's systemic health."

The dental booth "helped me out a lot," said Donte Walker, a 20-something inmate as he held his new toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.

The chiropractor station was also popular. The credo of the chiropractic profession, said chiropractor volunteer Ian Davis said, is "to give, to love, to serve just for the sake of giving, loving and caring, without the expectation of anything in return."

"This is one of the most peaceful missions we do," said Davis, who has participated in the Health Fair for the past three years.

First-time volunteer Adam Tedler, a chiropractor from Atlanta, Ga., said he didn't know



Photo by Ernest Woods

Steve McAllister has his blood pressure checked by medical volunteers

what to expect but found the experience "awesome" and full of "positive energy."

Inmate Ed Ballenger said the long wait in line would be worth it. "I remember a back adjustment I had a couple of years ago; it was great," he said.

Tai chi instructor Bob Franklin said, "The movements in tai chi are designed to work on the internal organs. The exercises help us remember how to use the body correctly."

Dr. Tootell and prisoner Clinton Martin signed up inmates to a 16-week class in diabetes management. Participants are given electronic monitors to track their blood sugar level, which they can keep as long as they are housed at San Quentin.

Dr. Tootell said she is also seeking to hire a case manager to administer a program that will identify inmates who need follow-up medical treatment or clinical care.

Patient advocate Raney Dixon, R.N., lectured on the importance of having an advanced directive in place for inmates in case of medical complications. Advanced directives give doctors specific instructions in case an inmate is incapacitated or comatose and a care-giving decision has to be made.

Dixon said she was hired because of the Brown v. Plata court decision in 2004. She said there have been great improvements in the inmate health care; however, there is room to grow as long as people continue to suffer unnecessarily.

Transitional case manager Naomi Prochovnick supervised a Centerforce booth, providing inmates with pamphlets about hepatitis, HIV and AIDS.

Prochovnick has worked for Centerforce for two years. She said that the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare) "would be a fabulous thing." However, she said, "California is ahead of the game" with programs such as Healthy San Francisco and Healthy Pact in Alameda.

Centerforce provided medical referral forms for prisoners scheduled to be released within the next several months. The Affordable Health Care Act will provide health services to those coming out of prison who would otherwise be left out of the system. "Hopefully, it will make it easier to extend health care services," said Dr. Jonas Hines of the University California at San Francisco and San Francisco General Hospital.

Dr. Emily Hurstack said doctors from UCSF came to the

Health Fair because they have an "interest in working with patients who historically do not have access to health care."

Inmate William Blanchard, visiting his first Health Fair, said he didn't mind the long lines because his "health is worth it."

Inmate David Jenkins said, "Everybody should want to stand in line for their health."

Axel and Claudia Debus lectured inmates about the benefits of meditation and controlled breathing techniques, noting that they could provide an alternative response to potentially explosive situations. "When someone gets into your face, it allows a different reaction than fight or flight," said Claudia.

A local resident and doctor of philosophy student, Locks came in with the Black Nurses Association, a group that is dedicated to helping others. Locks noted, "Prison is not a healthy environment for longevity," adding, "I'm very much impressed with the TRUST Fellows."

Correctional Officer Chattman said it first seemed like "controlled chaos" as nearly the whole mainline population turned out for the event. The popularity of the annual fair created a bigger security concern for correctional staff this year due to the influx of new prisoners from other prisons.

Some officers perceive the Health Fair as something "above and beyond" what is ordinarily proscribed for prisoners, Chattman explained, but "if the inmate learns something about taking care of themselves, it benefits the whole system, even the COs."

One of the highlights of the event was presentation of Giraffe Awards to three community volunteers: Kathleen Jackson of TRUST, Leslie Schoenfeld of Healthcare Frontier and Mildred Crear of the Bay Area Black Nurses.

"Kathleen sees the beauty in every living soul," Chavez said as he handed the crystal plaque engraved with a giraffe.

"It's the only time in my life, I'm tall," said Jackson.

Chavez explained the award analogizes the advantage of being a giraffe:

The giraffe has the largest heart of all land animals. It is a caring animal.



Photo By Ernest Woods

Clinton Martin staffing the diabetic program table



Photo By Ernest Woods

Naomi Prochovnick offers advice about HIV/AIDS



Photo By Ernest Woods

Arnold Chavez looks on as Kathleen Jackson receives her Giraffe Award from Michael Shaw

Often people think they are too busy to practice meditation, said Axel. But, "inside prison, people have an opportunity to develop themselves." If they adopt a practice of meditation and stress reduction techniques, a person will usually "take on a new attitude on things," he added.

Another volunteer, Salamah Locks, a recently retired Navy commander, was visiting San Quentin for the first time. "It won't be my last," she said. "I'm more than happy to share my skill and knowledge."

The giraffe has never been on the endangered species list.

The giraffe has every color in the rainbow in its hide — reflective of every culture.

If a giraffe were put in a box with other animals, its head would stick outside the box. So, the giraffe can think outside of the box.

The tallness of the giraffe enables it to see afar — giving it the ability to plan into the future.

The giraffe is a good fighter. If attacked, the stronger animals form a circle to protect the weakest.

Cinematographer Shares His Perspective on Life

By Thomas Winfrey
Journalism Guild Writer

Ruben Ramirez spends his days behind the lens of a camera capturing the lives of inmates at San Quentin. His work as a cinematographer has given him a unique look into aspects of his own life.

'All I used to do was take in life... Now I want to give back'

Ramirez said he has always kept people at arms length. However, when filming, he tries to get as close to the individual as possible. "I want to let the world in, but I have something inside me preventing me from doing so, and my camera work has allowed me to see I have this inner desire."

Ramirez says the camera has taught him to see life from a new perspective. He views his camera work as an art.

Life has not always been easy for Ramirez. He was born in Pecos, Texas, the son of migrant farm workers. He spent the better part of his childhood following the harvest with his father, mother, eight brothers, and three sisters. When he was about three years old, his family moved to California, eventually settling in the tiny town of Firebaugh, in Fresno County.

In his 54 years of life, Ramirez has held down many jobs, including migrant farm laborer, material handler, and industrial maintenance mechanic.

Before coming to prison in 2007, he says he was an angry, judgmental, and self-centered individual. Now serving a sentence of 15 years to life for



Official Photo

Ruben Ramirez cradling one of the tools of his craft

gross vehicular manslaughter, Ramirez is determined to change.

Ramirez says he is working on becoming a humble, patient, and considerate person. Traits

which, he said, "I will have to work on for the rest of my life, but that is OK with me."

He says he stays focused on his goals by surrounding himself with people who have a positive attitude about life. "I have met some of the best people in life at San Quentin," he observed.

While in San Quentin, Ramirez completed the vocational sheet metal training program. He has also completed Non-Violent Communications and Impact, and attends Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Victim Offender Education Group and various Bible study groups. He said these self-help programs have given him insight into what led him to prison.

Ramirez says his transformation has inspired him to become a volunteer when released. "All I used to do was take in life," he said. "Now I want to give back."

Restorative Justice Program Marks 8 Years at S.Q.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN ROUNDTABLE ON ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

"It's a lousy way to meet wonderful people," said a sponsor of San Quentin's Restorative Justice Program.

Restorative Justice is a non-traditional way of dealing with criminal offenders. It allows crime victims and offenders to engage in discussions.

Although the Restorative Justice program at San Quentin does not connect victims with the actual perpetrator of the crime committed against them, the dialogue gives offenders the opportunity to understand the damage they've done from the perspective of a victim.

Practitioners of Restorative Justice say crime is viewed as a violation of dignity and relationships. It seeks justice by identifying and repairing the needs of victims, the community, and offenders. Restorative Justice promotes responsibility in all areas of the criminal justice system.

San Quentin began holding Restorative Justice Symposiums in 2004.

This year's symposium was held at the prison's Catholic Chapel and was hosted by prisoner Troy Williams.

About 75 prisoners held round table discussions with about 50 community members to practice the tenets of restorative justice. "What we try to do at the round

table is bring together elements of Restorative Justice," said Williams.

'I hope by coming to the symposiums ... I can learn something that will keep me out of prison'

Jack Dison, a former schoolteacher, said restorative justice is not for everyone; sometimes traditional justice is appropriate. But he suggested there are ways the current system could operate more constructively: "One way

is more inclusion of victims in the administration of justice."

J. "Crash" Randall attended his third symposium. "I'm a two-striker, and I don't want to catch my third strike," he said. "I hope by coming to the symposiums and meeting people from the streets, I can learn something that will keep me out of prison."

Of the 75 prisoners who attended the symposium, about 60 were lifers.

One of the goals of San Quentin's Restorative Justices program is to include more determinate sentenced offenders, said the program's founder, Christina Hotchkiss.

"Just compare the recidivism rate of determinate against in-

determinate sentences," Hotchkiss said. "The recidivism rate for lifers is about .04 percent, while seven out of 10 determinate sentenced offenders return to prison."

A representative from Santa Rita Jail who facilitates restorative justice classes said when she first began classes, few men signed up. She challenged the inmates to "man-up" and be accountable for their actions.

"Can you really have accountability, if you don't know who you are," said another sponsor. "Healing and accountability are linked. It is a huge part of restorative justice. You can't have accountability, if you don't know yourself."

Qi Gong and Tai Chi Promote Good Health in San Quentin

By Sa Tran
Contributing Writer

The ninth annual T.R.U.S.T. Health Fair brought the ancient Chinese practices of Qi Gong and Tai Chi to San Quentin to help connect the mind and body and find inner balance and peace.

On Aug. 17 on San Quentin's Lower Yard, the men in blue received much-needed information about the different ways to improve individual health and well-being.

Ben Wang, Kasi Chakravartula, and Eddy Zheng of Oakland's Asian Pacific Islander community brought a team that specializes in the practice of Qi Gong. Ru, Debra and Christina were some of the instructors who taught Qi Gong and Tai Chi.

Inmate Chris Scull said of Qi Gong: "It centers me, it relaxes me, and it takes me away from my everyday prison stress."



Photo by Ernest Woods

Prisoners receive Qi Gong instruction at the Health Fair

"I didn't believe it at first, but when I tried it, it helped me with my lower back pains and it helped me with my bad knees," said inmate Glen "Dragon" Tufuga, 54. He added, "The moves were gentle and the exercises

were not strenuous; it was exactly what I needed."

This was the first time Tai Chi was held at the Health Fair. Similar to Qi Gong, Tai Chi is a practice of breathing exercise coordinated with movements

designed to balance energy throughout the body.

One Tai Chi instructor said, "People often mistake Tai Chi as a form of martial arts; it is an exercise that helps reduce stress and improve health." He ex-

plained that "Tai Chi gives you lots of benefits; it can increase flexibility, energy, stamina, and agility, improves muscle strength and definition, and most importantly, it brings a state of relaxation and calmness."

"As a person who constantly does heavy exercises like pull-ups, push-ups, and squats, after a Tai Chi session, my body felt a sense of muscle relaxation that lasted all day," said one inmate.

"After doing time in eight different prisons and recently transferred from Solano State Prison, I've never experienced an event like this," said inmate Syyen Hong. "I am appreciative to be in San Quentin. Experiences like this make me feel like the outside community still cares."

Hatha Yoga instructor James Fox said he hopes to collaborate with Tai Chi and Qi Gong instructors to conduct a class that includes all three practices.

— Phoeun You contributed to this story.

SPORTS

Boxing Interest Up

By Jose Camacho
Journalism Guild Writer

Expansion of the San Quentin boxing program is being boosted with the help of an experienced boxer who is also a correctional officer.

Correctional Officer M. Polk said he is willing to assist San Quentin inmates with the finer points of boxing, giving them not just boxing skills, but also a sense of direction and discipline. The program will use the existing equipment already in place on the Lower Yard.

At San Quentin, there's been a heightened interest in sports, including boxing, since the conversion of West Block and Donner Block into general population with an influx of inmates from other prisons.

One participant, inmate Gregory Tabarez, said he obtained his boxing experience while at Vacaville from 1983-1985. While there, he was the lead man in the gym, and said he had the opportunity to learn about the science of boxing.

"I received my first set of boxing gloves for my fifth birthday, and on the same day, my older sister, Maria, beat me up with my new boxing gloves," said Tabarez. "But it was the last time she beat me up."

"Boxing is a sport that's open to all races and ages," said trainer Adam Barboza. "However, as trainers, we are particular of who we train. It's hard work and takes dedication; most beginners don't last."

Barboza said that the hard work relieves stress, enhances health, teaches self-control, and introduces discipline.

Hopson Streaks Home In S.Q. Half-Marathon

By Miguel Quezada
Journalism Guild Writer

They ran for more than an hour and a half, but the winner sprinted ahead on the last lap to win by just eight seconds.

Terry Phillips led most of the race; however, Lorenzo Hopson overtook him on the last lap to win the race.

"I ran at my training pace," Hopson said about his race strategy. "For training, I sometimes run the half-marathon seven days out of the week. In May I put in nearly 90 miles, stretched out and exercised a lot."

Hopson, 58, logged a winning time of 1:31:55. Phillips, 29, was runner-up at 1:32:03.

Phillips said his training includes running for long periods

to build up his endurance. "I made a lot of good friends" in the 1,000 Mile Club. "They taught me that by working hard, we can accomplish all of the goals that we set for ourselves. That is an important lesson that will help me succeed in society."

Phillips is scheduled to be released on parole in September.

San Quentin's 1,000 Mile Club fielded 27 runners in its annual 52-lap, 13.2-mile race on Aug. 3.

Third Place: Miguel Quezada, 31, with a time of 1:37:18.

Fourth Place: Stephen Yair Leiby, 56, with a time of 1:38:17.

Fifth Place: Larry Ford, 56, with a time of 1:39:35.

— Clinton Martin contributed to this story

Football Goals Laid Out

The Intramural Flag Football League (IFFL) began its first season last month with four teams, the Main Event, the San Quentin Raiders, the 49ers, and The Untouchables.

The coaches offered their strategies for the upcoming season:

"Our approach is to maximize our potential," said Abdur Raheem (Isaiah Thompson – Bonilla), a player and coach for the Main Event, who has a 5-0 record, "An efficient unit is our priority, and attaining that goal comes by hard work and cognition of the game. We look forward to facing every opponent and competing at a high level every game."

Walter R. Frank Sr., the coach for the San Quentin Raiders, said his approach is to "show-

case the raw talent that has been assembled before us here at San Quentin. We want to be intrepid on the football field and have a diet of just winning. A championship is all we want to taste."

"As the great Vince Lombardi said, 'Winning is not everything, it's the only thing,'" Frank added. Frank's Raiders are 3-2.

Aaron "Imam Jeddi" Taylor is the coach for the 49ers, who are 2-3. He said his approach to this first season of the ILFF is to "first and foremost, to have fun."

"Coach K" coaches the Untouchables, who are 0-5. "My approach is to win and to win we must pursue excellence. To be excellent, we will be disciplined," he said.

—Gary Scott



Ronnie Lott (No. 24) and the "Outsiders" Basketball Team at San Quentin

NFL Hall of Fame Player Ronnie Lott Holds Court

By Gary "Malachi" Scott
Sports Editor

Hard-hitting Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott, known for his tenacious defense as a 49er, recently visited San Quentin along with his basketball team called the Outsiders and defeated the San Quentin Kings basketball team 62-59 in comeback fashion.

"I came to play ball and hang with the fellows," said Lott, who patiently signed autographs for prisoners who flocked to the basketball court to see the NFL legend in action. "I've been here four times, but this is my first time playing ball."

He also emphasized that his team came to compete and that the visitors were not intimidated by playing incarcerated men.

The Outsiders started their comeback as Mike Gallagher knocked down a free throw, followed by a Paul Bubble mid-

range jumper. Bubble returned on a fast break lay-up to tie the game 51-51 and followed with a strong put back to give the Outsiders their first lead.

After a Kings jumper by Sean Pierce, Steve Watkin of the Outsiders hit a floater, and then followed with a jumper to increase their lead to 57-53.

'I came to play ball and hang out with the fellows'

Following a free throw by Paul Davidson, Lott tossed an assist to Gareth Hancock.

The Kings answered as Davidson buried a driving floater.

The Outsiders put the game away as Watkin hit a free throw and Gallagher made two free throws to increase the lead to 62-56.

The Kings' point guard, Brain Asey, buried a three-pointer at the buzzer, but it was too late.

Lott stayed on a few extra minutes signing autographs for the many fans who applauded his visit.

Lott played a year of basketball at the University of Southern California. "This has been a great experience, just hanging with 49er and Raider fans. It's just real," he said.

Kings power forward Davidson commented after their loss: "It was a dream come true to play against Lott. I watched him in college and in the pros. Playing against him is something I will always remember. We were talking trash during the game and I told him this isn't football; this is basketball. If I had to lose a game, I'd rather lose it to Lott. But he added that if the Outsiders return, "we will beat them."

Running Back Darren McFadden Critical for Raiders' 2012 Season

A critical component to the Oakland Raiders 2012 NFL season is running back Darren McFadden.

The Raiders started last season 3-2 and McFadden was the league's leading rusher with 610 yards.

Week six brought a season-ending injury to quarterback Jason Campbell. McFadden was injured the following week.

Backup running back Michael Bush was decent, however, with McFadden's 4.3 speeds gone, the Raider's rushing attack was not the same. Moreover, McFadden was also a good pass-catcher.

If McFadden stays healthy, the Raiders can be an explosive offense led by quarterback Carson Palmer and his speedy receivers in Darrius Hayward-Bey, Denarius Moore and Jacoby Ford.



Darren McFadden catches a pass in the backfield

In the previous year, McFadden ran for 1,157 yards in 13 games.

As the fourth overall pick in the 2008 NFL Draft, McFadden signed a contract worth \$60

million, including \$27 million in guaranteed money.

The Raiders cannot afford to lose McFadden during a run to the 2012 NFL playoffs.

—Gary Scott

Feds Side With Native Americans

INMATE USE OF RELIGIOUS TOBACCO

By Jason McGinnis
Contributing Writer

Federal officials are supporting a Native American claim that denying tobacco to prisoners for religious ceremonies is discriminatory.

In a brief filed in July, the U.S. Department of Justice said the state of South Dakota’s position “runs contrary to the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act and U.S. Supreme Court precedent.”

State officials eliminated Native American exemption for tobacco use in its prisons because, they say, “tobacco was being sold or bartered and inmates had been caught separating it from their pipe mixtures and prayer ties,” reported The Associated Press.

Native Americans filed a federal lawsuit in 2009 seeking to reverse the South Dakota De-

partment of Correction’s ban. A similar lawsuit filed by a San Quentin inmate is pending against the California prison system.

San Quentin Native Americans Reggie Azbill and Chad Holzouser say they are using kinicknick as a tobacco substitute in their ceremonies. Kinicknick is a blend of herbs, including peppermint, sweet grass, white sage, and cedar.

“Other religions have their Bibles; we have our ceremonial tobacco,” Azbill said. “Tobacco is like our Bible. It is the way we get connected with the Creator.”

“Smoking the kinicknick is just not the same as tobacco,” Holzouser said. “It’s like wearing dirty laundry.”

New Mexico and Nevada have smoking bans in their prison systems, but allow the use of tobacco during religious ceremonies, according to the AP report.

Minister’s Legacy

MORE THAN 30 YEARS PREACHING IN S.Q.

By Kenneth R. Brydon
Journalism Guild Writer

For over 30 years, once a month, the Rev. Johnny Stein drives his motorized wheelchair up a ramp made especially for him to preach on Sunday mornings at San Quentin State Prison.

The Garden Chapel’s Protestant congregation has become accustomed to Stein’s monotone voice and dry humor, said one of the ushers. The usher said the listeners also enjoy his sharp wit and keen knowledge of life, and appreciate his deep insight into the principles of the Bible.

After his services, he is frequently surrounded by those who wish to receive a more personal word and prayer.

“I never leave the same way,” Stein said. “I’m leaving a part of me here, leaving family.” While Stein says he identifies with the hard lives of many in prison.

Stein climbed the ladders of civil work with the San Francisco Municipal Railway, the city’s public transportation. Hired in 1961, Stein said he is the only

person in the history of Muni who went from the bottom up through its ranks to become the head of S.F. Muni for the last five years of his career. Stein retired in 1994.

Stein has also become an alcohol and drug counselor — “two things I was once addicted to,” he says of his past in the ‘60s and ‘70s.

He says his many life trials come through in his messages to inmate congregations. “God speaks in a still, small voice,” he said. He came into his faith in the mid-‘70s, at about the same time his marriage ended. He desperately wanted to gain custody of his son.

“I heard this voice telling me, ‘Don’t do anything,’” he said. “Six months later, my wife told me she wanted to give me custody of our son.”

Stein said he shares many experiences with San Quentin residents. He said his “incarceration” in a wheelchair has been a great message of endurance and overcoming.

“Christian joy is not dependant on circumstances,” he said.



Official Photos

The Islamic monument, “Dome of the Rock,” located in Jerusalem

End of Ramadan Celebrated

By Aly Tamboura
Design Editor

More than 160 Muslims and distinguished guests attended the San Quentin Eid-UI-Fitr banquet, celebrating the end of the sacred month of Ramadan where all able adherents of the Islamic faith refrain from food and drink during daylight hours for approximately 30 days.

Members of the San Quentin Muslim community who were allowed to participate gathered into the Lower Yard module, joining in prayer and listening to the wisdom of noted scholars and guests who attended the event.

Eid-UI-Fitr translated to English literally means celebration of “breaking the fast” and is a one-day festival where Muslim come together to thank God, share the message of peace, ask forgiveness, give charity for those who are less fortunate, buy gifts for children and

gather with family and friends in prayer.

“It has moved my heart to see so many of you (prisoners) united in the cause of Allah,” said Imam Hamza, a South African-taught scholar from a Mosque across San Francisco Bay in Richmond. “You are worshiping in a time of hardship.”

Of the more than 200 Muslims at San Quentin who fasted this year for Ramadan, 95 were recognized for participating in a religious study course taught each evening during Ramadan in the Islamic Chapel by scholar Sheikh Atikur-Rahman. The 60-hour course was recognized and sanctioned by the Tayba Foundations Distance Learning Program. It is the first such course in a United States prison.

“This is a historical event. Never in the history of San Quentin has this many people graduated from a program held in a chapel and sanctioned by an outside Islamic organization,”

the Sheikh reminded the graduates.

The Sheikh also shared the Quranic command that says, “Remind them of the days of God,” when divine mercy and divine guidance interact with the daily affairs of Muslims, helping to guide them on a path of success and growth.

After the guests spoke on the blessings that Muslims receive for fasting, the men were treated to a large meal including beef, chicken and rice, much of which was donated by the outside Muslim community.

The Eid-UI-Fitr is a day of peace where Muslims make peace with God; a day of victory where Muslims overcome the basic human desires for food, water and sex and a day of forgiveness where Muslims are forgiven for their transgressions. The combination of these elements makes this day special in Muslim tradition all around the world, according to Islamic belief.

Catholic Chapel Opens Again After Water Damage Repairs

By A. Kevin Valvardi
Journalism Guild Writer

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church at San Quentin has reopened after renovations and repairs to damage caused by a leaky roof.

The chapel was closed for a week in July during roof repairs by an outside contractor.

Inside renovations were done by the prison’s Plant Operations Department, facilitated by Supervisor Lorraine Hendrix.

The renovations also included the installation of two large, 60-inch, flat-screen monitors on the back wall of the altar area.

The monitors were donated by The Order of Malta in the United States and will be used

to assist congregants in following along with the services. They will also be used for viewing instructional videos used during classes and other activities.

“They’re going to be very beneficial to the offerings the church provides us,” said Barry Fibiger regarding the new monitors.

Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin Elects New Leaders

Christopher Schuhmacher has been elected chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin.

Other executive body members elected are Vice Chairman James Snider, Secretary/Treasurer David Basile and Outside Coordinator Greg Sanders.

The VVGSQ is a group at San Quentin made up of hon-

orably discharged veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces from the Korean War through Operation Desert Storm.

Schuhmacher said, “I take a great deal of pride from serving with the men in this group because of their high level of integrity and commitment to the various projects we contribute to throughout the year.”

VVGSQ activities include:

- The Holiday Toy Program – The group solicits toy donations to pass out to inmates’ kids who visit San Quentin over the holidays.
- Operation Moms – The veterans join forces with the moms group from outside of the prison to make care packages to send to troops overseas.

- Veterans Scholarship Award - VVGSQ donates money raised from food sales to help the children of veterans pay for the increasing college costs.

Persons interested in joining should obtain an application from one of the Members-at-Large and return it with an embossed copy of their DD-214.

Members-At-Large may be found in the following locations:

North Block- Ernie Vick 2 N 16L

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District Attorneys Differ on Prison Realignment

LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO OFFICIALS TAKE OPPOSITE POSITIONS

By Thomas Winfrey
Journalism Guild Writer

Los Angeles and San Francisco counties are taking different approaches to the state's prison realignment plan.

San Francisco officials view realignment as an opportunity to improve public safety: Los Angeles officials see it as a burden.

"It is predictably the worst thing that is going to happen to the public in my 40-year career," said Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley. San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon said, "Our system is screaming for a new way of doing business."

Each county was required to submit a realignment Implementation Plan to county supervisors for housing inmates who are convicted of non-violent,

non-serious, or non-high-risk sex offenses.

Counties take on the added responsibility for supervising the release of these inmates, plus anyone sentenced before realignment went into effect and is currently housed in state prison. Realignment also transitions responsibility for all state parole violation revocation hearings to the counties, except inmates released from life sentences as of July 1, 2013. The counties will also be responsible for housing these violators.

The Los Angeles plan states, "This shift is monumental and will not only mark a challenge for the Sheriff's Department, but also the District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation Department, Department of Mental Health, Department of Health Services, Superior Court, and all municipalities."

San Francisco's Implementation Plan mentions nothing about realignment being a challenge. The plan states "this policy initiative ... is intended to improve success rates of offenders under supervision, resulting in less victimization and increased community safety."

Los Angeles designated its Probation Department as the lead agency in charge of the inmates being released into the county's custody. The department plans to develop an individualized plan for each post-release supervised person within 30 days, according to its Implementation Plan.

San Francisco is also planning to allow its Probation Department to play a key role in managing the realignment population. Probation Department personnel would meet with inmates at least 60 days before they are

released from jail "to ensure a smooth transition at the time of the prisoner's release."

Los Angeles' Implementation Plan outlines four possible options for the increase in jail population. The county plans to send 500 inmates to the privately owned Community Correction Facilities; allow 6,680 inmates to participate in community-based alternatives such as station work, work release, and electronic monitoring; send 700 inmates to county fire camps; and add 4,300 more jail beds.

San Francisco's Sheriff's Department "will maximize county jail capacity and utilize alternatives to incarceration through the Department's Community Programs Division. By expanding the sheriff's authority in the use of home detention and electronic monitoring, the Board of Supervisors will provide additional al-

ternatives to incarceration to be utilized for both the pretrial and sentenced populations."

Both counties show a concern for the homeless population of ex-inmates. The Los Angeles plan says "an attempt will be made to locate a temporary 'Homeless Shelter' for the (inmate) before his/her release." San Francisco County's plan says the county will seek to provide released prisoners with permanent housing.

Los Angeles County is projected to handle 9,000 individuals in the first year under realignment. San Francisco is projected to receive 700 in the first year of realignment.

The Los Angeles plan says the District Attorney's Office estimates 50 people a year are sentenced to terms around 25 years in the county jail for some minor category crimes.

1. SAN QUENTIN – A Death Row inmate has been found dead in his San Quentin cell, apparently a suicide, Lt. Sam Robinson reports. Kenneth Friedman, 58, was awaiting execution from the murders of two men in Los Angeles. Since California reinstated capital punishment in 1978, 57 condemned men died from natural causes, 21 committed suicide and 13 were executed. There are 728 prisoners on California's Death Row.

2. LOS ANGELES – The federal government has agreed to pay \$425,000 to an inmate who contracted valley fever at the Taft Correctional Institution after he was transferred from New York in 2005. The prisoner, Arjang Panah has since been released.

3. BOISE, Idaho. – The Idaho Department of Correction has transferred 130 inmates to Kit Carson Correctional Center in Burlington, Colo. because Idaho's prison don't have enough room to hold the state's growing inmate population. Idaho's inmate population topped 8,000 for the first time in April.

4. FORT WORTH, Texas. – A man who spent 24 years in prison has been freed after DNA evidence cleared him in the rape of a 14-year-old girl. David Lee Wiggins said, "I always believed the truth would come out."

5. CORONA – Fourteen female inmates have graduated from a self-help program that teaches women about choices they did not know were available to them in previous environments. The program has a 3.5 percent recidivism rate among the 114 participants who have paroled. The program is Choice Theory Connection Program at California Institution for Women.

6. TUCKER, Ark. – Department of Corrections officials say about 260 prisoners



were isolated with a stomach virus or food poisoning at the Tucker Unit Prison, reports The Associate Press. Officials suspect a highly contagious virus because some of the prisoners who were sickened did not eat the suspect food.

7. BALTIMORE, Md. – The Baltimore Sun reports juveniles detained at the city jail say there is little supervision from correctional officers, which allows regular attacks among detainees.

8. CHICAGO, Ill. – A City Council committee has signed off on settlements in two lawsuits against police torture cases, according to The Associated Press. More than \$5 million would go to Michael Tillman, who said police tortured him for four days until he confessed to a murder, of which he was later exonerated. He spent more than 23 years in prison. David Fauntleroy would get \$1.8 million for the 25 years he spent in prison for a 1983 double murder that was

dropped in 2009. Former Police Commander Jon Burge is serving 4 1/2 years in prison for lying about the torture allegations. The settlements requires full City Council approval.

9. OAKLAND – The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation recently held a public forum to solicit suggestions for improving rehabilitation programs for inmates and parolees, reports the Oakland Tribune. "We are rebuilding our rehabilitation programs," said Bill Sessa, a CDCR spokesperson. "We have a very clear understanding of the price everybody pays for the high recidivism rate. All the programs we're putting in place are based on research and the latest scientific evidence that we have."

10. COMPTON – Former Mayor Omar Bradley's corruption conviction was tossed out by an appeals court. The court said his trial failed to prove he meant to break the law, according to The Los Angeles Times.

11. SAN FRANCISCO – The California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that a defendant who represented himself in a 1994 hearing to determine whether he is mentally competent to stand trial should be reevaluated or receive a new trial, reports the San Francisco Chronicle. The court said legal representation during competency hearings "is consistent with upholding the dignity and autonomy of the defendant and, more importantly, protects not only the fairness of the proceedings but also the appearance of fairness." The ruling came in an appeal of the 1995 conviction of Christopher Charles Lightsey, who was sentenced to death for burglarizing, robbing and murdering 76-year-old William Compton, the Chronicle reports.

12. TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Nearly 18,000 former prison inmates may not know their voting rights have been restored and are eligible to cast a ballot this year, according to a

report in The Associated Press. Notices were mailed. However, they were undeliverable.

13. AUBURN, Ind. – The Indiana Supreme Court overturned Williman Spranger's death sentence for killing a marshal in 1995. He was then sentenced to 60 years in prison. He completed his sentence after good-time credits and educational achievements were calculated. He will have to wear an electronic monitoring device for a year.

14. BOSTON – Families of jail and prison inmates want an investigation of Securus Technologies of Dallas and Global Tel Link, claiming they charge excessive rates for telephone use and service is poor, reports The Associated Press.

15. LANSING, Mich. – State officials are soliciting bids for a three-year contract to provide medical services to its 43,000 prisoners, according to The Associated Press. The move is part of a privatization effort to replace 1,300 state employees, officials said. Services would include physical and mental care, wound care, treatment of heart disease and diabetes, dental care, optometry and sex offender treatment, reports The Detroit Free Press.

16. ST. PAUL, Minn. – Prison officials are considering new garden plots in medium-security prisons next spring under a new state law. The foodstuff grown will help feed a minimum-security unit and families who get food from a local food bank, according to The Associated Press.

17. HARRISBURG, Pa. – State officials are implementing a new law designed to modernize its parole interviewing technique so more parolees will get into halfway house rehabilitation. The new approach is expected to save \$253 million in five years, according to the State Republican Caucus.

Letter to the Editor

'How The San Quentin News Saved Me'

Attorney Thomas Nolan has asked his fellow lawyers to contribute word processors called Neos to the staff of the San Quentin News. One respondent, Richard Keyes, said he was on board and then offered the following anecdote:

I used to pick up the San Quentin News in the 1970s when our basketball team went to San Quentin to play against their team. The prisoners always had home games.

One night while riding the bus from Hastings Law School, the

San Quentin News helped me out when three males got on the bus, I was the only other passenger, and started planning something. I was in my standard attire, boots, Levis and blue stocking cap. Wondering what they might do, I pulled out my San Quentin News and was reading page one. One of the guys came down the aisle from behind, stopped, and headed to the back telling his conspirators, "That dude is from San Quentin!"

The ride was comfortable after that.

Volunteer Instructor

Lauds Art in Prison

By Adam Barboza
Journalism Guild Writer

Thursday mornings you'll find prison art project manager Carol Newborg supervising her open studio class in "Arts in Corrections," where San Quentin prisoners work to create works of art in various mediums.

Newborg began working with artists in 1985 at the California Institute for Women at Norco. She recently began her open studio class at San Quentin.

Newborg, an artist, is deeply involved in organizing art shows to display the work of San Quentin artists.

San Quentin artists' work will be displayed in September at Alcatraz, the former federal prison that's now a popular tourist attraction. "This is a great way to expose San Quentin art to the public," Newborg said.

San Francisco's library will also hold another art show for the prisoners in 2013.


"I love watching people who love art, grow and get better," Newborg said. "It's amazing how much art enriches people's lives. That's very visible here. The calm, relaxing, spiritual environment that everyone shares makes this place feel like a sanctuary."

Complete This Puzzle

Win a Prize!

There are women—Blanche, Marcia, and Elsa— each of whom has two occupations. Their occupations are doctor, engineer, teacher, painter, writer and lawyer. No two women have the same occupation.

1. The doctor had lunch with the teacher
2. The teacher and writer went fishing with Blanche
3. The painter is related to the engineer.
4. The doctor hired the painter to do a job.
5. Marcia lives next door to the writer.
6. Elsa beat Marcia and the painter at tennis.



Which two occupations is each woman engaged in?

The answer to last months puzzle is: 6210001000

Congratulations to: Steve Lacerda and Donnelly Thompson for winning last months puzzle.

Congratulations to: Bernie Castro, Peter Chhem, Anthony Gallo, Nick Garcia, Lewis Hawkins, Stephen Liebb, William Robinson, Maurillo Rodriguez, Chris Schuhmacher, Mike Tyler, Webster Vang. Ernie Vick and John Warren for correctly answering last months puzzle. The two winners were picked for a hat containing all the winning answers.

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. Only one entry per person.

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.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Snippets

Lost during her fatal attempt to fly around the world, Amelia Earhart was the first woman to receive the Army Air Corps Distinguished Flying Cross.

Actually, vanilla tops the five most popular flavors of ice-cream in America. The others are chocolate, Neapolitan, strawberry and cookies n' cream.

Balls used in a two and a half hour tennis match are typically only used for 20 minutes each before being retired from use.

Only Muslims are permitted to enter the city of Mecca, a place of pilgrimage for all Muslims.



Robert Lincoln, one of President Lincoln's four sons, was the only one to live to adulthood. Ironically, Edwin Booth saved Robert's life not long before his brother, John Wilkes Booth, assassinated the president.


Dwight David Eisenhower began World War II as a Lieutenant Colonel. He quickly achieved the rank of five-star General by December of 1944 and later became the 34th President of the United States.


Almost half of all silk fabric produced in the world comes from China, where it was first invented thousands of years ago.


Years ago, a coffee vendor in New York decided to start selling tea. He sewed samples of the herb into small silk bags and distributed them to his customers. Today, tea-bags are common worldwide.


Book Review

- 

UNBROKEN (By Lauren Hillenbrand)
Inspiring story of Louis Zamperini, delinquent turned Olympian, WWI hero and POW survivor, as well as his post-war adjustment.
- 

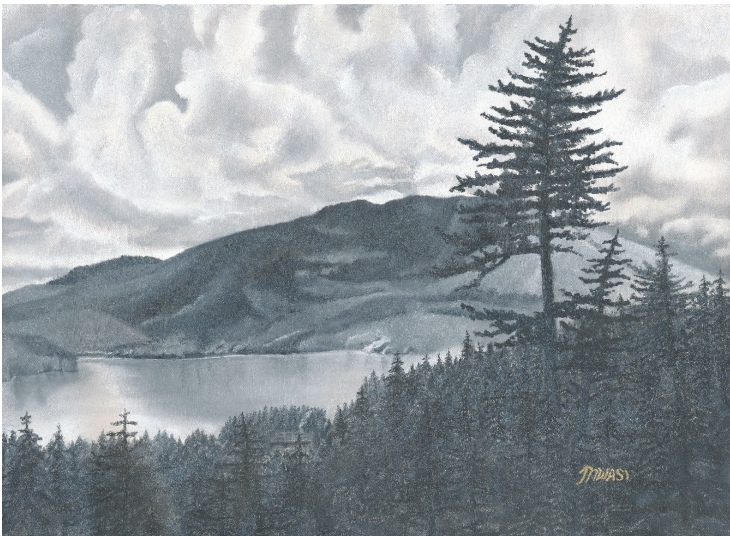
THE SCOT, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE (By Annette Blair)
Vicky Cartwright uncovers her Wiccan heritage, three long-lost half-sisters, and love in the form of a cranky Scot.
- 

100 SCIENCE WORDS EVERY COLLEGE GRADUATE SHOULD KNOW (By American Heritage Dictionary)
Comprehensive scientific knowledge in a short and concise book.
- 

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD: BOOK III (By Doris Neale and Donald Walsch)
Imagine God as a Yoda-like Zen Master spouting insightful oneliners and you get this book's voice.
- 

INHERITANCE (By Christopher Paolini)
Adequate final installment, Tolkien-derivative adventures of Dragon Rider Eragon partner Saphira battling the forces of darkness.

RATINGS:
Top responses are four ribbon progressing downward to one:
Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.



Featured artwork of Isiah Daniels

Sudoku

By ANTHONY LYONS

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

Asked On The Line

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

Patten University at San Quentin started its 2012 Fall Semester just after the Labor Day weekend. For some of the men serving time on the Mainline, enrolling in a college program and earning a degree are major steps in their rehabilitation. However, for those who have earned their Associate of Arts degree from Patten U., what is next?

Asked On The Line conducted informal interviews with 12 Patten graduates and asked, “Now that you’ve earned an A.A. degree, will you seek a higher degree? What will your major be?”

Most of the men who were interviewed want a higher degree.

Michael Tyler is presently pursuing his bachelor’s degree, but is undecided on the major. “It will be in business management, psychology, or communications.

I haven’t made up my mind yet,” said Tyler.

Felix Lucero wants to earn a bachelor’s degree in business and study culinary arts. Ke Lam wants to earn a bachelor’s degree in either child development or kinesiology.

Bobby Evans wants to earn a master’s degree in social work. “I think it’s important for incarcerated people. Education will help us stay out of prison. That means that we become responsible; we keep jobs, pay taxes, and become better parents. There needs to be higher education in prisons,” said Evans.

Kenyatta Leal, the 2011 valedictorian, said he wants to earn a bachelor’s degree in computer science, but not right now. “Right now, I’d like to enroll in a computer coding academy, be a computer programmer, and be an evangelist for The Last Mile program so that it can be worldwide,” said Leal.

The 2012 valedictorian, Chris Schuhmacher, wants to earn a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, but was unsure of a master’s degree. “I’m taking it one step at a time,” said Schuhmacher.

James Houston wants to earn a bachelor’s degree in business to learn how to operate a non-profit organization that helps at-risk youth.

Robert Frye, also a valedictorian, has not decided how high a degree he wants to earn, but he said it would be in psychology.

Valeray Richardson wants to earn a doctor of philosophy in a Christian seminary and Jonathan Wilson wants a doctorate in psychology.

Paul Chen said he is not planning to seek a higher degree, but he would major in whatever Patten offers. Only one Patten graduate, David Monroe, said he is not interested in earning any higher degrees.

Tax Initiative Props. 30 vs. 38

By Richard Richardson
Design Editor

Gov. Jerry Brown’s Proposition 30 ballot proposal is aimed at funding public schools, prison realignment, and reducing the state’s debt. A competing measure, Proposition 38, by tax attorney Molly Monger, focuses on public school financing and reducing the state’s debt.

Brown’s plan would raise state income taxes on persons making more than \$250,000 a year for seven years and raise the state’s sales tax rates for four years.

The Legislative Analyst says Brown’s plan would generate about \$6 billion. After paying minimum guaranteed amounts for higher education and prison realignment, the remaining funds would be used to reduce the state budget, the analyst concludes.

Brown’s 2012-13 Budget Summary says the tax increase would generate \$6.9 billion. It states that after paying minimum guaranteed money to the schools, \$4.4 billion would be available in “net benefit to the General Fund.”

The Brown plan includes a state constitutional amendment that would extend the current vehicle-licensing fee and increase the sales tax by one-half percent to pay for prison realignment.

Realignment is Brown’s plan of confining low-level offenders in county jails instead of state prison.

“In 2010-11, before realignment, CDCR managed all imprisoned and paroled felons with a budget of \$8.9 billion. In 2012-13, the state paid both CDCR and local governments to manage this same population, a combined cost of \$9.8 billion (\$8.9 billion for CDCR and \$857 million for local governments). Thus, the cost for managing this felon population has increased as a result of realignment,” according to a report by the Public Policy Institute of California.

It remains unclear what overall effect the Brown plan would have on both state and local finances because some of these actions would shift costs from local governments to the state, and others do the opposite, according to a report by Insure the Uninsured Project.

The Monger plan would increase personal income tax rates on most individual earners; lower earning individuals would pay a lower tax rate than higher earning individuals. The tax would stay in place for 12 years.

The Monger plan would generate an estimated \$10 billion in 2013-14.

In the first four years of Monger’s plan, 60 percent of funds

would go to K-12 schools, 30 percent to repay the state debt, and 10 percent to early childhood programs. Thereafter, 85 percent would go to K-12 schools, and 15 percent to early childhood programs, according to official estimates.

Revenues generated from the Monger plan would be allocated on a “school-specific, per-pupil basis, subject to local control, audits, and public input.”

Officials say without the proposed tax increase, “trigger cuts” of about \$6 billion would occur automatically, 90 percent affecting schools and community colleges.

The remaining cuts would be in the University of California, California State University, Department of Developmental Services, city police department grants, CalFire, the Department of Water Resources flood control programs, local water safety patrol grants, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Justice law enforcement programs.

If both measures pass, the California Constitution specifies that the provisions of the measure receiving more “yes” votes prevail. Proposition 30 and Proposition 38 both increase personal income tax rates and, as such, could be viewed as conflicting, the Legislative Analyst reports.

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)

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San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94974

The process can be repeated every month, if you want to receive the latest newspaper.

San Quentin News

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*Have made more than one donation

Contributions by:



Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism

Back in the Day

Selected Stories From Past Issues of The San Quentin News

July 16, 1971— To celebrate the Fourth of July holiday, a fight card hosting seven title bouts was held in San Quentin’s Skyline Gym.

July 23, 1971— Officer L. G. Davis, 38, was fatally stabbed in Newmiller Hospital (the old San

Quentin hospital) during an assault by an unknown number of assailants.

July 23, 1971— An inmate confined to the wired-in area of B section was discovered missing from his cell, triggering an institution-wide count. The in-

mate was later found hiding in the cell of another inmate on the same tier.

July 23, 1971— A handball team comprised of players from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps defeated San Quentin’s top handball players, 11-5.