

San Quentin News

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN



VOL. 2013 NO. 3

March 2013

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION 4,075



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

Wilbert Rideau talks to the S.Q. News staff

Inspirational Visit

Famed Ex-Editor Wilbert Rideau
Of the Angolite Magazine Pays
San Quentin News a Visit

A man considered America's most-honored prison journalist says the print media plays an important role informing the public and acting as watchdog of prisoner rights and administrative responsibilities.

After corresponding with Wilbert Rideau's wife Linda LaBranche, San Quentin News adviser Lizzie Buchen arranged for Rideau to visit the San Quentin News office. San Quentin's Public information officer Lt. Sam Robinson secured approval

and accompanied Rideau into the prison.

The *San Quentin News* has the responsibility to help prisoners and the public to understand what is right and what is wrong with prisons, said award-winning journalist and author Wilbert Rideau, whose writings inspired other prison journalists.

Rideau was editor of "The Angolite," the prisoner-produced

See *Wilbert Rideau* on page 4

Lifer Laid To Rest After Long Journey

RON TAYLOR, 63,
DIES OF CANCER,

Editor's Note: Ronald Evans Taylor, a well-known former San Quentin prisoner, died in Vacaville of liver cancer in February. Before his death, as part of a journalism class last summer, Taylor wrote his own obituary, which is excerpted here.

Noted three-card Monte artist Ronald Evans Taylor landed in his final resting place.

Ronald Taylor, also known as "Raw Ron" in his hustling days, is also well known as the founder of the New Leaf on Life Group of San Quentin. New Leaf on Life is the self-help group in San Quentin, exclusively for life-term prisoners.

Ronald Taylor's outside sponsor, Dr. Elaine Leeder, dean of Social Sciences at



Photo by Michael Nelson

Ron Taylor walking for the Avon Breast Cancer event

Sonoma State University, said, "Ron was a truly gifted man, in so many ways. He will be missed immensely." Dr. Leeder added, "He was a character - he kept our group New Leaf on Life going for many years and I will miss him indeed."

Taylor was born on June 30, 1952, in Minden, Louisiana. At age five, he moved to Los Angeles with his mother and father, Atkins Taylor.

Soon after their arrival, his mother moved to Richmond, and Ronald grew up in Northern and Southern California alternatively, between his mother's and father's houses.

Ronald was a 50- and 100-dash track star at the age of 12

See *Saying Goodbye* on page 2

D.A. Gascón Learns Human Side of Prison

By Boston Woodard
Staff Writer

In an unprecedented move, a California district attorney heard first-hand from a group of prisoners explaining that education and early intervention could

improve the criminal justice system.

"What we've been doing is not working very well," said San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón. "I hope you men can be helpful with our effort. We are the first DA system

in the United States to use this approach."

Gascón was accompanied at the March 1 San Quentin News Forum by several of his staff. Also present were about 25 pris-

See *Looking on page 16*



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Warden Kevin R. Chappell, D.A. George Gascón accompanied by the S.Q. News staff and others on the Lower Yard

Ex-Cop, Once Incarcerated, Shares His Good Works

By Journalism Guild Writers

After spending 20 years behind bars for murder, an ex-Oakland police officer came back to San Quentin to talk to prisoners about what it takes to change bad habits and live responsibly.

"I worked for Oakland Po-

lice Department for nine years," Doug Butler told the San Quentin Journalism Guild recently. "But once I got into the club scene, I began using cocaine. Afterward, I became addicted to meth."

While working for OPD, Butler said he moonlighted as a security officer, and eventu-

ally worked as a bodyguard for executives in the recording industry.

The record business led him into a completely different world, mainly drugs, Butler said. In 1984, Butler was arrested, charged and convicted

See *Doug Butler* on page 4

7 Prisoners Pitch Business Ideas

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Venture capitalism took on a whole new meaning, as business executives ventured inside the walls of San Quentin State Prison to hear business proposals from some very unlikely entrepreneurs.

On Feb. 22, seven prisoners gave Powerpoint presentations to explain to business executives and community members how they intend to connect California's entrepreneurial spirit to socially responsible business plans. The event was put on by



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dan Mulligan, Angela Conyers-Benton and Heracio Harts discuss business ideas

See *Last Mile* on page 5

A Message From the San Quentin News

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE – FIVE YEARS AFTER A SUCCESSFUL REVIVAL,
THE NEWS HAS MANY IMPROVEMENTS YET TO COME

By **Arnulfo T. Garcia**
Editor-in-Chief

As we continue the hard work of reporting the news during the first quarter of this year, you'll notice that San Quentin News is looking more and more like a real newspaper. We've added four pages of color—front, back, and center pages, and we expect to expand further with more funding.

San Quentin News is the only newspaper in California, the nation, and possibly the world, produced by prisoners.

The newspaper has a simple mission: Create a more informed prisoner and public by covering criminal justice policy from our unique and visceral perspective. It is a 16-page monthly, with a circulation of 7,500 papers. The staff is currently working to provide each of the state's other 32 prisons with up to 200 newspapers each month.

HISTORY

San Quentin News was started in the 1940s; however, it has been shut down repeatedly

by the administration. In June 2008, after a long suspension, then-warden Robert Ayers Jr. brought together a select group of prisoners with a volunteer professional journalist to revive San Quentin News. Today we are proud to say there are 11 prisoners writing for the newspaper, with about nine members of the San Quentin Journalism Guild contributing. About 25 men attend the weekly guild meeting each Friday.

COLUMBIA FOUNDATION

San Quentin News has been receiving much-appreciated support from the Columbia Foundation. With its support, we are funded to print and distribute the newspaper for the next two years. We are grateful for their support, and are seeking additional support as we plan for the future.

We've created a partnership with the University of California at Berkeley, where Professor William Drummond gives us further assistance by bringing in journalism students to help with story ideas, editing, and

research. The students receive university units toward their degrees for their work. Their presence in this prison also exposes them to our environment, and basically we learn from each other. It is an honor to have them on board.

We also created the San Quentin News Forum. In the first forum, a group of San Francisco prosecutors met with approximately 45 prisoners discussing how they can better understand ways to help reduce the violence in our communities. The prisoners attending the forum are involved with various self-help programs. We want to thank Assistant District Attorney Marisa Rodriguez for making this meeting possible.

Independent journalist Shane Bauer, who spent two years in Tehran's Evin Prison in Iran (four months in solidarity confinement), visited the San Quentin Journalism Guild. He later met with the newspaper staff to discuss his visit to the Pelican Bay SHU. Bauer said he was shocked

to find the isolation conditions were worse than those he faced in Iran.

We also offer special thanks to attorneys Tom Nolan and Dan Barton for their contributions in arranging for the staff to receive several portable word processors for the writers from their colleagues in other law firms.

DONATIONS

Overall, the staff greatly appreciates all of the various donations made by individuals, groups and foundations that allow us to bring you the news. We still need to raise the money to get a newspaper to every California prisoner. In the meantime, we ask all those

who don't get to the newspaper, or can't read it at your prison library, to send \$1.32 in stamps. We'll mail you a copy each time you send us the stamps.

To fellow prisoners, we have been receiving many letters from different prisons, but we want you to keep in mind that the newspaper is not an avenue for complaints. We want news! We would like to know what programs are up and running in other institutions, who graduated from what program, who went home after serving their sentence, whether there are exceptional volunteers who need to be recognized. Give us the good, the bad, and the ugly.

We want to hear from you.

Saying Goodbye to Ron Taylor

Continued from Page 1

at Edison Junior High School in Los Angeles. He went on to play football at Jefferson and Los Angeles High Schools.

Ronald's demise was in answer to his nightly prayers that

God would painlessly let him just go in his sleep.

Taylor was well known for saying that he would prefer not to wake up at all, than to wake up the rest of his life in prison.

His survivors include his mother, four daughters, and a son.

San Quentin News

Current and past copies of the San Quentin News are posted online at:
www.sanquentinnews.com
www.facebook.com/sanquentinnews



Permission is granted to reprint articles appearing in the San Quentin News provided credit is given to the author and this publication, except for articles reprinted herein from other publications.

Administrative Review

Warden's Office Lt. S. Robinson
Sgt. W. Baxter
Senior Adviser..... John C. Eagan
Adviser..... Joan Liseter
Adviser..... Steve McNamara
Adviser..... Lizzie Buchen

S.Q. News Staff

Editor-in-Chief Arnulfo T. Garcia
Managing Editor..... Juan Haines
Design Editor..... R.Lindsey
Design Editor R.Richardson
Sports Editor Gary Scott
Staff Writer Boston Woodard
Staff Writer JulianGlenn Padgett
Staff Writer K. Himmelberger
Staff Writer Ron Koehler
Staff Writer Charles D. Henry
Staff Writer Phoenun You

In collaboration
with students
from the

Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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)

To receive a mailed copy of the San Quentin News, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with \$1.32 postage to:

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.

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prison and jail. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the San Quentin News are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

We Can Use Your Help

The San Quentin News is not supported financially by the California prison system and depends on outside assistance. If you would like to help, there are two ways, both of which are tax-deductible. To contribute with a check, send it to Prison Media Project, c/o Media Alliance, 1904 Franklin Street, No. 818, Oakland, CA 94612. To use a credit card, go to our website, www.sanquentinnews.com, click on **Support**, and then on that page go to the bottom paragraph and click on **Here**. That will take you to the page where you can use a credit card.

The following groups and individuals have already made contributions:

FOUNDATIONS

The Annenberg Foundation, Columbia Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Pastor Melissa Scott, and

RESIST

INDIVIDUALS

Alliance for Change, Anonymous, Bill Anderson, Daniel Barton*/Attorney at Law, Iris Biblowitz*, Christopher B., Jeffrey Blank, Bruce and Maris Budner, Kasi Chakravartula, Abby Chin, Yevgenya Chityan, Lita Collins, Kevin Danaher, Christine Dell, Barry Eisenberg, Jesykah Forkash, Geraldine Goldberg, William Hagler, Jordana Hall, Jun Hamamoto*, Danielle Harris, Suzanne Here*, Mary Hiestler, Douglas Horngrad, Jeremy Johnson, Chad Kempel, Richard Keyes, Elsa Legesse*, John Mallen, Rosemary Malvey*, Edwin McCauley, June McKay, Eugenia Milito, Kelly Mortensen, Adriana Navas, Leslie Neale, Thomas Nolan*/Attorney at Law, Daniel and Julia O'Daly, Caitlin O'Neil, Pat Palmer, Jay Parafina, Sarah Parish, J.S. Perrella*, Martin Ratner, James Robertson*, Lois and Steven Rockoff, Manuel Roman Jr., Diane Rosenberger, Jennifer Rudnall, Elizabeth Semel, Jonathan Simon, Ameeta Singh, Nancy Street*, Josh Taylor, Jim Thompson, Lori Vasick, Jeanne Windsor, Frank Zimring. *Have made more than one donation

Contributions by:



Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism

One Man's Mission – Bring Joy To Others

By Tommy Winfrey
Contributing Writer

Every morning, after eating breakfast in the North Block chow hall, the smiling face of inmate Lenny Rideout greets prisoners as they clear their trays.

"I get along with everyone," Rideout said, "And if they took away my ability to be social with everyone, I would really be hurt."

In his 51 years of life, Rideout has learned that a smile on his face goes a long way. Boston Woodard says, "Lenny can turn the otherwise mundane job of working the chow hall tray line into a unique place to greet people, where he treats everyone the same, saying, 'Have a good day.'"

He finds comfort in his Christian faith, something he admittedly shied away from in the years that led up to him coming to prison for torture and robbery.

Rideout moved to San Diego from the East Coast in 1991. He lacked structure in his new life in California and started working for his brother, a professional jazz musician, as a sound engineer.

The nightlife brought him into contact with drugs and spurred an addiction that spun his life out of control.

This is not the first time Rideout has been in trouble, but it is the most serious crime for which



Lenny Rideout

he has been convicted. He did a federal prison term and a Pennsylvania prison term before migrating to California.

Rideout walks with a limp today because of a rotated pelvis. When he lived on the East Coast, he was driving drunk and got in a traffic accident that left him in a coma for three months.

When he woke up, he had to learn to walk again, and he said he would never drive drunk again.

Today, Rideout is learning lessons the easy way. He is a student in the Prison University Project, which gives him great pride. He has been at San Quentin since October 2009, and in that time he has taken advantage of self-help programs and education opportunities.

Family is the most important part of Rideout's life. He is most proud of his 24-year-old daughter and 4-year-old grandson. He recently lost his mother and father, but he is determined not to let that get him down.

"I have many losses in life while I've been locked up," he said. "I'm getting used to knowing we are only on this planet a short time."

Rideout says life doesn't get him down too often. He attributes this to his personal philosophy: never take life too seriously.

9th Circuit Rules Against Race-Based Punishment

By San Quentin News Staff

California's Pelican Bay State Prison has been ordered to end race-based punishment except during riots and other dire emergencies by a federal appeals court, reports The Associated Press.

"If the warden doesn't cease these racially discriminatory practices, he will be in contempt of court"

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in January said prison officials improperly deprived some ethnic groups of family visits, outside exercise and religious services when racial tension was heightened.

The three-judge ruling ordered prison officials to find alternative ways of restraining race-based hostility than long-term restrictions placed on ethnic groups.

In the ruling the justices noted, "prison officials said the two groups were at 'war' and attacked each other on sight."

The prison official's claims that targeting known gang members was justified, failed to persuade the judges to allow the race-based practices to continue.

In 2000, Pelican Bay was placed on lockdown after a riot, however southern Hispanic prisoners remained on lockdown for four years after the lockdown began.

The new ruling notes that Pelican Bay had been ordered to end race-based practices in 2009.

"If the warden doesn't cease these racially discriminatory practices, he will be in contempt of court," said Don Specter, lead attorney in the case for the Prison Law Office.

Reports Say California Prison Realignment Has Hit the Wall

State Has Done Nearly All it Can to Shrink Prisoner Population Using This Strategy

By San Quentin News Staff

California has done about all it can to reduce prison populations, and it will be difficult to meet court orders for less overcrowding, a new report concludes.

Realignment has stalled and even reversed slightly as the number of new admissions to state prison rose in the second and third quarters of 2012, according to the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice's report *One Year into Realignment: Progress Stalls, Stronger Incentives Needed*, www.cjclj.org.

REASON

Part of this increase is due to the recent rise in new admission by counties such as San Bernardino and Los Angeles that previously had larger than average reductions, the CJJC report concludes.

In an effort to comply with a court order to reduce prison overcrowding and meet budget-

ary limitations, California prison officials are redirecting certain offenders from state prison to local jurisdictions under Assembly Bill 109, "Realignment."

JAIL CAPACITY

Before Realignment went into effect a little more than a year ago, 17 counties had court-ordered jail caps, according to a report by Public Policy Institute of California, titled, *Corrections Realignment: One Year Later* www.ppic.org. Those counties are Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Yolo.

Twenty counties, led by San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Orange, and Ventura, are continuing to realign larger parts of redirected offenders and are accomplishing lower imprisonment levels, according to a new report,

Of the 58 counties in the state, 50 show reductions in imprisonment; however, the disparities in imprisonment rates from county to county is likely to require state lawmakers to take action further slowing down how offenders are admitted into state prison.

EFFECT

Twenty-six counties either have brought down imprisonment rates considerably, such as Kern, Tulare, and Los Angeles, or have reduced rates of imprisonment at a slower rate. Twelve counties led by San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Sacramento, and Kings are continuing to maintain high rates of imprisonment despite realignment mandates. These may reflect temporary adjustments rather than long-term trends.

The Riverside Press Enterprise reports more than 1,100 offenders are serving between five- and 10-year sentences in county jails as a result of Realignment.

Stanford Awarded Grant Money For Research on Realignment

By San Quentin News Staff

The Stanford Criminal Justice Center has received grants totaling \$650,000 to support its research on the impact of Gov. Jerry Brown's prison reduction plan. The plan, known as realignment, shifts authority for low-level offenders from the state prison system to county officials.

"The SCJC is well-known for its important work on criminal justice policy at all levels of governments," said Stanford Law School Dean M. Elizabeth Magill in a website post. "In recent years, research from the SCJC has provided invaluable help to public officials who are struggling with difficult criminal justice issues in the state of California. These grants will allow the center to continue that work, which is critical to the future of the state."

Grants were awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, the James Irvine Foundation, and the Public Welfare Foundation.

The center has been at the forefront of studying both the implementation of California's Public Safety Realignment Act as well as the parole release process for individuals serving life sentences with the possibility of parole in California.

SCJC researchers expect to share findings with key policymakers later this year.

The SCJC website cites four

research projects:

Analysis of 58 County Approaches to Realignment: Center researchers are collecting data and analyzing the different approaches that California's 58 counties have taken in implementing Realignment.

County Case Studies: SCJC researchers are interviewing key criminal justice officials (prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, sheriffs, probation officers) within a small sampling of counties to study their implementation of Realignment. The counties comprise a representative model of the state, which include Alameda, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Solano, and San Joaquin.

Statewide Judges and Prosecutors Discretion Study: Using approaches from the fields of criminology, law, and economics and the development of hypothetical survey instruments, SCJC researchers are polling prosecutors and judges across California to determine how their decisions on charges and sentencing have changed post-Realignment.

Front-end Effects and Best Practices: The SCJC research team is studying the impact of Realignment on the front-end of the criminal justice system through the convening of executive sessions, development of white papers, and writing of a report that synthesizes the major issues created by Realignment.

Furthermore, the goal is to identify policy recommendations, and highlights best practices among California's 58 counties to address those issues.

"... Realignment represents the biggest change in sentencing and corrections in the last six decades"

"California has the largest prison system in the country," said Robert Weisberg, Edwin E. Huddleson Jr., professor of law and faculty co-director of the Stanford Criminal Justice Center. "And California Realignment represents the biggest change in sentencing and corrections in the last six decades. Through our research, we want the data to tell us exactly what the effects are of shifting responsibility and discretion from the state to the county—how that impacts rates of incarceration versus probation supervision versus community programs, and so on. We want our research to help California get Realignment right."

***Editor's note: California is now the second largest prison system in the country. Texas recently surpassed California for the title of America's largest prison system.**

Wilbert Rideau, A Triumphant Voice for Prisoners

Continued from Page 1

magazine at Angola State Prison in Louisiana.

Beginning in 1961, Rideau spent 44 years in Angola in Louisiana for killing a bank teller in a moment of panic and was sentenced to death at the age of 19.

After spending the first 12 years on Death Row, Rideau's sentence was commuted to life.

Following decades of legal battles, Rideau was released from prison in 2005.

While on Death Row, Rideau became a prolific writer defining his surroundings in an inimitable voice. In 1975, Rideau became a staff writer, then editor of *The Angolite*. Under Rideau's editorship, the publication won many awards, among them the American Penal Press Award.

"*The Angolite* enjoyed freedom to investigate and criticized prison management, policies, and practice, but it wasn't always easy," Rideau said.

Both the *San Quentin News* and *The Angolite* at times have been asked by the prison's administration not to print specific articles that may be inflammatory by making a reasonable case not to do so.

San Quentin News Managing Editor Juan Haines said, "As journalists, we have a responsibility to our readers and the public to report news that will not put people in harm's way, under the circumstances of imprisonment."

Haines and Rideau agreed that prison journalists have a duty to

write about issues such as living conditions, prisoner's due process rights, medical/psychiatric care, and policy. They believe issues covering both good and bad circumstances should be covered as much as possible.

In his memoir, *In The Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance*, Rideau wrote "...every aspect of prison life is serious business."

A "New York Times" book review said of Rideau's memoir, "Candid... Rideau is the rarest of American commodities — a man who exited a penitentiary in better shape than when he arrived."

Rideau has been referred to as "The most rehabilitated man in America," by former Warden of Angola State Prison C. Paul Phelps

The Angolite was one of five finalists in the category of special journalism for the 1978 National Magazine awards, administered by the Columbia School of Journalism, the highest honor for the nation's maga-

zine industry.

Rideau said his goal was to offer a broader perspective by writing about prison matters that goes beyond what is proffered by prisoners and the prison's administration. Some articles simply cannot be written accurately by outside jour-



Wilbert Rideau in the San Quentin newsroom

lowship in 2007 and works as a consultant with the Federal Death Penalty Resource Council Project.

Rideau was awarded The American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award in 1979 for "outstanding contribution to public understanding of the American system of law and justice." It marked the first time in the ABA's 100-year history that it had so honored a prisoner. He also received the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award.

With the blessing of the late warden Phelps, Rideau ventured into filmmaking with his documentary on Angola State Prison titled *The Farm*, which was nominated for an Academy Award in the best feature-length category. He wrote and produced *Final Judgment: The Execution of Antonio James*. After producing the film, Rideau said inexplicably he was only given the minimal credit line "Story by Wilbert Rideau."

"These [awards] were life changing events for me," ex-

plains Rideau. "They marked the first time in my life that I had been publicly patted on the back for having done something good." He attributes the opportunity to make the most of his writing gift to Warden Phelps, who he refers to as "My mentor and friend."

Rideau participated in comparative conversation with *San Quentin News* staff relative to Louisiana and California's penitentiary rules and policies. He shared information on everything from publishing, journalistic access and censorship, to groups and organizations allowed behind the walls.

Rideau said dozens of groups at Angola; referred to as "franchises," raise funds which they spend as they see fit. That includes money to charities and purchasing parole clothes for men.

San Quentin has more active programs than any of the other 32 prisons in the state. Rideau said those serving time here are fortunate to have access to such programs and encouraged participation. "This not only allows for a constructive outlet," he added, "These programs benefit the prison in many ways."

At 71, Rideau travels around America speaking not only on matters important to prisoners. He also peels the layers of dense cover off of issues such as censorship, media access behind bars, prison politics, and administrative problems where they exist.

—Boston Woodard

Doug Butler Conquered Adversity, Found Change From Behind Bars

From Prisoner to Community Activist

Continued from Page 1

of second-degree murder.

"My life took a turn because my choices eventually landed me in prison," he said. "It took three trials for the jury to find me guilty. I hit rock bottom after that."

After his conviction, he went to various prisons including California Men's Colony, Tehachapi Maximum Security Prison, New Folsom's B yard, and Solano. He arrived at San Quentin in 1993.

"I thought being an ex-cop would bring me trouble," Butler said. "But the gang leaders allowed me to walk the line as long as I wasn't a threat."

Once Butler arrived at San Quentin, he said he immersed himself in self-help programs. Subsequently, he said his thought patterns and approach to life changed.

"San Quentin is a mecca for programs," Butler said. "I took Breaking Barriers, AVP (Alternative to Violence Program), Man Alive, Narcotics Anonymous and IMPACT."

After spending 20 years in prison, Butler was paroled on Aug. 17, 2004. He said while he was at San Quentin, he would send laudatory chronos of his self-help group achievements to the same district attorney's office that convicted him.

Being a success after prison can be tough, Butler said, but it is not impossible.

Butler reported the prison programs helped him positively shape his character and prepared him for his current career



Photo courtesy Doug Butler

Doug Butler

as a community activist.

He is now director of a program called Men of Valor at Acts Full of Gospel Church in Oakland. It helps ex-convicts get identification and clothing, write resumes, learn job interview techniques and develop life skills.

"It took three trials for the jury to find me guilty. I hit rock bottom after that"

Butler stressed that ex-felons can be employed because they know the value of second chances. He noted that leaders of the Oakland's Army Base redevelopment project have indicated they plan to hire ex-felons by 2014.

"You will all be successful," Butler said. "Just remember, character is who you are when no one is looking."

Easter and Passover

Special services have been announced for San Quentin.

Protestant Chapel:

- Worship service 6 p.m. Good Friday, March 29.
- Tiburon Baptist Church will lead a service at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 30.
- Prisoner speaker will be featured at 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, March 31.
- Marantha Community Church will lead 6 p.m. service Easter Sunday.

Catholic Chapel:

- Lord Supper Mass Holy Thursday at 6 p.m. March 28.
- Good Friday service at 2 p.m. March 29.
- Ecumenical (Interfaith) service at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 30.
- Easter Vigil with San Francisco Dioceses with Bishop William Justice at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 31.
- Easter Service in English at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 31.
- Easter Service in Spanish at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 31.

Jewish Congregation:

- Passover (Pesach) service at 6 p.m. Monday, March 25.

Report: Criminal Justice Policies Waste Resources and Hinder Rehabilitation

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Writer

The policy of arrest and systematic incarceration of low-level offenders, wastes county jail resources needed for more serious offenders, and it hinders rehabilitation, according to a new report.

Numerous counties lock up every offender, causing a shortage of county jail bed space. However, "Not all adult offenders require secure confinement," the October 2012, *Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice* report finds.

Unnecessary incarceration "can be the cause of a lack

of viable program alternatives, or simply inefficient practices," leading to overcrowded and deteriorating conditions resulting in legal action against jailers, the report states.

The situation at the state level became more urgent as two lawsuits, *Colman v Brown* (filed in 1990) and *Brown v Plata* (filed in 2001), resulted in California prisons being declared unconstitutional for their deleterious impact on prisoner health.

The report recommends jails and the probation system to reduce the rate of incarceration.

The Jail Alternatives Initiative has already implemented a "replicable systems level intervention approach," which is designed to use local resources to help offenders stay out of jail.

"Not all adult offenders require secure confinement"

"Local and state corrections must provide the highest possible level of public safety with maximum benefit from

available public funds," said Scott MacDonald, chief probation officer for Santa Cruz County. "We must move past 'tough on crime' stances that lack depth and instead become 'smart on crime.'"

JAI's system diagnosis examines the "current characteristics of the individuals in jail beds," such as "age, gender, racial identity, residence, immigration status, and prior arrest history" in order to develop a meticulous picture of the present jail population.

Some of the options outlined for offenders to reduce jail population include pre-trial services, own-recog-

nizance release, supervised release, intensive supervision, electronic monitoring, citation release programs, reducing bail amount, expediting plea agreements, deferred prosecution programs, day reporting centers and weekend crew operation.

The report finds it is imperative that county-based justice administrators control the future of their justice systems while not repeating the past mistakes at the state-level that created an ineffective structure relying on punitive practices rather than investing in self-reliant, local practices.

Last Mile Entrepreneurs Deliver Visionary Ideas

Continued from Page 1

a prisoner mentorship program called The Last Mile. The audience included prison administrators, visitors, volunteers and more than 100 prisoners.

The presentations marked the final step of The Last Mile program, which aims to help incarcerated men learn how to connect with the digital world, even though they have no internet access, according to business executive Chris Redlitz, the program's cofounder. Prisoners in the program learn how businesses are created from experts, and how to develop business ideas, based on a genuine desire to better communities at large.

Redlitz said he wanted to show that "technology could offer second chances to incarcerated people."

At the program's first Demo-Day last year, James Houston's Teen Tech Hub showed how far an idea could go. Houston is scheduled to be released from prison by summer and a Richmond company is ready to implement the ideas of Teen Tech Hub.

This year's presentations revealed what the prisoner's learned about a world of technology that had previously passed them by.

Chris Schuhmacher told the group, "I am the founder and CEO of Fitness Monkey...an online life coaching service that empowers addiction recovery through physical fitness."

"The natural high you get from exercise can be transformative," Schuhmacher said. "When a person decides to get clean, it can mean abandoning their entire social network of friends still involved with drinking and drugs. At Fitness Monkey, members will be able to connect to an online community...for the motivation and support to overcome addiction."

Schuhmacher stated, "Fitness Monkey is a product of my life and my life sentence." His vision is "to get the monkey of addiction off our members' backs and offer the life-changing benefit of getting clean by staying fit."

"The world has changed a lot in the last 18 years," prisoner Larry Histon told the audience. "But my passion for technology has not." Histon said he wants to create a vocational training school called Tech Sage for ex-felons focused on software engineering. Histon knows there is a connection between newly released prisoners having a job and lower recidivism rates. He envisions teaching ex-offenders the skills needed to create applications for an ever-growing device-orientated society—a skill high-tech companies continually seek.

The Funky Onion proposal is premised on the saying, "Beauty is only skin deep," said founder Jorge Heredia. He said he wants to take produce rejected for size or cosmetic reasons to build an empire that could feed millions,



Beverly Parenti and Chris Redlitz with the 7 Last Mile entrepreneurs

while carving a niche in an \$8 billion industry.

"Even produce deserves a second chance," said Heredia, prompting chuckles and smiles throughout the audience.

Darnell Hill's Intervention Outlet raises awareness around problems associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Hill said when children are victimized or witnesses to violence, they are subject to PTSD. He told the audience that nearly 15 percent of children who experience at least one traumatic event suffer from PTSD.

"The key to dealing with PTSD is to allow the person to be heard without judgment," he said.

Through Intervention Outlet, users would be able to access counselors through mobile apps, increasing comfort and security. "Assistance without judgment is an important aspect of Intervention Outlet," Hill said. For those without internet access, his program would provide field mentors by offering resource contact information and community events, he concluded.

Tommy Winfrey's idea, Art Felt Creations, would hook up art connoisseurs with incarcerated artists in an effort to link visual arts with storytelling.

"When I became incarcerated at a young age, I robbed myself of the ability to appreciate my own talents," Winfrey said. "I want to give incarcerated artists an opportunity to express themselves,

and give the public the opportunity to help someone change for the better."

With obesity being a leading health concern in America, Heracio Harts said he wants to create a business called Healthy Hearts Institute that would use abandoned homes to host farmers markets or exercise spaces. Harts noted that \$190 billion is

If venture capitalists want to support the projects, the prisoners could receive funding and launch their business after their release from prison. Even if the projects are not picked up, The Last Mile still provides prisoners with marketable skills and opportunities for paid internships in the future.

In addition to training in social media, The Last Mile participants answered questions on the website Quora, where people can ask the men questions about prison. As an example, when Winfrey described what it's like to murder someone, it became one of the most downloaded answers by viewers of Quora. People were genuinely interested in learning what's going through the head of a killer, Quora representative Katrina Li said.

"The Last Mile program connects inmates with opportunities that they traditionally



Jorge Heredia pitches "The Funky Onion"

spent on obesity-related health care costs annually. Urban communities could deal with obesity from a businesses perspective, he added.

The most entertaining presentation, called, At The Club, came from Eddie Griffin. He said his love of jazz gave him the idea of connecting mobile devices to the performances of quality jazz musicians. He said he wants to allow people to have an intimate relationship with the music he loves.

cannot connect to," said California Department of Corrections official Elizabeth Siggins.

"The Blue Print (Future of California Corrections) has a computer literacy component that is designed to help inmates learn skills to better their employment chances after release," Siggins said. Selected prisons would be opening as reentry hubs this July for inmates who have four years or less to parole, she added.



Warden Chappell and guests attending Demo Day

Baseball

Season Opening Day
4-6-13 0900 Hrs
Giants vs. A's

Softball

Team Tryouts
4-14-13 1300 Hrs

Basketball

San Quentin Kings
vs.

Outside Bay Area Teams
Every Saturday 1130-1400 Hrs

Flag Football

Every Friday 0900-Hrs

Tennis

Every Saturday
San Quentin Tennis
vs.
Bay Area Players

Kings Plan a Better Attitude this Season

Despite having a winning record last season, the 40 and over San Quentin Kings basketball team looks to build on its talents, and further improve on the team's structure. The plan is to develop a better attitude and work ethic.

Kings Assistant Head Coach Ismael Freelon said he is ecstatic about his newly discovered talent during his basketball tryouts.

"Although our team lost a few good players to success of their prison releases, we have the talent, (and) I really believe we will be a strong force to be reckoned with," he said.

"It's about whatever the coaches say. You have to believe into (the) system," says returning point guard and team Captain Asey Brian. He said his role is to avoid player disagreements, and foster a positive attitude.

Coach Freelon said he wants to do more this year as a patient listener. He intends to focus more on helping his players work through their struggles, both on and off the court.

Freelon said he worked on "selection of supportive play-

ers who understands the love of life."

He said tested returning players and potential recruits have equal opportunities to fill the 13 regular spots. Four others could play, depending on whether they succeed in going home under the amended Three Strikes Law.

"I anticipate making the team and being able to positively contribute my fair share of rebounds and viable communication (skills) to my teams' victory this season," said potential small forward "Thad" Fleeton.

Returning center "Detroit" Long said he desires to work on "developing personal growth and take it into an undefeated season."

Long considers himself a "Big Man" on the court. He said he insists his veteran attitude is important for also helping the younger Warriors team grow.

Long said qualities he hopes to offer the league this season include "instilling some educational growth, personal inspiration, and assisting my team to become better men on and off the court."

-Ruben Harper

San Francisco 49ers tight end Vernon Davis displayed some of his paintings at the recent opening of his Gallery 85 in San Jose. It supports the Vernon Davis Foundation for the Arts. The gallery is named for Davis' 49er jersey number. Also on display was the art of Niyjale Cummings of East Palo Alto. Cummings was the most recent recipient of the Vernon Davis Visual Arts Scholarship.

SPORTS

S.Q. Baseball Sophomores Have Positive Outlook

By Ruben Harper
Contributing Writer

With last season's baseball behind them, San Quentin's baseball rookie players feel they now have the expertise with improvements in their game. There is a sense of team leadership now with sophomore members of the team.

S.Q. A's starting second baseman Cleo Clomen said his performance on the baseball field needs improvement this season.

"Last year I played with fundamentals. This time around my hope is to better my overall statistics and game," said Clomen.

"I want to improve (on) my batting, and my leadership position as a center-fielder," said last year's S.Q. Giants baseball player John Windham. He said he wants to be more accountable for his pitching too.

Last season's Giants pitcher and shortstop Marc Jordan said he looks to be a better teammate.

"I want to give back some positive input to the rookies this season," said Jordan.

"My fundamentals would definitely improve by staying focused," said last year's A's left-fielder Rasheed Lockheart.

Sophomores expressed hope for success this season.

Clomen said, "We as a team need to be aware that there will be no easy road to a championship." He said that unity and team conditioning is crucial to a successful season.

Jordan said his team's goal this year is to "just beat the A's a lot more."

Sophomores say they are electrified about their leadership qualities and they count on giving back to S.Q.'s baseball club this year.

Lockheart said a winning

baseball organization requires "humility, patience, dedication, and professionalism" from him.

"It's about jailing together, by me showing good sportsmanship to my teammates whether we win, lose or draw," said Windham about his leadership role this season.

Jordan said that he understands what it takes for S.Q.'s baseball program to be successful.

"I've been playing baseball all of my life. Learning how to

portive because he "brings a real (balanced) IQ to this baseball program."

Windham said he is honored to be a part of the baseball program.

"Giants' general managers are unselfish about taking the time out of their busy lives for us," said Windham.

Lockheart said, "I feel good about our coaching staff. Coach 'Yahya' (in particular) is putting his best foot forward." He also stated "Yahya" is fair, and



Photo by Ernest Woods

A's player Cleo Clomen at bat

play small ball, and being able to trust your teammates," Jordan said is a positive formula for the organization.

Sophomores said their coaches, general managers, and sponsors make their team contributions possible.

"It's a true blessing to have people come in from the streets, spend time to teach, and for them to show us camaraderie," said Jordan.

Lockheart credited last season's A's General Manager Len Zemarkowitz for his team leadership this year.

"I like his dedication. He believes in what we are doing as a team," said Lockheart. He mentioned Zemarkowitz is also sup-

he makes decisions that need to be made (for the team) as a head coach.

"I understand that it's hard to be a coach in prison. You have so many different personalities and different races to deal with," said Jordan about his head coach "Frankie," who does a good job on and off the baseball field.

Clomen said he is grateful for the S.Q.'s baseball sponsors.

"That's why I play hard. It's only right for me to give them the same (positive) energy, and dedication back," said Clomen about his grace for the sponsor's attitude for S.Q.'s self-rehabilitating inmate baseball program.

Junkyard Dogs Thump Warlocks 40 - 26 in All-Pro Football Classic

Trailing by six points in the second half, the Junkyard Dogs answered with 14 unanswered points, defeating the Warlocks 40-26 in the San Quentin All Pro football ball game.

The Junkyard Dogs scored on a safety, and touchdown catches by Joshua Thomson and Jhavonte Carr.

Junkyard Dogs jumped out to an early 12-0 lead off touchdown passes from Royce "Gator" Rose to Joshua Thompson and Dwight Kennedy. Thompson then responded with a 10-yard run for a touchdown and a two-point conversion, increasing their lead 18-0.

The Warlocks got back into the game after John Windham intercepted a pass in the end zone and returned it for a touchdown, decreasing their deficit to 20-6.

Windham continued making plays as he completed a 50-yard run and a 10-yard run for a touchdown to decrease the Warlocks deficit to 20-12.

The Junkyard Dogs responded as Rose threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Thompson to increase their lead to 26-12.

The Warlocks struck back when Windham threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to M.

Vines. Windham followed with another 12-yard touchdown and then intercepted a pass on defense which he returned for a touchdown to give the Warlocks their first lead at 30-26.

Windham then completed a two-point conversion on a pass to K. Dozier, giving the Warlocks a 32-26 lead. However, their defense could not stop the Junkyard dogs from responding with a scoring drive as they suffered a tough loss after overcoming an 18-point deficit.

-Gary Scott

A Cautionary Tale About The Pitfalls of Parole

By Arnulfo T. Garcia and Julian Glenn Padgett
San Quentin News Staff

Convicted murderer Jesse Reed served nearly 2 ½ decades behind bars before his incarceration ended and he was set free. But something went wrong; he's back inside San Quentin State Prison for violating conditions of his parole.

"I had a dirty urine test, I tested positive for the use of cocaine," said Reed, sitting in the Reception Center chow hall for his interview, dressed in an orange jumpsuit.

"I know I've disappointed a lot of people, but I know that it's important to tell my side of the story because I want others to learn from my mistakes," Reed said.

Reed was one of the subjects of the book *Life After Murder, Five Men in Search of Redemption*, by Nancy Mullane.

Life After Murder detailed what it's like for five convicted murderers to transform their lives into one that the parole board deems "no longer a danger to public safety," and to walk out of prison a free men.

Mullane followed the men's lives, detailing the emotional rollercoaster they underwent after the parole board granted them a release date, the 150 days the governor has to accept or reject its findings, and their struggles to reintegrate with their families and communities.

"When I left San Quentin, I thought I was prepared. But there were a lot of things I wasn't prepared for," Reed said. "The transformation from prison to free society was scary. I was headed into a world that I knew nothing about."

Reed said he did a lot of ministry work his first year home.

The San Quentin self-help program *Incarcerated Men Putting Away Childish Things* arranged speaking engagements for Reed that included appearances at Castlemont High School and the Phoenix Project.

"I spoke at the Civic Auditorium after the two young kids got shot in the church," Reed said.

The Department of Juvenile Justice called upon Reed to lecture incarcerated youngsters about his transformation into a responsible citizen. Reed said it is an awesome feeling—going

into an institution and working with the youth.

"The things I've accomplished have been amazing. Three months ago I was in Galt at a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation summit at the request of Bill Sessa," Reed said.

Reed said Sessa called Nancy Mullane to request him to speak at the summit.

"I'm trying to make it better for men when they get out, so they don't have the setbacks I had," he said.

Being around family and loved one's people he had not seen for years was a great feeling, Reed said. The down side is they did not know him and Jesse did not know them.

"Struggling to become accepted by them has been a challenge. I feel guilty because I wasn't there to help raise them or give advice," Jesse said. Some of his relatives embraced him wholeheartedly; others did not. He said he has two siblings and they do not get along.

"Things were beginning to build up on me. I had started a janitorial business with a partner



Photo by Lt. S. Robinson

A concerned Jesse Reed back in prison

and we had lost some large contracts and my mother's health was declining," said Reed.

On Jan. 16 Reed rushed from his business to the hospital, where his mother had been taken. While there, Jesse was told his mother had terminal stage four cancer. Afterwards, Jesse said his girlfriend moved out because she felt he was spending too much time with his mother. She left him with bills and a car note.

Soon after his mother died, his aunt was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer.

"Watching her go through chemotherapy was like seeing my mom all over again. All of this was building up. It was just one traumatizing experience after another, and I didn't know how to ask for help," Reed said.

Reed said his drug relapse occurred during a weekend gathering at a friend's house. His parole

agent came the following Monday morning for a drug test.

"He tested me two weeks earlier and was about to switch seeing me from one month to every other month. The one time I did something stupid," Reed said.

Jesse said San Quentin programs helped in his transition.

"They definitely didn't fail me and I definitely didn't fail them. I relapsed. I'm human, and we make mistakes. I knew I needed help but as men we have a problem of pride," said Reed.

"I'll make a promise...you will never see me behind these walls again and when you guys do come home, I'll make it easier for you guys coming out," Reed said.

Reed will attend a substance abuse program five days a week through his new release plan.

"This doesn't define me; what I do from this day forward will define me," Reed concluded.

Some County Lockups Face State's Crowding Problems

By San Quentin News Staff

If county governments do not find alternative ways to deal with crime and punishment other than mass incarceration, the same problems Gov. Jerry Brown currently faces with

federal oversight of the state's prisons could be coming, according to an opinion column in the Sacramento Bee.

"Two fixes would go a long way to increase safety and reduce waste in local and state justice systems: fixing the Pen-

nal Code and enhancing county innovation," suggests Lenore Anderson in her op-ed item.

The large number of new sentencing laws since 1980 have resulted in keeping offenders locked up for longer periods, making the number of people locked up increase more than 14 times faster than California's general population, according to Anderson.

Since 1981, the bloating prison population shot taxpayer cost up by 1,500 percent—more than \$10 billion annually, the report states. "This decreased available funding for health, social services and education—and wastes justice resources on low-risk people instead of serious and violent crime."

Shifting offenders from doing time in state prisons to county jails merely shifts the state's overcrowding problems to county governments that now have to deal with potential lawsuits alleging the same illegal conditions of incarceration, the item points out. "In other words, county and state tax dollars could increasingly go to litigation and settlements rather than vital government and community needs."

By 2016, California will have built more jail beds than beds in state prison, according to expert projections of the impact of the Realignment plan shifting low-risk prisoners to county jurisdiction.

To de-populate the state's overcrowded lockups, the item

suggest lawmakers should overhaul the Penal Code so that jails and prisons would be reserved for those who most dangerously jeopardize public safety.

Specific suggestions include developing effective re-entry programs, utilizing assessment tools that access risk so some low-risk defendants could await trial under supervision instead of jail, and requiring offenders to do some of their time in jail and the rest under supervised probation.

To view the Sacramento Bee article go to; <http://sacbee.com/2013/01/18/5123238/modernize-penal-code-or-face-more.htm#storylink=cpy>



Photo by Jay L. Clendenin, L.A. Times

Inside the L.A. County Men's Central Jail

Research Confirms Children Respond Better to the Carrot Than the Stick

By San Quentin News Staff

Researchers have found the use of dialogue, collaboration and mutual respect works better than punishment-based discipline for children with behavioral problems.

Zero tolerance models are based on immediate punishment for anti-social behavior. Restorative justice models take into account "the needs of the multiple actors involved in a disciplinary proceeding (and) the multiple levels of harm caused by violence," according to *Introduction: Punitive Zero Tol-*

erance Policies...and negative outcomes associated with them.

The working paper also compares the economic cost of zero tolerance verses restorative justice to demonstrate how future crime, drug involvement, and high school dropout rates would affect criminal justice spending.

States spent about "\$5.7 billion to imprison 64,558 youth committed to residential facilities," costing states on average "\$240.99 per day—around \$88,000 a year—for every youth in a juvenile facility," the research shows.

The estimated value of saving

a high-risk youth from a life of crime range from \$2.6-\$5.3 million if the youth can be saved by age 18.

Future crime, drug involvement, and high school dropout were used in analyzing the cost savings. The research suggests that policymakers should "be extremely critical of school discipline policies that impede" a youth's academic potential and criminalizes their behavior.

The research shows that restorative justice focuses on accountability, reintegration and inclusion (instead of exclusion and exiling), community build-

ing, and the building of problem-solving skills. It is particularly beneficial for schools because it allows for the development of a safe, collaborative, and positive environment in which students are more likely to thrive.

A study conducted by the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law reported very positive results surrounding the implementation of a restorative justice program at Cole Middle School in West Oakland, Calif.

Although the school was closed due to declining enroll-

ment only two years after the implementation of the program, the report found that the average suspension rate at the school dropped from 50 suspensions per 100 students to only six suspensions per 100 students on average for the two years after the program was implemented.

Students also reported strong positive feedback on how the program helped to reduce problematic behavior such as fighting and helped build relationships with other students.

For more on the report, see: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2107240>

San Quentin Jazz Concert Honors Black History Month

THE SOULFUL SOUNDS OF SEASONED ENSEMBLES

By Boston Woodard and
Julian Glenn Padgett

Toes were tapping and hands were clapping as a standing-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Joseph Demerson

room-only San Quentin audience celebrated Black History Month with a live jazz concert.

"It's been quite some time since I've heard live jazz music," said James Jenkins. "What I witnessed today rivals any music performance I saw out in the free world. I hope these guys can share their talents with us again in the near future," added Jenkins.

Prisoners hustled from San Quentin's cellblocks toward the annual Feb. 8 event, hoping for a good seat.

The Protestant Chapel ambience could have rivaled any jazz club in the free world as music enthusiasts seated themselves by the dozens. Musicians of the jazz genre tuned their instruments on stage while the mass assembly seated itself. This jazz festival was organized and performed by the jazzmen of San Quentin.

Throughout the show, there were periodic eruptions of applause brought on by a well-known tune or a blistering solo by one of the players. Several times throughout the performance, Reginald Austin wowed the throng with interspersed mixtures of familiar rhythmic melodies.

Black History Month in February is an appropriate time to showcase jazz music and what it means to not only the black community at San Quentin, but to every one who appreciates the soulful sounds of rich jazz compositions being played by seasoned musicians.

Watani Stiner addressed the event by asking the attendance to participate in a traditional Swahili intone titled "HARAMBEE (Let's all pull together)." After a brief historical background on the day's celebration, Watani introduced San Quentin's own We Just Came To Play, a group comprised of prisoners skilled in the jazz genre.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

The 'We Just Came to Play' and 'NSF' musicians

Prior to We Just Came To Play taking the stage, the rhythm and blues group NSF opened the event with two "musicals" written by Rogers & Farris. NSF set the mood with a cadence that compelled the audience to tap their feet.

We Just Came To Play trumpet player Larry Henry Faison said it was jazz tunes like Black Orpheus by Louis Boneli "with a melody that flows," and Footprints by Wayne Shorter "Where we can go to follow in somebody's footsteps, and their legacies, that are influential to our love for jazz."

unlike anything I ever heard. I also loved the way he looked at the mechanics of music."

John Wilkerson, Arts and Corrections band sponsor and percussionist, added his unique character to the smooth jazz ambience. Several days a week, Wilkerson sponsors various music groups and is instrumental in making events such as San Quentin's Black History jazz event.

Blues musician Gary Harrell, who was sitting front row, told the San Quentin News, "As a musician, I've met many men who have taken the stage hon-

oring Black History Month; these guys are as good as they get."

During Stiner's opening announcement, he told the audience that jazz is a complex music that derives from many musical elements. "These elements were recycled through the concepts and aesthetic principles that define the musical tradition of Africa."

Staying true to his style, keyboardist Austin mixed some of his compositions with the chord substitutions for which Coltrane was well known. Those men in the audience acquainted with the work of Coltrane were impressed with the exhibit put on by We Came To Play.

Austin said, "We Just Came To Play's" repertoire was packed with progressive and classic styles from a comprehensive collection of contemporary songs put together by the ensemble. Watching the musicians negotiating their instruments on stage, listening to their improvising, accompanying grooves, solos, and moving grooves, was a show in and of itself.

We Just Came To Play: Reginald Austin, Dwight Krizman, Allen "Squirrel" Ware, Larry Henry Faison, Greg Dixon.

NSF: W.R. "Rico" Rogers, D. Farris, R. Tillman, C. "C-Bo" King, E. Wilson, J.D. Strothers, J. Demerson.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

The R & B ensemble 'NSF'

Alliance For Change is Making a Difference in San Quentin

San Quentin's Alliance for CHANGE. brought new meaning to the words social justice as its 2012 class graduated.

AFC is a program created to teach about social justice and its core goal is to prepare incarcerated men to re-enter society. In 2012, 13 San Quentin prisoners graduated from the program after attending sessions four days a week for four months.

"I would like to say we're family; we want to break stereotypes. The work is hard in here but we're doing it," said Abdur Raheem, co-leader of the education program for Alliance for CHANGE. CHANGE stands for Creating Hope and New Goals Ethically, according to Malik Harris, the president of Alliance.

"I'm very proud of you men here today. From the beginning this was a tough class. I knew you all would gradu-

ate but many of you surprised me," Harris said at the 2012 event.

Cleo Cloman, a graduate who has been at San Quentin for a year, said AFC taught him that he was a very important part of the community.

"I was living in my community but I was detached from it," said Cloman, who has been incarcerated for 17 years. "That is what allowed me to harm my community."

Dr. Kim Richman, associate professor at the University of San Francisco, said the graduation was uplifting.

"You graduates have demonstrated a deep commitment to social justice and the community by sticking it out," Richman said. "I'm proud of every single one of you."

AFC's founding members Ern Morgan and David Cowan — both parolees from San Quentin — attended the graduation.

Cowan said he was happy to see another class graduating.

"I hope that our being here gives people hope for the future that you can make it out there," Cowan said. "The good decisions you plan to make have to start here."

Morgan, who has been out of prison for 2 1/2 years, said transitioning out has not been easy.

"Days after I paroled to a transitional house, some of my property was stolen," Morgan said. "I called my attorney and she said 'You victimized someone; now you know what it's like to be victimized.' That was one of my turning points."

Morgan, who was incarcerated for 23 years, said parolees are not necessarily prepared for some of the realities outside prison. He said if you do not have your mind straight when you go home, it can be hard to make that transition.

Morgan also advised the men to use Alliance's Virtual World,

an in-the-works program that will help acquaint prisoners with the online world.

The program will teach prisoners things like how to pay bills online and use credit cards and phones, according to Morgan.

"These are things you all will need to understand," he said.

AFC aims to educate incarcer-

ated individuals on social justice and its affect on their communities, Harris said.

"The goal is to inspire both men and women who have committed crimes to become anti-crime and anti-violence advocates," said Alliance member Carlos Meza.

— Julian Glenn Padgett



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Participants listen intently during the presentation

Johnny Cash: Legendary Prison Reform Advocate



Johnny Cash in concert

By Boston Woodard
Staff Writer

Country music star Johnny Cash spent years performing for prisoners all over America, including San Quentin, becoming a fervent and outspoken voice for prisoners' rights.

Cash's first prison concert was at the Huntsville State Prison in Texas in 1957. Cash's most famous prison performances occurred in the 1960s when he recorded live albums at Folsom and San Quentin state prisons.

"The roots of Cash's empathy lies as far back as 1953 as a 21-year-old radio operator in the U.S. Air Force," said Danny Robins, reporter for BBC World Service. After watching the film, "Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison," Cash was inspired to write a song.

Other well-known performers such as Carlos Santana, B.B. King, Joan Baez, and Willie Nelson have campaigned for the benefit of imprisoned men and women across America. Celebrities were able to provide live entertainment to prisoners

and voice their advocacy for prisoners' rights. Bread & Roses and the William James Foundation were two such groups.

Many of these groups and performers offered their time and talents to bring entertainment to prisoners, and to shed light on prison conditions while publicizing the importance of prison arts programs. None have had the legendary staying power however as "The Man in Black," a nickname given to Cash for his penchant to wear black clothing.

Cash was born in 1932 in Arkansas to a farming family, and labored at a car plant as a young man. He later served in the Air Force and as a sales representative before his music career began in the 1950s. Cash's strong religious beliefs were probably a factor that compelled him to care about the rights of prison-

ers. He connected with the idea that a man could be redeemed and he sold over 50 million records. Both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame have honored Cash.

Many people believed in the 1960s that prisons were ineffective regarding rehabilitation and felt they were breeding grounds for producing criminals. "Cash had always believed that prisoners as a whole were not the irretrievable miscreants portrayed in the media," said Curly Ray Martin, a prisoner at San Quentin.

Cash's prisoner advocacy was broad as he spoke about other unconstitutional issues and a succession of scandals that occurred during the '60s involving torture, horrid living conditions, sexual and physical abuse, and administrative failures.

"I think Cash had a feeling that somehow he could have been endowed with this fame in order to do something with it," said Michael Streissguth, Cash's biographer. "One of the ways he could do

something with it was talking about prison reform."

One form of torture that Cash abhorred was known as the "Tucker Telephone." It was an old-style telephone hooked to a battery with clamps and cables that would be used to shock prisoners.

"One clip was attached to the toe, the other attached to his private parts," said Joellen Maack, curator at Arkansas's Old State Museum. "The warden would crank the phone and it would deliver an electrical charge."

Cash recorded his famous "Folsom Prison Blues" song in 1968, during a time in his career when he was struggling with

sioning the Johnny Cash Show, turning him into a TV star.

Cash continued his campaign on penal reform by speaking to U.S. senators in Washington, D.C. with his ideas and suggestions to correct some of the problems behind the prison walls. His proposals included the separation of first-timers and hardened criminals and the reclassification of offenses to keep minor offenders out of prison. Cash also wanted to focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment, and counseling to prepare convicts for the outside world and reduce the possibility of them reoffending.

Speaking at a U.S. Senate hearing, Cash once said, "People have got to care for prison reform to come about." Cash had a special way to make people listen and his most powerful tool was his music that he shared with his passion to give a voice to the voiceless behind bars. Cash died in 2003 at the age of 71.

"He had a unique ability to get inside the heads of these forgotten and ignored men and understand the problems facing them," said Danny Robins. "The roar from the inmate audience that's heard on Live at San Quentin when Cash launches into the provocative angry track Folsom Prison Blues is testimony to this."



Johnny Cash during a show in the S.Q. North Block dining hall in the 1960s

Ex-Offenders and Survivors of Crime Unite to Tell a Story of Pain and Loss

By San Quentin News Staff

It was a true reality play, featuring mothers of murdered children and men serving time in prison for murder.

The play was produced by *No More Tears*, a violence- and crime-intervention group that conducts weekly workshops and healing circles teaching conflict resolution, changing mindsets, and developing successful reentry tools.

This two-part play focused on the impact violent crime has on neighborhoods throughout America.

The original play *Till You Know My Story* was performed Feb. 23 at San Quentin's Protestant Chapel for an audience of more than 150 community members, volunteers, media outlets, and San Quentin prisoners.

"*Till You Know My Story* came out of the experience of *No More Tears* working with The Healing Circle of San Francisco over the past five years to find healing between survivors and perpetrators of violence," said Lonnie Morris, co-writer of the play. "The play took two years to develop. This process included prisoners and outside community actors, director Molly Noble and playwright Kenn Rabin telling the story of healing and redemption."

Till You Know My Story tells the story of the fictional character Jamal, whose life is interrupted by the criminal justice system, mainly because of his own faulty thought process.

The play's cast included men convicted of violent crimes and community actors portraying the parents of murdered children.

The performance ended with actual parents of murdered loved ones telling a room full of convicted criminals how they feel about their loss.

"My son was only 17 when he was killed, and the person who killed him is still walking around free," one mother sobbed. "I want his killer to spend a year in prison for every year my son was alive."

Killers voiced prison life as a place that estranged them from their families and society, driving home the pain of losing loved ones through either violence or to the criminal justice system.

"Playing Jamal made me look at my life and how similar our paths have been," said Nythell "Nate" Collins, who played the leading role. "It made me realize that although victims and victims' survivors have a story, so do I."

Their emotional dialogue was painful to listen to, said one audience member, as the silence between lines was punctuated with hands wiping tears away.

The performance repeatedly begged police to do more about curbing violence, and chastised



One actress name Melanie takes time to address the audience at the event

street thugs for permitting injustice to define the streets.

"The play invokes a great amount of empathy in me, because of the strength that the outside actors had to have to tell their stories to an audience of strangers," said prisoner Curtis Penn. "It made me reflect on my own life, and that of my children."

The second act began with all the cast singing about how peace would create a safer community.

However, reality crept into the play. Scenes intermittently flashed into courtrooms, interrogations, sentencing, prison life, and the reality of victimization by violent offenders who cycle in and out of the criminal justice system.

The prisoners stood center stage and gave details about their transformative journey from victimizers to compassionate human beings.

"Men like me who've com-

mitted crimes have to be heard because healing begins when both victims and perpetrators can share their stories to gain understanding," said Collins.

Getting past the misconception about those who kill, the families of those who were killed, and crime and punishment captivated the atmosphere.

The dialogue seemed reality based and hit points that brought out the impact of victimization, healing circles, and what transformation feels like.

The play also focused on how perpetrators of violent crime is generational—sons followed the path of their fathers, which emitted a feeling of gloom and doom for those who could not shake the grip of past mistakes, leading them to the doors of prison—a dangerous place to live or die.

Survivors of violent crime said they wanted something out of this interaction between victims of violent crime and prisoners—justice.



The players dramatizing the effects of violence



An artist's rendition of a dilapidated Waban at dock

A California Prison's Maritime History

By Tommy Winfrey
Contributing Writer

The ship *Waban*, California's first official prison, docked at San Quentin Point in 1852. But it was not the first place that housed inmates. Years before the *Waban*, there was the *Euphemia*.

The *Euphemia* was the city brig of San Francisco from October 1849 to May 1851. In November 1971, the San Quentin News mistakenly reported that the *Euphemia* was used to house the first state prisoners who built San Quentin. It wasn't the *Euphemia*; it was the *Waban*.

On the *Waban*, the conditions were brutal. As state laws made it profitable for county sheriffs to transport their prisoners to this prison, the population exploded.

Many think that California prison overcrowding is a new problem, but the problem existed from the very beginning.

Aboard the *Waban*, four men would be locked up in an eight-by-eight-foot space. Guards refused to stay aboard this dangerous ship overnight and the prisoners were left to their own devices every night.

If a prisoner died during the night, no questions asked, and the dead man was taken ashore and buried.

Originally purchased by the city for \$3,500, it was sold for \$75 to pay off a debt. After being sold, the ship disappeared from history annuals until it was unearthed in 1921.

The *Waban* is still part of San Quentin today. Some of the ship's timber remains a part of the new hospital structure.

The timber was originally preserved in the structure that was torn down in 2007 to make room for the new medical services building.

During construction of the new structure, the timber was moved to the atrium that sits atop the building today.

Overseer Finds Prison Suicides Remain A Major Problem

By San Quentin News Staff

Suicides are still a serious problem in California prisons, according to a court-appointed monitor of the state's prison mental health care system.

Special Master Matt Lopes said it is too soon for the state to retake control of its prison mental health system, because health care providers have not adequately dealt with the problem of prison suicides.

"We take suicide very seriously and have one of the most robust suicide prevention programs in the nation," said Deborah Hoffman, spokesperson for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in a Sacramento Bee report.

"California's prison suicide rate is half that of local jails; lower than many other state prison systems, in fact, lower than the suicide rate of adult males outside of prison," said Hoffman.

However, Lopes said the gains in mental health care were not enough, citing "needed changes that went undone because of a

lack of statewide monitoring and central oversight." He added, "California would need to address (those steps) if it were to take over mental health care on its own," according to The Los Angeles Times.

Lopes said that 32 state prisoners committed suicide last year, averaging one every 11 days. This puts the state's suicide rate at 24 per 100,000 inmates, which is higher than the national rate of 16 per 100,000 prisoners. Lopes said the suicide prevention measures agreed upon two years ago have not been fully implemented.

"The problem of inmate suicides in CDCR prisons must be resolved before the remedial phase of the Coleman case (which resulted in federal takeover of prison mental health care) can be ended," Lopes told the LA Times. "The gravity of this problem calls for further intervention, to do any less and to wait any longer risk further loss of lives."

San Quentin has a suicide prevention program run by prisoners, called Brother's Keepers.

Feds Say Prison Overcrowding Creates Dangerous Atmosphere

By San Quentin News Staff

The rise in offenders housed within federal prisons is creating an increasingly dangerous atmosphere for staff and prisoners alike, according to federal prison officials.

Overcrowding contributes to prisoner misconduct and a decline in prison safety and security, according to findings by the U.S. Government Accounting Office.

The GAO blames the "increased use of double and triple bunking, waiting lists for education and drug treatment programs, limited meaningful work opportunities, and increased inmate-to-staff ratios."

The number of prisoners that each federally run institution can house safely and securely is known as its rated capacity. From 2006 to 2011, the federal prison system saw a 9.5 percent population increase. This exceeded the system's rated capacity of less than seven percent during those

years, reports *Growing Inmate Crowding Negatively Affects Inmates, Staff and Infrastructure* <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-743>.

During the same period, the federal prison system added about 8,300 beds by opening five new facilities and closing four minimum-security camps.

The population increase has boosted the percentage of prisoner's housed in facilities rated above capacity from 36 to 39 percent, with a continuing upward trend. Facility overcrowding is expected to reach 45 percent by 2018, according to prison officials. In 2011, the federal prison's highest security facilities were most crowded at 55 percent above rated capacity.

Prison officials and union representatives have expressed concerns about the number of serious incidents. They acted to diminish some of the consequences of overcrowding by staggering meal times and separating offenders involved in dis-

ciplinary infractions from the general prison population.

In 2012, the operating cost for the federal prison system's 117 facilities was about \$6.6 billion to house about 178,000 offenders. An additional 40,000 offenders were incarcerated through contracts with private companies and state governments.

The report reviewed five states and found because of greater legislative authority, more action was taken to reduce prison populations. Some states modified criminal statutes and sentencing, relocated offenders to local facilities and provided offenders with additional opportunities for early release.

The GAO said federal prison officials cannot shorten an offenders' sentence or transfer prisoners to local prisons. However, the GAO recommends that federal prison populations could decline if sentencing laws were reformed, or if more prisons were built, or a combination of both.

BOOK REVIEW

One Man Finds Transformation After Living a Nightmare

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Louisiana during the 1960s was a bad time and place for a black man to be charged with killing a white woman and make it to trial alive, let alone survive more than four decades in prison.

Poor decisions by Wilbert Rideau cost bank employee Julia Ferguson her life. Rideau said he killed her in a panicked state, and was terrified as police hauled him off to jail.

"I was living the nightmare that haunted blacks in the Deep South—death by the mob, a dreaded heirloom handed down through the generations," writes Rideau, who recently visited San Quentin.

In the Place of Justice is the memoir of a man's efforts to dodge the gallows, learn the tools of journalism, and ultimately help reform Louisiana's Angola State Prison, known as the "bloodiest prison" in American.

"The world could define me as 'criminal,' but I did not have to live its definition of me," writes Rideau. "I resolved that I would not let my crime be the final definition. I knew there was more to me than the worst thing I'd done. I knew it wouldn't be easy."

The time Rideau spent fighting for his life on Death Row paid off as he matured into a man of empathy, able to get

away from the bane of "self-centeredness" and to "appreciate the humanness of others."

Rideau established himself as a respectable journalist by striving to give a wider perspective on prison issues than typically given to the public. As editor of the prison magazine called *The Angolite*, he did things no other news agency could do. This reinforced his belief he could make a significant contribution to the betterment of lives of those working and living in the prison environment.

"The world could define me as 'criminal' but I did not have to live its definition of me"

In the Place of Justice delves into Rideau's ups and downs as a journalist, bound by the whim of prison officials. However, he was a trusted person in times of crisis, proving to prison administrators as well as his fellow prisoners with the belief that everyone had a stake in improving the lives of the incarcerated.

Rideau was not afraid to call Warden C. Paul Phelps "the best friend I'd ever had..."

the big brother and even the father figure I never really had." However, he also had to deal with wardens who censored *The Angolite* to point that his impact as a journalist was notably reduced.

"The biggest problem...was that no one wanted truth or objectivity. Personnel wanted only good things said about them...prisoners wanted a one-sided publication lauding inmates and criticizing guards," Rideau writes.

Rideau said his 44-year journey was riveted with days that inch along like snails, and years that zoom past like rockets; however, he realized, "If I could adjust to the cruelties of imprisonment, I can adjust to anything."

Even while fighting for his freedom, Rideau stayed active in his local community, assisting in the ouster of an ineffectual school board superintendent, and advising potential politicians in their campaigns.

During the fourth and final trial, his soon-to-be wife, Linda LaBranche, worked incessantly to present the truth of the exact circumstances of which Julia Ferguson was killed, which was relevant to whether he would spend the rest of his life imprisoned or set free.

After the truth was told Rideau writes, "I wake up in heaven every day."

South Carolina Alters Sentencing Policies to Ease Prison Crowding

Fewer Parole Violations Issued

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

In 2010, South Carolina made major changes in its sentencing laws to solve the problem of an ever-growing prison population, according to The State newspaper.

The state's projected increase of 3,200 prisoners by 2014 would have cost taxpayers \$175 million just to make space, prompting the state Legislature to act.

Sentencing reforms begun in 2010 resulted in a decrease of more than 1,300 prisoners. In addition, two of the state's prisons were closed since the

reforms took place, according to the report.

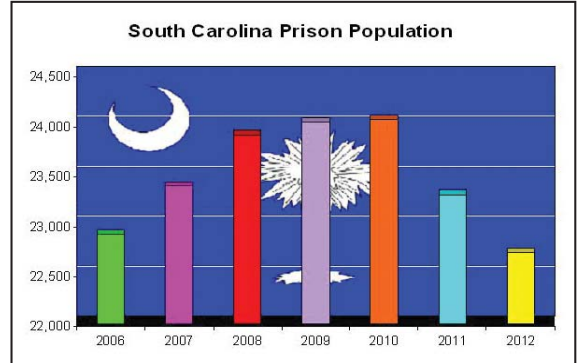
The state's new sentencing law is designed to strengthen penalties for violent crimes while using alternative sentences for nonviolent crimes. According to the Pew Center on the States, the new law puts South Carolina "at the forefront of states advancing research-driven criminal justice policies."

Under the new law, prisoners released on supervised parole will be able to get 20 days taken off their supervision for each month they follow the rules, so that "the offender pays less money in supervision fees – in

some cases, he or she even earns a refund," according to the report. Additional reforms have been made so that those who violate parole end up back in prison only as a last resort. As a result, the main reason for the drop in prisoners has resulted from fewer revoked probations.

"The real test of sentencing reform will be whether it keeps offenders from committing more crimes and getting even longer sentencing," said Charles Bradbury, director of research for the state Department of Corrections.

The author of the law, state Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darling-



ton, leads a committee overseeing its implementation. He has traveled to Oregon, New Orleans, Denver, Chicago, Massachusetts and Georgia to discuss the South Carolina reforms.

In comparison, a federal court has capped California prisons

at 137.5 percent of designed capacity or 109,519 prisoners. From March 2012 through January 2013, the California's prisoner population dropped from 125,728 to 119,002. The state has until Dec. 27 to comply with the order.

Minnesota Medical Care Provider Sued For Wrongful Death of Prisoner

By San Quentin News Staff

A federal lawsuit has been filed against a medical care provider for the wrongful death of a Minnesota prisoner in 2010, according to the Star Tribune. The Minnesota Department of Corrections is also a defendant in the lawsuit.

The suit alleges that a doctor for Tennessee-based Corizon Inc. initially failed to order an ambulance when Xavius Scullark-Johnson, a prisoner at the prison in Rush City, Minn., began suffering seizures on a late June night two years ago. In addition, it alleges that at least three nurses and four prison officers failed to care adequately for Scullark-Johnson while he suffered several seizures in a four-to-five-hour period, according to the Tribune.

A Tribune investigation, published in November, found that since 2000, "at least nine state prisoners — including Scullark-Johnson — have died after medical care was denied or delayed and another 21 suffered serious or critical injury."

"Defendants left Mr. Scullark-Johnson lying in his cell by himself after he had suffered numerous seizures, was disoriented, unable to control his bodily functions and had injured himself from seizures," Jordan Kushner,

the plaintiff's attorney, told the Tribune.

Sharyn Barney, the doctor who was on call the night Scullark-Johnson died, was originally informed by a corrections lieutenant that the inmate had at least three seizures. His cellmate reported that he had suffered at least six to seven seizures, according to the Tribune. According to court records obtained by the Tribune, Barney told the lieutenant to let Scullark-Johnson sleep rather than call for an ambulance.

"At least nine state prisoners-including Scullark-Johnson-have died after medical care was denied or delayed ..."

In a statement given to the state's Department of Corrections investigators after the incident, Barney said she was not provided with enough information from prison officers about Scullark-Johnson's condition when she decided to not call an ambulance right away.

According to records obtained by the Tribune, the overnight

corrections officers responsible for Scullark-Johnson's care also failed to document his deteriorating condition, but did remove his cellmate after the cellmate repeatedly called for an ambulance.

Barney agreed to call an ambulance an hour after she first heard about Scullark-Johnson's seizures, but a prison nurse, citing "protocols," turned it away when it arrived. Only when the nurse returned an hour later to find Scullark-Johnson lying facedown and unresponsive in his cell was the ambulance crew called again. He was taken to a hospital in Wyoming, declared brain dead that night and taken off life support the following morning, according to the Tribune.

Corizon officials made no comment to the Tribune, because of pending litigation. But, the lawsuit raises questions about the quality of medical care inmates in Minnesota receive.

Still, prison officials told the Tribune that state prisoners "receive the 'community standard' of medical care required by law — similar to the level of care by most Minnesotans."

Corizon, a private medical care contractor, has a \$28 million contract to provide medical care to the state's 9,200 prisoners.

Proposition 36 Falls Short Addressing Re-Entry Needs of Ex-Offenders

By San Quentin News Staff

After being locked up for nearly two decades some of the beneficiaries of last November's change in California's Three Strikes Law are being let out of prison with only \$200 "gate money" in their pockets, reports the San Jose Mercury News (tkaplan@mercurynews.com).

After many offenders are re-sentenced, the time for court ordered parole or probation would have elapsed. Therefore,

they are being released into communities unconditionally without state or county supervision or social services. Things like health care, housing, food stamps, will not be easy for these newly release men and women to obtain, according to the Mercury News report.

Experts say California voters did not consider this lack of oversight for re-sentenced three strikers when they approved the change in law, according to the report.

It's only a matter of time before some of these newly released offenders start committing new crimes, says Mike Reynolds, one of the drafters of the Three Strike Law in the Mercury News report.

Michael Romano, director of Stanford's Three Strikes Project, led the ballot measure to change the law.

Romano is planning to meet with community service providers to help newly released offenders ease back into their

communities safely by meeting "with operators of homeless shelters and innovative transitional programs from around the state, like San Francisco's Delancey Street foundation," according to the report.

"We want these people to succeed," said Romano. "We don't want them committing crimes and creating more victims."

Newly released three-strikers have a higher need for mental health treatment than the general population, said Joan Peter-

silia, a Stanford law professor, in the Mercury News report.

The Stanford group is seeking private donors to add to existing re-entry programs, according to the report.

Santa Clara County assists anyone coming out of jail or prison at the Re-entry Resource Center, at 70 W. Hedding St., San Jose, Calif., with mental health services, free clothing, housing assistance and food stamps, the Mercury News reports.

Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin

Life After Prison for Veterans



By Chris Schuhmacher
VVGSO Chairman



The Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin is gearing up to implement a new program designed to prepare incarcerated veterans for life after prison.

The San Quentin Unit Aptitude Development program or SQUAD for short will consist of weekly workshops in the areas of Substance Abuse & Addiction, Emotional Health & Wellness, Parole Planning & Preparation, and Health & Physical Fitness.

The veterans SQUAD mission is: "To empower members with the resources and life skills necessary to address the causative factors that led to their crimes and prepare them for successful reintegration back into society."

Once group members have completed all four 12-week workshops, they become eligible to take part in mentorship training where they will learn to develop new life skills workshops and incorporate them into the SQUAD program.

From there, the VVGSO hopes to open the program to all veterans, regardless of discharge status or group membership. The plan is to pass on the knowledge and insight the group has acquired to other members of the San Quentin community.

For the past 25 years, the VVGSO has been a vital part of several charitable events inside and outside the prison. These include the Holiday Toy Program, Run to the Pen, Operation MOMS, and the annual Veterans Scholarship Award.

The group will continue to take part in these worthwhile endeavors full-force, but with the changing face of the prison and parole system, they want to provide its members with an internal network of support to help them get out and stay out of prison.

With the opening of West Block and Donner section, the VVGSO has become the largest ILTAG group at San Quentin. As chairman, I feel an increasing responsibility to try and find ways to make sure the men of the VVGSO are trained and ready for the streets.

A Call to Arms

An essential part of the SQUAD program will consist of enlisting the support of professionals and volunteers from outside veterans' organizations willing to share their knowledge and expertise in the four rehabilitative components.

Anyone willing to help sponsor the veterans SQUAD program can contact the chief sponsor, Lt. Rudy Luna, at San Quentin State Prison – 1 Main Street – San Quentin, CA – 94964, (415) 454-1460 ext. 5808.

Prisoners Provide Vital Services for San Quentin

By Boston Woodard
Staff Writer

It's not uncommon to see prisoners working with welding equipment around San Quentin. Maintenance workers are on call for emergencies on everything from plumbing problems in cellblocks to repairing light fixtures in the hospital. Currently, workers are busy fabricating benches for the baseball diamond by cutting and welding angle iron and steel rods in preparation for baseball season beginning in April.

"Prison maintenance crews work in more areas throughout the interior and exterior of a penitentiary than any other group of employees behind prison walls," says supervisor Ty Twist, a certified welder/teacher, and one of San Quentin's maintenance supervisors. He's been employed at San Quentin for seven years.

San Quentin's physical plant is unique as some of the structures (cellblocks) being more than 100 years old. These cellblocks demand special attention and a certain antediluvian application of services, such as maintaining steam lines that are some of the oldest systems in the state.

Recently, one of four steam boilers in San Quentin's "boiler

room" was on the verge of exploding, due to an expanding metal plate that insulates the steam inside the boiler. Twist and his crew sprang into action and saved the boiler as well as saving the state an estimated \$58,000 that an outside contractor was asking to do the job.

Assignments vary from week to week. "Installing metal bedplates (known as 'cookie sheets' to prisoners) to replace broken bedsprings is a constant job for us," said welder Donald Coleman. "It's gratifying when a job is completed and you've learned something new or interesting in the process."

Maintenance crews ensure that all systems and conditions throughout the institution are safe and functioning properly. Support services such as the custody operations, the Food Service Department, and medical clinics depend on maintenance crews to keep their services in good quality operation. Prisoners take pride in assisting in the maintenance crews where they are able to apply their skills in an effective way.

"I like specific assignments such as fabrication in various locations throughout the institution," said David Gonzalez.



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Supervisor Ty Twist, Donald Coleman, T. Slaughter and David Gonzalez

"What I love about my job is that we all work together as a team, one man helping the next. We truly are proud of our accomplishments."

Prisoner T. Slaughter told the San Quentin News, "Although I was an electrician in other prisons, I now have this great opportunity to advance my knowledge of welding and other metal applications under the guidance of supervisor Twist."

According to Twist, the smooth operation of the institution's maintenance department (operations) depends on the responsi-

bility of dozens of maintenance employees. Each supervisor oversees a number of prisoners who are, as a rule, skilled in a particular vocation.

"Whether it is the electrical systems, plumbing, heating and ventilation, or carpentry, painting, and glazing, each department is no less important than the next," said Twist.

If a man has a specific ability, maintenance supervisors will interview and assess his skill level, then speak with Inmate Assignment Lt. D. Graham. Although qualified workers are preferred,

there is no waiting list for maintenance assignments and experienced maintenance supervisors are willing to work with those men with obvious potential to do the job. Lt. Graham added that all department areas are racially balanced as fairly as possible and the best way to obtain a maintenance position is by word of mouth.

Dino Dinos summed up an attribute shared by Twist and his maintenance crew, "We work as a team. When we finish a specific assignment, the pride my co-workers and supervisor have is as real as it gets."

California Supreme Court Rules on Marsy's Law

By Stephen Yair Liebb
Contributing Writer

The California Supreme Court has upheld the voter-approved initiative called Marsy's Law, which increased the deferral period between parole hearings to a maximum of 15 years.

The court on March 4 rejected a challenge brought by Michael Vicks, a prisoner serving a life term with the possibility of parole, and upheld the law as written. Vicks claimed the law violated the ex-post facto clauses of the state and federal constitutions because it retroactively increased the punishment for his crime.

RULING

The Supreme Court determined that Marsy's Law does not violate the ex-post facto clause and does not create a significant risk of prolonging incarceration, even though the minimum period between subsequent parole hearings was increased from one year to



three years, and a maximum of 15 years. However, the law made provisions for an inmate to make a written request to have an earlier hearing at any time following the denial of parole at a regularly scheduled hearing.

BOARD HEARINGS

If the board grants an earlier hearing and the inmate is again denied parole, the inmate must wait three years before submitting another written request.

When Vicks was convicted of his crimes in 1983, the parole board could defer parole for one, two or three years. In 1994, the maximum increased to five years for prisoners convicted of murder.

Marsy's Law was approved by voters in 2008. Under Marsy's Law, the board also has discretion to deny parole for five, seven or 10 years.

The case is In re Michael D. Vicks on Habeas Corpus, Case No. S194129

An "OG's" Perspective

By Watani Stiner
San Quentin News Staff

I first came to prison in 1969. After five years of being incarcerated, I escaped from San Quentin State Prison and fled to South America where I lived in self-imposed exile for 20 years. In 1994, I voluntarily surrendered to U.S. authorities and was brought back to San Quentin to serve out the remainder of my "life sentence." I have now been in prison for 25 years.

Although my life experience has definitely shaped my "OG" perspective, this column is not about my life story. It's not about my political views, my prison escape or the many years I've spent in South America. Rather, this column provides a conversational space and an open invitation to the younger generation to consider and engage an "OG's" perspective.

I have not walked the streets of this country in 45 years. So I won't pretend to have some kind of "guru-insight" into the minds of young people and their activities outside these prison walls. But I do want to find effective and informative ways of utilizing this "OG" column to raise relevant questions about the culture of violence and encourage serious dialogue on a number of critical issues.

Why should you listen to me? First of all, I'm a father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and a man who feels partially responsible for and concerned about the destructive and devas-

tating historical disconnections that have occurred between the generations. I use this "OG" column to explore and address the critical consequences when one generation drops or doesn't pass on the historical baton. I consider myself an "OG" who has picked up that baton, and I'm charged and challenged with the responsibility of finding creative ways of handing it off to the next generation.

You should listen to me because I have something relevant and important to say. I have life-experiences that I must emphasize and pass on to the younger generation. You should listen because I have some personal and vital information about respect, family, community, and the historical bridges that carried us over. As an "OG", I believe in human equality, social justice and peace, and I have come to realize that all forms of violence, no matter how it is justified, eventually consumes the human spirit and undermines the very purpose it is intended for.

CHANGING DEFINITION:

Now I realize that the term "OG" does not have the same meaning today as it used to have. Its meaning has shifted over the years. The original use of "OG" stood for "Original Gangster." From its inception "OG" had a specific meaning. It first began as a title of respect from former gang members who "paid their dues" and earned the status of "OGs" in their "hoods."

However, just being an older man "from" the hood wouldn't automatically qualify one as an "OG". To earn the title "OG" you would have had to acquire at least three things: reputation, insight, and a distinguished manner in which you conduct yourself.

However, the meaning of the term "OG" has changed over the years. In its current usage, the term "OG" implies a broader category. While retaining its title of respect in popular culture, "OG" is now equivalent to the word "elder" or the courtesy afforded an older person as in the use of "Mister." This deference today is based largely upon age, not necessarily on reputation, insight or how one conducts himself. An "OG" can be an old fool.

"OG", as I'm using it in this column, comes from a particular time period and out of a specific set of experiences. It emanates from a certain mindset shaped by the social and political movements of the 1960s. "OG" (as it's being used here) stands for "Old Guard." These "OGs" today (too often silent) are now in their sixties and early seventies. This writer himself is sixty-five years of age, an elder with the determination, responsibility, patience and courage to engage and not give up on our youth.

This column is open to suggestions, and when you see me on the yard or in the unit, you are welcome to give feedback on topics that you think an "OG's" viewpoint can illuminate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Words of Love and Kindness

Editor:

By now you know that Miss Kimberlee Rasmusson went home to be with the Lord on Feb 1. Although this was unexpected and leaves an enormous hole in our hearts, we know that she is in heaven and even though she loved her family and friends more than anything, I know that she would not leave the Savior's side even if she could.

Kimberlee was a world traveler. She started in New Zealand as a missionary, put herself thru college earning a Master's in English as a second Language. She used that education to teach in South Korea and many years in the Middle

East. She visited many, many countries and enjoyed the people everywhere. The mail has poured in from all around the world where she touched hearts and changed lives.

Kimberlee was attending the seminary and would have graduated with a Master's in Divinity in late May. I want you to know that everything she did she earned by herself but with God's help. Her life was not always easy but she made something of herself through hard work, determination and trust in God.

A naturally quiet and reserved person, she would not like all this attention, but as the mother who adored her, I have

the right to be proud of her and I am. Being involved with the inmates at San Quentin thru volunteer work with the Catholic and Protestant churches as an intern was something that she believed in. She believed in you, she believed you could have a better life and become the people God wanted you to be. Do that in her memory. Remember the things she taught you and shared in her messages.

I would like to leave you with this thought: "God loves you so much that if you were the only person on earth, He would have sent His Son to die for you."

*With Respect,
Roberta Folmer*



Photo By Michael Nelson

San Quentin's 2012 Day of Peace celebration

Days of Peace Promoted by Action

**By Chris Schuhmacher
Contributing Writer**

On May 11, San Quentin is scheduled to hold its third Day of Peace – a day dedicated to promoting peace throughout the prison.

During the event, inmates and guests from outside of the prison gather on the Lower Yard for the day's activities. Committee members have been in the planning stages for this year's event for months as they work out the logistics for bringing the day to life.

HISTORY

San Quentin's first Day of Peace was held in 2006. After several subsequent attempts failed, the event returned in 2012 with great success. Men filled the yard, wearing white to symbolize their commitment to peace.

"Our goal is to stem the tide of violence saturating our prisons and society," said Richard Poma, chairman of the Day of Peace committee, which organizes the event.

Last year's event began with prayers for peace from various religious groups, and several community leaders gave motivational talks about the importance of peace in our society. The day featured refreshments and live music from Rupa & the April Fishes. Supporters of the Day of Peace sponsored the entire event.

Inmates and free staff alike can still be seen wearing souvenir wristbands from last year's event, showing that the positive

energy created continues to flow throughout the year. "It was a lovely day," said prisoner Jarone "J.B." Barteo, "I actually felt a sense of peace inside prison walls."

HOPE

Prison administrators hope this year's event will carry on the tradition of spreading peace throughout the San Quentin community. Invitations have been sent to musical artists like Carlos Santana, Michael Franti and East Coast sensations Coalition Hip-Hop.

"The fellas and I would love the opportunity to travel west to San Quentin and spread our positive message of overcoming adversity through the power of dynamic and creative style," said Coalition Hip-Hop Manager Jason Fink.

PARTICIPATION

Organizers are also seeking guest speakers from the outside community and sending invitations to mayors from the surrounding area.

The Day of Peace committee encourages everyone attending to wear their freshest white T-shirt.

To make a monetary contribution to the Day of Peace, contact Kara Urion or Jody Lewen at the Prison University Project: (415) 455-8088 ext. 1 or go to info@prisonuniversityproject.org.

Donations may be sent to: Prison University Project, Note: For Day of Peace, P.O. Box 492, San Quentin, CA 94964.

An Unforgettable Experience

Editor:

My trip to San Quentin was an unforgettable experience. When I first arrived, I had some preconceived notions, and was terrified at how I would be treated and looked upon. After only being in there for a mere five minutes, I met the most amazing men who welcomed our group with warm arms. After being given an amazing tour by Red, we were able to sit down and talk to

about seven lifers, who changed my view about prisoners forever. These men all took full responsibility for what they did in the past, and are now working towards a better future. All of these men were some of the most genuine people I have ever met. I felt very safe and comfortable around them. They were not only very accommodating, but they truly cared for us and the people around them. These men

are now doing things to not only better themselves, but to help the community around them. This experience has taught me that no matter what you have done in your past, people can change for the better, and I truly feel that these men deserve a second chance at life, and will do anything I can to help make that happen.

- Ali Baurer

Regarding the New Pope

I was very pleasantly surprised (shocked really) to learn the new Pope is a Jesuit. Like Fr. Barber, who preceded me here, I too am a Jesuit. The Jesuits are the largest order of religious men in the Catholic Church. The word "Jesuit" was originally used by the opponents of the Jesuits – our official name is "The Society of Jesus." We were founded in the 1500s by Saint Ignatius of Loyola, a Basque soldier who experienced a conversion to Christ after he was wounded in a battle. The mission of the Jesuits, then and now, is to go to anyplace in the world where the Church most needs service – Jesuits were in the vanguard of missionary work to both North and South America, Asia, and Africa. We were also instrumental in defending the Church against many who attacked it.

Now, Jesuits are associated mostly with our successful schools and colleges. Our schools

were started originally to serve the poor. Our motto is **As Majorum Dei Gloriam**, which means in Latin, "For the Greater Glory of God."

There has never been a Jesuit Pope before because we were so influential. Many feared making a Jesuit a Pope would give the Society of Jesus too much power in the Church. But clearly the Cardinals who selected Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio were impressed not with his power, but with his humility and holiness.

I never heard of him until this Wednesday when he was chosen to be the new Bishop of Rome. (All the Popes are first and foremost the Bishop of Rome, following in the direct footsteps of St. Peter, who was the first leader of the early Church in Rome.)

He chose the name "Francis" after St. Francis of Assisi – a very humble and holy man who helped restore the Church to its real calling as the announcer of

the Gospel in a time when politics and corruption had crept into its governance.

Cardinal Bergoglio was known in his native Argentina as a strong defender of the poor and oppressed. He turned down the Cardinal's elegant mansion and chauffeured car to live in a simple apartment, did his own cooking and took the bus to work each day. He lived what he preached.

This new Francis comes at a time when the Catholic Church needs new leadership who can get us back to the basics of Jesus' teaching – to Love God and to love our neighbors.

I was particularly moved that the very first thing the new Pope did was to ask for the blessing of the Church – he bowed in humility as the servant of the Church – showing that he understands fully the role that Jesus intended for the leadership of the Church.

- Fr. George Williams, S.J.

NO BEAUTY IN CELL BARS

By Spoon Jackson

<i>Restless, unable to see Keys, bars, guns being racked</i>	<i>Vegetating faces, lost faces Dusted faces</i>	<i>For the silence of a rain drop Falling gently to earth</i>	<i>After a pounding rainfall Picnics in a rich green meadow</i>	<i>A tear that may engender A waterfall</i>
<i>Year after year Endless echoes</i>	<i>A lifer A dreamer</i>	<i>The magnificence of a rose Blooming into its many hues</i>	<i>ow We saw the beauty in butterflies</i>	<i>The memorie The dreams</i>
<i>Of steel kissing steel Noise</i>	<i>Tomorrow's a dream Yesterday's a memory</i>	<i>Of color The brilliance of a rainbow</i>	<i>flies We made it our symbol</i>	<i>Are now Love is now</i>
<i>Constant yelling Nothing said</i>	<i>Both a passing of a cloud How I long</i>	<i>When it sweetly lights up the sky</i>	<i>Tiny grains of sand One hour glass</i>	<i>There's no beauty in cell bars</i>

From: *Longer Ago, spoonjackson.com*

Asked On The Line

Different Farming Ideas and Opinions

How Would People Utilize Land in Today's Society?

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

With spring drawing near, "Asked on the Line" conducted 27 random informal interviews with men in blue and outside community members, and asked, "You are given charge of land, money and resources to plant and grow anything you want for any purpose. What would you grow?"

About 44 percent would grow fruit.

Reginald Hola would grow pineapples, Nelson Erick would grow oranges, Desjuan

Terri would grow apples, Kamal Hill would grow grapes, and Tristan Jones would grow pomegranates.

"I like grapes and it would be profitable," said Hill. Kevin Carr insisted on growing more than one fruit. He would grow cantaloupes, tomatoes, and watermelon.

About 56 percent would grow vegetables or grains.

The most popular choice was corn.

Lawrence Romero, Quinton Walker, Chance Edwards, Orlando Harris, and Zakee Hutchinson were among those who would grow corn. "I

would grow corn for food and for ethanol," said Hutchinson.

"I would grow a specialty product - something almost no one is growing"

Centerforce employee Jason Walsh said, "I would grow corn to feed the community

and also grow coffee as a cash crop."

Floyd Palmer would grow wheat, Eddie Griffin would grow mustard greens, Clarence Long would grow cabbage, and Tim Thompson would grow spinach.

Edwards said, "I would grow corn and hemp. Corn is multifunctional and has subsidies with the government." He would grow hemp to weave it into clothing. "Hemp can be grown anywhere and is durable."

Syyen Hong would grow Bamboo. "There is a market for making furniture with it, and the Asian community eats the

shoots," said Hong.

More than 60 percent would grow something to sell or trade. The rest would grow food to feed their communities free of charge. "I would grow mustard greens, because of the nutritional value and because it is lacking in the inner cities," said Griffin.

Literacy Coordinator Tom Bolema said, "I would grow a specialty product - something almost no one is growing. I would research it heavily and learn about its market. Something like a rare orchid or an exotic nut. It would be the most expensive crop that can be grown and sold."

1. Juneau, Alaska — State officials predict the Alaska prison population could reach capacity by 2016, so plans are in the works to build a new prison, according to The Associated Press. However, officials say a new prison may be delayed because they are focusing on reducing the number of released offenders re-committed to prison.

2. District of Columbia — New job training, health care and social services are being provided for all of the nearly 2,000 offenders who return to the district annually, after being released from prison. Services are provided by the Office of Returning Citizens Affairs in coordination with Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency and the U.S. Parole Commission. ORCA is the only office in the country that is mandated by law to help released offenders, according to the Washington Post.

3. Atlanta — A new sentencing law intended to keep non-violent drug and property offenders out of prison made its way out of the state's House of Representatives, according to The Economist magazine. Offenders would be diverted to drug courts, day-reporting centers, mental health court, geared toward treatment and rehabilitation, instead of punishment.

4. Lansing, Mich. — Gov. Rick Snyder (R) recently signed legislation designed to reduce the state's \$1.9 billion corrections budget by privatizing its prisons. The GEO Group is expected to profit from the legislation as it anticipates filling a 1,725-bed prison that has been vacant since 2005, according to the Huffington Post.

5. Richmond, Va. — Nine bills intended to automatically restore voting rights to nonviolent felons were rejected by a House panel, even though Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) and Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli supported the measures. Under current law, felons must appeal to the gover-

nor to have their voting rights restored. McDonnell has restored more voting rights to felons than any of his predecessors, according to the Washington Post.

6. Charleston, W.Va. — A non-partisan panel reported that the state could save more than \$100 million by 2018 by expanding community-based substance abuse treatment programs. The recommendations are: requiring post-release supervision for all prisoners, including those who have served their entire sentence, and not placed on parole upon release, and improve community-based supervision of prisoners on probation or parole, including expanding day report center programs, according to the Charleston Gazette.

7. Brooklyn, N.Y. — A federal judge overturned the conviction of William Lopez, who spent 23 years in prison for murder. The judge said the trial prosecutor was "overzealous and deceitful," Lopez's lawyers were "indolent and ill-prepared," and the trial

judge's decisions were "incomprehensible," reports the New York Times.

8. Dallas — County District Attorney Craig Watkins is known for fighting for wrongfully convicted prisoners, according to The Associated Press. Watkins said he wants lawmakers to think about the Racial Justice Act, which is designed to allow defendants to introduce evidence into trial contending their case is influenced by race. "The issue that we're bringing to light is to make sure that everything is fair, no matter what you look like, no matter where you come from, and you're treated like anyone else," Watkins said.

9. Montgomery, Ala. — A 2012 Justice Department study found Alabama's only prison for women is rampant with sexual misconduct by workers, reports The Associated Press. Prisoners who reported sexual abuse did not have their complaints treated properly, the study finds. As an example, rape complaints were

not always reliably investigated with the process often kept secret, according to the AP report.

10. Jefferson City, Mo. — More than 12,000 criminal defendants have successfully finished treatment programs in the past 20 years, says the state's chief justice, according to The Associated Press. Jackson County opened the state's first drug court to divert nonviolent, substance abuse offenders to drug court supervision instead of prison. The state currently has drug courts in all but two of its 45 judicial circuits, the AP reports.

11. Vandalia, Ill. — News media access to the state's prisons became a major issue when the prison population reached near-record highs and a prison worker's union filed a lawsuit to prevent Gov. Pat Quinn from closing several prisons. Recently, journalists were given access to a southern Illinois prison in the wake of reports of overcrowding, flooding, crumbling and unsanitary basement dormitories,

reports The Associated Press.

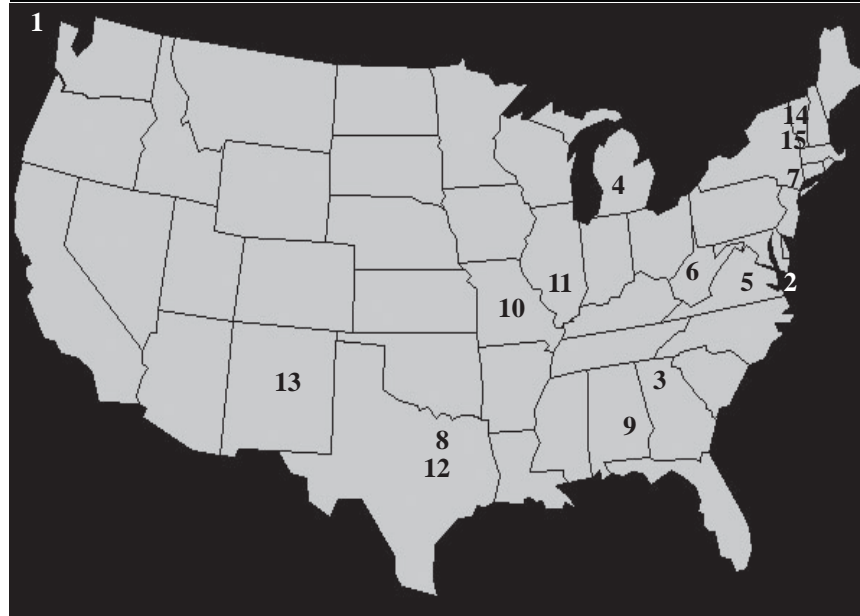
12. Corsicana, Texas — Randolph Arledge, 58 served nearly 30 years in prison for a murder conviction that has been overturned by DNA evidence, reports The Associated Press. Arledge was convicted for the 1984 stabbing of Carolyn Armstrong. Arledge's attorneys, prosecutors, and the Innocence Project agreed he should be set free after the DNA matched another person.

13. New Mexico — Treating substance abuse prisoners and former offenders is possible and cost effective, the League of Women Voters of Central New Mexico says. "In 2009 the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration said that on average \$1 invested in treating addiction yields a savings to the public of \$12 in medical and criminal justice costs. Dealing effectively with addicted persons requires recognizing the chronic nature of their brain disease either in incarceration or in the community. Failure to do so means that the problem is likely to continue its ruinous course and cost the taxpayers a great deal of money," the group said.

14. Burlington, Vermont — A grassroots campaign is under way to curb Vermont from sending felons to a for-profit prisons, according to Jonathan Leavitt, a journalist and community organizer who teaches college classes about social movements. Vermont spent more than \$14 million last year to lock up Vermonters in for-profit prisons like Lee Adjustment Center in Kentucky.

15. South Burlington, Vermont — A state-run prison has been given the Facility of the Year award for 2012 by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. The Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility was recognized for its variety of programs and features nearly 500 prisons, jails and juvenile facilities were examined by the commission.

News Briefs



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Snippets

Lucky charms is associated with St. Patrick, who was British, not Irish.

Upon escaping and becoming a priest and bishop, Patrick returned to Ireland as a missionary.

Clovers are a type of small herb with three leaves. The type referred to as a shamrock is the white clover. Florist often sell wood sorrel, which is not considered the traditional shamrock.

Karat is the standard measure of gold. Pure gold is 24 karats. 12-karats is 50 percent gold. The largest use for gold is in the electrical industry.

Yellow is the predominate color of gold. Mixed with copper, nickel, palladium, or silver, it makes white gold.

Crystals of gold, an inch or more in size, have been found in California. An ounce of gold can be beaten into a 300 square feet sheet.

Heat conditions during the California gold rush were deplorable. In the summer, prospectors sweated profusely in 90-degree heat.

Au is the chemical symbol for gold. In 1795 there was a local gold rush in Ireland that lasted six weeks and resulted in 80kg being recovered from the Minor River.

Renwick, an American architect, designed St. Patrick's Cathedral, which is the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York.

March 17th is the official day of celebration for St. Patrick's Day. It is a religious holiday. According to legend, St. Patrick planted shamrocks in Ireland because the three small leaflets represent the Holy Trinity.



Book Review

By Randy Maluenda



HOW TO WRITE A BUSINESS PLAN (By Mike McKeever) *Excellent roadmap from proposals thru financing.*



COLLAPSE (By Jared Diamond) *Thorough eco-history of why civilizations have and will collapse due to environmental concerns.*



FREEDOM (By Jonathan Franzen) *Sour riffs this quiet story of a couple's marriage in freefall.*



CRIMINAL LAW HANDBOOK (By Paul Bergman & Sara J. Berman) *General reader-friendly resource on the ins and outs of the system.*



BIRDSONG (By Sebastian Faulks) *Compelling experiences and flashbacks of a WWI vet..*

RATINGS: **RRRR**

Top responses are four ribbons progressing downward to one:

Responses which are two or less are not recommended reading.

Sudoku

By Anthony Lyons

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

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

Complete This Puzzle Win a Prize!



Explain the order these numbers have been placed in.

8-5-4-9-1-7-6-3-2-0

Hint: Find a formula or look for a pattern to the arrangement of these numbers.

The answer to last month's puzzle is: 40 Cigarettes

Congratulations to: William DeConter, and Bernie H. Castro for winning last month's puzzle.

Congratulations to: Kevin Alexander, Wayne Boatwright, Brian Carnes, Robert DeSylvia, Eddie DeWeaver, Nick Garcia, Jimmy Gonzalez, Leland Maes, Chand Prem, William Robinson, Anil Sagar, Chris Schuhmacher, Anthony Sully, Mike Tyler

Rules

The prizes will be for completion of brain twister puzzles. All puzzle submissions should be sent via u-save-em envelope to San Quentin News/Education Department. Only one entry per person. All correct submissions will be place in a hat. The winners will be picked by drawing the first two answers from that 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.

Puzzle concept By Binh Vo



Featured artwork of "Bam Bam"

Looking for Solutions to Complicated Questions

Continued from Page 1

oners who participate in one or more of the rehabilitation programs offered in the prison.

Prisoners who spent years examining and evaluating their juvenile delinquency explained why their lives turned to crime. The district attorneys said this new knowledge gave them valuable insight to criminal behavior they could use to help in the prevention of juvenile crime.

Gascón is looking at some of the youth going through the system in San Francisco who had or have parents in prison. "This may have become the norm, and we would like to stop this cycle," he said. Intervention that includes the parents being part of youth guidance is a key factor in where these young people end up in life.

According to Kris Himmelberger, in prison for attempted murder, "While life is complex, people ultimately chose to commit crimes," he said. "The environment plays a key factor. Without proper parental guidance, rational decision-making in chaos is difficult. We often make impulsive decisions and regret them later," added Himmelberger.

All the prisoners speaking at the forum agreed they chose to commit the crimes for which they are imprisoned. They agreed it is important to get at the parents who also need the tools to steer their children from a life of crime. Home is where the cycle needs to be stopped. When you do not have the tools or the opportunity to do what is right, wrong things will happen every time.

"We are here to learn from you men," said Gascón. "Our hope is to listen to you and find out what you have learned about yourself, and how you got to the place where you wanted to change your life." Gascón acknowledges that in order for rehabilitation to work, there needs to be support from everyone.

Among the guests was Luis Aroche, the first alternative sentencing planner hired by a district attorney in California. It is part of a new statewide plan to work with low-risk youth. The former gang member helps low-level offenders from end-

ing up behind bars. According to criminal justice experts, Aroche's position has no equivalent in any prosecutor's office in the country.

Gascón hired Aroche with state funds from Gov. Jerry Brown's realignment plan, to help slim the overcrowded prison system, where two-thirds of released prisoners return to custody within three years. The intention is to keep kids from being sent to prison among higher-risk offenders.

"Every time I meet with you guys, it truly motivates me to continue to try and change what I need to do to keep doing the right thing," said Aroche. "We are grateful for this opportunity to speak with you today. It helps us to better understand the young people we work with."

Assistant DA Marisa Rodriguez was instrumental in arranging for Gascón to meet with San Quentin prisoners. Rodriguez accompanied about a dozen assistant DAs last November. This was her second visit to a San Quentin News Forum.

"The most powerful part was observing my friends and colleagues taking in all of this," said Rodriguez. "It is important for us to know all aspects of the criminal justice system."



Miguel Quezada, George Gascón, and Tommy Winfrey consider ideas during the San Quentin News Forum

"It was a life-changing experience meeting prisoners for the first time, in such a candid way. I'm coming in here because I care about victims," said Rodriguez.

She commented that public safety is her number one concern, so it is helpful for prosecutors to communicate with those who have been through the system in order to find answers. "When I came here to San Quentin, I thought, 'What a think tank; what a place to solve a problem.'"

Gascón says he is passionate and devoted to reducing recidivism. "If I can, I will do this," he insists. "It will be a long process and it will take a lot of people working together. What I'm trying to do is create an evidence-based system to create practices that will keep the community safe."

Prisoner Malik Harris said, "This is one of those rare opportunities that we can actually have someone from outside come in and listen to us. In the long run, this helps us on the inside to continue with our re-



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Staff from the D.A.'s office gets a glimpse inside San Quentin's historic dungeon

habilitation. It also allows us to share what we've learned."

One of Gascón's interests with at-risk offenders is to "get them to that place where they want to involve themselves in similar activities, the activities that have made such positive changes in the lives of you men here at San Quentin."

"Many of these men in San Quentin today should be out there in society," San Quentin News Senior Adviser John Eagan said. "After what they've accomplished while in here, they are the best role models imaginable."

on the prison yard, to wanting to come and discuss their actions in a group like the San Quentin Forum.

"What would you tell me as a community member that would help me to help others?" asked Woo. How a prisoner got to the place where he wanted to make a positive change seemed to be the question of the day. Education seemed to be a large part of that conversation.

Prisoner Sam Johnson Sr. said one of the fears he suffered growing up was "being terrorized by my dad." He said he believes a large part of the problem was that his dad had only a sixth-grade education. "I take full responsibility for all my actions, and part of that responsibility was to get an education. While in prison, I've become the first person in my family to obtain a college education," Johnson said.

The consensus among prisoners and Gascón's staff members was that education is the key to more productive lives and careers. Getting young at-risk offenders to "that place" can be helped by dialogue from those who made bad choices but turned their lives around, Gascón and Woo said.

In the case of Aroche, he enrolled in City College, and then went on to San Francisco State, where he ended up on the honor roll and graduated with a degree in social work. He started working with Project Rebound, a program for ex-offenders. In addition, he received some therapy.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Sgt. Baxter, Warden K. Chappell, D.A. Gascón, Christine Soto DeBerry, Marisa Rodriguez, Sharon Woo, Luis Aroche



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Gary Scott and Sharon Woo discuss ideas