

San Quentin News

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POPULATION 3,950

Two-Year Extension To Meet Prison Cap

On Feb. 10, a federal court gave Gov. Jerry Brown a two-year extension to meet an inmate population cap on the state's prisons.

The order comes after the U.S. Supreme Court, in May 2011, ruled Brown must cap the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) inmate population at 137.5 percent of designed capacity, which would allow inmates to receive adequate medical care.

"A prison that deprives prisoners of basic sustenance, including adequate medical care, is incompatible with the concept of human dignity and has no place in civilized society," wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy in the 5-4 decision.

Since 2011, CDCR made several failed attempts to meet the population cap, including the construction of the California Health Care Facility (CHCF).

CHCF added 1,818 beds to the



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Inside S.Q.'s West Block

state's prison system and raised the number of state prisons subject to federal scrutiny from 33 to 34.

Last year, California prisons housed 33,777 inmates with verifiable mental illnesses, roughly 30 percent of the entire prison population, with 6,051 of those suffering from acute disorders like schizophrenia, according to a report by the Sacramento Bee.

Attorneys for the inmates objected to the two-year extension, saying the extra time would subject inmates to "abysmal unconstitutional conditions," and pointed out the court's first duty is to "eliminate the constitutional violations...in the fastest way possible consistent with...public safety."

See *Federal Court* on page 7

Court Orders Adequate Facility for Death Row Mental Health Inmates



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

North Block Administrative Segregation Unit for Death Row inmates at San Quentin

A federal court has ordered California prison officials to create or find an adequate treatment facility for Death Row inmates with mental health problems.

The case stems from a 1995 lawsuit in which the court said the condition for inmates on California's Death Row with mental health violated the cruel and unusual clause of the 8th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The court had appointed a Special Master to work with prison officials to develop a plan

to bring the mental health care to constitutional levels. Of the more than 700 Death Row inmates, 31 have been identified as needing such help. Another 13 were being monitored for possible inclusion.

After the Special Master filed its 25th monitoring report in January 2013, the court concluded state officials "have not historically 'had a viable option'" for Death Row inmates with mental health issues in need of "inter-

See *Court Orders* on page 7

San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi Visits S.Q.

'We need more room to educate a wanting jail population'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Classrooms and reentry programs are key to solving problems associated with jail and prison overcrowding, according to San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi during a San Quentin News forum with inmates.

On Dec. 20, Mirkarimi sat in a circle of 26 inmates—each with more than a decade behind bars, and most serving life sentences for crimes ranging from first-degree murder to forgery. The topic of discussion—rehabilitation, incarceration and reentry.

Alissa Riker, director of San Francisco jail programs, accompanied Mirkarimi.

"If our goal is to have a good reentry program, it won't happen unless the programs for reentry

See *Jailing* on page 4



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi addressing the S.Q. News Staff

Organizations Push State to Release 2,000 Prisoners Eligible for Prop. 36

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

The NAACP Legal Defense, Education Fund and the Three Strikes Project at Stanford School of Law want some 2,000 prisoners, who are eligible for shorter sentences under the state's three-strikes law released.

According to the NAACP,

"federal judges must order California to expedite Proposition 36 hearings for those 2,000 eligible inmates and at the same time make parole or probation services available to those felons when they are released."

Despite California voters' approval of Proposition 36, the reform has "no longer effectively reduced the prison population," according to Paige St. John of

the Los Angeles Times.

Lawyers for both organizations recognized California's prison population started climbing again. In the brief to the court, they argued vehemently that the state must take the leadership role in releasing inmates eligible under Proposition 36.

According to Paige St. John,

See *2,000 Prisoners* on page 4

Happy New Years & Happy Birthday

The staff of San Quentin News could not resist putting these two lovely babies in our newspaper. Both have bright futures, born in the same week, Seth Robinson born November 21st and William R. Spurlock on the 27th, 2013. Their fathers are a couple of

San Quentin News' utmost supporters, Lt. Sam Robinson and William Richard Spurlock of HASS Business School.

Their innocence forces us to put down our guard and recognize what is most important in this world.

The staff is blessed to have

the opportunity to wish baby Seth Robinson and William R. Spurlock all the best.

The joke around the office, Seth is San Quentin's future warden and William will become a media mogul, eclipsing the Rupert Murdoch Empire.



File photo

Lt. S. Robinson and William Richard Spurlock's sons
Seth Robinson and William R. Spurlock

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BEHIND THE SCENES

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'Give Respect to Get Respect,' Says Retiring Officer Rita Jones

By Tommy Winfrey
Art Editor

Friday the 13th turned out to be correctional officer Rita Jones' lucky day.

On Dec. 13, Jones retired from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation after more than 30 years of service.

Jones, 61, began working in San Quentin on Aug. 2, 1982, and still remembers her first day. "My first day I remember walking on the yard and thinking I can't work here, but I stuck to it, and I did it," she said.

Jones may not be big in stature, but she is big on respect. Her advice to new officers, "You have to give respect to get respect." She also advised her colleagues to keep their word, be themselves, and don't treat every inmate the same, because they're not.

When Jones started working at San Quentin, "The convicts were different. They were very hard and mean," she said. She remembers a lot of name calling back then.

Today, she says, it is different. "The relationships between inmates and officers are a lot better now."

Jones attributes some of the change she has witnessed at San Quentin to the level of inmate security designation that the prison houses. When Jones came to work the prison was a Level IV, maximum-security prison, but now the prison is a Level II, medium security prison.

There were not very many female guards when Jones came to work at San Quentin, and African American female officers were even rarer. She remembers watching one of her contemporaries, Sgt. Addy Kitchen go through the ranks, which had a big influence on her.

At the end of the day, Jones decided not to pursue promotions. "I enjoy working the tiers in the buildings, and I couldn't do that if I promoted."

Over the years Jones acknowledges that San Quentin has changed her, but not for the worse. "San Quentin brought both the good and the bad out of me. Now I talk differently to my sons, because the prison rubbed off on me."

Jones says she will miss the officers, inmates, and just coming to work. She says she knows this is going to be a big change in her life and, "It feels like I'm discharging parole."

Jones has decided that she is through with working and has made extensive plans to travel. She says she plans on going to Paris and taking a cruise in the Caribbean. She says these are just a few of the things she never got to do while working at San Quentin.

Jones also says there are things she has to do around the house.

Jones is very proud of her association with San Quentin and says, "San Quentin is full of number ones." She is referring to officer seniority ranks in the state. At the time of her retirement Jones was ranked number one female officer in the state; officer Childress, number one male officer in the state; Sgt. Kenny Bell, number one sergeant in the state; and Lt. Graham, number one lieutenant in the state.

Jones says she is also proud of the fact that she is the only female officer to work 30 years.

Over her long career as an officer at San Quentin, Jones may be most proud of, as how she puts it, "I earned my respect!"



Photo by Michelle Rochelle

Officer R. Jones standing in front of Tower 1

Statistics Show U.S. Incarceration Rate Highest in History, Highest in World

Report: Alabama Has The Most Overcrowded Prisons In The U.S.

By Micheal Cooke
Journalism Guild Writer

With more than 2.3 million men and women imprisoned in U.S. jails and prisons, two statistics stand out: today's U.S. incarceration rate is the highest it has ever been in history, and the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world, reports the Americans Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU reported that Alabama has the most overcrowded prisons in the U.S. Its prisons accommodate nearly twice their designed capacity.

Several studies on overcrowded prisons show such conditions are hazardous for guards and inmates. More significantly, Alabama lawmakers say they want to avoid

what happened in California—court intervention and a population cap, according to the ACLU.

Alabama Republican State Senator Cam Ward introduced a bill last year to allow the state sentencing commission to set new sentencing standards and give judges more latitude in deciding what type of sentence to impose on defendants. That legislation went into effect last spring.

The bill has started to show results. The new sentencing guidelines have resulted in lower sentences for a variety of nonviolent offenses, reports the ACLU.

Judges are required to follow the new guidelines unless they can demonstrate a good reason for giving a defendant

a higher or lower sentence.

The new guidelines will have a significant impact on the state's severe habitual offender law, which impose longer sentences on offenders with prior convictions.

Under the habitual offender laws, if a defendant has two prior felony convictions and she/he gets convicted of a non-violent, non-serious felony, the defendant must be charged as though they committed a serious or violent felony, which means a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison, even if the prior three felonies were for minor drug possession or forgery. Under the new sentencing guidelines, someone convicted of a third drug possession felony would now be eligible for a non-prison sentence.

The Significances of Black History Month

By Aaron "Imam Jeddi"
Taylor
Sports Writer

America is a great nation, it is hard to argue against that. This country, in its short history, has done much to make its mark on the world and within the annals of history. However, even as the framers wrote the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, social inequities continued to exist. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice once stated that slavery was America's "Birth Defect."

It is hard for most Americans to realize that two distinct U. S. histories have developed simultaneously.

There is the history taught in most elementary schools.

A few lines in a book that state, in essence, that blacks were enslaved in America, then set free by the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. However, this account often lacks key contributions from America's unheard historians.

This is a partial reason why Black History Month is so significant to the overall historical record of American history.

Most of America's citizens have no idea that Washington D.C. was actually built by members of the then enslaved society. America's greatness will only survive once all members of this nation are given full recognition for their contributions.

Inventions such as the wash-

ing machine and dryer, cotton gin, thumbtacks, traffic lights, and a host of other things were designed by the enslaved to make their heavy workload easier. Because slaves couldn't own anything, the slave master possessed the rights and patents to many inventions. These facts have been corrected in most historical records but certainly not all.

Africans that arrived in this country in the holds of slave ships also brought with them their own religious beliefs. Most of those caught and sold into slavery came from the West Coast of Africa. Those from the Sokoto region that covers what is now Ghana and southern Nigeria, were Muslims. Among these Muslims were doctors as well as scholars of literature, mathematics,

and science. Some studied in the great University of Timbuktu. [This has been documented by several black historians, J. A. Rogers, Anthony Browder, Chancellor Williams, among them.]

There were also African Nestorian Christians caught and enslaved as well. With this in mind, it can inspire a new conversation within the religious community about people of all faiths and the history of slavery in America.

It's important that we as Americans know and understand the full breadth of our history, not just segments of our history. While it's fine for us as a nation to disagree about our interpretations of historical events, what we can't have is separate sets of facts that we are interpreting.

In Texas, which incidentally

was the last state to tell its slave population about the Emancipation Proclamation, (They heard about it June 19, 1865, hence the Juneteenth holiday.) the state Education Board has actually changed accounts in history books. According to the television news program, "60 Minutes," Texas has rewritten history to say that the members of the Confederate Army actually wanted to free the slaves in the south, and that the Klu Klux Klan is a Christian organization that fights for equality.

Such examples emphasize the importance of having Black History Month. We have to support what we do have or else the history will be lost.

We are Americans. We can overcome any obstacle as long as we work as one.

Homeboy Industries and Boeing Offer Opportunity for Ex-Cons

Boeing and Its Employees Contributed More Than \$147 Million

By Chris Schuhmacher
Journalism Guild Writer

Global Corporate Citizenship is a term that you would hardly equate with men getting out of prison. However, an unusual alliance between Boeing and Homeboy Industries is giving ex-convicts a viable opportunity for reentry back into society.

Located in downtown Los Angeles, Homeboy Industries has become the largest gang intervention, rehab, and reentry program in the United States. They have partnered with aerospace and engineering giant Boeing to offer a Solar Panel Installation Training Program to serve as a beacon of hope for those looking to redirect their lives.

"Homeboy Industries is sort of an exit off this crazy, violent freeway called gang violence," says Father Gregory Boyle, the founder and director of the program. "It offers people a way out."

Boeing chose to fund this program because it directly aligns with its goal of improving communities through effective job training. By assisting underserved individuals to become self-supportive, they become invested and are em-

powered to start giving back to the communities in which they live.

In addition to funding job training, Boeing has created an Employees Community Fund that has a strong history of providing donations to Homeboy through support of the Homegirl Café.

"Employees these days, they don't want to just go to work and earn a paycheck and go home," says Steve Goo, Boeing vice president of Aircraft Modernization Services and Homeboy board member. "They really want to do something that matters."

Global Corporate Citizenship is the process of companies giving back to the communities where they live and work. Goo believes that Boeing's support of this program is making a huge difference in people's lives.

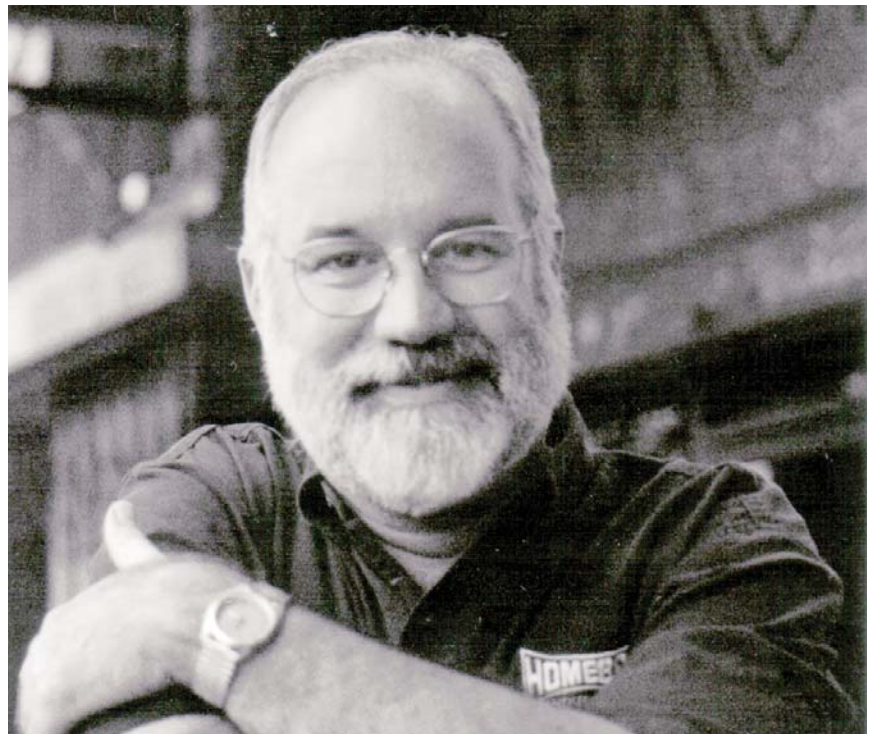
Homeboy Industries is just one of several non-profit organizations that Boeing partners with. Last year, Boeing and its employees contributed more than \$147 million in an effort to improve lives around the globe.

In addition to job training, Homeboy Industries continues to offer services such as free tattoo removal, skills training,

legal advice, and employment opportunities for those ready to put their gang and prison

life behind them. For more information, go to www.homeboy-industries.org or write to

Homeboy Industries – 130 W. Bruno St. – Los Angeles, CA – 90012.



File Photo

Father Gregory Boyle, the founder and director of Homeboy Industries

Men and Women of Purpose Provides Services for Newly Released Prisoners

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Ex-cons getting out of prison need a lot of help getting started again, according to a mentoring program in Richmond.

Men and Women of Purpose, referred to as MWP, is set up to provide the services to the newly released offenders. The program has the attention of officials throughout the state, including corrections officials and law enforcement agencies.

The program is funded through the state's realignment

plan that shifts the responsibility for low-level offenders to county governments. Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia said the county is using \$5 million for community organizations such as MWP.

Sponsors of MWP recently applauded efforts of those who advocated for the program. Speaking at an open house for their new offices, the founder gave credit to local community leaders. Gioia, one of the honorees, said, "We are trying to show that investing in reentry is the best investment we can make to improve the suc-

cess of the population, reduce recidivism, and make the community safer."

"We are trying to show that investing in reentry is the best investment we can make"

Former prisoner Ivory Mitchell represented San Quentin at the gathering.

Mitchell said he was "up on the fifth tier of West Block all alone" when he realized that he had to surrender his will to God. "God put me there to cry out," he says.

Thirteen years later, Mitchell is reentry manager for the MWP program. When he cried out on the fifth tier, he was back for his tenth violation and emotionally broken down. Mitchell said he just decided that "change is possible," and he decided to do it.

Gioia said one of the best things about the program is that it can now be consistent and be

able to follow up with men getting re-started. Speaking about the staff at MWP, "Now they are getting paid," he added.

In addition to Gioia, Mayor Gayle McLaughlin, Chief of Police Chris Magnus, and Richmond City Manager Bill Lindsay, were also honored for their contributions.

MWP founder Antoine Clorid has been persistent in advocating establishment of the mentor program. Noting his tenacity, City Councilman Nat Bates joked that Antoine is "number one beggar in the city."

New Law Helps Former Prisoners Seeking Employment

By N. T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation aimed at helping former prisoners get jobs.

The new law means many people who seek jobs with state or local governments will no longer be asked on their initial application whether they have a criminal conviction.

Brown signed the measure, AB 218 by Assemblyman Roger Dickinson, D-Sacra-

mento, in October. It took effect in July of 2013.

It will not prohibit government employers from inquiring whether an applicant has a criminal record or conducting a background check once the employer determines the applicant has the basic qualifications for the job in question.

SUPPORTERS

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, supporters of the bill promote it as a channel for ex-offenders to com-

pete for jobs on an equal basis with others. Criminal checks for police, teachers, or government jobs working with children, the elderly or disabled are still permissible under the new law.

"A mistake from your past shouldn't be a life sentence," Michelle Rodriguez, attorney with the National Employment Law Project in Oakland, told the Chronicle. Some civil rights groups contend that questioning applicants about their prior criminal record

disproportionately affects minorities.

EXECUTIVE ORDER

In 2010, then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger instructed most state agencies to cease the inquiries, but AB218 codifies that executive order into law and applies it to include local governmental agencies.

The Chronicle reported eight other states have a similar law on the books and in 2012, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission recom-

mended that private companies also cease asking if a person has a criminal conviction.

Oakland and Richmond, have passed similar laws applying to private companies, according to news reports.

"We try to point out to the employers that there are many highly qualified people who have had some kind of interaction with the law who would be an asset to their employment pool," said Linda Evans of Legal Services for Prisoners With Children.

'Jailing the Mentally Ill Is Not Good' – Sheriff Mirkarimi

Continued from Page 1

are set in place," Mirkarimi said. "We need more room to educate a wanting jail population."

Mirkarimi said San Francisco jail administrators are particularly interested in ideas that could benefit people serving shorter sentences.

Riker asked the men what made them want to participate in the programs.

Inmates began explaining that it wasn't until they involved themselves in prosocial programs centered on helping participants understand the root cause of criminal thinking that they were willing to take advantage of substance abuse and education programs in prison.

"What I'm hearing from you only magnifies what our challenges are," Mirkarimi said.

Inmate Dave Basile, 61, said after he went to The Hole in 2009, he realized that many of the things he believed in were wrong. "I noticed when

I started taking programs and college classes how limited I was," Basile said. "There was a paradigm shift in my belief system and I realized that many of the things I had believed in were lies. Therefore, the veil of ignorance that had kept me limited soon began to lift from my eyes."

Inmate Darnell Hill, 45, talked about how getting an education while incarcerated was the beginning of his transformation

grade education at the age of 22," he said. "I came to a level of sincerity with myself and realized the only way I could better myself was through education."

Hill earned an Associates Degree from the Prison University Project, a Biblical Studies degree from Patten College, and a degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. "I felt getting an education helped me overcome my criminal thinking and behavior," he said.

Mirkarimi said the test for whether the in-jail programs are effective is what happens after the person is released. He asked the inmates: "How do you help people who serve short jail terms? Is it a government duty to take care of reentry?"

"The responsibility for taking care of reentry ought to be a responsibility of everyone -- government, offenders, victims, and the community," said former inmate Richard Lindsey. "We have to develop a new way of looking at this problem. Restorative Justice is bringing a new way of looking at it. To inspire people to want to change, we need to integrate formerly incarcerated people into the system to give it credibility."

Lindsey paroled from San Quentin in April 2013 after serving nearly 30 years for second-degree murder.

"As I see men released, I see a lot of frustration because there's a gap in resources to needs," said Richard Baez, director of the Addiction Recovery Program at San Quentin. "Just because a person has the resources doesn't mean they'd take them. We need to find a way to turn the light bulb on to want to change."

Mirkarimi said he was concerned with how to classify inmates once they are first booked into jail, particularly the mentally ill. "The criminalization



Sheriff R. Mirkarimi with Richard Lindsey talking while David Basile and Tommy Winfrey listens

Photo by Raphaelae Casale



Miguel Quezada, Sheriff R. Mirkarimi and Alissa (Ali) Riker signing her name in the S.Q. News' guest book

Photo by Raphaelae Casale

into a socially accountable person. "I felt bad because I sacrificed my relationship with my mother, who was always there for me, to commit crime with a father, who was never there for me, and I only had a seventh



Sheriff R. Mirkarim, Adviser Joan Lisetor and Alissa (Ali) Riker inside the San Quentin News room

Photo by Raphaelae Casale

of the mentally ill is not a solution," he said. "Jailing the mentally ill is not good. The needs of custody and the needs of the offender must be reconciled for the best results."

Making inroads in improving public safety is a top priority, Mirkarimi said. So finding the right programs is the biggest challenge.

In 2003, the San Francisco Sheriff's Office opened Five Keys Charter School, the first public high school embedded in a jail system. Five Keys is founded on connecting the community with criminal justice policy, a focus on family, recovery from substance abuse, education and employment, as reported by the San Francisco Chronicle.

Since opening, "the school has awarded more than 600 high school diplomas, certificates of completion or equivalency diplomas," reports the Chronicle. Graduates of Five

Keys (one year out of jail) do not return to jail 24 percentage points lower than the 68 percent of inmates who do not attend the school—saving San Francisco about \$1.5 million each year — after deducting operating costs of the school, the newspaper reported.

"We want to encourage a lot of volunteerism into the San Francisco County Jail," Mirkarimi said. "We are always trying to harvest volunteers from the community. I believe this is important, not only for the offenders, but for public safety."

Mirkarimi said he recognizes class problems in San Francisco. He said that when people are just getting out of jail they typically cannot afford to live in the city. "Those who are in the jail system are at the lowest rung of class. We need to change how people see those on the lowest rung."

—B. Woodard and K. Sawyer contributed to this story.

2,000 Prisoners Await Review Under Prop. 36

Continued from Page 1

lawyers from both groups argued before federal judges "were [the state] invested in finding a durable solution to the prison crisis in California, one would expect to find some leadership on their part in this crucial area of reentry."

St. John reports, "One thousand prisoners have already won release." However, 2,000 eligible inmates are waiting review of their cases.

Los Angeles County has the poorest rates of hearing cases.

Only 17 percent of those inmates eligible for Proposition 36 have had their cases reviewed.

Jeffrey Callison, a representative for the corrections department contends, "The NAACP request goes beyond the state's role."

Callison believes, "It is the inmate's responsibility to petition the courts, and it is for the judges to determine whether they should be re-sentenced." According to the report, "CDCR does not advocate for or against any petition."

Increase in Federal Prison Population Forces Taxpayers to Spend Billions

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

The federal prison population has steadily increased in the last three decades, forcing taxpayers to spend billions of dollars, shifting funds away from investigators and prosecutors, a new report says.

"Since Fiscal Year 2000, the rate of growth in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) budget is almost twice the rate of growth of the rest of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)," said Nancy G. La Vigne, Ph.D., in a November 2013 report addressing the cost-effective strategies for reducing recidivism.

Since 1980, the population in federal prisons has increased nearly tenfold, according to La Vigne's statement before the Committee on Judiciary United States Senate.

La Vigne is director of the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute. She represents more than 30 researchers who

study a variety of crime and justice issues. They have been managing the Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center for 20 years.

These researchers work on behalf of the federal government, La Vigne said. They clean, code, and "analyze data from a wide array of federal criminal justice agencies including the BOP, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the United States Sentencing Commission."

"Our overarching conclusion is that it will require changes to both sentencing and release policies to reduce the federal prison population to levels that are within their rated design capacity," said La Vigne.

According to La Vigne, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) will experience "continued growth" in the future. Currently its inmate population is more than 219,000.

"With each passing year, the federal government has had to allocate more resources to the

federal prison system at the expense of other critical public safety priorities," La Vigne said in November (2013).

A number of members of the Committee, Congress, the Attorney General's office, researchers, administration officials, and bipartisan policy advocates concluded that federal prison "growth and its associated costs are unsustainable."

The conclusion is based on "Fiscal impact, overcrowding risks, fairness and equity concerns, and inefficient resource allocation," it was reported.

Indeed, "the federal prison population would need to decline by over 50,000 inmates to be operating prisons within their rated capacity," La Vigne said.

Senate Bill 619, The Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013, is one legislative proposal to alleviate overcrowding, La Vigne reported.

The law would give judges more authority to "depart be-

low the statutory mandatory minimum penalty for offenders whose case-specific characteristics and criminal histories are inconsistent with a lengthy minimum sentence," it was reported.

Another legislative alternative, according to La Vigne, is to transfer BOP inmates to community corrections or do early releases.

"Research indicates that in the states, the early release of inmates has no significant impact on recidivism rates," La Vigne report said.

Other approaches to reduce this size of the BOP population include "instructing prosecutors to modify charging practices," allow low risk inmates to earn more credit for extra time off, reduce drug sentences, release of elderly inmates, parole the terminally ill through compassionate releases and increase the transfer of foreign nationals.

According to the Office of the Inspector General, nearly one-

fourth of the BOP population are not U.S. citizens, but "less than 1 percent of foreign nationals are transferred through the International Prisoner Transfer Program."

La Vigne reported that federal prisons are currently housing inmates by over one-third of design capacity. These figures are expected to grow in years to come, and this may make prisons more dangerous while also affecting reentry programs that typically reduce recidivism.

La Vigne said the changes to reduce the federal prison population require statutory changes, or policy changes, adding "lengthy drug sentences have been the biggest driver of growth in the federal prison population."

La Vigne concluded by saying, "Aggressive action is needed to stem the tide of prison population growth," and that "Many states have done so and are already reaping the benefits of cost savings at no risk to public safety."

Prison Policy Initiative Report Highlights Four Core Improvements in Justice System

A prisoners' rights research organization highlights in its annual report accomplishments and reforms made in the criminal justice system.

The Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) published its first annual report November 2013.

"The non-profit, non-partisan PPI produces cutting edge research to expose the broader harm of mass incarceration and then sparks advocacy campaigns to create a more just society," according to the report.

The report analyzed these four core issues that have drawn national attention:

- Prison gerrymandering,
- The high cost of phone calls made from prison,
- Proposals to end letters to prisoners,
- Geography-based punishments.

When PPI learned that for years millions of prisoners throughout the U.S. were being counted in the wrong place by the Census Bureau, it exposed the gerrymandering practice. This raised awareness, later creating the impetus for legislation to change this policy at the local, state, and national levels.

"For more than a decade,

we've been leading the movement to keep the prison system from exerting undue influence on the political process," PPI reported.

The Census Bureau has now been urged to tabulate incarcerated individuals in the communities from which they come from by the 2020 census, instead of where these inmates are confined, PPI reported.

"The public was unaware that prison gerrymandering was distorting our democracy and impeding criminal justice reform," PPI reported.

Two reports released by PPI exposed the inherent nature

of price gouging by prison telephone companies such as Global Tel Link that provides service to inmates.

The Price To Call Home, and Please Deposit All of Your Money revealed kickbacks to prisons, exorbitant rates, and hidden fees in the prison telephone industry.

The reports "explained how prison systems and private companies collude to charge unconscionable sums to poor families that simply want to stay in touch with an incarcerated loved one," PPI reported.

"We wrote this report (Please Deposit...) to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to prevent companies from creating arbitrary fees out of thin air to negate any caps that the FCC might impose on the cost of a call. It is clear from the FCC's historic ruling in August that they heard our concerns and took action accordingly," said Peter Wagner, Executive Director of PPI.

Recently PPI learned about a progression of sheriffs around the country attempting to ban letters written to inmates. The then impending jail mail policy was to allow postcard only mail communication from family members.

Later, PPI policy analyst, Leah Sakala, released her report Return to Sender. With the help of Sakala's report, inmate advocates in California were able to halt the implementation of the mail policy in the Santa Clara County Jail, according to the report.

"A growing number of sheriffs are experimenting with a harmful idea: banning letters

from loved ones. We are pushing back," PPI reported. "We wrote the first comprehensive report exposing the harm of letter bans in local jails."

In its report titled, The Geography of Punishment, PPI details how sentencing enhancement zones do harm to communities while failing to protect children. The zones "miss the mark."

"Increased penalties in school zone areas worsen racial disparities in the criminal justice system," PPI reported. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick endorsed PPI's proposal to reduce enhancement zones to 100 feet. This was done to reduce the state's prison population, which in turn saved taxpayers money.

PPI's Wagner testified as an expert witness in a Colorado case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union where the City of Englewood created an ordinance restricting where certain sex offenders and their families may live. The ordinance was subsequently overturned.

"When a legislature decides everywhere is special, nowhere is special. Aside from our main campaigns and ongoing projects, we've had several opportunities to support our colleagues' campaigns in advancing larger discussions about mass incarceration," PPI reported.

PPI formed in 2001 out of the idea three students had to make public and document how the affects of mass incarceration undermines the national welfare of the United States.

—Kevin D. Sawyer

Sexual Offenders Recidivism Rate Decreases, According to Report

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

Sex offender recidivism is much lower than what people think, according to an article by USA Fair, Inc.

The organization reports that over the last decade recidivism studies of sexual offenders were conducted by various federal and state agencies, or by academic researchers from grants assistance from agencies such as the U.S. Department of Justice.

Most recidivism rate reports look at a three-year period after release, because most reoffending behavior occurs within that time.

USA Fair describes itself as "Families Advocating an Intel-

lign Registry."

It notes that various agencies define recidivism by using a variety of indicators such as, re-arrest, re-convictions or return to incarceration. Some studies report more than one of these statistics.

The recidivism rates below are for "new sex crimes" recidivism, as opposed to technical violations of parole or probation or convictions for other crimes such as drug offenses, the article reports.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: Study of 7,011 male sex offenders released from prison, re-convictions 5 percent after 3-year follow-up.

California Sex Offenders Management Board: A Study

of 3,577 sex offenders released from CDCR prisons in 1997 and followed through the end of 2007, returned to custody due to new sex offense 3.8 percent.

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics: A study of 9,691 sex offenders released from prisons in 15 states in 1994 and followed for 3 years, sex crimes re-arrest Rate 5.3 percent, sex crime re-conviction rate 3.5 percent.

The other states showed in the report are Arizona, Minnesota, Alaska, Washington State, Ohio, South Carolina, Indiana, and New York. These had a re-arrest from 3.6 to 12 percent, and recidivism rate from 2.3 to 8 percent and re-conviction was from 2.7 to 10 percent.

Denial and the First Steps Towards Accepting Responsibility

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

EDITORIAL

There are many types of crimes, but in a civilized society, murder is considered one of the most heinous, perhaps because of its bleak finality. The person convicted of the violent act is called a "monster" and shunned by society.

Ar-Raheen Malik was 25, when he committed murder. Malik says it was initially hard for him to accept responsibility for his crime, yet by the time he got locked up in 1975, he began to recognize the horrific nature of his actions. Yet that was just the beginning of a long self-realization process.

For decades, Malik says he has labored to understand and reflect on how his wrongful acts have devastated the victim's family, the community, his own family, as well as himself. He says each day is a struggle to tear down self-made barriers that have caused him to delude himself about his own actions. Instrumental to helping him, Malik says, are the prosocial programs provided to him by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation located at San Quentin.

His past delusions were cultivated in the environment in which he was raised.

"I really didn't know my father," Malik said. "My last memories of him were when I was nine. He picked me up to go shopping in San Francisco."

That was in 1959.

Malik said his mother married twice, and he had good relationships with both stepfathers. However, since locked up,

they have passed away. "My last step-father, John, was really like a father," he said. "We worked together when I was on the streets, and when I got locked up, he used to visit me. So, it really hurt when he passed away."

Malik himself is a father to four children. His first was born when he was just 16, in 1966, the result of a one-night-stand.

Just a year later, he was smoking marijuana heavily, drinking alcohol, and dropping pills — his gateway to cocaine and heroin. Looking back, Malik said he did not know his enemy was a sickness he didn't even recognize — drug addiction. It took its toll as he said he ended up being kicked out of every high school in Oakland. "By 17, I was doing what I wanted to do," he said. "Even though the principal tried to talk to me, I wouldn't listen. He told me that since I was a bad influence on all the other students, I shouldn't be in public schools. My parents thought the same, so I got kicked out of the house, also."

Yet he still had not learned his lesson.

In 1969, another relationship resulted in a second child. A third relationship, which lasted three years, resulted in still another child.

Malik says he always wanted a relationship and children, and for a while, he had both. However, as the years passed, so did the relationships.

Malik's life in Oakland was not easy, especially because of the drugs, crime and fast lifestyle.

Malik says, while not an excuse, his addictive behaviors contributed to his committing a murder one fateful day in 1975.

As he recalls, the night before the murder he had taken LSD, and was up all night. Early the next morning, a friend came by his apartment and asked him to help collect some money.

Malik said he took a gun with him, "because it was standard operating procedure in the neighborhood," which he said gave him a sense of security. "I was only going with a friend to pick up some money owed to him," he said. "It never entered my mind that I'd be using the gun that morning."

But, he did. Malik says he regrets using the gun. He says the lives of three people were changed that night, in which one person died.

For two years, he was on the run.

Malik said his murder trial lasted two weeks. "The public defender did the best he could," he said. "After two weeks of deliberation, the jury found me guilty on all counts."

When he was first locked up, he blamed his actions on alcohol, drugs, and a head injury he suffered in 1972 when he was hit by a police officer's baton for resisting arrest.

In 1979, after he began participating in Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous because he wanted to understand the events that led him to prison. He also began seeing the prison psychiatrist who helped him dispel a false belief system and realize how he was minimizing his past actions.

He credits the psychiatrist with helping him grow out of his delusions and to understand his criminal behavior. Malik said, "The programs through out my time in prison, and the psychiatrist helped me change my belief system and therefore, change how I view the world."

Although he was securely locked away from the world, personal tragedy still crept inside the walls of his confinement.

In 1981, Malik's youngest sister Debora, jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge while he was doing time at San Quentin. And, in 1991, his brother Luther, 40, hanged himself while he was doing time at California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo.

"It was devastating to me to lose my brother and sister that way," he said. "They both needed the same help I needed at that time. Poverty is a cold monster," adding, "A lot of time you're cold and hungry."

In 1988, Malik met and married Frances Tops, his first wife.

They were married 15 years but divorced in 2003. He says

even after the divorce, they regularly wrote each other. Then one day she stopped writing. A few weeks went by, and then he received a letter from the mailman informing that Frances passed away during a surgical procedure. "A person who's locked up is blessed by having a precious soul to bring her softness inside a prison and help an inmate change his belief system," adding, "I only regret I didn't have the opportunity to spend time with her on the streets."

Around the same time Frances died, Malik's mother passed away.

Malik recalls family life with being very hard for his mother, as she had to raise five boys and four girls. "It was tough for her," he said. "My mother was an uneducated woman from Arkansas and she was very superstitious. Raising so many children took away from her being able to take care of herself. I think this overwhelmed her and drove her to drinking."

Malik, who has been imprisoned for 36 years, believes he has gained much wisdom from reflecting on his life and choices. The greatest advice he has for his younger friends is to listen to their teachers and to stay away from drugs and alcohol. "Don't live the street life. Don't even think there is power in carrying a gun; the only real power is in education," he said.

Today, Malik is proud to say he is a devoted Christian. He says that if he gets an opportunity for parole, he wants to get into a program that allows him to work with at risk kids in the community.

Message From The Editor:

The entire inmate staff of San Quentin News apologizes for the 45-day shut down placed on its operations.

The inmate staff, Berkeley graduate student-volunteers, and professional advisers are happy to be back in business.

This issue, labeled "February-March" is playing catch-up. By April, we expect to be fully functioning on a tight schedule.

We will steadfastly guard against any future problems.

The sudden influx of letters by the hundreds has caused us to appoint someone to respond to them as best we can. The content of letters has heartened us, especially the ones coming from other states.

During the shut down, the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists has awarded San Quentin News the James Madison freedom of information award for "accomplishing extraordinary journalism under extraordinary circumstances" and lifting "the curtain of secrecy that shrouds those who live behind the walls."

In an email, representative of SPJ called San Quentin News "a newspaper that provides an invaluable public service, not just a representative to fellow prisoners but to the general public at large."

San Quentin Public Information Officer Sam Robinson said the award is well deserved.

Independent Researcher for San Quentin News Richard Lindsey is scheduled to receive the award on behalf of the inmate staff of San Quentin News at the 29th annual James Madison awards banquet that was held Thursday, March 20, at the San Francisco City Club.

San Quentin News is optimistically moving forward with its goal of providing a copy of the newspaper to every prisoner in the state of California.

We are also encouraged by numerous interview requests and support by readers following the Marin Independent Journal, Daily Californian, Los Angeles Times, and various other newspapers that picked up the story about San Quentin News.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Is Cleanliness Next to Godliness?

Letter to the Editor:

In a state that has been plagued by droughts and water shortages, why are we showering the dirtiest people in the state? The criminals do not need showers; they need salvation!

They need their souls washed from the dirty deeds they have committed. No amount of water will cleanse them.

Since it is impractical to never bathe the wretched masses that have committed sin, because it is left to the pure of heart to watch these criminals and save them from their selves, we should not add to the captor's misery by forcing them to smell the pungent refuse of society.

Since it would be offensive to the sensibilities of the righteous, we must come up with some compromise to ease their suffering.

After all, why should the good citizens whom have suffered the worse deprivations imaginable by being exposed to the filth be subjected to their offensive smells as

well.

This must be balanced with a modicum of compassion on the part of the state.

Water being the precious resource that it is, should never be wasted. A unique program at San Quentin has addressed this need.

The criminals at this infamous prison are subjected to a weather and temperature based regiment.

As soon as the temperature goes down in the winter months, the shower water temperature mimics the outside conditions and is lowered.

Vice versa in the warmer months of the year, water temperature is raised as the outside temperatures go up.

This has the affect of allowing the criminal to think they are making the choice to take shorter showers.

The criminal would never choose to conserve water for the sake of the state or the public. After all, the lowest people in society rarely think of anything or anyone outside of their selves.

The wretched criminal

takes shorter showers for his own sake. Otherwise, the criminal would choose to squander water.

San Quentin should be commended for the foresight of seeing that staff should be relieved of the putrid smells of the wretched, but water must be preserved.

As for those who may object to the poor treatment of offenders, I remind them that the criminal should be regarded as an animal of the basest nature.

The criminal shows no feelings for society when they pillage and rape communities, therefore they must be without them.

They should be treated as the animals they are. Would we worry about the temperature we bathe cattle in? I think not! Criminals do not deserve any special consideration. We can remove the filth from their skin, but not from their character. We would be wise to keep this thought in perspective, like the good people of San Quentin.

-Anonymous

Judge Hears Pepper Spray Challenge

Inmates Were Forced Out of Their Cells and Administered Court-Ordered Medication

San Quentin News Staff

A federal judge has heard testimony to determine whether California inmate's civil rights were violated after pepper spray was used to force them out of their cells to administer court ordered medication, reports *The Associated Press*.

At an earlier trial, videos were made public showing "screaming inmates who refused to leave their cells" after being pepper sprayed, the AP reports. "What these videos have demonstrated is an institutionally sanctioned way of torturing mentally ill inmates," said Jeffrey L. Bornstein, an attorney repre-

senting inmates, according to AP.

"Use of force is always a last resort for our staff, and cell extractions are typically done to keep inmates from harming themselves or others and to ensure that they are placed in a more appropriate mental health setting," department spokesperson Debo-

rah Hoffman said. "What you don't see on these videos are the hours of discussions that take place between the inmate and clinical staff before a cell extraction is ordered and the video camera starts rolling."

Since then, prison officials said that they would limit how much pepper spray could be used on inmates who do not comply with orders.

The 23-year-old court case has prompted comprehensive changes for the state's prisons, including a cap on its inmate population by the federal court.

At the November trial, Dr. Edward Kaufman told the court little has changed in the 20 years since the federal court initially ruled guards used ex-

cessive force against mentally ill prisoners when they would not comply with their orders.

Separately, the judge also is considering whether mentally ill inmates on Death Row are given proper treatment, the AP reports.

The Death Row issues used an incident of a condemned inmate who punched out his own eyes with a pair of ballpoint pens, according to the AP.

"The psychotic inmate tried to kill himself three times at San Quentin State Prison but was never hospitalized. He finally hanged himself in April," reports the AP.

The court's written rulings on both cases are expected in the near future, the AP reports.

Federal Court Grants Two-Year Extension to Meet Prison Cap

Continued from Page 1

As examples of abysmal conditions, court experts found that one women's prison was operating 178.5 percent over capacity, and not providing adequate medical care. The result created preventable morbidity and mortality with on-going serious risk of harm to inmate patients. The majority of the problems were attributable to overcrowding, insufficient health care staffing, and inadequate medical bed space, the experts concluded.

The experts examined nine other prisons, and they said none provided adequate health care.

Inmates' attorneys say that inmates with mental illness "continue to suffer the devastating effects of ongoing overcrowding... [and] die at staggering rates as a consequence of [the state's] failure to provide minimally adequate mental health treatment and conditions of confinement."

The Feb. 10 order created a timeline that Brown must keep in meeting the inmate population cap of 137.5 percent of designed capacity. In addition, the court ordered the appointment of a Compliance Officer with authorization to select qualifying inmates for release if the state's 34 prisons exceed preset population caps.

The first population cap of 116,651 inmates or 143 percent of designed capacity must be met by June 30.

Numbers from CDCR shows that on Feb. 12, the inmate population stood at 117,682, or 144.3 percent of designed capacity—1,031 inmates higher than the cap.

By Feb. 28 of next year, the CDCR inmate population cannot exceed 141.5 percent of designed capacity or 115,427 inmates.

By Feb. 28, 2016, the CDCR inmate population cannot exceed 137.5 percent of designed capacity or 112,164 inmates.

The court order notifies CDCR that if the inmate population exceeds any of the above preset levels, 30 days thereafter, the Compliance Officer will select qualifying inmates for release.

The Compliance Officer is to "have access to all necessary CDCR data and personnel regarding the California prison population, including population projections." The inmate's Central file, risk assessment,

recidivism data, statistical data would be used to find qualifying inmates.

By April 11, CDCR is to give the Compliance Officer under seal, the categories of prisoners who are least likely to reoffend or who might otherwise be candidates for early release through a Low Risk List. An amended list is to be updated every 60 days.

In addition, the court orders Brown to "develop comprehensive and sustainable prison population-reduction reforms and [to] consider the establishment of a commission to recommend reforms of state penal and sentencing laws."

"California prison would remain 3,000 inmates over what federal judges say they can safely hold and still provide adequate healthcare and psychiatric services"

The order excludes the release of condemned inmates or inmates serving a term of life without the possibility of parole.

The Brown administration says the state is revamping the prisons with "new reform measures to responsibly draw down the prison population while avoiding the release of inmates."

The sentences of non-violent second strikers and minimum custody inmates with a record of good behavior are to be reduced by one-third.

Non-violent second strikers and minimum custody inmates qualify to earn an additional eight weeks a year off their sentence for completing certain rehabilitative programs. In addition, under certain circumstances, minimum custody inmates are eligible to earn 2-for-1 good-behavior credits, while non-violent second strikers are eligible for board consideration after serving half of their sentence.

Inmates who have appeared before the Board of Prison

Hearings and granted future release dates are to be released immediately.

Medically incapacitated inmates are scheduled to receive greater consideration for release.

A new parole process is to be implemented for inmates who are over 60 years of age and have served a minimum of 25 years.

Thirteen prisons designated as reentry hubs are to be activated within one year, while pilot reentry programs are expanded to more counties and local communities.

Alternative custody programs are to be implemented for female inmates.

The Los Angeles Times reported that even after the reforms take place, "California prison would remain 3,000 inmates over what federal judges say they can safely hold and still provide adequate healthcare and psychiatric services."

Court papers show that the crowding problem "is getting worse not better," and warn, "The prison population is projected to grow another 10,000 in the next five years."

The L.A. Times reported, "Projections released by the corrections department show that by 2019 the state will have 26,000 more inmates than its prisons would be able to hold under the federal crowding caps."

The Brown 2014-15 budget calls for \$9.8 billion to be spent on corrections with nearly \$500 million to pay for and administer prison contracts to house nearly 17,700 inmates, which is \$100 million more than this year to house 4,700 more inmates, according to the L.A. Times.

Brown cannot "increase the current population level of approximately 8,900 inmates housed in out-of-state facilities," according to the court order.

Brown said he intends to comply with the court order by "contracting for additional in-state capacity in county jails, community correctional facilities, and a private prison."

To get the two-year extension, Brown agreed to "not appeal or support an appeal of this order, any subsequent order necessary to implement this order, or any order issued by the Compliance Officer."

—This article will be reprinted in Spanish in our next edition.

Access to Healthcare Reduces Recidivism

**By Seth Rountree
Journalism Guild Writer**

While incarcerated, inmates have a constitutional right to adequate healthcare. Keeping it up once they are released, helps them stay out of jail, reports the U.S. Department of Justice.

"Continuity of care is essential if we want to see health and safety benefits," said Amy Solomon, an advisor to the DOJ.

In the U.S., more than 2.5 million people spend time in local jails, state and federal prisons—costing the 50 states about \$80 billion a year. About 670,000 of these offenders are released to the streets each year.

However, many of these offenders, fraught with addictions and mental illnesses, go back to impoverished neighborhoods. Instead of treatment, they are sent back to prison, according to Solomon.

The potential to minimize recidivism and cut the cost of providing medical care to those

exiting prison is a value beyond the technological problems encountered during the online sign up process for the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA), Solomon reports.

In 2014, people earning up to 133 percent of the federal poverty line and live in one of the 25 states that have established a Medicaid expansion plan will qualify for access to the government insurance program. (<http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/13poverty.cfm>)

For some of the newly released offenders, this would mean their first chance to receive healthcare outside of prison, Solomon reported.

"I hope that judges will have viable community-based treatment options, so they won't feel compelled to lock up someone with mental health issues," Solomon said.

The Affordable Care Act has the ability to dramatically reduce cost linked to corrections, Solomon said.

Court Orders Changes For Mental Health Patients On Death Row

Continued from Page 1

mediate level of hospital care." The Special Master noted six suicides on Death Row in six years—five in the last two years.

According to court papers, intermediate care refers inmates requiring "highly structured inpatient psychiatric care with 24-hour nursing supervision due to a major mental disorder, serious to major impairment of functioning in most life areas, stabilization or elimination of ritualistic or repetitive self-injurious/suicidal behavior, or stabilization of refractory psychiatric symptoms." Treatment helps patients cope with daily

living and medication compliance, experts say.

The Dec. 10, 2013 order requires state officials to continue working under the guidance of the Special Master to establish long-lasting remedies "that provides adequate access to necessary in-patient mental health care or its equivalent for seriously mentally ill inmates on California's Death Row."

The court further told state officials to consider "all possible remedies, including, but not limited to, creation of a hospital unit for condemned inmates only at California Medical Facility, San Quentin, Stockton or other appropriate facility."

—By Juan Haines

Corrections Corporation of America Profits From Mass Incarceration

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Private prisons profit from mass incarceration. One of the largest private prison operators is Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). The company is a publicly traded real estate investment company specializing in owning and operating prisons.

The format of the company is similar to a partnership or trust, whereby shareholder equity interests participate in the profits and losses of the company. Known as a Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), the format allows investors to participate directly in the mass incarceration boom.

With some prisons closing and prison populations headed down, one may wonder about the merit of such an investment. According to CCA, it is the country's largest owner of partnership correction and detention facilities. It is also one of the largest

prison operators in the United States. The company owns 53 correctional and detention facilities and manages 16 other facilities, which are owned by governments.

CAPACITY

CCA operates institutions with a total design capacity of about 90,000 beds in 20 states. As the fifth largest provider of prison bed space, the company stands behind only the federal government and three states in terms of the numbers of inmates housed in its facilities.

As an investment, perhaps the company stands as a great real estate investment program. However, as Kanye West cited in his rap music, "America's New Slaves" do not fare very well at the hands of a private prison operator. According to the political publication, The Nation, that negative view is justified because private prisons are a bad investment.

"Profiting off mass incarceration is a dirty business," said Jesse Lava and Sarah Solon, authors of "Why This Company Wants You in Prison" (The Nation, Nov. 5, 2013). In state after state, the private prison concept represents a failed approach to public safety. Private prison companies have a corrupting incentive, they said. It is clear that many people have a perverse incentive to "see you in prison."

According to The Nation's research, CCA squanders taxpayer money and runs facilities rife with human rights abuses. Not unlike prison guard unions who have paid millions to sponsor "lock - em - up - forever" initiatives, there are many corrupting incentives in the private prison concept according to the magazine.

One of the most perverse incentives is the drive to cut costs at the expense of health and safety of the inmates. Increasing profits and pay by

cutting corners on basic services to the inmates, is exceedingly perverse, according to the American Civil Liberties Union in its "Prison Profiteers" video.

"When people seek to profit from prisons, it creates a powerful incentive to cut corners in the services they've been hired to provide," said The Nation. Another incentive is to promote the bottom line, whether or not it secures public safety or promotes any taxpayer value.

PROFITS

Last year CCA made \$1.7 billion, and their profits are often at the expense of their wards. Recently, U.S. District Judge David Carter held the company in contempt of court for persistently failing to adequately staff its facilities at the Idaho Correctional Center. Carter indicated the company had the ability to properly staff the facility, but he found the company had consistently

failed to do so. He also said the company continuously under-reported the degree of staff shortages.

Rejecting company contentions that the warden and company officials did not know about the understaffing, the judge indicated the company had been warned about its staffing problems multiple times. Understaffing may have contributed to the bottom line profits. Although CCA failed or refused to correct the problems, it is clear that at a minimum, 4,800 hours of vacant security post time was unfulfilled during 2012. The judge also said that there is no reason to believe that the problem began in 2012.

Judge Carter said that the company had lied to the court about whether or not officers were at their posts. Today, the Idaho State Police is investigating whether CCA committed any crimes, and the judge has appointed an independent monitor to oversee staffing at the prison.

'California Lockdown Practice Violates Constitution'

U.S. Justice Department Challenges Decisions Based on Race

By N. T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

The California prison system violates the U.S. Constitution when it places inmates on lockdown based on their race after a riot, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

The practice violates the 14th Amendment according to court papers filed in October.

Gangs inside California prisons are generally structured along racial lines, with riots often occurring between gangs of different races or within that one race, reports The Associated Press.

As a way to curtail any fur-

ther violence, and as a form of punishment, prison officials usually lock down all inmates of the same ethnicity as those involved in the melee, regardless of whether they were involved in the disturbance, The AP report states.

The policy is "not based on any individual analysis of prisoner behavior, but rather on generalized fears of racial violence," according to the court documents signed by the chiefs of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

Court papers point out that California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation officials are aware that most inmates in the prison system

have no gang affiliations.

The Justice Department contends that current policy is too vaguely worded to be constitutional.

The court determined that corrections officials could adopt race-neutral policies, such as only locking up those inmates that are suspected of being directly involved in the incident, or placing the entire unit where the riot occurred on lockdown. In addition, the court found that the state could make a better effort at identifying those inmates in advance who are involved with gangs and more likely to participate in race-based violence, and then separate them from the general population.

Terry Thornton, spokesman for the corrections department, pointed out that the state's policy is not to make a determination for a lockdown based "solely on the inmate's race or ethnicity." According to state law, corrections officials "shall not target a specific racial or ethnic group unless it is necessary and narrowly tailored to further a compelling government interest."

The lawsuit was originally filed in 2008 by Robert Mitchell, an inmate at High Desert State Prison in Susanville. Mitchell was placed on lockdown following a disturbance at the prison.

"They lock down people

who were not involved in the incident, not involved in the gang and just happened to have the same skin color," Rebekah Evenson told The Associated Press. Evenson is an attorney with the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit civil rights group which is representing the inmates in this suit.

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, on average, has more than 600 lockdowns a year throughout the prison system, Evenson said, adding approximately 200 of those are based on the race of the involved inmates. There are no other states where there is a similar policy, Evenson added.

\$30.7 Million Contract Signed to House Low-Level Inmates in Private Prisons

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

California signed a \$30.7 million a year contract for five years with an international prison company to house prisoners at two low-level security prisons in the communities of Adelanto and McFarland.

"This is the second in-state contract with a private prison. Separately, the state has contracts for 8,500 prisoners kept in privately owned prisons in other states," said department spokesperson Jeffrey Callison.

The Geo Group, a Florida-based company, "signed deals with the state to house 1,400 inmates - 700 of whom will be housed at the Adelanto facility," according to the Daily

News.

"The Adelanto facility will begin to accept inmates by the end of the year," it was reported.

**"For every 100
prisoner we
release, 60 to
70 commit more
crimes and
end up back
in prison"**

George C. Zoley, chairperson and CEO of the Geo Group said, "We are thankful for the confidence placed in

our company by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The reactivation of our Central Valley and Desert View Modified Community Correctional facilities will play an important role in helping meet the need for correctional bed space in the State of California."

Last year, the state reportedly said, "it would end a contract with the Geo Group to house parole violators in McFarland, but Brown later extended the contract through fiscal 2016. The state terminated a contract for the Adelanto facility in 2011; only later renewing its agreement with Geo."

Expanding a lease is one of the advantages of leased facilities. The state can enter into a new contract according

to the need.

In spite of the state's new contract with the Geo Group, State Senator Ted Lieu said, "I don't believe simply expanding capacity will provide a durable solution to our prison overcrowding crisis. I hope the federal court will extend the prison reduction cap by two or three years. If they do that, then I hope we don't need to complete the private prison contract."

"For every 100 prisoners we release, 60 to 70 commit more crimes and end up back in prison. Simply expanding capacity doesn't address that problem," Lieu said.

Three of the largest detention centers in the country - a federal prison, the county jail and an immigration center are in Adelanto. "Any time we

can put more people back to work, that's a move forward," the Mayor said.

The Desert View Modified Community Correctional Facility will hire 140 correctional officers to fill those positions. However, Victoria Mena, coordinator of an immigration program does not like the idea of having all these facilities in the community.

"There are no high schools, and the elementary schools are failing," Mena complains. "It says a lot about the community and says a lot about where their priorities are. There are no after school clubs and no community centers. Instead it's the hub of mass incarceration." She wants to know, "what happens when people are released?"

KQED Report Says CDCR Chief Beard Has the Toughest Job in California

In 2008, Beard Played a Major Role in Sentencing Reform in Pennsylvania

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Correctional Secretary Jeffrey Beard has the toughest job in California, according to a KQED report. Beard has faced crisis after crisis since joining the Brown Administration last year.

“At the time, a \$60 million rebuilding effort wouldn’t work unless the state scaled back mandatory prison sentences”

From a widespread hunger strike to a never ending battle with federal judges over control of health care in California’s prison, there is no question that these are steep challenges, the report cites.

“The past year he and Governor Brown spent most of the time losing a series of legal challenges over federal control of the California prison’s health care. The two of them share the same goal, ending federal control of California’s prison as soon as possible, KQED reports.”

When asked whether he had second thoughts about his new job, Beard told KQED viewers, “You know, I think they make this job just very interesting. Working with Governor Brown has been a unique experience. He is different much more hands on. He is interested in what I do.”

Beard is no stranger to the California prison system. In 2010, he worked as a consultant for the department after several years working in the Pennsylvania prison system. “It’s hard to figure out a new state after 38 years somewhere else. A lot of times when something comes up about a policy or something, I have to ask somebody or I have to go and look it up,” he said in the KQED report.

In 2008, Beard played a major role in sentencing reform in Pennsylvania. The state’s

prison population jumped from 8,000 to 50,000 caused by tough on crime legislation,

retary lobbying lawmakers to undue them.”

Pennsylvania shares many

the governor and legislature. He has fallen into the same mold as every past secretary



Photo by CDCR

Correctional Secretary Jeffrey Beard being interviewed

according to the report. In the KQED interview Beard was quoted as saying, he “spent his time as corrections sec-

of the same problems as California, the report cites. Both prison systems are overcrowded. However, three years after rebuilding prison facilities in Pennsylvania, its prisons were still above designed capacity.

In the KQED report, Beard was quoted saying, “at the time, a \$60 million rebuilding effort wouldn’t work unless the state scaled back mandatory prison sentences. We can’t afford to keep locking everybody up.”

In the KQED interview, reporter David Gilliland said, “Prisons are like a bucket of water, where you have a couple of hoses feeding water into the top; you have a variety of spigots letting water out.”

“The problem is the people who control the water coming in are a completely different bureaucracy than those who control the spigot coming out. And the secretary of corrections has no control over either bureaucracy,” said Gilliland.

Critics of the prison system attacked Beard’s “approach to corrections as schizophrenic at best. His reforms went nowhere, so he has taken a hard line approach to please politicians, unable to stick with what he knows works, versus what will win the approval of

of corrections, a yes man to the governor,” it was reported.

“Beard left a horror trail in Pennsylvania and expanded their prison system to the moon. They went so far as to call him the godfather of prison expansion,” his critics say.

Beard defends his experience in handling mentally ill inmates. However, Bob Meek, an attorney with Disability Network, “alleged the state (Pennsylvania) simply locked many of them up in segregated housing, rather than treat them.”

In spite of his critics, Beard pointed in the interview to programs he launched aimed at treating mentally ill inmates.

When asked about the similarities of the two states in the KQED interview, he said he understands why segregated confinement stirs up so much anger. He defended the practice as necessary, to protect other inmates and to control gangs.

In spite of his critics, “While running Pennsylvania’s prisons, he was the first correctional secretary to say the state needed less mandatory sentencing and more treatment options,” KQED reported.

Federal Cutbacks Shift Firefight Cost to State and Localities

San Quentin News Staff

Since 1980, federal firefighting crews have been cut-back by 40 percent, the *New York Times* reports. The cutbacks shift the responsibility for fighting wildfires to state and local governments.

oldest and largest inmate firefighting program with roughly 4,000 prisoners and 200 crews, the *Times* reports. “And they’re out in the community, paying back for their mistakes,” Hutchinson said in the report.

COST

California saves an estimated \$80 million a year by paying inmate firefighters \$1 per hour for work in emergencies like fires and floods, according to forestry and fire protection statistics.

Arizona inmate firefighters earn 50 cents an hour, among the lowest in the country, according to the *Times*.

In 2010, Colorado’s recidivism rate was the third highest in the nation at 52.5 percent. However, prison officials reported that inmate firefighters had a recidivism rate of less

than 25 percent.

The inmate firefighters have the same training as other wilderness firefighters and must pass a physical test consisting of “traveling three miles on foot in 45 minutes, carrying 45 pounds on their backs,” the *Times* report.

QUALIFICATIONS

“They’ve got to have the heart, the strength and the willingness to do the job,” said Jake Guadiana, an Arizona State Forestry coordinator. “This is not the place for you if you’re looking for a free meal and some time out of prison,” Guadiana said in the report.

To qualify for the firefighting program inmates must be free of rules violations and be in prison for a nonviolent offense.

SOLUTION

“Prison crews, cheap and dependable, have emerged as a solution as wildfires burn bigger, hotter and longer each year and take up a growing portion of the United States Forest Service budget,” according to the *Times* report.

Inmate firefighters are “very cost-effective,” said Julie Hutchinson a battalion chief for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDFFP).

CDFFP has the nation’s

Unlikely Compromise to End Federal Mandatory Minimums

By Emile DeWeaver
Journalism Guild Writer

Two unlikely legislators joined forces to end federal mandatory minimum sentences. Conservative Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and his Democratic counterpart Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) last year introduced the Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013.

The legislation “allows judges

to impose sentences below the statutory minimums in the interest of justice, which makes those minimums no longer mandatory.”

According to FAMM, this legislation is needed because the “extraordinary” cost to taxpayers for mandatory minimum sentences is crippling the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

The DOJ reports that 25 per-

cent of its budget goes to housing, feeding, and providing health care to prisoners. Nearly half of these inmates are in for drug offenses and are doing decades in an increasingly overcrowded system.

“We are going to catch fewer violent criminals and terrorists,” said a spokesman, “because our budget is being spent on keeping nonviolent drug users

behind bars.”

Existing legislation permits judges to impose sentences below a statutory minimum, but current statutes limit judges’ discretion to drug offenses with strict criteria.

For example, Weldon Angelos was ineligible because the informant he sold marijuana to saw a gun in Angelos’ car. In addition, arresting offi-

cers found guns in his home. Though Angelo never used or brandished a gun during his drug sales, he received a mandatory minimum sentence for multiple counts of gun possession totaling 55 years with no parole. Judge Paul Cassell, a George W. Bush appointee, called the sentence, “demeaning to victims of actual criminal violence.”

EDUCATION CORNER

S.Q. Education Department Gets New Electronic SMART Boards

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

The Robert E. Burton Adult Education Center at San Quentin has installed a new interactive state-of-the-art electronic learning devices in six classrooms.

SMART Technologies' SMART Board, a multi-facet communication device, operates with a desktop/laptop computer, an overhead projector and a white board.

The system will profile images from the computer to an overhead projector displaying objects on the white board. These devices will give teachers and students hands-on access to a variety of training materials.

"With these capabilities and features, teachers and students can interact with images and objects on the board. They can add, change, modify, and delete



Photo by Steve Erickm

GED teacher Gary Shimel standing in front of a SMART Board

Data Shows Educated Prisoners Don't Return

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

After being released from prison, educated inmates do not come back, according to the *Rand Corporation*.

"We no longer need to debate whether correctional education works," said Lois Davis, a *Rand* researcher. However, "we do need more research to tease out which parts of these programs work best."

The report gives data to correction officials, lawmakers, and others participating in the criminal justice system to show that educating inmates while in prison is good policy.

"There is strong evidence that correctional education plays a role in reducing recidivism," according to the report. Inmates who participate in education programs and vocational training have a 43 percent lower chance of returning to prison than those that do not.

The report focused on the "direct costs" of education programs in prison and incarceration. The report then examined a hypothetical pool of 100 inmates who returned to prison within a three-year period.

The report found that inmates who returned to prison, within the three-year period, who did not receive a correctional education cost between \$2.94 and \$3.25 million. However, inmates who received an education while incarcerated cost between \$2.07 and \$2.28 million. The re-incarceration cost for inmates who receive correctional education was \$.087 to \$.097 million less.

Analysis of vocational information demonstrated that employment among released inmates was 13 percent higher for those who participated in academic or vocational education programs. Also, one study compared the incidence of high school diploma to conviction status, and found that 36 percent of those in state prisons had less than a high school diploma, compared to 19 percent of the general U.S. adult population.

The study was a comprehensive review of the scientific literature and research on education in prison. This type of large-scale data collection and analysis, collected by many organizations over many years, is often called meta-analysis. It is a way of bringing together data from various other studies, which have been conducted over the years. Here, according to Davis, it has produced demonstrable proof that education has merit.

While correctional officials and policy makers struggle to cope during a period of constrained government spending, it seems clear that the education approach works best. While more research must be conducted on economics, it appears that not only does education reduce recidivism, it also reduces costs of incarceration by reducing the requirement of prison plant and equipment. It is clear from the report, when one combines the reduced cost of incarcerating inmates, with the positive result of turning the inmate into a taxpaying, contributing community member, it is a win-win situation.

characters in real time," said teacher Joel Kaufman.

There are varieties of educational subject materials available within the system. However, classrooms at San Quentin have no access to the internet, said Kaufman.

According to Kaufman,

"teachers and students interaction with the current system will provide access to multimedia Microsoft office related software, hard copy textbooks, paper, CD's and DVDs." There are additional sources of materi-

assist with non-English-speaking students.

All related English lesson plans identify syntax, word identification, noun, verbs and other relative sentencing structures. The student can add, change, delete or move objects/images or letters within the text. All modifications made on the board will be saved in memory.

"There is so much research material available that can be used to develop lesson plans." However, "the internet would allow teachers to post, exchange and share lesson plans with other teacher simultaneously," Kaufman said.

Kaufman is impressed with the idea students can learn from the various subject materials using "Kinesthetic". This system feature will give teachers and or students access to "Stylus" - a device used to write and erase digital ink. They can also use their hands to write and erase the material on the board.

"The system is a great learning tool for classroom teaching. But there are so many other features and functions we could use if we only had access to the internet," Kaufman said.

SMART Technologies representatives are expected to train in the coming months. Kaufman says he is eager to use the SMART Board in his classroom. "I'll be available to train the other teachers if needed," he said.

U.S. Congress Address Drug Policies And Mandatory Minimum Sentencing

By Chung C. Kao
Journalism Guild Writer

It seems the U.S. Congress rarely agrees on any issues these days. It has, though, agreed on one thing in recent years: mandatory minimum sentencing reform.

"Mandatory minimum sentencing is a costly and counterproductive cookie-cutter approach that removes a judge's ability to apply a fairer sentence," said Jasmine Tyler, deputy director of national affairs for the Drug Policy Alliance, a nonprofit which advocates for drug sentencing reform.

A number of members of Congress have introduced bipartisan bills to reform the federal mandatory minimum drug-sentencing policies. This follows the passage of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. It significantly reduced the disparity in crack and powder cocaine sentences and eliminated the first mandatory minimum penalty since the 1970s.

Congress enacted the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 and the Anti-drug Abuse Act of 1986, under which federal judges are without discretion but to sentence federal drug offenders to statutory minimums.

Early in 2013, a bill was introduced to give federal judges the authority to impose a sentence below a mandatory minimum

to prevent an unjust or irrational sentence. The measure, H.R. 1695, was presented by Reps. Bobby Scott, D-Va., Thomas Massie, R-Ky. and five others. It was a companion bill to S. 619, introduced a month earlier by Sens. Rand Paul, R-Ky. and Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. in the Senate, titled the Justice Safety Valves Act.

In July 2013, legislation was introduced to cut the length of some mandatory minimum drug sentences in half and expand access to the safety valve for federal drug offenders. It would also afford retroactivity for the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. The measure, S. 1410, was proposed by Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Leahy. Titled the Smarter Sentencing Act, it was followed by a companion bill, H.R. 3382, introduced by Reps. Raul Labrador, D-Idaho, and Scott plus seven others in the House of Representatives on October 30, 2013.

Efforts at drug sentencing reform come as no surprise. According to the U.S. Sentencing Commission and a report by the Congressional Research Service, mandatory minimums have significantly contributed to overcrowding and racial disparities in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

The BOP operates at nearly 140 percent capacity—and is on track to use one-third of the Justice Department's budget.

More than half of the prisoners in BOP are serving time for a drug law violation.

"I am honored to join Congressman Labrador as a cosponsor of the Smarter Sentencing Act," said Rep. Scott, "Granting federal judges more discretion in sentencing for nonviolent drug offenses is the right thing to do. Studies of mandatory minimums conclude that they fail to reduce crime, they waste the taxpayers' money, and they often require the imposition of sentences that violate common sense.

"This bipartisan bill targets particularly egregious mandatory minimums and returns discretion to federal judges in an incremental manner. This legislation is an important step in updating sentencing policies that are not working, that are costing taxpayers too much, and do nothing to make our families and communities safer," Scott added.

The U.S. leads the world in the incarceration of its own citizens, accounting for nearly 25 percent of the world's prison population, reports the Drug Policy Alliance. Recently, Attorney General Eric Holder said there are too many people in prison and it is time for federal sentencing reform. In his remarks, Holder encouraged a partnership between the legislative and executive branches to work to solve the issue.

S.Q. Officer P. Jo Showcases Hidden Photo Talent

By Tommy Winfrey
Art Editor

Officer P. Jo, 34, is putting his talents to good use. His picture of San Quentin was selected to be the image for the 2014 San Quentin calendar.

He says, "It feels great that the administration selected my photo, but most of my thanks must go to San Quentin Office Technician Raphael Casale because she is the one who pushed me."

Jo, who has been taking pictures for about a decade, has

never received any formal training. "Everything I learned about taking pictures, I learned online."

His pictures are like stories, each image capturing a moment in time but transcending the moment to live on in the viewer's mind.

There is a hidden power behind each image.

"I see my pictures more as a hobby right now, but for the viewer they may see it as art; it's all about perspective," says Jo.

He says the whole picture is a process, "Sometimes I wait four or five hours in one spot for the right moment to take the picture." Jo says it takes patience when he is waiting for the proper light or composition, but it is time well spent.

He says he has always been fascinated with cameras, and as a child his father took him out into nature, and he fell in love with it.

This fascination and love has transformed into Jo's art. His favorite subjects are landscapes,

but he also enjoys taking pictures of cities.

The time he spends away from his job as a CDCR officer, he says he travels a lot. "I like to go to national parks and foreign countries," Jo says. Wherever he goes, his camera goes with him.

When he retires, he says that he may take up a career in photography.

He gives his father a lot of credit for inspiring him. "My dad introduced me to nature, and if he never did that, I wouldn't have known what's out there

in the world," says Jo. He says without this opportunity to see the world he would have probably just spent all of his time sitting on the couch playing video games.

Jo also recognizes that other photographers have motivated him to take some of his photos to the extreme. He says he takes it to the limit to get the perfect shot sometimes.

Jo is very humble about his photographs saying, "I am just the eye behind the camera."



Photo by P. Jo

A Winters Day in Sunny California

Prison Humor Highlights PUP's Annual Open Mic Event

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Tommy Winfrey read a selected chapter from a memoir, *The Things I Peed On*, and had a crowd of about 100 inmates grabbing their sides with laughter, as San Quentin's Prison University Project held its annual open mic. Aaron Taylor, also known as The Show, had the audience yelling, "Aw hell no!" to his descriptions of silly inmate behavior. Angel Falcone's poem, "If the Shoe Fits," satirized inmate behavior, too.

Most of the prison-based humor would not be so easy for free people to understand. However, Lee Jaspas's ribbing of the governor, by saying, "Jazz would make Jerry Brown more honest," the audience's applause showed he had made his point.

James Vick's offering (part of a classroom assignment) brought tears to some of his listeners as he described a May

1979 photograph of his father's funeral. Vick said at that time he was locked up in San Quentin. "Over half the photos in my album are of people who have died."

Following Vick was Peter M. Bergne. Bergne's poem about prison life, and the importance of staying positive was uplifting. Bergne is in his 70's and still actively writing.

Kevin Tindall expressed his hopes for the future, as he talked about having his life sentence reduced to time served. Tindall was resentenced on December 19, 2013, due to changes in California's Three-Strikes Law as a result of Proposition 36. In early January, Tindall was released from prison.

Other acts were:

Marlon Beason performing an original song, *Everyday's a Good Day, if You Don't Believe Me, Miss One*. "It's a song about life," Beason said.

Atik Pathan told a story about doing the same thing over and over, and expecting a different

result.

Antwan "Banks" Williams performed a song he said was about pain, survival, redemption and salvation.

Emile Deweaver read his poem, *Attraction*.

Richard Dino read two of his poems, *God's Little Angel* and *Pledge to a Friend*.

Jeff Scott Long read *Convict's Son*, *True Face* and *The Gardener*.

Micheal "YaYah" Cooke read his poems, *Kiss*, *The Seed* and *In the Realm of Nowhere*.

"JB," soon to be paroled read, *Understanding Life While Serving It*. The sonnet laments JB's 23 years spent in prison and how he was able to change his criminal thinking 10 years into his incarceration.

Adriel Ramirez sang a Gospel song while playing keyboard. The song, *God Helped Me, So I Wouldn't Let Go*, was dedicated to the Patten teachers who motivated him into getting over his depression and moving forward with his life.

Richard Lathan read a poem dedicated to his mother. Lathan also read a poem rejected by the editors of the anthology, *Open Line*, that was written in response to the killings at Sandyhook.

John Neblett read a poem by Robert Graves that acknowledges the wisdom of a son honoring his mother.

Nelson "Noble" Butler gave a reading about some of the most tragic killings of 2013. Oscar Grant, Hadyis Pendelton, Sandyhook, and Trayvon Martin.

Malik Laramore read several of his poems, *Stomach*, *In You*, *Diving Board*, and *Arrested*.

Chris Gallo did a reading based on accountability and integrity.

Maverick's poem highlighted accountability to community and having integrity. He also performed a song with Lee Jaspas and Antwan "Banks" Williams about transformation.

James Jenkins read from Tim Wise's book, *Color Blind*. The section Jenkins read focused

on how to uplift the poor without focusing on race. Jenkins said he learned that the best way to deal with inequality is to focus on safety-net policies and to look at class structure.

Larry White took the stage to give thanks to the teachers. He described the daily routine that inmates go through in seeking to be educated.

Antonio Genovese read two poems, *Dreams of a Loney Man* and *When Forever is Over*.

Raymond Bodine's self-deprecation in *Raymond Kisses Like a Fish* sounded somewhat awkward and comical. But it played perfectly into his overall message that encouraged other inmates to look back on their lives to get an understanding about themselves.

Carlos Meza's poem was about freedom and love.

A. Kevin Valvardi read two poems, *The Seeds I Sow* and *For What It's Worth*.

All in all, it was a jam-packed and enjoyable Open Mic Night.

Happy Valentine's Day

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of February is full of special observations. According to the World Almanac, February is Black History Month, American Heart Month, Library Lovers Month, Youth Leadership Month, and Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month.

Among the observed days, there is a special celebration of the heart.

It is a holiday for those who desire affection and for those who love romance. It is the celebration of love. But what is love?

"Love" is defined by Webster's dictionary as a feeling of strong affection or warm attachment to another person. It is a person who is beloved. Moreover, it is also the act of being unselfish, loyal, and benevolent toward others.

When we love, we cherish and/or feel passion for another person. When we love, we are devoted to and are tender with someone else. We take pleasure in the company of that individual or individuals.

The celebration of love is Valentine's Day, occurring every year on February 14th.

How do the men in blue feel about love?

Ask on the Line conducted random informal interviews with men on the mainline

and asked: Do you believe in true love? And if so, who was, or is, the greatest love of your life? What would you say to that individual or individuals?

One hundred percent of

the men interviewed said they believe in love. Some even thought that the first question was absurd.

It was clear that every man in blue had a soft spot in his heart for someone.

Eduardo Delapena said the greatest love of his life is his family. "I thank God for blessing me with them," he said with emotion.

Robert Frye sends this message to Elena, his friend of 14 years and currently his "L.P." for the past two years: "May our Journey together be filled with unabashed love and companionship."

Pablo Ramirez said that his greatest loves are his mother, his wife, and his children. He would tell them, "Los extraño mucho y los quiero." [I miss you all and I love you.]

Martin Gomez also adores his family. His greatest loves are his wife and children. He would tell them, "Los amo mucho." [I love you all very much.]

Watani Stiner said my granddaughter Khyra brings so much joy to peoples lives, and she is the sweetest little Valentine candy in my life.

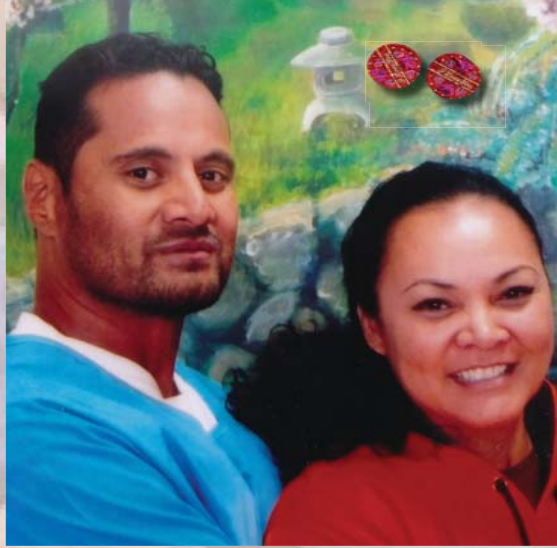
Bruce Cooper and Michael Gonzalez said that their greatest love is Jesus Christ.

If Gonzalez could send Jesus a message, he would say to Jesus: "I'm sorry I never lived up to your expectations of me, but perhaps one day, I will."

Cooper would tell Jesus, "Take me home."

Valeray Richardson, Tony Harris, and Carlos Ramirez all said that "God" is their greatest love.

"Thank you for loving me the way you do," is what Richardson would say to God.



Upu and Sanita Ama

File Photo

"Thank you for not giving up on me," said Harris.

Upu Ama wanted his wife to know that, "in 1994 you became my Valentine Queen, and you still wear that crown till this very day. Love your husband."

Carlos Ramirez would speak to God in Spanish, "Gracias por enseñarme el amor." ["Thank you for teaching me love."]

Cassandra Rena Cooksey Richardson wanted to pass this message on to everyone. Bless Someone Today! It is more blessed (makes one happier and more to be envied) to give than to receive.

Act 20:35. Spend some time this morning thinking about what you can do for somebody else. Don't wait for God to ask you to do something; take the initiative and

say, "okay God, what can I do to be a blessing on your behalf today?" The best days you live are the ones you spend loving other people. Choose a particular person and think about blessing him or her. Love Sana.

Phil Melendez said, "I just want to thank my love for always being there for me and loving me since we were kids. Thank you for loving me now and forever. We're so fortunate to be each other's best friends. I love the way you love me and I promise to always be yours and love you with all that I am."

Some of the men said their children are the greatest loves of their lives. Larry Histon, Joe Demerson and Robert Morales adore their children.

Histon would tell his two daughters, "I love you both very much."

Morales said his greatest love is his daughter. If he could speak to her, he would tell her, "I love you very, very, very much!"

Joe Demerson said that his greatest love of all time is his son. His message to his son: "Always believe in yourself, always."

Jose Segura, Armando Garcia, Tim Thompson,

Gonzalez asserted that his "Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," is his greatest love.



Khyra Stiner

File Photo



James and Char Cavitt

File Photo

Adriel Ortiz Ramirez, and Billy Terry all cited their mothers as their greatest loves.

Segura and Garcia would send their mothers a message in Spanish.

Segura said, "Gracias por haberme traído a este mundo." [Thank you for bringing me into this world.]

Garcia said, "Yo la quiero mucho." [I love you very much.]

"I will always love you," is what Tim would say to his mother.

"I love you and I miss you very much," said Ramirez.

"I love you," said Terry.

James Cavitt wishes to send this message to Char Cavitt: "The greatest gift that anyone can give is Love. Love not only changes the individuals...it changes the world."

Frederick Willis sends the following words to his daughters Aisha and LaToya: "Happy Valentine's Day! Daddy is coming home! I love you Boo and Pooh!"

Darnell Hill and Curly Joe both said their wives are the greatest loves in their lives.

"I would tell my wife: 'Trust God first, trust yourself second, and trust man as long as he trusts God,'" said Hill.

"I would say to my wife: 'I love you very, very much,'" said Joe.

Jesus Flores said that the greatest love in his life are his parents. Jesus Flores believes that his parents are the only people in the world who truly love him unconditionally. He would say to his

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Vicente Gomez and Armando Quezado both said that women in general are their greatest loves.

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Jesus Flores said that the greatest love in his life are his parents. Jesus Flores believes that his parents are the only people in the world who truly love him unconditionally. He would say to his

parents, "You have my eternal love and respect."

Vicente Gomez and Armando Quezado both said that women in general are their greatest loves.

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Frederick Willis

File Photo



Elena and Robert Frye

File Photo



Ana and Phil Melendez

File Photo

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sudoku Corner

By Ashmus "Humphrey" Troy

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

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

**Complete This Puzzle
Win a Prize!**

Tommy is in a hurry to get to a snow ball fight outside, but he can't see the colors of his gloves in the drawer located in his dark room where there are no lights. He knows that he has three green pair, five red pair, eight blue pair, nine black pair, and 12 white pair. How many gloves will he be able to pick out of the drawer in order to get a matching pair?

The answer to last month's puzzle is: Five. Five fishermen can catch five fish per minute. Therefore, five fisherman will be enough to catch one hundred fish in one hundred minutes.

The winners to last month's puzzle is: Arthur McAdory

Congratulations to the following contestants who also got the puzzle right: Brian D. Johnsen, Hayashi, B., Hyung-Jin An, Gene McCallum II.

Rules:
The prize 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 placed in a hat. The winner will be picked by drawing a name from that hat.
The prize winner will receive four Granola Bars. Prizes will only be offered to inmates who are allowed to receive the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.
The answer and the winner's name will be published in the next issue of the San Quentin News.

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

Snippets

Peter the Great, once said to have secretly married his mistress Catherine in 1707 before he publicly married her in 1712.

Umar ibn al-Khattab was such good friends with the prophet Mohammed that in 625 Umar's daughter Hafsa married Mohammed.

Participating in simultaneous kissing for Valentine's Day, Minsk, Belorussia once hosted 6,000 people kissing.

Pregnant women should not eat more than 12 ounces of fish per week due to the high volume of mercury which can be toxic to babies, children and even adults.

Young and innocent, Dorothy Good, also recognized as Dorcas Good was only 4 years old when she was accused of witchcraft during the Salem Witch Trials. She was put in jail with her mother Sarah Good.

Love don't live here anymore. A marriage ends with a divorce every ten to thirteen seconds.

On May 30, 1431, Joan of Arc's last words were, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus," as she was burned to death.

Venus, the brightest star in the sky also has no moon. It takes 243 Earth days for Venus to rotate just one day.

Ebony could not have spent seven weeks in the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1982 without Ivory.



Book Review

By Randy Maluenda

ENDER'S GAME (By Orson Scott Card) Ender Wiggin and other geniuses are bred and trained by the world government to excel in games for a hidden agenda.

FIREBRAND (By Marion Zimmer Bradley) story of Trojan Princess and seer Cassandra, who was cursed so that her accurate predictions would not be believed.

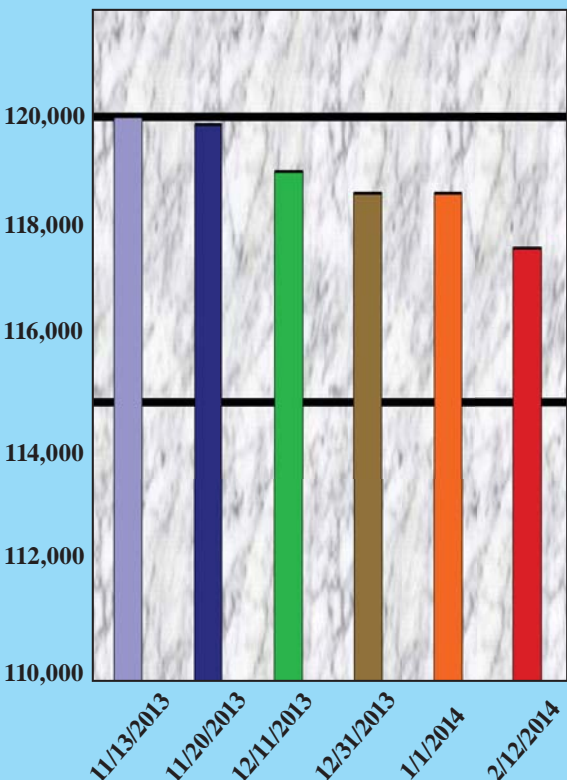
CAROLINA MOON (By Nora Roberts) Tory Bodeen returns to her South Carolina childhood home to start a new life and instead finds reminders of an old tragedy.

THE DARWIN AWARDS (By Wendy Northcutt) Hilarious screwups of what people do to prove "evolution in action."

RATINGS:

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

CDCR POPULATION = 117,686
DESIGNED CAPACITY OF 34 PRISONS
[STOCKTON HOSPITAL ADDED] = 81, 574
COURT ORDERED CAP: 137.5
PERCENT OF DESIGNED CAPACITY = 112,164
5,474 ABOVE COURT-ORDERED CAP



The Real Strength Behind Absentee Fathers

An 'OG's' Perspective

Much attention is paid to absentee fathers without affording due consideration and respect for the sacrifices and strong impact of mothers. My eldest son, in this article, pays homage to his mother, the true spirit behind the OG. — Watani Stiner.

By Larry Stiner Jr.

January of 1948 brought the birth of my parents. In January 1969, gunshots on the U.C.L.A. campus effectively ended their marriage. In January 2005, the children my father produced while in exile arrived in America to live with me as my father's re-incarceration stretched into years. Now, in February-March 2014, I write in reflection of how the completion of this unusual circle of life was made possible. I salute the woman behind the Invisible OG.

Behind every good man is a good...well, you know the rest. I had been in my mother's stomach for seven months when the Los Angeles "Watts" Revolt exploded in August 1965. That uprising changed the course of my life even before I breathed my first breath. By the time I tasted the sweetness of my fourth birthday cake, my mother was dealing with the pain of her husband, my father, being sentenced to life in prison as a result of his dedicated involvement in an intense revolutionary movement. Indeed I can say I lost my father's physical presence to his incarceration, prison escape and subsequent self-imposed exile but, thanks to my mother, I cannot say I grew up without his influence.



Larry Stiner Jr.

Though she wasn't always in agreement with what he was called upon to do in fighting for "the cause," she was steadfast in her effort to make sure I understood his sacrifice and why he chose to walk the path he did. In essence, she kept alive the positive spirit of the Invisible OG.

Through a limited collection of photographs, my mother satisfied my craving for a visual representation of my father. Like bandages wrapped around the invisible man, those Polaroid pictures gave presence to the absent dad I grew to greatly respect. She helped clarify my father's voice by truthfully answering my questions about some of the letters he had written to me from prison before becoming a fugitive. Later, she would present me with a scrap book of newspaper and magazine articles documenting the high profile incident and court case that led to him being separated from our family. Though media accounts would often differ from the stories she shared with me about my father, my mother understood

the importance of not hiding opposing viewpoints and allowing me to form my own opinions as I matured and processed information from all sides. As a youngster, however, I found comfort in picturing my father as illustrated by what came out of my mother's mouth. After all, no one knew the unseen OG better than the woman he married.

My early childhood group of friends consisted of several boys also living in fatherless households. Often, sprinkled into general conversation, negative comments about their fathers would easily roll off of their young tongues. Because those comments were usually preceded by the words, "My mama told me," I never felt compelled to question them. After all, my unwavering belief in the goodness of my own invisible father was based wholeheartedly on my mother's words about him. Whether beneficial or detrimental, my friends and I shared a one parent world in which whatever mama said was usually perceived as law. If she said, "Your daddy is a hero," we'd look to the sky for a muscle-bound man in a cape. Conversely, if she called him a dog, we'd save a few chicken bones in case he showed up for dinner one night. It was a world that seemed to be simple enough but, in actuality, had the potential to be quite complicated without a father's presence to balance things out. Moving forward in life, I began to better understand the sheer power of a single mother's influence. I started to recognize the impact, either positive or negative, that she could have

on a child who hung strongly on her every word.

In the years that followed, the anger, attitudes and actions of some of my father-resenting friends caused me to consider how differently my life might have turned out had I grown up without a respect for the Invisible OG and what he was about. Absent the strong backbone and foresight of my mother who highlighted a constructive image of my father, I may very well have looked elsewhere for someone to emulate and seek validation from. I might have given in to peer-pressure and not been so willing to go against the grain when necessary. I may have easily been swept up by that huge wave of gang activity that flooded the streets of South Central Los Angeles just after the various socially conscious organizations started to fade. Some would call it a miracle that I made it through the unprecedented inner city violence of the late 1970s and 1980s without taking either a bullet or a plea deal. Statistics were also against me managing to maneuver through the 1990's without being lured into the trap of crack cocaine which, at the risk of death or addiction, provided temporary riches, relief and "Hood-Star" status to many of my peers.

Fast-forward to January 2005. With my father still incarcerated more than ten years after voluntarily surrendering to authorities, a plane landed at the Los Angeles International Airport carrying the six children he fathered in South America while on the run. With the blessing and unconditional support of my wife, I had agreed to take in and become the legal guardian of the teenaged siblings I had never met. One could say their arrival put me in the position of substituting for the invisible OG. In addition to focusing on

being a father and male role-model for my own two daughters, I suddenly had four young sisters and two young brothers to care for. It wasn't long into this new challenge before I started to realize I was at the center of a remarkable circle of life. And thanks to the words and actions of the woman who raised me, I had grown into a man willing to do all I could to hold that circle together.

"My friends and I shared a one-parent world in which whatever mama said was usually perceived as law"

Thinking back and understanding how important my mother's unique parenting had been in conjunction with her constant effort to have me see my father in an admirable light, I felt like I had a solid blueprint to follow in guiding my siblings. Not only had that design kept me out of trouble but it had also managed to keep me spiritually connected to my father despite his many years of invisibility. For that reason, even while separated by prison walls, it was easy to quickly develop a true relationship with him upon his return to America. And over the nearly 20 years that he's been back, I've been able to see for myself that my mother had been sincere in proclaiming my father to be a good man. More importantly, I truly understand that behind every good man is a good...well, you know the rest. I salute my mother and all of the positive women behind the invisible OG's.

Historical Tale About American's Largest Slave Revolt

Many of the Revolting Slaves Suffered a Grossly Vindictive Punishment: Decapitation

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Understanding history is a tricky business, always written by he who controls the message. That being said, when looking back to figure out what happened to those not in control, there's a lot of ineptly reported, outlandish, surprisingly unusual, and jaw-dropping tales to be told.

Daniel Rasmussen finds no exception for this rule in his exhaustive study, *American Uprising: The Untold Story of America's Largest Slave Revolt*.

"Beneath this story of wealth and riches, behind this tale of progress, lay darker realities. Sugar, cotton, and coffee don't grow themselves," Rasmussen writes. "They demand back-breaking, intolerable labor—labor to which no free man would choose to submit."

The historical facts behind

what slavery was all about cannot be escaped. Every American knows about it. However, few know about the horrific details of what happened to hundreds of Louisiana slaves after a revolt was put down in January 1811.

Rasmussen found evidence of 124 individual slaves to the revolt, while eyewitness observers estimated their numbers at between 200 and 500.

Many of the revolting slaves suffered a grossly vindictive punishment—decapitation. Their heads then were left on pikes for display, rotting away in the summer heat as a reminder to the rest of the slaves about the consequence for disobedience—a part of history largely untold through the efforts of the appointed governor

of Louisiana, William Claiborne, who first criminalized, then marginalized the revolt.

"Hidden History Tours provides authentic presentation of history that is not well known"

However, 21 newspapers, many of them in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York, reprinted a comment from the Louisiana Courier condemning the actions against the slaves, Rasmussen notes. "But, despite this opposition, Claiborne's narrative pre-

vailed where it counted most, among the powerful elite who governed Louisiana and the nation and, in the centuries to follow, among historians," adding, "Swallowing Claiborne's interpretation, most historians have portrayed the slave-rebels not as political revolutionaries but as common criminals."

In spite of the failure of the 1811 revolt, slaves continued to pass down stories about the famous insurrection, according to *American Uprising*. "And for the 50 years leading up to the Civil War, these stories served as an inspiration for those trapped in slavery," writes Rasmussen.

Rasmussen documents 178,985 enlisted Black soldiers and 7,122 officers who served in the Civil War, where 37,300

"laid down their lives for freedom." "Seventeen black soldiers and four African American sailors won Congressional Medals of Honor. They fought in 449 engagements, of which 39 were major battles," according to *American Uprising*.

Rasmussen also writes about Leon Waters, a 60-year-old activist, who has been involved with radical political causes since the Vietnam War.

At the time *American Uprising* went to press, Waters was giving tours, called Hidden History Tours, keeping the uprising in the present for curious student groups and tourists from out of town. "Hidden History Tours provides authentic presentation of history that is not well known," promises Waters' Website. "Though virtually unknown outside of his community, Waters is perhaps the most knowledgeable man in the country about the 1811 revolt," Rasmussen writes.

BOOK REVIEW

Report Says Justice System Fails To Identify and Treat Inmates' Mental Health Needs

By Lee Jaspas
Journalism Guild Writer

The American criminal justice system largely fails to identify mental illness and its relationship to crime, according to VERA Institute of Justice.

"Identifying mental health needs and providing treatment before people become entrenched in the justice system is an important preventive strategy," VERA reports.

Law enforcement, courts, and corrections officials are aware of inmates who are struggling with mental illness, according to Substance Use and Mental Health Program, director Jim Parsons.

"Court rooms, jails, police stations, and probation offices are fast-paced environments, and people working in these settings typically lack the tools and resources necessary to accurately identify those who require mental health support," said Parsons.

VERA reported that throughout the U.S. criminal justice system there are many people with serious mental illnesses who are trapped in "a cycle of repeated arrest and incarceration."

The study finds these people do not receive the treatment or services needed to help them function in society.

"For people who receive treatment while they are in jail, prison, or under the supervision of probation or parole agencies, the challenges of reentry compounded by a lack of coordination between agencies often leads them to lose contact with services when they return home or complete their period of supervision," said Parsons.

The study reported that overrepresentation of people with mental health problems in our justice system is attracting more attention by researchers.

"Identifying people who need mental health services is the first step to their receiving appropriate care"

Researcher Henry J. Steadman and colleagues found that nationwide, 15 percent of male jail inmates and 31 percent of female jail inmates had current serious mental illness.

"Identifying people who need mental health services

is the first step to their receiving appropriate care," the report said.

A recent study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) found that mental health services were available to 34 percent of people in prisons nationwide.

Additionally, the BJS found that 17 percent of those confined in jails have access to mental health services.

The BJS study concluded that part of the reason for the lack of services, as it relates to criminal behavior, is failure to accurately identify mental illness as the cause of criminal behavior.

Additionally, the report found nationally, support services for the mentally ill lack sufficient funding.

However, the report pointed out that attention to this social dynamic is increasing. It said as science, societies evolve, and mature, there has been a matching increase in treatment for people with mental health problems subjected to the criminal justice system.

To create these opportunities for people with mental health problems, mental health courts, alternatives to incarceration, and jail-based re-entry services are being used through out the criminal justice system, according to VERA.

Recent CDCR appointments By Governor Brown

Michael Stainer, 50, of El Dorado Hills, has been appointed director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Adult Institutions by Gov. Jerry Brown. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays \$155,436 annually. Stainer is a Republican.

Millicent Tidwell, 52, of Sacramento, has been appointed director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Rehabilitative Programs. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays \$140,292 annually. Tidwell is a Democrat.

Rodger Meier, 49, of Rescue, has been appointed deputy director of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Rehabilitative Programs. The position requires Senate confirmation and pays \$136,200 annually. Meier is registered decline-to-state.

Brian Duffy, 54, of Sacramento, has been appointed warden at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. This position does not require Senate confirmation and pays \$130,668. Duffy is a Republican.

Thomas Curby Henderson Died From Fourth Tier Fall

'Charlie was a nice person. I hope he's going to a better place'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Thomas Curby Henderson, 60, better known to inmates and as the meek, hard working, and humble "Charlie," died on Jan. 23 at Marin General Hospital following a four-story fall at San Quentin State Prison on Jan 22.

Charlie's death, still under investigation, shocked many of the men housed with him.

The Marin Independent Journal reported Charlie's death, which attracted several merciless comments. [San Quentin Prisoner Dies After Plunge from Fourth-Story Tier; <http://www.marinij.com>].

"A man lost his life and the comments indicate readers are happy about it," said inmate Tommy Winfrey, 31. "I understand society's need to sit in judgment of prisoners and their pass deeds. But what I have a hard time accepting is the total lack of empathy of another human being. The man they condemn for murder suffered from the very same problem once and it cost two lives."

"Celebrating or minimizing another person's death whether it be suicide, murder, or natural is abhorrent," Winfrey said. "I'm not a Christian, but after

reading the comments about Charlie's death, the old Bible verse, 'Let he who is without sin cast the first stone,' comes to mind."

On Jan. 31, about 50 of Charlie's brethren gathered in San Quentin's Catholic Chapel for a memorial service.

"Charlie had integrity, and honesty. He was loyal and generous. He was a loving father and grandfather," said his best friend, Dwight Lee Krebs, 66.

Krebs said he was cellmates with Charlie while doing time at R.J. Donovan State Prison. "I knew him five years, we were cellies for two years," he said.

Charlie is survived by two sisters, three daughters and four grandchildren.

"Any time when I'd ask Charlie if he needs anything, he'd answer by saying 'I'd like to hug my grandchildren,'" Krebs said. "His grandchildren were the apple of his life. Getting out of prison was secondary to his love for his grandchildren. He was very loving, when it came to them."

Charlie liked the anonymously written poem, *Songs*, Krebs said. "When Charlie read it, he loved it. So, I told him, 'It's your poem.' I was fortunate enough to get to know Charlie for who he was, not for what he

did."

Inmate, Malik Ar-Raheem said, "Charlie was a nice person. I hope he's going to a better place."

Harrison Laverne took the podium at the memorial service



File photo

Thomas Curby Henderson

and said, "I was on the Yard Crew with Charlie at Donovan. He was the nicest person I've ever known. Once Charlie came up to me and said, 'Anything you ever need, just ask.' And one time, I lost my beanie, and instantly, Charlie was there with another one for me. He was such a happy person."

The inmates' representative to the warden Sam Johnson

said, "When I heard he committed suicide, I was hurt, because it was another life lost. I pray that God will comfort his children. I thank God for the short time I knew Charlie."

Inmate and college student Forrest Jones echoed his words.

"One day, he just came out of the blue and struck up a conversation with me. Charlie said, 'How you're doing?' He just wanted to talk to somebody," Jones said. "I feel bad that I didn't spend more time with such a seemingly wonderful person."

Father George Williams, San Quentin's Catholic Chaplain, also spoke at the ceremony.

"His life made a difference to a lot of you. In confidence we pray that he's in God's hands," Williams said. "When you're feeling times of overwhelming pain, come and talk to me or one of the other chaplains," he advised.

Father George ended the tribute by reading selected passages from the Bible.

Louie Light, an inmate and friend of Henderson who did not attend the services, said that about a week before he died, he was watching a ping pong game when Henderson walked up to him and said, 'Do you mind if I can get that trash?' He was

pointing at some trash by my foot, buried deep in the ground," Light said. "I thought to myself, 'Nobody would take the time to do this type of work.' So, I said to him, 'Wow you really take pride in your work.' Charlie replied, 'Nobody else cares. I'm one of the few who does.' When I heard it was him, it really took me by surprise, because he was always so positive."

SONG

By Anonymous:

*When I am dead, my friend,
Sing no sad songs for me.
Plant no roses at my head,
Nor shady cypress trees.*

Just plant the green grass above me

That flowers with dew drops, wet.

For if you may remember me,

*For if you may forget;
Because I shall not see the shadows,*

And I shall not feel the rain,

And I shall not hear that nightingale

*Sing on as if in pain,
As I'm dreaming through this twilight*

*That does not rise nor set.
Happily, you may remember me, my friend;*

Sadly, you may forget.

Pianist Sarah Cahill Honors Former San Quentin Inmate With a Concert in the Protestant Chapel

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A concert honoring former San Quentin inmate Henry Cowell drew an eclectic crowd of inmates and outside visitors to San Quentin's Protestant Chapel. Performers included concert pianist Sarah Cahill and the Ives String Quartet.

Cowell "was very prolific for a person who only had one hour a week to play the piano" while in prison, said Cahill. He had a "profound influence on 20th-Century music," the January event program reported.

Because San Quentin does not have a grand piano, special arrangements were made to have one temporarily donated, moved by a special company, and tuned for the performances, one held in the morning, the other that evening.

The music, all written by Cowell, and played by Cahill and the quartet, began with *Celtic Set (Reel, Caoine, and Hornpipe)*, followed by *The Lover Plays his Flute* from *Amerind Suite*.

Cahill said Cowell wanted to write music that enlisted a

variety of cultures that could be accepted universally. He wanted to compose music to satisfy people other than his contemporaries.

She said, *The Lover Plays His Flute* is an emotional piece that evokes feelings and thoughts of Native American Indians, who inspired the music.

Cowell was also influenced by the music of the East, composing and uniting Chinese and Japanese music, Cahill commented.

Celtic Set was a slowly paced piece. It was a relaxing arrangement that fit the melancholy mood and atmosphere of prison life.

Following those compositions, Cahill played *Rhythmica*. "It's a real revolutionary piece about rhythm," she said.

A standing ovation greeted the Quartet's performance of Cowell's *String Quartet No. 4 ("United")*.

When Cowell was 14 years old, he did menial jobs and was later able to purchase an old piano. He taught himself to play using his fists and forearms to

gain a two octave reach, Cahill told the audience.

After explaining to the audience how Cowell played the piano using unconventional methods, Cahill played the piano with her fists and forearm, similar to Cowell to illustrate his unorthodox technique.

"If you get on a piano and just start banging, that's noise. But that's organized composition," said Terry Slaughter, referring to Cahill's use of Cowell's techniques.

Amy Ho, who teaches an art class in San Quentin, said, "I thought it was amazing."

When Cowell was imprisoned at San Quentin from 1936 to 1940, he taught music to more than 1,000 of his fellow inmates.

Among Cowell's students outside of prison were notables such as George Gershwin, Burt Bacharach, John Cage, and Lou Harrison.

The program also featured four inmates enrolled in a piano class taught by community volunteer Patricia Allred.

"It's such a pleasure and a treat to work with them," said Allred. "It is a teacher's dream

to get to teach students who really want to learn," referring to the students in her Wednesday morning piano class.

"It's a real revolutionary piece about rhythm"

Gino Sevacos performed a song he wrote called *No Greater Love*. "I realized I was separated from my higher self. God called me back," said Sevacos, referring to his music.

Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett played and sang *Is It Okay If I Call You Mine*. "Okay, I'm terrified, but I'm going to give it a shot," said Padgett.

Robert Tyler, another one of Allred's piano students who has been playing for many years, performed an original classical piece he named *All That I Can Do*.

"The movements in the *Celtic, Caoine* are actually a funeral piece. You can hear the sadness," said Tyler.

The closing act in Allred's class was performed by Lee

Jaspar, who is an accomplished jazz guitar and piano player with more than 40 years of professional experience. Jaspar sang and played an original composition he wrote several years ago, titled *Spring*.

Members of the Ives String Quartet smiled as they looked on while Jaspar performed. Inmates reacted with a standing ovation.

"I, and I alone, am responsible for the conditions in my life," Jaspar said prior to his performance. He also teaches music theory to more than a dozen inmates who show up to his classes on weekends in the prison gymnasium.

Jaspar is a tough act to follow, Cahill said at the evening performance. "It was this morning also."

The concert concluded with a rousing standing ovation for all of the performers.

Cahill is host of *Revolutions per Minute*, a radio show that airs Sunday evenings on KALW, 91.7 in San Francisco.

—Juan Haines contributed to this article

Restorative Justice Symposium Draws Outsiders

'Everything we need to bring positive change is already here'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Nearly 50 outsiders ventured inside a state prison, finding their way to its Catholic Chapel for a Restorative Justice symposium that brought crime victims, community members, and offenders together in dialog.

Every person, whether free or incarcerated, placed a nametag on their chest so they could practice the tenants of the new approach to criminal justice on a first-name basis.

"We have everybody here with every race of free people interacting with inmates," said Rose Elizondo, a community volunteer who has been coming inside San Quentin for many years. "This is what God sees as community," she said, comparing the symposium to how Father Gregory Boyle of Homeboy Industries builds community.

The symposium featured keynote speaker Rita Renjitham Alfred, head of the Restorative Justice Institute in Berkeley.

She asked people in the audience to close their eyes and think about the image of community. "What does that look like?"

"It looks like a circle of people," an inmate said. "A circle of children sitting around a bonfire," one of the free people said.

Alfred then invited the audience to turn to each other and say something about the other person's name. With smiling faces, gestures of

friendliness and heads nodding, inmates and free people chatted for several minutes, until a bell chimed.

Understanding history is important when working to make change in the community, Alfred said. The change could only occur through self-awareness and the ability to utilize empathy. When you bring those things together with a foundation of values, the needed change will come, she added.

"We need the people with the power working with the people with no power"

"We need the people with the power working with the people with no power," she said. "The people with power need a way to show the people without power how to behave. The strength of the powerful is formal, while the strength of the powerless is informal. The strength of Restorative Justice is the circle. However, how do we get the people with the power to sit in the circle?"

Alfred identified seven beliefs embodied in all people, relationships, and communities:

The true self in everyone is good, wise, and powerful. What we do is not who we

are.

The world is profoundly interconnected; we must realize our actions have consequences. What we do to others, we do to ourselves.

All human beings have a deep desire to be in a good relationship. "There's much suffering in the world but the greatest suffering is being alone," Alfred said, quoting Mother Teresa.

All living beings have gifts and everyone is needed for what they bring. All gifts are indispensable to the well-being of the whole. Diversity in human nature is required for the whole.

Everything we need to bring positive change is already here. We believe our communities hold great reservoirs of resources.

Human beings are holistic. The mind, body, and spirits are important to our being.

We need to practice living from the core self.

Dr. Mary Elliott has been coming inside San Quentin to help facilitate San Quentin's RJ group since 2007. There are about 115 inmates in the group with about 200 on the waiting list.

"I was impressed by the quality of presence of the men in blue," Elliott said. "Their power of truth, power of sincerity and power of involvement is authentic." For guidance, she said the group uses *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*, by Barbara Toews.

In the beginning, Elliott said that they struggled to get people from the outside to par-

ticipate.

"It took a lot of time to get the ball rolling," she said. "However, what kept the group going was the work of Leonard Rubio, Vinny Russo, Kevin Tindall, and many other dedicated inmates."

Rubio and Russo have since paroled. However, they still support the group, Elliott said. "When Leonard left, the guys stepped up and did a fabulous job, especially Kevin Valvardi. Kevin created chapter questions from *The Little Book of Restorative Justice* that are helpful to the group."

One community member, known by inmates as Ms. Jen, has been teaching RJ for about three years in Santa Rita Jail. She said that she has classes for maximum-security detainees. Around 200 to 300 people have been through her program.

Ms. Jen says she hopes Santa Rita would not build new jails with the money it receives from the realignment fund, "but to build a 'one-stop-shop' for offenders who want to turn their lives around."

"I envision a community center that serves probationers and newly released inmates who have educational, health care, and child services needs," Ms. Jen said. "The problem right now is finding the right place, where the community would be welcoming to the idea."

A student enrolled in the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) said she is learning new approaches to psychology by combining the

mind, body and spirit into her study.

Originally from New Orleans, she said it was her first time inside San Quentin. "All the checks coming into the prison were interesting," she said. "Then it was calming; the peaceful feeling I got when entering the chapel."

Another CIIS student also said it was her first time coming inside San Quentin. "My education is teaching me not to just diagnose people and give them some medication, but to understand mind, body, and spirit in order to give more effective treatments for problems."

In honor of the children and teachers killed at Sandy Hook last December, inmate facilitator Dwight Krizman read each name and age, while inmate facilitator Rafael Calix rang a small bell.

"Because we practice Restorative Justice and nobody is talking about the shooter or his mother, we'd like to ring it two more times, so that we may learn from this," Alfred said. The bell rang twice more.

The audience was divided into 10 circle groups consisting of 10 people (a mixture of free and incarcerated people) who engaged in dialog amongst each other for about an hour and a half.

Quoting Nelson Mandela, Tindall told the audience, "No one truly knows a nation, until they've been in its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones."

Pretend That You Could Go Back in Time

What advice would you give yourself...and would you listen to it?

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

It would probably be frightening for someone from the future to appear before us and provide a message about what is to come and then disappear. However, what if that message was a warning that we should change our course or suffer dire consequences?

Would we listen? Would we change our minds? On the other hand, would we dismiss it as nothing more than a delusion and continue on the same path?

What if people had an opportunity to go back in time to give their younger selves some sound advice—just before making a huge mistake?

Asked On The Line asked 14 mainliners, “If you could go back in time—for less than a minute—to when you are just

about to decide to make a horrible mistake, what would you say to your younger self? Remember, you only have less than a minute.”

Some of the men used kind words and reasoning, while others were aggressive and direct.

Valeray Richardson would say to his younger self, “The crime you think carries a maximum term of six years is going to be a life sentence for you. Think of the pain you will cause toward your loved ones. Think of the time that will be taken away from them.”

Orlando Harris said, “Right before I committed the life crime that got me locked up for over three decades, I would say to a young version of myself,

‘Don’t throw away your life. Life is too short. Think about the future, family, and how this choice will affect you for the rest of your life.’”

Nelson Butler would tell his younger self, “You have so much promise and potential. Trust yourself to believe that you have it in you. It will be greater later. Just have faith and hang on.”

Tyrone Allen would go back to February 26, 2010, at around 10 a.m. He was in Fresno heading to a job interview. He had made plans to spend time with his girlfriend.

“An opportunity to commit a crime swells in my thought process. Don’t do it T-Bone! There’s so much riding on this

decision! Simon says ‘Freeze,’” said Tyrone Allen.

Juan Arballo said he would go back 21 years, “I would advise myself to find a role model and to not look for guidance on the streets.”

Michael Tyler would tell his younger self, “It’s okay to ask for help! There’s nothing wrong with saying that this is too much for you to handle by yourself. Your future is based on your choices today. Think!”

Nythell Collins would also encourage his younger self. “Don’t be discouraged! Don’t feel pressured to fit in. It’s not worth it!”

Alexei Ruiz would say to his younger self, “You are worthy, a precious human being and

there are many who care about you and love you.”

Dexter T. Coleman would say, “You were raised to not hurt anyone! So let them have what you don’t need.”

Marvin Arnold would try to reason with his younger self. “Take life more seriously and practice a lot more discipline.”

John Neblett would remind his younger self of his parents. “Just quit what you’re doing right now! Call your mom and dad and say, ‘I love you.’”

Richard Benjamin, Chapple Sims, and Billy Allen would be more direct with their younger selves.

“Jack ___! Do you want to go to prison? No! Then stop and think about it!” said Benjamin.

“Think about it!” said Sims

Billy Allen would tell his younger self, “What are you doing, stupid? It’s not worth it!”

Asked On The Line

1. Stark, Fla.—Askari Abdullah Muhammad, previously known as Thomas Knight, was executed Jan. 7 for killing a prison guard in 1980.

2. McAlester, Okla.—Michael Lee Wilson, 38, was executed by lethal injection on Jan. 9 for killing a co-worker at a Tulsa convenience store where the two worked. Wilson was the third person put to death for the 1995 murder. The fourth defendant is serving a life term.

3. Ohio—Dennis McGuire, 53 was executed Jan. 21 for the 1989 rape and killing of Joy Stewart, 22. According to witnesses of the execution, McGuire appeared to gasp and snort in the more than 15 minutes it took him to die after being injected with the state’s new lethal injection drugs. McGuire’s two children, who witnessed the execution, have filed a lawsuit against the state, alleging the execution violated McGuire’s constitutional protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

4. Mineola, N.Y.—Martin Tankleff settled a wrongful conviction lawsuit against New York state for \$3.4 million. Tankleff spent 17 years in prison after being convicted of killing his parents. In 2007, he was freed when an appeals court found key evidence was ignored in his trial.

5. Sacramento—Prison officials revealed the location of three Level II housing unit facilities, totaling 2,376 new beds. A 792-bed facility is scheduled to be built on state prison property adjacent to Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego. Two 972-bed facilities are scheduled to be built on state prison property adjacent to Mule Creek State Prison in Ione. The estimated construction cost for the Donovan project is \$168.7 million. It will staff about 180 employees at an annual operational budget of \$5.5 million. The Mule Creek estimated construction cost is \$344.5 million and would staff 375 employees with an annual operational cost

of \$11 million.

6. Tehachapi—On December 17, 2013, the first wave of Level II male inmates arrived at the California City Correctional Facility, a private prison leased and operated by CDCR.

7. Fresno—The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved construction of a 300-bed jail at a cost of \$79 million. Funding comes from the approximately \$500 million of state funding allocated for upgrades in California county jails.

8. Kern County—The state has given Kern County \$27.8 million to help deal with offenders who must do their time locally instead of in state prisons. That’s \$4.3 million more than last year. Kern gets the lowest per-capita from the state to house the shifted offenders at \$6,167 per offender. Funding comes from the approximately \$500 million of state funding allocated for upgrades in California county jails.

9. Yuba County—From October 2011 to November 2012,

the arrest rate for people arrested within the first year after being released from jail went from 60.3 percent to 46.2. Conviction rate for people convicted of a crime within the first year after being released from jail decreased from 26.1 percent to 18.8 in the same period.

10. Sutter County—From October 2011 to November 2012, the arrest rate for people arrested within the first year after being released from jail went from 59.1 percent to 54.6. The conviction rate for people convicted of a crime within the first year after being released from jail decreased from 23.2 percent to 21.1 in the same period.

11. Contra Costa—Offenders are incarcerated and placed on probation and parole at a rate one-half of the rest of the state. The low rates are attributed to the county’s use of trained probation officers who supervise the offenders. The county also uses shorter probation terms, and prosecutors use split sentences more than any

other county in the state. A split sentence is when a judge divides a sentence between a jail term and supervised probation.

12. San Mateo County—The county is set to receive \$24 million to upgrade its jails. The money is earmarked to improve mental health services and programming, and to increase the jail’s capacity, along with seismic upgrades. Funding comes from the approximately \$500 million of state funding allocated for upgrades in California county jails.

13. San Joaquin County—The county is set to receive \$33 million to build a higher-security jail to replace the current minimum-security Honor Farm. Officials had asked for \$40 million under their submitted plan, which included more rehabilitation programs. Funding comes from the approximately \$500 million of state funding allocated for upgrades in California county jails.

14. Boise, Idaho—Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter said because of more than a decade of misman-

aging the state’s largest private prison by Corrections Corporation of America, its \$29 million contract will not be renewed.

15. Lexington, Ky—A college-level course developed in 1997 at Temple University called The Inside-Out Program is teaching a class at Blackburn Correctional Complex. The class consists of 16 students from the University of Kentucky and 16 inmates. The class jointly examines the relationship between drugs and crime. The program was developed on the premise that inmates and college students have a lot to learn from each other when studying together.

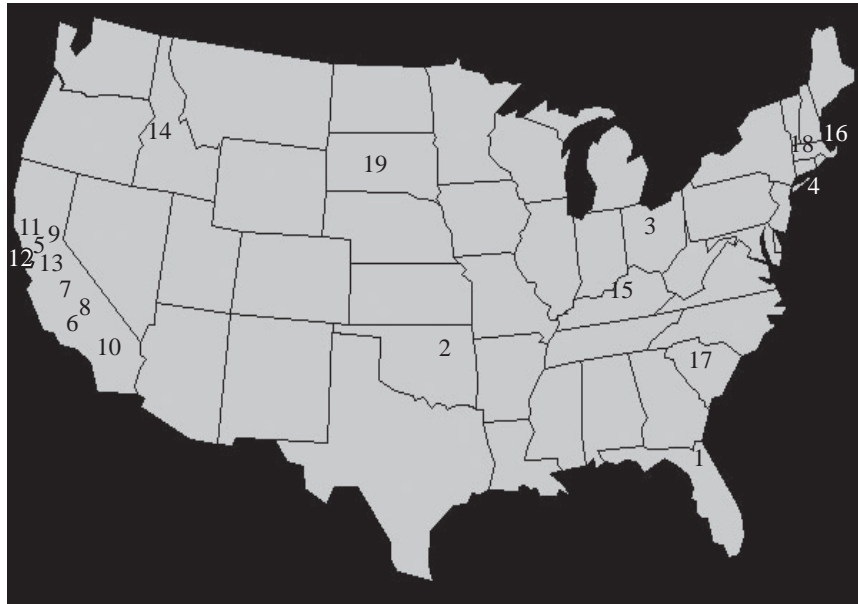
16. Boston—The American Civil Liberties Union and Prisoner’s Legal Services are suing the state prison department in an effort to stop the use of drug-sniffing dogs to search prison visitors. The lawsuit alleges that the searches are an invasion of privacy, terrifying for children, and dogs can mistake legal scents for drugs.

17. Columbia, S.C.—In a 45-page ruling, Circuit Judge Michael Baxely gave prison officials until mid-summer to develop a plan on how to better serve mentally ill inmates. Baxely’s ruling cited prison officials’ failure to properly diagnose inmates when they enter the system and medicate them. The ruling also found prisons do not have enough mental health professionals, do not keep records to assure inmates are getting proper treatment and prison guards rely excessively on force instead of other means to control inmate behavior.

18. Massachusetts—A judge’s ability to give a life sentence without parole to juveniles was struck down by the state’s high court. Prison officials said the ruling will affect 62 inmates.

19. Pierre, S.D.—The ability for offenders released on probation to reduce their sentence through good behavior is part of a plan to overhaul the state’s justice system and avoid the need for new prison construction.

News Briefs



Report Indicates North Carolina Forensics Crime Lab Drops the Ball on Following Proper Procedure

'Potential that information was material and even favorable to the defense was withheld'

By N. T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

A North Carolina forensic crime lab was found to have failed to follow proper reporting procedures, according to a state inquiry commission.

A 2012 article by Paul C. Giannelli, in the publication *Criminal Justice*, highlights a report released by the North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission, in which they detail the failures of the crime lab, SBI Forensic Laboratory, in its reporting practices when it comes to criminal cases.

COMMISSION

In 2010, the commission reviewed the case of Gregory Taylor, where blood evidence, and the corresponding crime lab report, was used to obtain a conviction in the original trial. During the course of the inquiry, the commission uncovered the bench notes of the lab technician, Duane Deaver, which showed that the confirmation tests performed indicated the absence of blood in Taylor's car. However, these notes were not handed over to the defense at the time.

Because of this discovery, according to the 2012 article, North Carolina's attorney general at the time, appointed two former FBI special agents to investigate SBI's lab practices, who identified several deficiencies. Those deficiencies included that between 1987-2003, SBI had the "potential that information was material and even favorable to the defense was withheld or misrepresented."

"A vigilant defense counsel would have quickly discovered that the lab report was based on a preliminary test"

In his article, Giannelli points out that there have been past incidents of crime labs failing to adhere to a strict code of impartiality. Giannelli even cites various studies that show how crime

labs often lose their objectivity, quoting a 1993 study by Andre A. Moenssens that stated crime labs "may be so imbued with a pro-police bias that they are willing to circumvent true scientific investigation methods for the sake of 'making their point.'"

Giannelli says that defense attorneys and prosecutors have a responsibility in ensuring that such reporting is accurate and properly investigated. "A vigilant defense counsel would have quickly discovered that the lab report was based on a preliminary test," he says in his paper.

He also quotes the U.S. Supreme Court, which said, "A party whose counsel is unable to provide effective representation is in no better position than one who has no counsel at all."

Prosecutors are required to provide defense lawyers all notes and information generated from the crime labs, since the U.S. Supreme Court has previously ruled that such information is exculpatory.

Because of the inquiry commission's investigation, North Carolina took legislative steps to reform how crime labs op-

erate. This includes making the labs "client" no longer the prosecutors and police, but instead the "public and criminal

justice system" and making it a criminal offense to willfully omit or misrepresent information subject to disclosure.

Study Shows How Trauma Affected Most Pennsylvania Prisoners

By Raymond Aldridge
Journalism Guild Writer

Almost all Pennsylvania state prisoners have experienced traumatic events in their lives, a new study concludes.

Eighty-five percent of the nearly 600 men who participated in the screening reported a wide range of crime-related events in their lives, such as robbery or home invasion, according to researcher Nancy Wolff of Rutgers University in New Jersey. Three-fourths of the men reported they had been physically or sexually abused.

"When I saw the numbers and I saw the prevalence of trauma overall, I was just blown away," state Corrections Secretary John

Wetzel told WESA, Pittsburgh's NPR News station. "I couldn't believe that so many, such a high percentage of our offenders – so I called her up and said, 'Are you sure about these numbers?'"

He said screening men and providing correct treatment will reduce recidivism.

Wetzel said the state has done a better job of screening women prisoners for trauma.

"With men we haven't really paid attention to that," Wetzel added in an October interview. "Now that we have this study, it's really looking at our trauma programs."

The research was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Financial Responsibilities Haunt Convicts Reintegrating Back Into Society

'Some of the collection fees are exorbitant'

By Lee Jaspar
Journalism Guild Writer

Added financial responsibilities imposed by states' criminal justice system is making re-entry into society increasingly difficult for many of those who have run afoul of the law, reports the Brennan Center for Justice.

Many states have introduced "user fees" which are not actually connected to any criminal justice purpose, the Center reports.

These fees are not imposed for punishment, deterrence, or rehabilitation, but rather to fund ever-tightening state budgets, according to the report. "Some of the collection fees are exorbitant and exceed ordinary standards of fairness."

Some states are creating new user fees and raising existing fees, while at the same time, focusing more resources on collections. "One person in Pennsylvania faced \$2,464 in fees alone," according to the

report. The fees were "approximately three times the amount imposed for fines and restitution."

In all 15 states examined in the report, many debtor/defendants choose jail time to reduce the debt.

The inability to pay has resulted in 14 of the 15 states in the survey to utilize "poverty penalties" – which add late fees and interest to payment plans that often enrich debt collection companies and extend the debt for years.

"Of the 15 states, 13 also charge poor people public defender fees simply for exercising their constitutional right to counsel," according to the report. "This practice can push defendants to waive counsel, raising constitutional questions and leading to wrongful convictions, over-incarceration and significant burdens on the operation of courts."

In 2009, a county in North Carolina arrested 564 individuals and jailed 264 of them for failing to pay debt and up-

date address information, the report showed. However, the monies actually collected from this group were less than what it spent on their incarceration.

"Of the 15 states, 13 also charge poor people public defender fees simply for exercising their constitutional right to counsel"

A person's reintegration effort after a criminal conviction is hindered by these practices because they damage credit and interfere with other commitments, according to the report. As an example, eight of the 15 states suspend driver's licenses for missed payments.

"When courts are pressured

to act, in essence, as collection arms of the state, their traditional independence suffers," the report states. "When probation and parole officers must devote time to fee collection instead of public safety and rehabilitation, they too compromise their roles."

The report made the following recommendations:

Indigent defendants should be exempt from user fees, and payment plans and other debt collection efforts should be tailored to an individual's ability to pay.

States should immediately cease arresting and incarcerating individuals for failure to pay criminal justice debt, particularly before a court has made an ability-to-pay determination.

Public defender fees should be eliminated, to reduce pressures that can lead to conviction of the innocent, over-incarceration, and violations of the Constitution.

States should eliminate "poverty penalties" that im-

pose additional costs on individuals who are unable to pay criminal justice debt all at once, such as payment plan fees, late fees, collection fees, and interest.

Policymakers should evaluate the costs of popular debt collection methods such as arrests, incarceration, and driver's license suspensions – including the salary and time spent by employees involved in collection and the effect of these methods on reentry and recidivism.

Agencies involved in debt collection should extend probation terms or suspend driver's licenses only in those cases where an individual can afford to repay criminal justice debt but refuses to do so.

Legislatures should eliminate poll taxes that deny individuals the right to vote when they are unable to pay criminal justice debt.

Courts should offer community service programs that build job skills for individuals unable to afford criminal justice debt.

L.A. Times Reports How Legislators Plan to Tackle Solitary Confinement

By San Quentin News Staff

Concern about the effects of solitary confinement on inmates' mental health prompted two state legislators to take action to reform how inmates are assigned to solitary confinement, reports *the Los Angeles*

Times.

"The hunger strike made us look at these conditions, but they have been problematic for years," said Assembly Public Safety Chairman Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco). "We want to start looking at other ways to deal with the security needs in

our prisons in a way that makes sense from a correctional and a human rights standpoint."

Inspector General Robert Barton, officials from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation advocates for prisoners and their family members spoke at a hearing held in

Sacramento on Oct. 9.

"Since many of these inmates will eventually complete their sentences and be released into the community, it is in all of our interests to offer rehabilitation while they are incarcerated -- not further deterioration," said Senate Public Safety Chairwoman

Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley).

There are more than 10,000 inmates in some form of isolation, including solitary confinement units for mentally ill prisoners, said a lawyer representing the inmates in the report. Some of those inmates have been there for decades.

Identity and Place Behind the Prison Walls

By **Juan Haines**
Managing Editor

One of the harshest aspects of imprisonment is the loss of physical control, coupled with the loss of identity, according to Sharon Dolovich's *Creating the Permanent Prisoner*. However, identity and place may be more complex for some inmates than others.

Take gender-variant inmates; gender identity is sometimes an issue, which might lead to more distress than what average inmates undergo when taking into consideration the findings of *Transgender Emergence: Therapeutic Guidelines for Working with Gender-Variant People*.

According to regulations, 12 California prisons – including San Quentin – are designated to house inmates diagnosed as transgender. Nine of the prisons are designated for male-to-female transgenders, the other three for female-to-male.

Newly arrived transgenders at San Quentin say the accommodations are limited, but improving.

An issue resolved was brasieres. Current prison regulations allow bras for transgender inmates. However, bras were not available when they arrived at San Quentin. "It took me six months to get bras in my package," said Seth "Venus" Rountree, 54. "The feel of a real bra on my skin is like the way a child covets a teddy-bear. Wearing it makes me feel comfortable with my body."

Venus is one of about a half-dozen transgender inmates at San Quentin. She said it took the assistance of San Quentin prison staff to get a bra. "I would like to thank Kelly Mitchell, Debbie Pearl, Dr. Tootell, and Sgt. Puu for helping me."

She said she began taking hormone treatments for male to female transformation in 2005. "I wanted to do this when I first came to prison," Venus said. "But I was very uncomfortable with doing it. I was really scared."

Venus is serving 16 years to life for second-degree murder. She said she has been incarcerated 32 years and has had only one rules violation. Venus attends Alcoholics Anonymous, Creative Writing, the Journalism Guild of San Quentin, Addiction to Recovery Counseling and yoga.

Transgender Emergence breaks down gender transformation into "States of Emergence," and suggests various stages for therapists to focus on in gender-variant people.

The first stage, Awareness, recognizes that the person wants to live as the opposite gender.

"Being transgender is someone who was born one gender but identifies as the other," said Crystal Gary, 24. "That's the way they feel inside. That's the way they live their lives, want to be respected, and represented," adding, "Being transgender has nothing to do with sexual preference. A lot of people see transgender human beings as being homosexuals, gay or bi-sexual. It has nothing to do with sex."

Crystal has been at San Quen-

tin for about 18 months. Describing herself as an extravagant songstress and beauty cosmetologist, Crystal has completed a religious study program called



File Photo

Seth "Venus" Rountree

Boot Camp, and is actively participating in the church. She is also enrolled in school and studying for her GED.

"I think San Quentin is a fabulous place for a person trying to better their lives, especially transgender inmates," Crystal said. "However, the unit where I'm housed has an issue about privacy at shower time, because of a dorm setting it's wide open. Where as in other units the guards will allow us to shower separately," adding, "Even so, it's easier to program here than level four or three prisons. A lot of people who come to San Quentin come to program without worrying about more physical altercations, for the most part."

"Being transgender is someone who was born one gender but identifies as the other"

Transgender Emergence finds the Seeking Information/Reaching Out stage is when the person becomes educated about transgenderism, which leads to Disclosure to Significant Others or "coming out." During these stages, the person is at ease with the concept of changing genders and is willing to speak openly about what they are going through.

Jarvis Juvan "Lady Jae" Clark, 52, said, "As far as being a transgender, I'll only accept respect," adding, "The other day I was in the shower and it was a little crowded. Another inmate was looking at me in a derogatory manner. He said something very disrespectful to me. The old me would have confronted him and tested his manhood. But, the new me, since being at San Quentin, is a kinder, gentler, more demur Jae. 'Yes, I am a faggot,' I said, 'but I am a transgender. Let's get it right.' The young man then dropped his head, and we don't have a problem out of him anymore."

Transgender inmates at San

Quentin say they do not have very many difficulties interacting with other inmates.

"San Quentin has had many obstacles," Lady Jae said. "The first was finding suitable housing. When I first got here, I ran into the stigma of being homosexual. I did not want to intrude onto anyone. I was fortunate to have a couple of very understanding cellies who knew I was put into a compromising position, so they worked with me."

Lady Jae said she is in a relationship, but that her demeanor is not overbearing.

"Some homophobic straight men on a general population yard have a problem with transgenders. They choose to be disrespectful and judge transgenders, gays, homosexuals and bi sexual people," Crystal said. "But I've earned my respect in the prison system, so I don't have that problem. Homophobic people have no understanding of human beings. Or, sometimes they're just on the down-low, undercover men who give the façade of being straight."

Integration is the acceptance and post-transition stage discussed in *Transgender Emergence*. The person seeks normalization in relationships and lifestyle after the transformation process is complete.

"My relationship with Miss Crystal is one of strong sisterhood," said Lady Jae. "Having someone younger than me helps me better my life. I would hope having her as a little sister would also better her life."

Arlene Istar Lev, author of *Transgender Emergence*, suggests that therapeutic assistance helps the person understand the process of transgender transformation so they may live normally.

California's prison system provides mental health services to transgender inmates. However, Lady Jae said, "I think the mental health department misdiagnoses me, because they don't fully understand what I'm going through."

Venus said she became aware of her gender-variance in the 1980s, but did not begin hormone treatment until she came to prison.

"When I was younger, I was a fun-loving person," Venus said. "I was pretty much bi sexual. I feel that I was a regular person growing up, but I had these feminine tendencies. I was also very shy."

At San Quentin, there is an older population of inmates, which translates into a more mature atmosphere.

The inmates "accept me as one of the fellas, although you can see, I'm not just one of the fellas," Lady Jae said. "There's more discrimination from the officers than the inmates."

Lady Jae said, "I see myself as the peacemaker. The one who tries to bring all the transgenders together, in sis-

Criminal Gangs Anonymous, is on the waiting list for prison industries and the prison's college program. Most recently, Lady Jae was elected as the representative to the administration from West Block.

Crystal said she still struggles with joining into regular programs, like fully being accepted in the church as the person she is. "It is a work in progress," Crystal said, "I'm confident we'll be able to work it out."

Federal law now protects transgenders, which according to Masen Davis, executive director of Transgender Law Center, "is especially critical for transgender people who live in



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jarvis Juvan "Lady Jae" Clark and Crystal Gary

terhood. I consider myself the elder spokesperson as I've been around the block."

With 70 plus programs and more than 3,000 community volunteers assisting the inmates with reentry and other prosocial activities, prison officials have touted San Quentin as a model prison.

Lady Jae said she participates in Narcotics Anonymous,

the 34 states that lack transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination laws."

"We don't even like being identified as transgender. We like being respected, treated and addressed only as females, like miss, she and her," said Crystal. "But, in the end, we're all in prison, doing the time in the same place, as human beings."

San Diego County Jail Teaches Inmates a New Baking Trade

By **Rudy Morales Sr.**
Journalism Guild Writer

One California county is using parts of its jail funding to teach offenders a new trade—how to bake a cake, reports The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The East Mesa Detention Facility in San Diego created an apprenticeship program for culinary arts of bakery.

The project began last January as an outgrowth of the state's plan, shifting the responsibility for low-level offenders from state officials to county governments.

"A lot of us have lost our sense of responsibility," said

one of the program's participants Langston Steven, 36, in the Union-Tribune article. "This gives us a sense of worth."

The Sheriff's Department said the program is intended to help reduce recidivism. "If we don't take advantage of this, it's a wasted opportunity," said Sheriff Bill Gore, in the article.

"This is the first time I'm learning something (while in custody), said Jimmy Bahn, 35 in the Union-Tribune article. "I have choices, an opportunity to learn, and not come back."

Instructor, Maria T. Gonzales teaches all of the funda-

mentals of bakery to a classroom full of students.

"When I came here, I saw them not wanting to work together," Gonzales said. "We've turned it into a team, and that translates on the outside."

Another instructor, Irene Fombon, teaches them "how to fill pastries with cream or drizzle chocolate over a sweet treat. They make icing and decorate cakes, which get gobbled up by jail staff," reports the Union-Tribune.

With the average sentence around 18 to 24 months, inmates are able to take advantage of the course, which is about six-months, reports the Union-Tribune.

Rehabilitation Through the Office of Offender Services, In-Prison Program Unit

By Rehabilitation Today
The Office of Offender Ser-

- Men (CIM)
- California Institution for Women (CIW)



Photo by CDCR

Inmates in a Career Technical Education Program

ices (OS), In-Prison Programs Unit provides comprehensive rehabilitative programs and services for offenders while in prison, and works closely with Community and Reentry Services to ensure a continuum of care.

Providing gender responsive, evidence-based programs and services to incarcerated offenders are vital components of California's ongoing efforts to assist offenders in their successful reentry into the community. In order to maximize the positive impact of these programs and services, offenders are evaluated for their criminogenic risks and needs to ensure the right individuals are placed in the right programs at the right time.

- California Men's Colony (CMC)
- California State Prison,



Photo by CDCR

Prisoners and staff working on an engine in a Auto Repair Program class

RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The California Static Risk Assessment (CSRA) uses the offender's past criminal history and characteristics such as age and gender to predict the likelihood they will re-offend.

The OS uses an evidence-based instrument, the Correctional Offender Management Profiling for Alternative Sanctions (COMPAS), to assess offender needs and assign them to corresponding rehabilitative programs for maximum effectiveness.

REENTRY HUBS

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has established reentry hubs at designated prisons to concentrate pre-release programs for inmates who are within four (4) years of release and who demonstrate a willingness to maintain appropriate behavior to take advantage of available programming.

REENTRY HUB LOCATION

Reentry Hubs are located at the following institutions:

- Avenal State Prison (ASP)
- California Institution for

- Los Angeles County (LAC)
- Correctional Training Facility (CTF)
- Central California Women's Facility (CCWF)
- Chuckawalla Valley State Prison (CVSP)
- Folsom Women's Facility (FWF)
- Ironwood State Prison (ISP)
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison (SATF)
- Valley State Prison (VSP)

REENTRY HUB COMPONENTS

Reentry Hub facilities are comprised of the following components:

- Adult Basic Education - Provides offenders the opportunity for a high school level education;

- Career Technical Education - provides offenders with skills that correspond to the job market;
- Cal ID - provides offenders with a state identification

card prior to release;

- Voluntary Education Program - offers offenders the opportunity to achieve a college education;
- Transition Programs - assisting offenders with job skills required for the modern workforce:

- Transitions Planning
- Job Search
- Job Applications
- Winning Resumes
- The Interview
- One-stop Career Center Orientation
- Financial Literacy

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) programs:

CBT programs provide evidence-based treatment, which addresses dysfunctional emotions, maladaptive behaviors and cognitive processes; using monitoring and progress



Photo by CDCR

Offender Mentor Certification Program graduate Eric Borchert. Now an Associate Counselor

OFFENDER MENTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (OMCP)

The OMCP provides an opportunity for offenders to complete a certification program in alcohol and other drug counseling. Inmates are recruited from various institutions and transferred to the host institution for training. Once certified as interns by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (CAADAC), the inmate mentors will be used to assist in the various substance

model program using cognitive behavioral therapy specifically structured for offenders who may not be released in the near future.

STEP-DOWN PILOT PROGRAM

The CDCR is implementing a pilot program to reduce long-term confinement in Security Housing Units (SHU), provide alternatives for inmates who want to disassociate from a criminal gang lifestyle, maintain safety in California prisons and communities, and comply with national best practices in addressing Security Threat Groups within California's prisons.

IN-CUSTODY SEX OFFENDER TREATMENT PILOT PROGRAM

The CDCR is developing a pilot treatment program to address the risks and needs of offenders who are required to register pursuant to the California Penal Code Section 290. This pilot program will provide evidence based treatment for these offenders prior to their release to corresponding community based treatment programs.

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assessment to assist offenders in reaching their prescribed goals. Currently available programs include:

- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Criminal Thinking
- Anger Management
- Family Relationships

abuse treatment programs throughout the state.

LONG TERM OFFENDER PILOT PROGRAM

The CDCR will pilot a reentry



Photo by CDCR

Offender Mentor Certification Program

New Level Omega Chess Arrives at S.Q.

By Aaron "Imam Jeddi"
Taylor
Sports Writer

This isn't "Bobby Fisher's" chess game anymore. This is Omega Chess! It's 100 squares instead of 64, 10 pawns instead of eight, Champions and Wizards. In the Advanced Game, there are even pieces called The Fool and the Templar Knight.

The strategy of the game is still the same: checkmate your opponent by capturing the King.

The game is played on a 10x10 squares board with an extra square in each of the extreme corners where the Wizards are placed at the start of each game. On the outer edges where the extra squares are, you'll find the Champion piece with a Pawn in front.

One reason for adding the new pieces was to equalize the number of jumping pieces with sliding pieces. Wizards are color-bound pieces, a parallel to the Bishop. However, the Wizard is also a leaper.

Champions are, like Knights, classed as leapers. A Cham-

pion can jump two squares in any direction or simply slide one square in any direction.

Daniel MacDonald in Toronto created Omega Chess, which has a small but growing fellowship at San Quentin. Fateem Jackson, Edwin "Zakee" Hutchinson, and James Mays sat down to talk about their experience with the game.

"While I was at California Men's Colony, I discovered some guys playing it. It immediately drew my attention. I asked one of the guys to teach me how to play," said Fateem Jackson, 37. Jackson is the first person to introduce Omega Chess at San Quentin. He taught Hutchinson, Mays and Ronald Fort. Jackson has been playing the game for more than two years.

"I've been playing chess since I was 11," said Hutchinson, 53. "Omega Chess is an amazing concept to that (chess) game that I've loved all these years. I competed and won the U.S. Chess Federation in Monterey in 1994. I had an expert rating of 1,950. However, this Omega Chess is a completely new beast to

SPORTS



Photo by Raphaela Casale

Kinte Hogan faces off against Fateem Jackson in Omega Chess

Basketball Shoot-Out Contest Ends Tied

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

San Quentin held a basketball shooting contest for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, which was won by Terrell Sterling and Keith Wroten, who tied for first place.

The contest involved markers indicating various points to be earned for made shots. Points ranged from one to six. The further away from the basket, the more a made shot was worth.

Each shooter had to rebound his own make or miss, then decide where to make his next shot attempt.

Fateem Jackson won the last event, scoring 37 points on mostly long-range shots made from about three feet behind the three-point line. However, he only scored seven in his title defense, losing to Terrell Sterling and Keith Wroten. They both tied for first place by employing a strategy of shooting from the free-throw line and making five each.

They split the first and second place prizes, getting 22 granola bars each.

Anthony Colman and Montrell Vines split third place with 13 bars each. This was Colman's second time coming in second.

Alleyne Wins Tennis Singles and Doubles

By Mike Panella
Contributing Writer

Paul Alleyne won both the singles and, with the aid of Mark Jordan, the doubles tennis tournament events held in San Quentin for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Alleyne's path to the championship match was difficult at best. He faced Young in the first match to play into the round of eight. N. Young forfeited after multiple foot-fault calls, advancing Alleyne.

Alleyne dropped the first set 12-6 to Paul Oliver, but won the match by winning the next two sets. Alleyne beat Lee 2-0 to face Tim Thompson in the final and won in three sets, 12-8, 8-12 and 12-10. Thomp-

son played on a sore ankle but made a match out of it and came in second.

In the doubles, Jordan and Alleyne took first and Rick Hunt and Terry Slaughter took second.

The doubles tournament was much more straightforward. Both finalists rolled through the competition until meeting up in the championship match. Jordan and Alleyne grabbed the lead in the first set and never looked back, winning in straight sets, 21-7, 12-9.

Alleyne's tenacious net play and fast feet, combined with Jordan's big serve and heavy ground strokes were too much for Hunt and Slaughter.

Each set was close early on, but opened up at mid-point by several key mini-break points.

tackle. I apply the techniques and stratagems that I learned in chess, which makes my Omega game much more diverse and unorthodox."

"Omega Chess is about expanding the horizons of chess to another level," said Mays, 56. He's been playing Omega Chess for 11 months. "Omega Chess is about the diversity of moves that the Champion and the Wizard bring to the game. They leap over other pieces and add a dimension that one

has to take into account."

Jackson said comparing Omega Chess to regular Chess "is like comparing Spades to Pinochle. Once you play Pinochle, you don't want to play Spades anymore. Spades is too simple. It's the same way with Omega Chess."

"Exactly," said Hutchinson. "The dynamics of the game are more intricate. It involves critical thinking beyond just an average Chess game. In that, the analogy of Pinochle

to Spades is appropriate."

Players hope to arrange an Omega Chess Tournament at San Quentin in the future.

Omega Chess is an advanced form of the game that the early Persians learned from the ancient Egyptians. Back then, it was Jackals and Hounds.

Information about Omega Chess can be found at the website http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Omega_Chess&oldid=577631757

Editor's Note

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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 American prisons and jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.

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.

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Kings Defeat Bittermen 66-60 in Season Finale

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Kings came back from down 12 to defeat the Bittermen, 66-60, in their final basketball game of the season.

The Kings got back in the game in part by the hot shooting of Aubra-Lamont "Coo-Coo" Moore. Off the bench, he hit four three-pointers for a total of 12 points. "I was open," Moore explained.

The Bittermen were up 57-56 with just over two minutes left in the game, when S.Q. Kings Oris Williams hit a huge three-pointer, taking the lead,

59-57. He led the Kings with 19 points.

"We were all gung ho to play. We didn't want to lose this last game"

"The loss was demoralizing. We'll see those shots by Williams and Moore in our dreams," said Bittermen's Mark Stapp, who led his team with 20 points.

After rebounding a Bittermen miss, P. "Strange" Walker scored on the other end for the

Kings, making the score 61-57.

The Bittermen had to foul Williams to stop the clock. Williams hit the first of two free throws and teammate Larry "TY" Jones rebounded the second. Jones put it in, increasing the Kings' lead to 63-57.

The Bittermen kept intentionally fouling to get back in the game, but fell short, 66-60 in the Nov. 9 contest.

"We were all gung ho to play. We didn't want to lose this last game, but they wore us down. Brilliant coaching," said Ted Saltviet about the Kings and their Coach Orlando Harris.

"That was a gritty win," added Bittermen Tm Hall.



Photo by Rapheale Casale

Timothy Hall pump fakes Timothy Thompson

The Chosen Strikes Back, Offensive Line Leads 32-23 Victory Over All-Madden

By **Aaron "Imam Jeddi" Taylor**
Sports Writer

The Chosen football squad returned to San Quentin and came away with a win, 32-23.

"I want to thank the offensive line mostly, as well as the entire team," said Dante Perez, quarterback for The Chosen. "Everybody did their part."

At halftime, the score was 15-14, with All-Madden leading the way after coming from behind.

In the second half, The Chosen began to take advantage of the All-Madden defense. "We made a couple of adjustments," said Tyson, who finished the game with nine receptions for

166 yards and two touchdowns. "We saw that the middle linebacker kept leaving the middle of the field open. We wanted to exploit that."

The Chosen brought a new player with them, Cameron Marshall, a recent graduate of Arizona State University, who also played tailback for the school's football team.

On The Chosen's first possession, Perez threw an interception to defensive back Malcolm Jones. All-Madden's first possession ended with a turnover on downs. On the sixth play of The Chosen's second possession, they scored first with a 30-yard pass over the middle to Marshall, 6-0.

On All-Madden's second pos-

session, Royce "Gator" Rose ran up the middle for 21 yards; on the same drive, A. "Alias" Jones scored his first touchdown of the day on a 12-yard sweep right. The score was 7-6.

On The Chosen's next possession, Marshall received the handoff and exploded up the middle for a 52-yard touchdown. Following a successful two-point conversion, the score was 14-7.

Then on All-Madden's next possession, Rose found A. Jones streaking up the right sideline and threw a beautifully arced spiral pass for a 62-yard touchdown strike, followed by a two-point conversion.

The Chosen scored on its first possession of the second half as Tyson ran a deep slant from the

left side. As the defense shifted, he waited for the linebacker to slide right, and then adjusted his route to occupy the space vacated by the middle linebacker, Cleo Cloman. It resulted in a 30-yard touchdown pass. The Chosen retook the lead, 20-15.

All-Madden gave the ball back after an eight-play drive that resulted in no points. On the fifth play of The Chosen's following possession, Perez threw an interception to Rose, who brought his offense back to the field and threw a 22-yard catch and run to Dwight "Sleepy" Kennedy that scored a touchdown. Charles "Pookie" Sylvester converted the two-point play and All Madden retook the lead, 23-20.

After a pass interference call by M. Jones, Perez threw a tight spiral, low and inside, to a sliding Andre Jackson for a three-yard touchdown and The Chosen led again, 26-23. After a quick four and out by All Madden, Perez hit Tyson on a delayed in-route, where he slipped once again behind the middle linebacker. Tyson caught the 40-yard touchdown that sealed the victory for The Chosen, who played their last game of the season.

Final score: 32-23, The Chosen.

"I didn't do enough," said A. Jones after the game. "It doesn't matter what my individual numbers are. We still lost."

Hopson, 59, Again Captures S.Q. Marathon

It was a cloudless Friday morning, perfect for running, as Lorenzo Hopson ran the 26.2 miles San Quentin Marathon in 3:34:59, three minutes off his record time a year ago.

"I feel good, the body is good," said Hopson, age 59. "I've run 215.4 miles in these Adidas as of today. It's the first time I've run this distance in these shoes," he said smiling.

The 1,000 Mile Club began at San Quentin in 2005. "I was asked by Laura Bowman to help out, and I've been doing it ever since," said Frank Ruona, coach of the team.

Kevin Rumon set a brisk pace for faster runners, while Laura Richard, a Prison University Project tutor, set a nine-minute pace for average runners. Don Lindsey and Jill Freeman, a former distance runner herself, kept track of runner's times and handed out fluids. "You have to be able to handle rejection when it comes

to passing out fluids," she said as some of the runners passed on drinking early. "They'll feel it later on because they didn't hydrate early."

Runners were dropping salt pills and drinking fluids after about an hour of running in the Nov. 15 event. Bill Sullivan, 59, pulled out of the race due to a previous muscle tear in his calf. "I needed more time to heal," he said. "When you get a little older, the muscles take more time to heal."

Larry Ford, 57, who trained for a year for the run, pulled a tendon in his right leg in mile 5, and dropped out of the race in mile 7. Ford stayed around to help encourage other runners.

When it came to race day's marathon, no one could compete with Hopson. "At his age, he is doing excellent," said Coach Ruona.

—By **Aaron "Imam Jeddi" Taylor**

MARATHON RESULTS:

1. Lorenzo Hopson
3:34:59
2. Glenn Mason
3:58:42
3. Carlos Ramirez
4:11:51
4. Tone Evans
4:30:34
5. Jerry Gearin
5:06:19
6. Andrew Gazzeny
5:06:49
7. Lee Goins
5:13:33

UNDER 26 MILES FINISHERS:

8. Clifton Williams
3:20 Miles: 20.5
9. M. Abdel Kadeer
2:41:09 Miles: 20
10. Tristan Jones
3:46:47 Miles: 19
11. Chris Schumacher
2:55:14 Miles: 18.5
12. Malcolm Williams
3:20 Miles: 14
13. Larry Ford
1:02 Miles: 7.25

Granola Bar Prizes for S.Q. Tournament Winners

San Quentin gave out granola bars as prizes to winners of the Thanksgiving Holiday Tournaments.

First-place players won up to 20 granola bars, second place 10 and third place got 5-10. The prize winners were:

Tennis: Raphael Calix, first; Ricky Hunt, second; Paul Oliver, third.

Ping Pong: Osburn Walton, first; Bozzie Burton, second; Edwin Maddox, third.

Handball Doubles: Champions were Terrance Banks and Elliott Chattman; Gerald Salas and Bozzie Burton, second; Ventrice Laster and Eric Post, third.

Chess: Champion was Macky Vincent; Eduardo Delapena, second; Kelvin Prince, third.

Pinochle: Champions were Fred Dixon and Lee Habbary; Odell Hodges and Floyd Hall, second; Cole Young and Frank Green, third.

Iron Man Under 50: Champion was Dean Soriano; Perry

Simpson, second; Chris Schumacher, third.

Iron Man Over 50: Champion was Raphael Calix; Alfonso Sanchez, second; Edwin Maddox, third.

Volleyball: Championship was easily won by Los Tripones, which consisted of Jose Sandoval, Silverio Garcia, Jose Ruacho, Leopoldo Coranies and Jose Serqura; We Sucked members were Mark Jordan, Clarence Godbouldt, Paul Aleyne, Terry Slaughter, Raphael Calix and Eric Curtis, second.

Soccer: Champions were Paisanos Unidos, which consisted of Juan Meza, Chris Marshall, Fortunato Martinez, Marco Villa, Dexton Thetford, Erik Lino; Second place: Abelkader Morceli, Jose Segura, E. Gonzalez, Chancola Rajapasith and Pablo Luna; Third place: Vinh Nyugen, Jesus Sanchez, Miguel Saldana, Tare Bettranchuc, Edgar Salazar and Le Lam.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

Aliaza Football Club Tops Street Kickers, 2-0, Wins Tourney to Select S.Q. Golden Eagles

By Jerry Smith
Journalism Guild Writer

Aliaza Football Club defeated Street Kickers, 2-0, to win the San Quentin soccer tournament held to scout talent for the newly created Golden Eagles.

Golden Eagles is the name chosen for the 21-man team that will represent San Quentin in soccer against all comers.

"The tournament went well. No problems at all," Commissioner Garvin Robinson said after the November contest. "In running the tournament, we got to see who can play what position. Also, we saw that we need to practice. Once we practice, we can learn to play together and learn positions."

The tournament scores wins as three points, draws as one and losses as zero. After six games, Street Kickers led the

league with 13 to Aliaza's 11. Aliaza needed a win to take the tournament.

The first half of the game was a street fight between both teams' goalies. Marco Villa guarded the goal post for Aliaza, while Paul "Irish" Kirwan did so for the Street Kickers. They combined for 23 blocking shots.

Six minutes into the second half, Aliaza broke through with a goal by Erik Lino, who was assisted by Coach/Player Alexe "Peru" Ruiz. With 2:52 left to play, Lino kicked another goal, assisted by Lupez Jesus.

"It was a great team effort by both teams. We were the better team today," Ruiz said.

Standouts prospects for the Golden Eagles who emerged from the tournament are:

Defensive players: Villa, Kirwan, Chris Marshall, Dexton Thetford, Juan Meza,



Photo by Raphaela Casale

San Quentin's finest soccer prospects

Garvin Robinson and E. Gonzalez.

Forwards: Venado "Orange

Shoe" Ramirez, Jeff Williams and Abelkader Morceli.

Mid-fielders: Ruiz, Agustin

Munoz, Jose "Shorty" Vieyra and Lino.

Others will be picked later.

St. Mary's College Whips S.Q. Net Team

'It was the most talented team we've faced next to the Bryan Brothers'

By Aaron "Imam Jeddi"
Taylor
Sports Writer

On a cloudless Saturday morning, 12 members of the St. Mary's College tennis team put on a net clinic for San Quentin's best players.

They left undefeated.

"We're a little disappointed that we didn't win. This team is the most talented that we've played next to the Bryan brothers," San Quentin team captain Ronnie Mohammed said.

Chris Schumacher and Rick Hunt faired the best with a

4-3 match; however, the Inside Tennis Team was overmatched in the Nov. 16 competition.

"I was here two years ago," said Jesse Kiuru of Finland. "It's exciting to come back and play some tennis," Kiuru said smiling.

"When they told me I was coming to San Quentin State Prison, I went online to check it out," said Joakim Norstrom of Sweden, laughing. "I admit I was a little nervous. Nevertheless, I just played a game and the nerves eventually settled. It's tennis, no matter the court."

The visitors represented many

parts of the globe: Australia, Egypt, Finland, Sweden, New Zealand, Germany, Denmark, Hawaii, Washington state, and California.

During the games and in between matches, the two teams stood around and talked tennis and techniques. Coach Michael Wayman stood to the side with his arms folded like a proud father.

"I bring them in here to show them about people," said Coach Wayman. He has been coming to San Quentin for several years to play tennis, as well to speak to inmates who are of English

nationality as a representative of the British Embassy. "That any of us could have simply made a left turn instead of right, and ended up here, is entirely real. I also think that it is great that San Quentin has a tennis team," he stated in his crisp British accent.

"It's a great experience," said Sam Bloore of Australia. "I heard about San Quentin back home, and it's my first time coming inside of a prison to play tennis. Definitely a different type of atmosphere." Bloore ranked #8 in the junior's category in Australia before com-

ing to St. Mary's.

"I was really excited about coming in to play," said Seif El'Sherbani. He has been playing tennis for 14 years in his homeland of Egypt. "It's my first time being inside of a prison and I thought it would be a good experience to come and play." Seif played for the Misr Language School in Egypt and is in his second year at St. Mary's.

On this day, the Inside Tennis Team lost every match; however, many of the visitors expressed admiration of the San Quentin team.

Warriors Fall Short in Season Finale To Christian Ministry's Green Team, 90-83

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

The San Quentin Warriors fell short to the Christian Ministry's Green Team, 90-83, in the season finale.

Christian Ministry took a 20-point lead in the second quarter, with the score 45-25. The Warriors played with great energy and effort, closing the gap to within five by the fourth quarter, with a minute left. However, with time running out, they had to foul to stop the clock and the Green Team kept the lead and got the win by hitting the free throws.

When his team was down 20 with four minutes left in the second quarter, Warriors Coach Daniel Wright called a timeout. "I can only tell y'all what to do. I can't do it for you. You gotta play some defense," he told his team.

The Warriors responded, causing the Green Team to turn

the ball over 28 times, getting 18 steals and eight blocks. Former overseas 6-foot-8 pro-player Ted Hahs, who scored 29 points in his last appearance, was held to 16 by keeping him out of the paint and Greg Eskridge's blocks.

"Keep a body on Ted; wear him down," Wright told his team pre-game.

"They played tough defense," Hahs complimented afterwards.

Hahs, who played pro in Portugal, returned with David King, Ben Ilegbodu, Mark Ivy, Mike Cussary, Brandon Curtis, and Bill Epling, who couldn't play due to breaking a finger in a game against the Kings on Nov. 2.

The Warriors started strong. Montrell Vines hit two three-pointers back-to-back. Anthony Ammons registered a double-double, with 20 points and 14 rebounds. Rafael Cuevas did well at the point guard spot, logging in nine assists, eight steals

and eight rebounds with only two turnovers.

However, the Warriors offensive was off in the first half. Vines went cold after hitting his first two shots, finishing three for 11 for a total of nine points. Allan McIntosh only hit one out of his first 10 shots, but heated up in the second half, scoring 17 with 11 rebounds.

"We ain't played in awhile. We ain't been practicing," McIntosh explained about his slow start. The Warriors ended up down 10 at the half, 48-38.

During halftime, both teams circled around center court for the visitors' religious message. Epling told the joke about how God would rather grant a request to build a bridge to Hawaii than grant a wish to explain women.

King called playing against the Warriors "near the top of my list as career highlights -- closest to college ball," since winning a Division 2 title as a sophomore. King gave inspi-

ration encouragement based on Romans 8:38-39. "Nothing we've done can stop God from loving us," King said.

"We appreciate everything that you do—giving up your Saturday mornings, giving us tennis shoes. Y'all are our homies. We can't thank you enough," Wright told Epling.

"The church gave money; don't give me the credit," Epling responded.

After the good-natured halftime moment, the friendly rivalry continued.

King burned Ammons inside for a layup. Ammons responded on the next play by going strong to the rack for the inside layup on King. Franklin, who started, came off the bench after a rest and played hard, ending up with 21 points.

Ivy posted a strange triple-double, with 10 points, 15 rebounds and 10 turnovers. He also had six assists. "Mark, you're not Magic Johnson!"

Ilegbodu yelled from the bench when Ivy got his nine turnovers in the Nov. 16 game.

Vines kept Ilegbodu out of the paint; however, Ilegbodu adjusted his game with outside shooting. Ilegbodu finished with 27 points, including six 3-pointers.

"We matched their intensity and that enabled us to pull out the win," Ilegbodu said. "God gives me the ability to play. This might be my last game for a while 'cause I'm having a baby. I wanted it to be a good one."

King finished with 29 points and 20 rebounds. "I don't know how they let me do that. They took it easy on me today," he humbly joked.

The Warriors finished the season down six games at 10-4 against Christian Ministry. "I look forward to tryouts next year, when I pick the next Warriors team. We'll have a whole new attitude," Wright said.

—Rudy Morales contributed to this story