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Legionnaires' Outbreak Strikes San Quentin

By Juan Haines,
Kevin D. Sawyer and
James Abernathy Jr.

When officials confirmed a case of Legionnaires' disease at San Quentin State Prison mid-day on Thursday, Aug. 27, the warden ordered an institution-wide lock-down, during which inmates were confined overnight in their cells without running water or access to flushing toilets.

Around 1,400 inmates in North and West Blocks went without drinking water or use of portable toilets until the following morning, at least 14 hours after the initial lock-down. With their toilets unable to flush due to the lack of running water, inmates reported being forced to stay in their cells with the stench of human excrement throughout the night.

North and West Block each house about 700 inmates, who are paired in 6-by-9 foot cells



Photo by Lt. Robinson

Water truck parked on Lower Yard was brought in to provide clean shower water for inmates



Photo by Lt. Robinson

Trailers with portable showers occupied the Lower Yard basketball court for more than a week

originally designed for one person.

Jamal Lewis, vice chairman of the Men's Advisory Council, called the first night of the lock-down "the worst night in my 24

years of incarceration."

Normal prison operations ground to a halt and did not resume until 12 days after the first case was confirmed, as prison officials sought to bring the re-

spiratory disease under control.

Inmate Harry "ATL" Smith said he witnessed people getting sick in H-Unit, which are dorms that houses about 500 inmates in five buildings. "The lockdown,

the water shortage, the lack of food and this disease making the national news... that's when this whole thing got real to me,"

See *Legionnaires'* on Pg. 4

GED Preparation Class Transforms Prisoners' Lives

At 19 years old, high school dropout LaDelle Jackson committed a minor felony and spent two years in state prison. Jackson said his prison experience hardened his criminal thinking, making him more dangerous when he was released at age 22.

"In prison I was running around with my homeboys, using alcohol and drugs," said the now 42-year-old Jackson. "I didn't want to let go of the negative behavior that kept me from

benefiting from rehabilitative services."

Jackson said his recklessness and illegal activities on the streets caused someone's death. In 1996 he headed back to prison with a sentence of 15 years-to-life for second degree murder.

Each year, more than 700,000 people are released from state and federal prisons. Within

See *GEDs* on Page 5



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Peer Educators: Miguel Quezada, Todd Williams, Bryn Starbird, GED graduate Eusebio Gonzalez, and Ellen Dahlke

Juvenile Offenders Raise \$8,000 To Help Youths

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

A group of juvenile offenders in San Quentin has raised almost \$8,000 to help youths outside the prison.

The prison's Kid CAT organization raised \$7,989.24 in a food sale to aid Special Olympics and the Terrance Kelly Youth Foundation.

I think it's a great partnership for Kid CAT and the Terrance Kelly Youth Foundation," said Ernest Pulliam, a former correctional officer, supporter of T.K.Y. Foundation and Kid CAT volunteer. "The foundation will use the money for after-school programs for youths in Richmond by teaching computer literacy as well as providing men-

See *\$8,000* on Page 16



CHOOSE1 Proposes Initiative To Reform Three Strikes Law

By Forrest Jones
Contributing Writer

A petition for an initiative proposing major changes in California's Three Strikes law has been filed.

The proposed initiative was received on Sept. 16 by the state Attorney General's Office from a nonprofit, grassroots organization called CHOOSE1.

It is entitled: "The Three Strikes Rehabilitation and Reform Act of 2016."

Supporters would need to collect 500,000 valid voter signatures to be placed on the November 2016 ballot.

The biggest changes in the law would be:

1. Convictions prior to March 7, 1994, would not count as strikes.

2. Penal Code would be changed to say that the purpose of prison is not just punishment but also to rehabilitate.

3. It would define strikeable burglaries as when, "...it is charged and proved that another person, other than an accomplice, was present in the residence during the commission of the burglary."

4. Criminal threats would no longer be a serious felony.

The initiative prevents sec-

ond-strikers from applying for re-sentencing.

Those who qualify for re-sentencing will be able to petition a judge to commute their life terms to non-life sentences.

The court may consider the person's criminal conviction history, including the type of crimes committed, the extent of injury to victims, the length of prior prison commitments and remoteness of the crimes.

However, the court can deny the person's re-sentencing if it rules the petitioner would pose an unreasonable risk of danger

See *CHOOSE1* on Page 15

INSIDE EDITION #73

Legionnaires' outbreak	1	Editorial	9
GED prep class	1	Health Fair	10-11
\$8,000 donation	1	Arts & Entertainment	12
Three Strikes proposal	1	An 'OG's' Perspective	13
Amanda Howell	2	Book Review	13
Mentally ill inmates	3	Movie Review	13
School suspensions	3	'Dirty look' prison time	14
New L.A. police unit	3	Sexual abuse victims	14
Collaboration needed	3	Girls Court designed	14
Recidivism, prison glut	4	Mothers behind bars	14
Immigrants in U.S.	5	Domestic violence	15
Immigrantes en EE.UU.	5	Sex trafficking	16
Hobby Crafts' closure	6	Scalia's death views	16
ACLU wants probe	6	Yard Talk	16
Nun's protest arrest	6	Asked on the Line	16
Kid CAT Speaks!	7	News Briefs	17
Death Row is full	8	Nebraska's novel way	17
Unfair Black treatment	8	Former drug addicts	17
Reducing felonies	8	Sports	18-19
Richard Branson	8	9 men ready for jobs	20

Amanda Howell Departs From San Quentin

By Phoeun You
Graphic Designer



Photo by Sam Heames

PUP's inside coordinator Amanda Howell

Amanda Howell, inside coordinator for the Prison University Project (PUP), has left the non-profit organization that provides Associate of Arts degrees at San Quentin to pursue her own academic goals.

Howell impacted hundreds of students' lives through her work as a PUP volunteer before becoming a full-time staff member. However, Howell said she didn't anticipate how much her own life would be impacted.

In 2011, Howell first ventured inside San Quentin as a volunteer English tutor. She had been uncertain about this decision. "I was conflicted because I was working several jobs and applying for school at the time," said Howell.

Howell's views changed when she met PUP's executive director, Dr. Jody Lewen, in volunteer training in November 2010. "She is the only person I know that can talk for hours and keep you interested," said Howell.

Prior to PUP, Howell's career was headed toward the music industry. "Music is definitely one of my passions. I've been around music all my life; my parents were musicians," said Howell. She once worked as a management assistant with the Neville Brothers and the Sierra Leone Refugee All-Stars.

In 2008, the music industry took an economic downturn and she was laid off. "I took it as an opportunity to move on." Her positive outlook led her back to what she originally wanted to do — which was to get into public policy and criminal justice.

Fortunately, PUP provided an opportunity for Howell to create change. "Everyone deserves high quality of education. It's a human right," said Howell.

Howell gained a greater appreciation for her students as she witnessed them overcome life difficulties. "You don't know what you will do until you are placed in certain situations — the negative things like making poor choices and bad decisions. The students I work with here are by far the most motivated students I've ever worked with."

"I'm amazed at the resilience of students, like their efforts to earn a degree. It's incredible and inspiring to be there and see people's family and friends come and support the graduates."

The students also appreciate Howell's efforts to keep PUP operating efficiently. "I have the utmost respect for her work ethic and the way she carries herself," said recent graduate Sa Tran.

"Amanda has been my direct supervisor since I came to work for PUP, and she has been a great boss. In everything she does, it's obvious that she cares about the students," said inmate Tommy Winfrey.

Raised in Pasadena, Howell majored in Mass Communications at the University of California at Berkeley. In her four

and a half years working inside San Quentin, Howell admits that it was tough being away from her mom, Barbara Bolan. "It's been a journey for her too," said Howell, who is an only child.

Howell's father, Dan, passed away when she was 13. Her father's sudden death forced Howell to become more independent and gain "inner strength." "You can do anything; you just can't do everything," said Howell reflecting on her father's advice. She adds, "I want to uphold his legacy, one that he would be proud of."

When Howell's family is not around, she feels supported by the PUP staff. "We're doing a unique job. My co-workers have become a family. They understand so much. We know each other so well that it's like we have our own language at this point. This job would be impossible to do without people to rely on." Howell adds, "There are over 350 students and everyone has different needs, so we have to rely on each other. So that's

what makes it so hard to leave — this is family."

As Howell's time at San Quentin comes to an end, the experience gained through PUP has shaped her outlook on life. "My entire trajectory in life has been impacted by this. It completely changed what I want to do in life," said Howell. She plans to focus her career on re-entry and transitional housing.

Reflecting on inmates' re-entry problems, she said, "People go into housing and the decks are stacked — they are way in the middle of nowhere. How can we expect people to strive when they are sharing a tiny space, being moved from place to place, living in a community where schools are failing and lack economic stability?"

"There has to be a better way. Rent is being driven up so high that people are being forced out of their own community. These are some of the things that led me into the field where I'm looking to go."

—Richard Richardson
contributed to this story



Photo by Leroy Lucas

Amanda Howell, Keung Vanh, and Kara Urion at the 2015 Prison University Project graduation

San Quentin News strives to report on forward thinking approaches in criminal justice policies that support positive changes in prisoner behavior, particularly through rehabilitative efforts.

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Graduate School of Journalism



Prisoners United in the Craft of Journalism
In collaboration with students from the

Journalism Guild
of San Quentin

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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 will be edited for content and length.
 - The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
 - Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
 - Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
 - Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.
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Mentally Ill Inmates Lack Access to Treatment

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Inmates suffering severe mental disorders are being denied timely access to inpatient treatment, according to a former chief psychiatrist and medical director at San Quentin State Prison.

Dr. Christopher S. Wadsworth filed a lawsuit in May against the California prison system alleging that the inpatient care at San Quentin is "clinically irresponsible" and deprives inmate-patients of their constitutional rights.

The suit takes issue with patient care facilitated by Eric Monthei, San Quentin's mental health chief. Specifically, it criticizes a 2014 program that placed 10 Death Row inmates in a 17-bed crisis unit at San Quentin's health care facility.

This displaced other patients struggling with severe mental illness, Wadsworth said. The lawsuit claims that Monthei's program was responding to a 2013 court order that San Quentin address the mental health needs of its Death Row inmates.

The program forced some highly suicidal inmates into holding cells that inadequately suited their needs, Wadsworth stated. Dozens of these inmates were kept in overflow cells for periods exceeding four days, violating court agreements, the lawsuit claims. It further alleges that these displaced inmates required round-the-clock nurses until they were properly placed into an adequate inpatient treatment setting.

Wadsworth's suit alleges that some inmates were transferred to "distant institutions," such as

High Desert State Prison (301 miles), Pelican Bay State Prison (349 miles), California State Prison, Los Angeles County (364 miles) and California Institution for Men (422 miles).

"Without Monthei's non-clinical instruction, these unnecessary transfers would not have endangered the patients, staff, and put the public at risk by these patients, many of whom were suffering from acute episodes of psychotic illness," the lawsuit reads. "These patients belonged in hospital beds located at SQSP, not on our public

roadways."

The lawsuit details the stories of some of the displaced prisoners, including a patient who allegedly was transported incorrectly and unnecessarily to Corcoran State Prison.

In another instance, a team of officers forcefully extracted a severely psychotic inmate from his cell after he failed to comply with his transfer to an overflow cell. According to the lawsuit, following this incident, the patient's psychiatrist wrote, "This violent extraction was avoidable and predictable since this

patient should have been admitted into (an) inpatient acute care treatment room, which are specially designed to be safe for patients in acute distress."

Wadsworth, who is still employed at San Quentin, called prison officials' actions "inconsistent with well-established court orders and laws designed to remedy the ongoing constitutional inadequacy of California's prison healthcare." His current capacity was unclear.

As of this newspaper's deadline, prison officials had not responded to the lawsuit.

African-American Students Still Highest in School Suspension

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

California is cutting back on disciplinary school suspensions, but African-American students remain the highest number removed from classrooms, the *Los Angeles Daily News* reports.

Statewide, suspensions were cut by 15.2 percent during the 2013-2014 school year, state data showed.

In Los Angeles, African-American students received 32.3 percent suspensions last year, but make up only 9.16 percent of the entire student body, according to data released by the California Department of Education.

"The litmus test for this is not just whether it's on a downward trend, but more specifically, how the discrimination playing out for Black youths," said Manuel Criollo of the Community Rights Campaign. "That has to be one of the main goals in all of this work to end the school-to-prison pipeline."

The Los Angeles Unified School District banned suspensions for willful defiance in May 2013. The reforms for disciplinary policies and restorative jus-

tice were presented by Criollo's group and a coalition of other community groups.

The district issued 2,061 fewer suspensions for behavior such as being out of uniform or refusing to take off a hat.

Public Counsel attorney Ruth Cusick said, the board action, which made national headlines when it passed, should have banned suspensions for both willful defiance and disruptions.

Cusick added that district administrators and LAUSD's charter schools still suspended 1,628 students through their own interpretation of the policy's wording.

Isabel Villalobos, the district's discipline coordinator, said, the policy, as passed, has been correctly enforced. Suspensions for disruptive behavior can only be issued by an administrator for actions that affect an entire campus, such as a bomb threat.

Cusick said the district-wide data mask even more disturbing disparities at individual schools, where African-Americans students miss a great deal of class time due to suspensions.

Assistant Superintendent Earl Perkins adds that the district

cannot make its 231 independent charter schools end suspensions for willful defiance. The district only has the authority to ensure compliance with discipline policies at 54 so-called "affiliated charters."

The district found 25 campuses with the most disproportionate suspension rates involving African-American students and the disabled.

Perkins said support staff was hired and stationed at each campus to enforce restorative justice policies.

Out of 947 schools, 150 campuses receive restorative justice training each year consisting of intervention methods less severe than suspension through counseling and other tactics before suspensions.

The district said it will train the additional campuses each year until all schools' staff are in compliance with the discipline policies.

Targeting individual campuses is key, said Cusick. "It's definitely important to make decreases in suspensions, overall, but in terms of addressing the racial harm being done to students, we need targeted support at our schools."

New L.A. Police Unit To Combat Crime Surge



File photo

Mayor Eric Garcetti responds to gang activity

By Charles David Henry
Journalism Guild Writer

A squad of hard-charging law enforcement officers has been cut loose to quell a crime surge in the City of Los Angeles.

Deploying the Los Angeles Police Department's elite Metropolitan Division to these hot spots to combat the gang activity is one of several initiatives city officials said they intend to implement.

Mayor Eric Garcetti said 125 officers have been added to the squad with 75 more officers expected to join the ranks by September, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

"Los Angeles recorded a 12.7 percent increase in overall crime, ending more than a decade of declines and raising concerns about what more officials can do to reverse the trend," said reporters from the *Times*.

Local officials including Police Chief Charlie Beck attribute this activity to gang violence, rising homelessness and downgrading theft and drug felonies to misdemeanors.

Garcetti told the press, "This is bad news ... any uptick in crime is unacceptable."

The surge in crime largely occurred in the LAPD's Central Division. This part of the city's district includes downtown, Chinatown and skid row.

Violent offenses in the Central Division rose 67 percent, the *Times* reported. The major-

ity of these offenses include aggravated assaults and robberies. Property crimes have increased to 26 percent.

The mayor's keynote speech during his State of the City address was public safety. With this new political hot potato boiling, he's under tremendous pressure to report declining crime on his watch, the *Times* said.

Police Chief Beck takes this crime surge personally. "I've spent 40 years of my life trying to keep this city safe, and even though it is safer than in all of those 40 years, I still worry about this."

Neighborhood council leaders in the areas most affected by this surge are complaining about the spike in crime. Many of the residents are concerned about the street attacks because "it doesn't seem to be safe as it was a year ago," said Patti Berman.

Jan Handal, chairman of the West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council, said he hears from his neighbors about the home burglaries, car break-ins and automobile theft. Property crimes have increased more than 21 percent in this area of the city.

Gang violence has also perpetuated this new surge, the *Times* reports. Chief Beck said the number of gang-related shootings rose to 409 from 307. Despite these acts of violence, homicides were down 6.7 percent.

Collaboration Needed Between Police And Community to Help Public Safety

'Police leaders with their powerful collective voice should actively call attention to what needs to be changed'

By Anouthinh Pangthong
Journalism Guild Writer

Communities and police need to improve communication to overcome deep-seated racial divides, a Harvard University study concludes.

"Police leaders with their powerful collective voice should actively call attention to what needs to be changed," the June 2015 study stated.

The National Institute of Justice and the Harvard Kennedy School collaborated to help find resolutions to issues law enforcement encounter daily regarding race and policing.

Resolving issues of race in policing is not that of police alone, the report says. It adds, "Police need to be supported by policies that address conditions causing

criminality and disorder to be concentrated in particular places, especially in communities of color. And police strategies must expand freedom and justice, not just provide safety."

Law enforcement can improve race relations by engaging the community and managing police organizations. The report calls for officers to have a more active role in the community they serve, like learning the history of the communities they patrol.

"Police should develop the habit of explaining what they are doing whenever they act," the study adds. By doing so, this dispels the cloud of suspicion looming over a controversial department. Another suggestion is that patrol supervisors frequently evaluate how people

contacted by officers feel about their encounter.

Departmental managing would require "protection of human rights" in all aspects of policing. This includes the use of proactive language and attitudes.

The report suggests, "Supervisors at all levels must never tolerate attitudes (often revealed in denigrating language) that excuse differential treatment of particular groups, such as 'We have to be tough with those people' and 'Those people only respect force.'"

The recommendations are the result of an "executive session on policing and public policy." The 31 participants included representatives of universities, law enforcement and medical experts.

Recidivism, Prison Glut Prompt New Thinking

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Many states are re-thinking their criminal justice policies because of high recidivism rates and public opinion polls showing that a growing prison population has yielded insufficient public safety returns, according to the *Vera Institute of Justice*.

In 2013, 35 states passed at least 85 bills aimed at reducing prison populations and costs; supporting community-based corrections; using risk and needs assessments; assisting newly returned citizens to the community; and using data-driven research more effectively in criminal justice policy, *Vera* reports.

Between 2006 and 2012, the total U.S. prison population fell

for the third consecutive year. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Hawaii, Michigan and California reported double-digit reductions.

California's reductions were prompted by a 2011 U.S. Supreme Court order, capping its 34 California prisons at 137.5 percent of designed capacity.

On November 2012, voters passed Proposition 36, which revised the state's Three-Strikes Law. The proposition allowed the re-sentencing and release of approximately 2,111 qualifying inmates whose third strike was not serious or violent.

On Nov. 4, 2014, voters passed Proposition 47, which requires misdemeanor rather than felony sentencing for certain property and drug crimes

and permits inmates previously sentenced for these re-classified crimes to petition for re-sentencing. Approximately 4,420 inmates have been released under the proposition.

The California Legislature passed a bill that allows inmates whose crimes were committed as minors to appear before the parole board to demonstrate their suitability for release after serving at least 15 years of their sentence.

From Jan. 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, the board held 717 youth offender hearings, resulting in 204 grants, 440 denials, 71 stipulations to unsuitability, and two split votes that required referral to the full board for further consideration.

In June, 413 inmates were released as a result of a court-

ordered good-time credit increases. These inmates earned an average of 110.8 days of additional credit.

Since April 2014, about 2,600 inmates have been released as a result of credit-earning measures.

From Jan. 1 through June 30, some 2,117 non-violent second-strike inmates were referred to the board for review for parole.

The board approved 480 inmates for release and denied release to 472 inmates, while the remainder are pending review.

From Feb. 11, 2014, through June 30, 2015, the board has held 767 hearings for inmates eligible for elderly parole, resulting in 255 grants, 485 denials, 55 stipulations to unsuitability and two split votes that required referral to the full board.

California prison officials report that as of July 15, the 34 state prisons were operating at 3.1 percent (2,554 inmates) below the population cap.

However, prison officials report that the cap was met in part by transferring 2,339 inmates to an in-state private prison in California City. Additionally, 7,277 prisoners doing time under California law are being housed in private prisons out of state.

The Pew Charitable Trust reports that the California inmate population is projected to increase by seven percent by 2018.

Other states projected to increase their prison population are Iowa and Wyoming. Hawaii, Pennsylvania and Louisiana are projected to decrease their prison population.

Legionnaires' Disease Causes S.Q. Water Shut-Off

Continued from Page 1

he said. "I immediately had to kick into survival mode to make ends meet."

All told, approximately 100 inmates who presented symptoms were tested and treated. In addition, at least four members of the prison staff reportedly became ill. At least seven inmates were hospitalized.

The Legionnaires' outbreak was one of the biggest public health emergencies the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has ever handled, according to Lt. S. Robinson, San Quentin Public Information Officer.

"There have been other emergencies in California prisons such as, norovirus, chicken pox, valley fever and other communicable diseases," Robinson said. "As with the other outbreaks, there has been a collaborative effort between the California Receiver's office, CDCR and state and local public health departments to address the issues relevant to the San Quentin situation."

According to prison officials, the source of the disease was the cooling towers atop the new health care facility building, which was built in 2010 for \$136 million.

Legionnaires' is a bacterial form of pneumonia that poses a significant threat to the elderly and those with weak immune systems, and can be deadly if left untreated. The *Legionella* bacteria is transmitted through water mist, such as through showers and air-conditioning systems.

Flatbed trucks began hauling two black heavy-duty plastic containers holding 2,000 gallons of water each into the prison by 11:25 p.m. Aug. 27.

Many West Block inmates, however, said they were kept locked in their cells and did not receive water that night.

During the night and the following morning, inmates began screaming and banging in their cells, calling for drinking water and use of portable toilets.

Beginning the morning of Aug. 28, prison officials and inmates filled large containers

with water from the 2,000 gallon containers and then transported them to inmates so they could fill their own bottles.

The only inmates who received bottled water initially were men on Death Row, the Adjustment Center, Administrative Segregation and some mainline inmates designated as medically necessary, critical workers, such as kitchen workers and support services.

"Associate Warden Kelly Mitchell came into North Block early on the day following the lock-down and addressed the inmates' lack of access to toilet facilities and water," said Men's Advisory Council Chairman (MAC), Sam Johnson.

"She came back to double-check that her orders were being carried out by staff, in which they were not being carried out in full," Johnson said. "So she again issued corrective orders to get us adequate access to toilet facilities and water. She listens to inmates and follows through with what she says."

H-Unit inmate Tony Garcia said he went many hours without drinking water. Even after the administration announced the availability of potable water around 11 p.m. that night, "that water was gone in a matter of moments because so many people were thirsty from not drinking water," Garcia said.

The outbreak also severely compromised inmates' access to showers and hot meals.

According to lock-down procedures, inmates are entitled to a shower every 72 hours, but some West Block inmates reported going without a shower for five days, despite the presence of portable showers on-site by Sept. 1.

As a precaution against the disease, filtered showerheads were installed in North and West Block. Installing filtered showerheads reduced the total number of showers in North and West Block from 46 to 20 for approximately 1,400 inmates. The reduction in shower access further exacerbated a previous restriction, enacted because of the state's drought that limited inmates to three showers per week. By Sept. 16 all 46 shower

heads were re-installed.

The prison's kitchen staff was prohibited from using water for cooking. North Block inmate J. "Huggie" Davis said the kitchen staff worked alongside inmates to prepare thousands of bagged lunches for the San Quentin population. For the six days following the first confirmed case, all inmates were served Pop-Tarts for breakfast and peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches for lunch and dinner.

"It took too long to get water to us," said North Block inmate Roosevelt "Askari" Johnson. "Two men in a one-man cell without running water is inhumane, and getting sack lunches for seven days is totally unhealthy."

"They're killin' us with peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches," said West Block inmate Charles Reece.

Inmates criticized the prison's response to the outbreak, noting that there seems to be no emergency response in place. According to published prison regulations, "Each warden must have in effect at all times an Emergency Operations Plan, approved by the Emergency Planning and Management Unit, to assist in the preparations for response to and recovery from 'All Hazards' incidents."

"This institution just passed the American Correctional Association (ACA) inspection, so there should have been standards set," said MAC Chairman Johnson. "This institution should have been prepared for this type of emergency."

ACA says its accreditation is only given after a visiting committee endorses an institution that shows compliance with its more than 500 standards, such as conditions of confinement, staff training, policy and procedure, continuity of care and health care needs.

Compliance is proven three ways: review of standard files, interviews with staff and inmates, and touring the facility.

According to the ACA, their purpose is to "promote improvement in the management of correctional agencies through an accreditation program," and to "offer CDCR the

opportunity to evaluate their operations against national standards, remedy deficiencies, and upgrade the quality of correctional programs and services."

"We believe that we have comprehensive emergency operations in place to deal with any number of emergencies," Lt. Robinson said. "These procedures were in place well before the ACA inspection and accreditation; and so we were already prepared whether it be an earthquake or some other natural disaster, or public health issue. Our protocols have been established with a lot of forethought and planning. And, with this particular issue, although the dynamics were consistently evolving, we stuck to the plan, collaborated with interested parties and ultimately prevented potential casualties with our response. Even Steve Fama from the Prison Law Office who toured the facility indicated that our response was appropriate."

"This is an old prison and possibly the maintenance isn't kept up," said Pete Brooke, a North Block inmate. "There should be a set time where maintenance comes through and does periodic checks and cleaning. For instance, for at least six months there's been a dead bird in the vent where the correctional officers sit, and there's a pipe in the shower area that leaked for about a good month before it was fixed."

In addition to concerns about the prison's emergency preparedness and response to the outbreak, inmates said that local news coverage of the prison's response downplayed the troubles.

"[The administration] lied to Channel 5 News (KPIX) about bottled water. Nobody on the mainline had received bottled water," said West Block inmate Russell Bowden.

Bowden, among others, claimed that prison staff consumed the bottled water that was allegedly set aside for inmates.

North Block inmate John "Yahya" Johnson saw a KRON4 segment on Aug. 29 which reported that inmates had access

to hot food. Another news segment purported that the CDCR was trucking in hot food. However, Johnson said he had not received a hot meal until Sept. 4.

"There are too many inconsistencies about information we're being told concerning the Legionnaires' disease," said H-Unit inmate Gerald Marquez.

H-Unit inmate Al Garner said that, after suffering a constant cough since June, he felt particularly vulnerable to the outbreak. "When the Legionnaire's crisis came about, I felt that I actually had the disease," Garner said. "So after 20 days of antibiotics, three inhalers, a five-day course of prednisone, two X-rays, the full gamut of lab tests, two days spent at Marin General Hospital, I felt like I was a human experiment. Yet still, after all these procedures, my cough is yet to be diagnosed."

"This situation has increased my stress level because I am under three months to my release, and I do not want to take this disease home with me," Garner added.

Sam Johnson said that this incident was the first time disease caused a prolonged lock-down in the 17 years he has lived at San Quentin. The incident most similar to the Legionnaires' outbreak, he said, was when norovirus hit the prison several years ago and the institution was quarantined.

The outbreak came less than a week after the prison hosted the nation's largest health fair inside of a state prison. The 12th Annual TRUST/Centerforce Health Fair was conducted in conjunction with the Alameda County Health Department and the Bay Area Black Nurses Association.

This summer, 12 people in the South Bronx died and more than 115 people were hospitalized after contracting Legionnaires' disease, according to the New York City health department. All the dead were adults with underlying medical conditions. In Illinois, four persons in a veteran's home died of the disease.

—Rahsaan Thomas
contributed to this story

Immigrants Settle Across America

By **Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**
Journalism Guild Writer

Foreign-born immigrants are finding non-traditional territories to settle in, which is helping to stabilize the population in middle America, where the population of native-born Americans is in decline, a Pew study concludes.

The median age in the United States is rising with Americans living longer and having fewer children than in recent decades, *The Pew Charitable Trusts'* December 2014 study says.

Statistics showed that the gap between citizens 65 and older and the working age citizens ages 24 to 64 is closing. This is an issue that presents a potential problem for the American la-

bor force, especially in middle America, Pew said.

“93 percent of nearly all the working age population in America will be immigrants; this includes their U.S.-born children”

However, the influx of immigrant migration to middle America has helped to address the issue of an aging workforce.

The 12-page brief also noted that the U.S. population's size and makeup is an important aspect of the potential growth of economic production, to include taxes and spending.

With immigrants mitigating the working age population, the PEW Research Center has determined that by 2050, 93 percent of nearly all the working age population in America will be immigrants; this includes their U.S.-born children.

States such as California, Florida, Texas, New Jersey and New York are traditional hubs for incoming immigrants. These states have experienced a substantial increase in foreign-born adding to the population. The numbers have grown since 1990. From 1990 to 2012, the foreign-

born population from ages 18 and older increased by 19.3 million or 109 percent from 17.7 million in 1990 to 37 million in 2012, the report said.

The increase of the foreign-born population was mirrored in other parts of the country. However, the native-born population in middle America decreased. The overall numbers declined for immigrants in Maine, western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, eastern Ohio and others. The decline was due to the exodus and a higher death than birth rate.

Along the Mississippi River, the southern part of Arkansas and into western Mississippi these facts could not have been more evident, as the Pew's statistics indicated in the report.

The document also reported that “approximately two-thirds of counties in North Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska experienced some decline in their native population; those counties had an average decline of 12 percent.”

The states where the native population grew were the traditional locations in which immigrants were received. The growth helped to drive the population increase in non-traditional states and locations. For example California's and New Jersey's immigrant population growth helped states in the southeastern and mountain states increase their population as these regions became a new destination for immigrants and foreign-born immigrants.

Inmigrantes se Establecen en Los Estados Unidos

Por **Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla**
Escritor Del Gremio
Periodístico

Inmigrantes nacidos en el extranjero están encontrando territorios no tradicionales para instalarse, lo cual está ayudando a estabilizar la población central de América, donde la población de americanos nativos está en decadencia, concluye un estudio del Pew.

La edad mediana en los Estados Unidos esta aumentando debido a que mas americanos están viviendo mas de lo usual y teniendo menos hijos que en décadas recientes, dijo el estudio del *The Pew Charitable Trusts'* en Diciembre del 2014.

Estadísticas demostraron que la distancia entre los ciudadanos de 65 años y mayores y los

ciudadanos que pertenecen a la edad laboral, edades entre 24 y 64, se esta reduciendo. Este es un asunto que presenta un posible problema para la fuerza laboral americana, especialmente en la región central de América, dijo el Pew.

Sin embargo, la afluencia de emigración de inmigrantes en la región central de América ha ayudado a tratar el asunto de una fuerza laboral que envejece. El informe de 12 páginas también señala que la formación y tamaño de la población de EE.UU. son un aspecto importante del posible crecimiento de la producción económica al incluir los impuestos y los gastos.

Con inmigrantes ayudando a la población de edad laboral, el PEW Research Center, ha de-

terminado que para el 2050, el 93% de casi toda la población de edad laboral en América serán inmigrantes; incluyendo sus hijos nacidos en los Estados Unidos.

Estados tales como California, Florida, Texas, New Jersey, y New York son ejes tradicionales para la llegada de inmigrantes. Estos estados han experimentado un aumento substancial con la adición de inmigrantes nacidos en el extranjero a la población. Los números han crecido desde 1990. De 1990 a 2012, la población de inmigrantes nacidos en el extranjero de 18 años y mayores aumento de 17.7 millones a 19.3 millones o 109% en 1990 y de ahí aumento a 37 millones en 2012, dijo el informe.

El aumento de la población nacida en el extranjero se reflejó en otras partes del país. Sin embargo, la población de americanos nativos en la región central de América disminuyó. La cantidad de inmigrantes decayó en los estados de Maine, Pennsylvania occidental, Virginia Occidental, Ohio y otros orientales. La decadencia se debió al éxodo y a una tasa más alta de mortalidad con relación al número de nacimientos.

A lo largo del Río Mississippi, la parte sureña de Arkansas y en Mississippi occidental estos hechos no podrían haber sido más evidentes, como las estadísticas del Pew indicaron en el informe. El documento también informó que “aproximadamente dos tercios de condados en North Dakota, Kan-

sas y Nebraska experimentaron algún tipo de decadencia en su población nativa; esos condados tuvieron una decadencia promedio del 12 %.”

Estados en donde la población nativa creció fue en las ubicaciones tradicionales en las cuáles los inmigrantes eran recibidos. El crecimiento ayudó a manejar el aumento de población en estados y ubicaciones no tradicionales. Por ejemplo el crecimiento de la población inmigrante en California y New Jersey ayudó a los estados en el sudeste y los estados montañosos ah aumentar su población, ya que estas regiones llegaron a ser un destino nuevo para inmigrantes nacidos en el extranjero.

—Traducción
Miguel Quezada

GEDs Transform Prisoners' Lives Through Education

Continued from Page 1

three years, 40 percent of them will be back in prison for a new crime or failing to keep the terms of their release, according to the Rand Corporation. In California, that figure is 54.3 percent, state records show.

Jackson began serving his life sentence in a maximum-security prison, where he stayed for nine years. Last year, he was transferred to San Quentin State Prison, a medium-security prison.

“I thought, ‘My gosh, I’m in the land of opportunity,’” Jackson said. “I can’t make any more excuses for not getting things done.”

The first program Jackson got involved with was Alcoholics Anonymous.

“I couldn’t get into anything else,” he said. “AA is the backbone of restructuring my life.”

Since then, he has participated in a long list of rehab programs and earned several vocational training certificates.

But getting his GED is the most important thing on his plate, he said. Jackson attends a nighttime GED preparation class designed to prepare students for the new computerized GED test.

Participating in educational programs during incarceration reduces one’s chances of go-



Ladelle and his wife Elayne Jackson

ing back to prison by about 43 percent, the Rand Corporation found.

The voluntary GED preparation class occurs every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Any inmate can enroll in the class. About a half dozen community volunteers and five inmates who serve as peer educators facilitate the class.

Many inmates in the nighttime GED preparation class have day jobs, which prevents them from participating in daytime educational opportunities.

Inmates must take English and math placement tests in or-

der to qualify for the program, according to peer educator Bob-Evans.

“If the students do not meet the criteria we just don’t leave them hanging. We refer them to Free to Succeed and Project Reach, programs designed to serve their educational needs,” he said.

Jackson attends the Free to Succeed program on Friday nights.

The English classes begin with large group instruction. Afterward, the students break into smaller discussion groups and receive individual help.

“When we first started, we didn’t have a curriculum,” said peer educator Miguel Quezada. “We just taught basic math and English skills.”

But community volunteer Ellen Dahlke brought structure to the program, he said.

“We build on a person’s prior knowledge to educate,” Dahlke said of her approach to teaching.

“Ms. Dahlke brought a lot of organizational and managerial skills to better administer the program,” said math tutor Todd “Silk” Williams. “She brought a lot of focus on how to manage the program with the limited resources we had.”

Dahlke sought assistance in training teaching instructors from H. Samy Alim, University of Stanford Professor of Education, Anthropology and Linguistics.

The peer education staff and several community volunteers attended Alim’s workshop that focused on how language barriers complicate teaching.

“There’s a stereotypical expectation that people have when they encounter other cultures,” Alim told the staff during the workshop. “Language has to be used appropriately for the right place and the right time.”

Jackson said the teachers cater their teaching to meet the inmates’ needs.

“They actively engage in the

teaching process,” he said. “The inmate tutors do a good job.”

Jackson’s math tutor is Williams, who began tutoring at Salinas Valley State Prison.

“I found that education is my passion and my purpose,” Williams said.

When Williams arrived at San Quentin, he applied for a job in the education department. He didn’t get the job but was asked to work as a volunteer tutor.

Williams said his biggest challenges are keeping the men motivated not to quit and giving them self-confidence.

“Most of the guys who come in are somewhat older and don’t realize the advantage of opening up your mind to a good education so that they could see life in a better light,” he said.

Williams said he’s hoping for more support from the prison’s education department.

“We need things like computers, in order to stay current with the new GED test requirements,” he said.

Williams’ brother-in-law is the vice principal of McClymonds High School.

“He taught me to care and be concerned for young people,” Williams said. “I learned to understand that what I’m doing makes a difference. And that I have a responsibility to that end.”

—By **Juan Haines**

The After Affects of Hobby Crafts' Closure

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

More than three years after a hobby craft program for San Quentin mainline inmates closed down, an in-cell program is in the works.

"In-cell hobby will be allowed so put a list of suggestion for us to look at," Associate Warden Kelly Mitchell said, according to MAC meeting minutes dated July 9.

The program will include dorms too.

Hobby craft hasn't been available to mainline inmates at San Quentin since the hobby shop was "temporarily" closed in July 1, 2012.

Death Row inmates' in-cell program wasn't affected by the closure.

Before the 2012 closure of the hobby program, inmates were allowed to use special tools inside the shop for wood-working, jewelry making, braiding leather, macramé and crocheting. These tools weren't allowed outside the shop.

The hobby shop was supposed to reopen for mainline inmates, according to a 602 Inmate Appeal response received by inmate Nick Garcia in 2012.

However, a notice taped to the hobby door in February of 2015 read: "The time has come

to permanently close the Main Hobby Craft." That is how mainline San Quentin inmates were notified that the rehabilitative program they loved was over.

The Warden's Bulletin SQWB#10/2015 declared mainline inmates had 15 days to decide whether to donate their hobby crafts and supplies or send them home.

"I joined hobby craft in 2011 and got my wood the day before they closed it," said inmate Paul Stauffer, 58. "If they had told me sooner, I would have been able to send the supplies back and gotten my family a refund."

Inmates involved in arts have a 30 percent recidivism reduction rate, according to Larry Brewster, a physiologist hired by the William James Association to conduct a study on recidivism. The study also showed a 50 percent reduction in prison discipline problems for inmates doing art.

"I draw, paint; it keeps me busy," said inmate Roy Gilstrap, 48. "I learned how to play nice with others through hobby. I have gone from being in The Hole a lot to being a painter."

"I use hobby to build family relationships," continued Gilstrap. "I have adult kids who are mad at me for spending my



Photo by L. Robinson

San Quentin's Handicraft Shop where prisoners' artwork pieces are sold

whole life in prison. I made my daughter a cradle and sent it to her. That was the first time she talked to me."

"That's where the sense of accomplishment comes from...when you can give back to someone you have wronged by being in prison," said McKinstry.

Inmates contributed to society through selling crafts. It paid their court-imposed restitution fines, and taxes. Inmate Welfare gives them a means to donate and take care of themselves.

The men used funds sent to their Inmate Trust Accounts to order supplies. If they owed

a restitution fine, which many owed \$10,000 or more, 55 percent of any incoming funds were accessed towards the fine. Then all inmates were charged an additional 10 percent above the cost of the supplies to pay into the Inmate Welfare Fund.

Their hobby craft trinkets were sold in a store right outside the San Quentin East Gate, across from a Post Office. Buyers pay Marin County sales tax. Also, a nine percent markup was paid into the Inmate Welfare Fund, according to California Code of Regulations, Title 15 3104 (b) (2) Inmate Handicraft Sales.

The profits were placed on

the inmates' books, minus 55 percent for restitution (if any is owed) and the process started over with their next order of supplies, according to McKinstry.

"Doing hobby craft was paying off my restitution," said Gilstrap. "I owed \$17,000; now I'm down to \$4,700. I have a job but I only make \$36 a month as a yard crew worker."

Gilstrap made little houses that said *SQ Gas Chambers* and sold for \$21; his jailhouse rocks cost \$6.

"The monetary aspect just allows you to do more artwork. If you are a true artist and doing it for the sake of the artwork, it's where you want to be," said McKinstry.

"It gave me a feeling of self-worth, that I was able to contribute instead of being a drain on my cousins and my mom," said Stauffer.

Once hobby craft manager Andre William took over, the store stopped being open very often. He eliminated weekend access and reduced the shop hours to two a day at various times and days, according to McKinstry.

"It was never open when I came in," said Ned Axthelm, an arts teacher.

Williams refused to comment on this story.

ACLU Calls for Immigration Investigation

By **Nathan Hall**
Journalism Guild Writer

ACLU of Southern California is among the groups calling for Immigration and Customs Enforcement to investigate the substandard medical care at Adelanto Detention facility. The ACLU and nine other legal service providers and human rights organizations list numerous instances that place detainees at unnecessary risk.

"It goes above and beyond individual cases," ACLU attorney Michael Kaufman said in a phone interview with the San Bernardino County Sun. "What we've seen is a systemic pattern of delaying treatment, misdiagnosing or just not giving treatment. We've seen that for years now across many different detainees."

Contrary to the ACLU reports, Pablo E. Paez of the GEO Group says the Adelanto

facility had a score of 100 percent in its most-recent American Correctional Association review. The GEO Group has had a public-private partnership with U.S. Immigration and Customs.

However, the ACLU letter points to problems at other facilities around the world operated by GEO. A 2012 Department of Justice report found "systematic, egregious, and dangerous practices," includ-

ing inadequate medical care, at a GEO Group facility in Mississippi and deaths at other facilities as recently as March when GEO Group was found negligent in prisoners' deaths.

GEO Group plans to add 640 beds, house women and LGBT individuals there for the first time, the newspaper reported.

In a letter to ICE, ACLU requests immediate intervention to ensure the health and safety of the current and future de-

tainees housed at Adelanto. They also request steps be taken to appoint an independent investigator and that plans to expand the site stop.

ICE found that the death of Mexican immigrant Fernando Dominguez was due to "egregious errors" committed by medical staff, the letter noted.

The ACLU points to a second death it says was also caused by inadequate medical care.

Nun Shares Her Nuclear Protest Arrest Experience

By **John Lam**
Journalism Guild Writer

In 2012 an 82-year-old activist nun broke into the largest nuclear complex in the United States to bring attention to the ease with which its security could be breached.

"Sister Megan Rice and two other activists from Plowshares (an anti-nuclear organization), Michael Walli, 63, and Gregory Boertje-Obed, 57, were dropped off in the middle of the night outside the Y-12 Oak Ridge nuclear facility near Knoxville, Tenn....

Armed with spray paint, bolt cutters and a few other supplies, they first hung large banners on the facility's chain link fence, then cut 14-inch inverted L-shape openings in the three fences that 'protect' the facility," the New York *Daily News* reported.

The three then proceeded to walk to the building housing highly enriched weapons grade uranium, easily avoiding any electronic motion sensors and video cameras.

Once inside the building, "I wrapped some pillars in crime tape," said Rice. "We splashed a vial of human blood on the wall."

"They spray-painted quotes from the Bible such as, 'swords into plowshares,' and banged on the building with hammers. Then they waited to be arrested...They waited some more," the *Daily News* reported.

"We saw a car with a guard slowly driving up. He stopped, and radioed to the police that protesters had gotten in," said Rice.

As the result of her break-in, Rice was sentenced to 35 months for interfering with national security and was ordered to pay \$52,000 for estimated damage to government property.

The facility did not repair the damages for five months until members of Plowshares showed them exactly where the damage was done.

At her sentencing, the nun told the judge, "Please have no leniency with me. To remain in prison for the rest of my life would

be the greatest gift you could give me."

Sister Megan Rice was born in 1930 in New York City to a father who was an obstetrician and a mother with a Ph.D. from Columbia University. At 18 she joined the order of Sisters of the Holy Child of Jesus while studying at Harvard and earning degrees in biology from Villanova and Boston College.

She knew she was going to prison for breaking into the nuclear facility as a protest, but believe it's up to people without children, who have nothing to lose, to take the risks others can't afford, Rice told the *Daily News*.

"The Y-12 Nuclear Facility, which they breached in less than seven minutes, and which can theoretically be breached by real terrorists, houses 100,000 tons of highly enriched uranium," the *Daily News* reported.

"This uranium is bomb-grade and so explosive that one grapefruit-size chunk, if dropped onto another chunk of the same size from a height of 6 feet, would



File photo

Sister Megan Rice spent two years in prison

cause an explosion at least half the size of Hiroshima," said Robert Gleason, author of *The Nuclear Terrorist*.

"The question - how can we overcome the secrecy and blatant distortion of the truth of the horrific risks to planet Earth's survival as we know it, as long as we fail to transform the nuclear weapons and energy industries into possible, life-enhancing alternatives, and begin with

dismantlement now? We are all equally responsible to stop known crimes, according to our unique gifts and abilities," Sister Megan said.

Sister Megan Rice, now 85, served two years in a federal prison. Last May, an appellate court declared the government had overreached in charging them with sabotage and ordered the three activists released, *The New York Times* reported.

Insights Gained in Childhood Development Class

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Thirty-two men discovered volumes about themselves and the people around them during a six-month group therapy program.

"It was an eye-opening experience that has changed the way I view the world," Jonathan Hamilton said.

He was one of the inmates who graduated from the San Quentin Kid CAT's Childhood Development Curriculum.

"I have witnessed so much growth in our participants in

Kid CAT Speaks!

developing self-awareness, self-confidence," said Hera Chan, curriculum facilitator. "This is something that we teach, in being aware that there are choices, people can take back their power; they are not victims of their circumstances."

Built to foster community, participants explore the three phases of life – the past, present and future – through small

group discussions where they can develop confidence to seek the help they need. Through lectures and large circle processes, participants are given the opportunity to see the commonality of their own struggles with other participants.

The program includes eight modules from Masculinity to Forgiveness.

"This class helped me face the trauma of my childhood,

from the things that were haunting me. The facilitators gave me the tools to deal with them in a safe manner that will help me and my family," said graduate William Barnhard. "They taught me how to communicate with my mother."

"My friend Jonathan, who is graduating today, was fully involved in gang-banging before taking this class; today he has learned where it all stemmed from, from his views of how to be a man," said Donte Smith, curriculum facilitator.

Hamilton commented, "Before the curriculum, I was a

negative person... basically a gang banger. I used to be shy and introverted... but the curriculum showed me a different perspective."

Graduate Emile DeWeaver said, "I discovered more about myself than I have ever thought. I think understanding that even when I was a horrible person, I was still a human being, even despite the damage I have done, I still deserved love. This is the biggest thing I have gotten out of this class."

More than 150 inmates are on the waiting list for the program – a wait of over two years.

Juvenile Lifer Paroles With Help of Senate Bill 260

It's the fifth Sunday of the month as men and volunteers stream into a trailer to begin another session of Juvenile Lifer Support Group. But this is no ordinary meeting. Today, over 40 individuals came to support one of their own.

Michael Tyler, 32, was 16 when he committed second-degree murder and was sentenced to 18 years to life. He was found suitable for parole on his second hearing, his first under Senate Bill 260.

As the men and volunteers arranged themselves in a large circle, they each took turns sharing their own experiences with Michael.

Kid CAT member Nghiep Lam, said, "It's hard to express my feelings, one of the things that resonated with me and him is that we were both juveniles coming in. Now I see him as a grown man. For me, he is very inspiring, and I hope to get to the stage where he is at."

"Mike Tyler contributed immensely, and undeniably he will contribute to the outside world. He brings heart, integrity, honesty and courage into his interaction as a facilitator, a leader, and as a friend," added Monique LaSarre, a lead outside facilitator.

for the Kid CAT curriculum. As tears of gratitude streamed down his face, Tyler responded. "I feel that I don't deserve the accolades because a baby had to grow up without a father and today I still feel that."

Reflecting on his incarceration, he commented, "In the beginning of my incarceration, I felt inadequate and didn't belong, which kept me doing my own thing. However, it got to the point where I had to change, because I didn't like the feeling I was having."

Bankston, a support group participant said, "Today, I realized that it was my own negative-self-talk that kept me away from Mike. When I finally decided to talk to him, I found someone different. He helped me with issues I had about my mother, and he even checked in with me afterwards."

Tyler credits his rehabilitation to three groups that had a lasting impact in his life.

"TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training) was the first group that mentored me. VOEG (Victim Offender Education Group) gave me the opportunity to look at myself and helped heal the pain in my past, realizing the

events that transpired did not define who I am, and it offered me the opportunity for growth. SQUIRES (an at-risk youth mentorship program) gave me the opportunity to share what I learned with young men," says Tyler.

"When I committed my crime, I was a person who didn't trust people. I had a lot of people in my life who would say one thing and do another. My mother was a drug addict and she chose drugs and alcohol over me, and that hurt.

"I did everything that was asked of me and it got to the point where it didn't matter anymore," said Tyler. "I wanted acceptance, and a few friends gave it to me. By then, my life had little value, and murder became an option for me.

"Now I realize too late that I had many options that I didn't use. A man, a father, and a son was taken from this world by me, all because I couldn't deal with my emotions," said Tyler.

"Everybody's process of transformation is different; it's clear that Mike has gone from a young man that felt he had to protect himself," said Sonya Shah, VOEG program director. "Today his willingness to open



Photo by Jordana Hall

Mike Tyler: "I feel that I don't deserve the accolades because a baby had to grow up without a father and today I still feel that."

up his deepest wounds leads to true healing by allowing himself to learn how to place those negative experiences in the past."

Tyler said his message to juvenile offenders is, "There is light at the end of the tunnel. The decision is yours to be accountable, honest and truthful. Don't worry about the ramifica-

tions; be honest with yourself. There is no reason why you should hold onto lies."

At the close of the meeting, Tyler confided, "I don't want to leave people behind, I don't want to abandon people; this is all I have known. I will not forget any of you and I am grateful to have met all of you."

—By John Lam

Counselor Advises Men On Re-Entry Services

Reentry expert Jennifer Armstrong urges men returning to their communities to begin preparing themselves immediately.

"There are things that you should know and use as guides as you get ready to be released and I will teach you how to get a book for free that will have a list of resources you can use," said Armstrong, during a recent visit to Kid CAT.

The two most pressing issues the men expressed in Kid CAT were housing and employment.

"Every county has free training for vocation; people are not aware of the amount of resources that are out there," said Armstrong, who is a vocational rehabilitation counselor at San Mateo County. "Work Force Development Program is in every county and they will help people go to vocational schools for free."

"I would encourage people to look into job opportunities before and once they get out of prison," said Armstrong. "Peo-

ple who get trained in a vocational job don't skip around to find jobs, they find a career. I'm also not going to tell you that it's going to be easy, but seek out people and programs that are going to support you and show you compassion."

Since most people in custody are paroling to various counties, Armstrong recommends that those who are seeking housing obtain the resource book, which has information about transitional housing throughout California.

The title of the book is called "Roadmap to Reentry: A California Legal Guide, 2015 Root and Rebound."

To obtain a copy of the book, have a friend or family call Root and Rebound at 510-279-4662. Website: www.rootandrebound.org.

Or write to: 1730 Franklin Street, Suite 300 Oakland, CA 94612 to receive the resource book filled with service information.

—By John Lam

Youth Justice Awareness

Celebrated Nationally in October

During the month of October, communities and youth advocates throughout the country gather to celebrate the National Youth Justice Awareness Month (YJAM).

"The National Youth Justice Awareness Month is held... as an opportunity for communities, families, youth and allies to host community-led actions and events that expose the consequences of children being prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system and placed in adult jails and prisons," states the Campaign for Youth Justice (CYJ).

According to the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD):

More than 200,000 youths are tried as adults each year.

A vast majority of young people in the justice system experience serious trauma and chronic stress as well as mental illness.

Incarcerated youths are five times more likely to be sexually

assaulted than peers in juvenile detention.

Incarcerated youths are 36 times more likely to commit suicide.

"On Jan. 4, 2008, Tracy McClard, a mother in Jackson, Mo, received a call from the Missouri Department of Corrections informing her that her 17-year-old son, Jonathan, was dead. Jonathan had taken his own life upon realizing that an adult sentence made it impossible to see a future for himself," CYJ reported.

Based on her own experiences, McClard became determined to stop such ordeals from happening to other parents and children. In 2008, she began hosting 5K races to educate the

public and her Missouri lawmakers about the issues of incarcerating youths and sentencing them as adults.

Inspired by McClard's actions, others began advocating for changes in youth justice. In 2009, the Campaign for Youth Justice launched the National Youth Justice Awareness Month.

"States have pressed forward in undertaking significant reform efforts, with victories in over 23 states, paving the way for others to follow suit. The voices of youth, their parents and families – most impacted by these policies – were at the forefront of these efforts," states the Campaign for Youth Justice.

—By John Lam

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men that committed their crimes as teens and were sentenced as adults to life terms. The group's mission is to inspire humanity through education, mentorship and restorative practices. Kid CAT Speaks wants to hear from the male and female juvenile lifers, educators, and policy makers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation.

Confronting Death Row's Full Capacity

'If expansion is delayed, San Quentin would not have beds to accommodate the condemned'

By James R. Abernathy Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Death Row inmate housing at San Quentin State Prison has reached near full capacity.

California Gov. Jerry Brown had requested \$3.2 million in special funding from legislators to expand Death Row by 97 cells, reported the *Los Angeles Times*.

"Based on the critical nature of the bed shortage, it is not feasible to delay the approval and implementation of this proposal," stated the governor's budget document.

"If expansion is delayed, San Quentin would not have beds to accommodate the condemned should any return from court, outside medical facilities, or if S.Q. receives any newly condemned inmates," the governor

reported.

S.Q. comprises four separate cell blocks – East Block, West Block, North Block and South Block.

The prison reports 708 out of 715 cells on Death Row in East Block are currently occupied.

Brown's budget plan proposed to utilize an additional 97 cells on the first two tiers of the five-tier South Block.

Funding for the expansion would be used to increase staff, enhance security and modify secured showers for condemned inmates.

The availability of unoccupied cells is due in part to a U.S. District Court order to reduce California's prison overcrowding, and last year's voter-approved Proposition 47, resulting in the release and reclassification of certain low-level offenders.

In 2006, Clarence Ray Allen was the last inmate to get executed in California, which was by lethal injection.

Since then, the state has been barred from executing inmates due to the U.S. District Court's ruling that the state's three-drug lethal injection procedure is unconstitutional, violating the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which reads:

"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor unusual punishments inflicted."

In 2012, Brown asked an advisory board to investigate a single-drug method to get around the court ruling. However, no methods have been adopted.

The constitutionality of the state's capital punishment system is also being challenged.

In July 2014, a federal judge

ruled that the appeals process for condemned inmates is unconstitutional slow. Inmates often have to wait years to be appointed attorneys for their appeals, and wait even more years for the state Supreme Court to decide their cases.

The average wait time an inmate serves on Death Row before actually being executed in California has been 17.5 years.

It's gotten so that inmates have begun to die of natural causes while awaiting execution. Forty-nine Death Row inmates have died from other causes since the last execution in 2006.

Critics of Brown said his proposal didn't address these deeper issues concerning California's death penalty system.

"This is a failure of Gov. Brown to do the things within

his power to move things forward," said Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation.

The Legislature approved Brown's budget proposal and construction is currently underway at San Quentin.

In a written statement to the *L.A. Times*, Sen. Loni Hancock, D-Berkeley, who led the budget committee wrote:

"California is in a catch-22 situation. We are required by the courts to address prison overcrowding and we are required by law to provide certain minimum conditions for housing death penalty inmates. The Legislature can't avoid its responsibilities in these areas even though the courts are currently considering the constitutionality of the death penalty, and I hope will agree to end it."

6 of 10 Black Men Report Police Treat Them Unfairly

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A recent survey found six out of 10 Black men in the United States say they have experienced unfair treatment at the hands of police and that race was the primary cause, according to the *Associated Press* (AP).

"It's been like this for a long time," said Larry Washington, 30, of Merrillville, Indiana. "It's just now that everybody's starting to record it and stuff, it's just hitting the spotlight. Most Caucasians, they think it's just starting to go on when it's been like this."

The survey was done by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research as the one year anniversary of the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri approached.

"Seventy-two percent of Whites said they always or often trust police to do right by them and their community, while 66 percent of Blacks said they only sometimes, rarely or never trust the police to do what is right," the AP reported.

According to the survey, only 3 percent of Whites say that their treatment by law enforcement has been unfair due

to their race.

The AP reported 74 percent of Whites believe race is not a factor in how police in their communities choose to use lethal force while 71 percent of Blacks believe law enforcement is prone to use lethal force against Blacks. Eighty-five percent of Blacks said the same thing generally applied across the United States.

"White Americans who live in more diverse communities — where census data show at least 25 percent of the population is non-white — were more likely than other whites to say police in their communities mistreat minorities..."

the survey reported.

The poll numbers reflect 62 percent of Whites saying police violence happens in large part to civilians confronting police, instead of cooperating with them when stopped. Seventy-five percent of Blacks said the reason for mistreatment rests in the fact that a police officer's misconduct is seldom prosecuted when excessive force is used.

Seventy percent of Blacks identified problems with race relations, along with poor police-community relations, as major reason for police violence, the poll said.

In Milwaukee County Wisconsin sheriff David A. Clarke Jr. said Blacks have more run-ins with the law than Whites due to the nature of crime rates in urban environments.

"If you have more interaction with the police because of the crime and the disorder in our urban centers — the American ghetto I like to say it — it's going to skew the numbers," Clarke said.

"Everything is not right, but it's better. We have bad cops and we have good cops. I don't know where we're going to from here, but we need police," said David Thomas, 80, of Vienna, Georgia.

The AP polled 1,223 adults randomly; of this number 311 were Black. The poll was done over a three day period in July utilizing a sample from NORC's probability-based "Amerispeak panel" representing the U.S. population. The margin of error among Black respondents is plus or minus 9.1 percentage points.

'Many Felonies Should Instead Be Misdemeanors'

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

America needs to reduce many non-violent felonies to misdemeanors to help reduce the number of prison inmates, says Grammy Award winner John Legend.

"Once you have that tag of a felony on your name, it's hard for you to do anything," Legend said. "Getting those reduced to misdemeanors would really impact a lot of lives, and we hope to launch more initiatives like that around the country."

Legend is quoted in an April story on Recordnet.com by Matthew T. Mangino.

California voters last year approved Proposition 47, which reduced many non-violent felonies to misdemeanors. It gives thousands of prisoners and former prisoners the chance to petition a court to reduce felony convictions to misdemeanors.

"We have a serious problem with incarceration in this country," said Legend. "When you look deeper and look at the reasons we got to this place, we as a society made some choices politically and legislatively, culturally to deal with poverty, deal



File photo

John Legend

with mental illness in a certain way and that way usually involves using incarceration."

"Since the early 1970s, the nation's prison population has quadrupled to 2.2 million, making it the world's biggest. That is five to 10 times the incarceration rate in other democracies," Mangino wrote, quoting the *New York Times*.

He also quoted the *Washington Post* as reporting minorities constitute 60 percent of the U.S. prison population. Also over-

represented are men under the age of 40, the poorly educated, people with mental illness and those dependent on drugs and alcohol.

"There are more people locked up in the U.S. than in China. In fact, the U.S. is home to nearly a quarter of the world's prisoners, despite accounting for just 5 percent of the overall global population," Prison Policy Institute states.

Americans are currently spending \$80 billion on mass incarceration, state spending on incarceration has increased 400 percent between 1980 and 2009, the story says.

The current corrections budget for California is \$10.2 billion.

"Spending at the state level has outpaced budget increases for just about every other function of government, including education, transportation and welfare. Only spending on Medicaid at the state level has grown faster in the last 20 years," Recordnet.com reported.

Legend said he is scheduled to travel to various prisons throughout the U.S. along with press events to raise awareness.

Richard Branson Challenges Businesses To Hire Ex-Felons



File photo

Richard Branson

Founder of the Virgin empire, Richard Branson, calls on businesses to provide more job opportunities to ex-felons as they leave prison.

"Business must become a stronger advocate for rehabilitation. It makes perfect sense, as it increases the talent pool, lowers the price tag of re-offending, nurtures entrepreneurial spirit

and contributes to safer communities," Branson said in a June 1 article in *HR Grapevine*.

Branson noted the success of Virgin Trains hiring former convicts.

"We encourage our businesses to actively work with, and consider applications from, people with prior convictions, and Virgin Trains has been pioneering the hiring of ex-offenders — an approach which could become a model for many of our businesses," he said.

"The vast majority of the people that we have employed, and therefore provided with the dignity of work, are still working with us and are valued members of our team.

"Ex-prisoners should have the chance to learn from the mistakes of their past and be fully rehabilitated. Businesses must play an important role to make sure they succeed," concluded Branson.

—By John Lam

‘Dignity and Human Rights of the Mexican People’

By Miguel Quezada
Staff Writer

EDITORIAL

For many Americans, Mexico is the neighbor where college kids spend their spring break and where tequila originates. Many Americans still believe that Mexico gained independence on 5 De Mayo and that California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona

— with the exception of Texas, Remember the Alamo!—have always been a part of the United States.

Since gaining independence on Sept. 16, 1821, Mexico has faced political, social and eco-

nomie turmoil. For Mexico independence has not always meant freedom; nor independence translated into a government that respects the dignity and human rights of the Mexican people.

The Mexican Revolution of 1910 was the nation’s first internal conflict that pushed the nation to become a democratic country. The revolution was a result of the campesinos and citizens seeking agrarian reform and a stake in their country’s wealth. The revolution was successful, but eventually it was followed by the 75-year one-party rule that brought about the same circumstances that Mexico had fought to end in the fight for independence.

The nation’s second internal conflict stemmed from the same history of social and economic inequality. On New Year’s Eve in 1994 as many Mexicans celebrated, the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) declared war on the Mexican government. The root cause of the rebellion was the signing of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada and Mexico. NAFTA meant wealth for Mexican leaders, the US and Canada, but for many of Mexico’s indigenous people the agreement meant their dislocation from land and the destruction of much of the nation’s natural resources.

The turmoil is a reflection of

Mexico’s longstanding practice of corruption that is imbedded in the country’s political and economic institutions. From political leaders pocketing wealth made from selling the countries’ resource to foreign nations to the traditional “mordida” (literally, a “bite,” a small amount of money that is given to local police to avoid any trouble).

The corruption has kept the average Mexican citizen living in poverty with limited educational, employment or social opportunities. This causes uncertainty; the result is an emigration that has sent thousands of Mexicans across the border into the United States to seek those opportunities for themselves and their children. Emigration has cost thousands of Mexican men, women and children their lives as they swam across the Rio Bravo or walked across the desert.

Today the general corruption that plagues Mexico is compounded by the larger issue of the billion dollar drug trade. The “war on drugs” has led to the deaths and disappearances of thousands of Mexican citizens. Thousands more have immigrated into the United States seeking refuge and an escape from the violence that has overrun Mexico.

Today, while the average American views immigration through the lens of political leaders for or against immigra-



File photo

Author Luis Rodriguez

tion policy, many Mexicans have found a better life in the U.S. and have contributed to making America a better and stronger country.

This includes figures like union leader Cesar Chavez; authors Luis Rodriguez, who is working to end gang violence, and Alberto Urrea, who highlights the plight of the immigrant; and Daniel “Nane” Alejandre, who has dedicated his life to ending the mass incarceration of Latinos and to ending gang violence.

In spite of this long history of turmoil, Mexican immigrants have thrived culturally in their homeland and in their adopted homeland of the United States. They have maintained a deep sense of pride in their rich history of music arts and traditions, while sharing them and adding to the melting pot that is America.



Painting provided by SQNews archives

Painting depicting Miguel Hidalgo rallying the people



File courtesy of The Rolling Stones

Activist and labor organizer Dolores Huerta



File courtesy of The Rolling Stones

Barrios Unidos founder: Daniel “Nane” Alejandre



File courtesy of PBS

Journalist Ruben Salazar



File courtesy of The Rolling Stones

Cesar Chavez, founder of the National Farm Workers

Mexicanos Celebran el Dia de Su Independencia

Por Marco Villa Y
Tare Beltranchuc

Los mexicanos alrededor del mundo celebran el día de su independencia en el mes de Septiembre, conmemorando una victoria militar sobre los españoles.

El 16 de Septiembre, las calles de la ciudad de México se iluminan con desfiles en las cuales los estudiantes de diferentes niveles participan. Los estudiantes representan los acontecimientos de la batalla entre los españoles e insurgentes en memoria de los héroes caídos,

Los mexicanos celebran este acontecimiento en compañía de sus seres queridos, “escuchando su música regional amenizada por bandas locales y mariachis deleitándose a la vez con sus comidas tradicionales favoritas (pozole, enchiladas, tamales, buñuelos, mole) y bebidas,” Dr.

Manuel Lucena Salmoral, el autor de Crónica de América escribió.

La Independencia de México fue declarada oficialmente en Septiembre 28 de 1821. Sin embargo los mexicanos inician la celebración de su independencia el 15 de Septiembre con el tradicional “Grito de Independencia.”

Numerosas comunidades mexicanas se reúnen a las 11 de la noche para celebrar este evento. El zócalo es el centro de reunión en la Ciudad de México donde el presidente ondea la bandera de México, dando un grito de júbilo “¡Viva México!, Viva Hidalgo, Morelos, Guerrero, Allende e Iturbide” y otros. Posteriormente los cielos se iluminan con fuegos artificiales.

El movimiento de independencia triunfó porque mexicanos ricos, quienes se habían aliado a la realeza española,

decidieron dejar de apoyar a los españoles y al movimiento de independencia.

Los principales líderes del movimiento incluyeron a Miguel Hidalgo Y Costilla, un sacerdote con buena educación, al General Ignacio Allende, Juan Aldama y Miguel Domínguez. La lucha por la independencia estaba enfocada en los “odiados gachupines “ (españoles nacidos en Europa que residían en México), que vivían en la opulencia, mientras la mayoría de los nativos vivían en la pobreza a pesar de la riqueza de la nación.

Hidalgo, considerado el “Padre de la Patria,” convocó a la gente a una misa al sonar las campanas de la iglesia de Dolores Guanajuato en la madrugada del 16 de Septiembre de 1810. Aproximadamente 300 personas acudieron a este llamado, entre los cuales se en-

contraban dueños de haciendas, políticos y españoles locales.

El período durante el cual México logró su independencia tuvo una duración de 11 años (de 1810 a 1821) y consistió en varias fases al mando de diferentes líderes.

Hidalgo inicio la insurrección con alrededor de 800 hombres, sin embargo, el número de seguidores que apoyaban a Hidalgo llegó a ser de 80,000 a 100,000 hombres. En el principio de la insurgencia, Hidalgo y Allende lograron importantes victorias en San Miguel de Celaya.

Después de luchar por más de un año y haber perdido una batalla importante, Hidalgo fue reemplazado por el general Allende. Cabe mencionar que ambos líderes fueron capturados y ejecutados.

Posteriormente, a raíz de la muerte de estos líderes surgió

José Maria Morelos quien continuó con el movimiento de independencia. Desafortunadamente, Morelos fue capturado y ejecutado en 1815. A consecuencia de su muerte la insurrección se redujo a una guerrilla bajo el liderazgo de Vicente Guerrero.

El 24 de febrero de 1821, el Coronel Agustín de Iturbide quien estaba en contra del movimiento de independencia por años hizo una alianza con Guerrero, líder de los rebeldes. Como resultado, “El Ejército de las Tres Garantías surgió. Este ejército estuvo bajo el mando de Iturbide quien ejerció el Plan de Iguala,” de acuerdo al autor Francisco Sosa.

Finalmente, el 27 de Septiembre de 1821, el Ejército de las Tres Garantías entro a la Ciudad de México y el día 28 del mismo mes Iturbide proclamó la independencia de México.

TRUST and Centerforce Host the 12th Annual Health Fair



Chiropractor's neck alignment station was a popular attraction

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

For the 12th consecutive year, San Quentin, California's oldest state prison, hosted the largest health fair to date by any correctional facility in the nation.

Held Aug. 21, the TRUST-Centerforce Health Fair collaborated with the Bay Area Black Nurses Association, Alameda County Health Department, San Francisco State University Nursing School and the San Quentin State Prison medical department to educate inmates about the importance of healthcare.

Nearly 2,000 inmates received healthcare information from more than 150 volunteers who helped make this one-day event possible.

"It gets better and better every year," said Angel Falcone,

an inmate coordinator with TRUST and Centerforce. "Today, we are making history." This health fair is unique in that so many healthcare services are made available to inmates at one time. They were able to have their hearts checked, blood tested and blood pressure read. Additionally, in the dental hygiene room inmates were given free toothbrushes and toothpaste.

For some inmates, this was their first opportunity to receive such an array of healthcare literature and services.

"This was my first time going to something like this," said Cleonard Wade, after receiving chiropractic service. "I had a problem in my shoulder, and they took care of that. I had trouble getting on the bunk, and now I have the energy."

The day began with orienta-

tion for the volunteers. Falcone presented awards to various volunteers who were instrumental in making the health fair a success.

"Twelve years ago the men had a vision about their health care," said Mildred Crear, keynote speaker and member of the Bay Area Black Nurses Association. "Hopefully we can pass this on to other generations."

Crear said things have really changed, and healthcare is becoming more universal. Centerforce Executive Director Larry Hill also thanked the supporters. "By virtue of your being here you've made a huge statement," he said.

Associate Warden Jeff Lawson thanked everyone on behalf of Warden Ron Davis and Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell.

"It is our job as staff to set

the example for the men who will return to society," Lawson said.

Steve Emrick, San Quentin's community partnership manager, worked in tandem with staff and inmates to coordinate the event.

The American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ACTCM) volunteers place ear seeds on inmates' ears. Once the ear seeds are placed, inmates were supposed to experience a relaxing effect with warm sensations, according to ACTCM literature. The treatment is said to leave people feeling "rejuvenated, and relaxed."

"I don't know if it works," said Jerome Boone, who received acupuncture. "I've never tried it before and thought I'd give it a shot."

Dr. Ian Tremayne, who came from Chiropractic Services of Marin, saw more than 500 inmates at this year's health fair.

"I'm here every year. This year's definitely been bigger," said Tremayne. "We'd be here every month if we could." Rebecca Ferrell is working on her pre-doctoral clinical psychology degree and has been volunteering with TRUST since June. She said it

helps her to know this is what she wants to do while also helping to reduce recidivism.

Centerforce is a major sponsor of the health fair. Headed by Dr. Julie Lifshay, Manager of Special Projects, the organization paid for lunches for organizers who helped to organize the event.

"We're that bridge between the community and San Quentin," said Lifshay. "It's collaboration. We all meet and communicate. We're all working together. There was a lot of participation by volunteers and staff. The (SQ) administration is very supportive."

"Overall, it was an enriching experience for all of us," said Emrick. "I'd really like to acknowledge the staff members who helped process all of the health fair volunteers. They did an extremely well job. The processing was fluid."

Inmate Mariscal Brijido has participated with TRUST for five years. "I'm volunteering to make a change in my life. I want to be able to help others so that I won't continue to be selfish in my own life. By helping others, you help yourself to make changes in your life."

"I'm impressed with the



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Free pamphlets on gambling addiction

number of people here giving support and also the longevity of it," said Diana Williams, a TRUST volunteer for 11 months. This was her first health fair.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) mental health department made its first appearance at the health fair this year.

"This is our maiden voyage," said Dr. Kathleen O'Meara, CDCR Regional Administrator for Mental Health. She said the department has integrated mental health into the health fair to get the word out to inmates that it's okay to use its

services.

"It's better to get help than fall apart," said O'Meara. "Know your triggers."

Frankie Smith is an inmate involved with self-help group Brother's Keepers that worked with TRUST. They helped run the workshops on mental health. "She (O'Meara) is really on board with us," he said. "She really cares."

"We want to change people's mindset from criminal and anti-social to pro-social by managing their anger and processing their internal emotions," said Sam W. Johnson Sr., an inmate and co-leader of the group Alliance for Change.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmates play 'Spin the Wheel' and learn about health preventions



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Carlos Flores learning from a volunteer in the gym about the different types of respiratory diseases during the Health Fair



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Participants practicing spiritual healing through drumming



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Inmate receives a back adjustment

guy." Inmate Aaron Martin works with the diabetes group. He said the group is taught by Dr. Tootell, San Quentin's Chief Medical Executive.

"We take people from basic to advanced knowledge about diabetes," said Martin. "We passed out different recipes. It lets people know just because we have a healthy-heart diet doesn't mean it's healthy for diabetes."

Diabetes cannot be cured, but it can be controlled, a pamphlet provided says. It instructs those who suffer from diabetes to "eat healthy foods every day, be active often and take medicine as prescribed," Martin said.

Volunteer Kim Bailey worked with the diabetes group. This was her sixth health fair. A nurse by trade, she is also on the Board of Directors for the San Quentin Cares Breast Cancer Walk Committee. "I come in here a lot," said Bailey.

Eric Faulks works with California Re-entry Institute. He volunteered to help provide

inmates with other useful information such as that used for Board of Parole Hearings, resume writing, victim letter writing, parole plans, birth certificate, Social Security card and DMV identification.

"Gather as much information as possible; digest as much information as possible, and don't be afraid to ask for information," said Faulks.

Norman Tillman is an RN GNP with the Bay Area Black Nurses Association. This was his second health fair. He said, "Everybody looks like they're from my neighborhood. This is good for me because I get to treat people like people."

"I had a chance to reconnect with a lot of people I haven't seen in a while," said Dolores Lyles, Regional Program Manager with Centerforce. "I'm all about change and social justice. I do this from the heart." She said Centerforce has been partnering with San Quentin for 38 years back when it started the Visiting Center.

—James R. Abernathy Jr. and Marcus Henderson contributed to this article



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Dental hygienists give lecture on dental hygiene

Arts & Entertainment

Complete This Puzzle and Win a Prize!

A farmer has a fox, a chicken, and a bag of grain. He needs to get all of it across the river. He could only take one of these items one at a time. If he leaves the fox and the chicken alone at the same time the fox will eat the chicken. If he leaves the chicken and the grain, the chicken will eat the grain. How could you get all of it across?

The Answer to Last Month's Trivia: Put the pack on and weigh yourself, then take the pack off and weigh yourself again. The difference between the two weights will determine the weight of the pack.

The winner to last Month's puzzle is Steve Kutlyo. Congratulation to David Murrieta, Michael Marino, Bruce Wells, Craig Gernstoner, T. Willis, Gene McCurdy, Robert Bacon, Edward Wycoff, Timothy Holmes, E. Vick, O'Dell Hodges, and Art Justice for also getting last month's puzzle correct.

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 a drawing of the first answer from that hat.

The prize is 2 Granola Bars. Prize will only be offered to inmates with privilege group status that allows for the prize items. Inmates transferred, sent to ad/seg, or otherwise not available to claim their prize will result in forfeiture.

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

If I always appear prepared, it is because before entering an undertaking, I have meditated long and have foreseen what may occur. It is not genius which reveals to me suddenly and secretly what I should do in circumstances unexpected by others; it is thought and preparation.
-Napoleon Bonaparte

Snippets

Gravity on the moon is close to 1/6 the pull of the earth's gravity. Therefore, a person that weighs 150 lbs. would weigh twenty-five pounds on the moon.

One mosquito leg can hold up to twenty-three times the insects body weight while they walk on water.

Binging occasionally on sugar is better for your teeth than small frequent amounts of sugar intake.

Look-out! Owls cannot turn their heads backwards. The structure of the owl's neck allows it to turn it 135 degrees. Their neck has 14 bones and a swiveling bone to help it move. Humans have only seven neck bones.

Not many people know that body temperature is regulated by blood. It redistributes heat to the skin to facilitate the cooling by the evaporation process.

Snakes are cold blooded reptiles, the smaller the snakes the less heat energy they need to survive.

Sudoku Corner

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

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

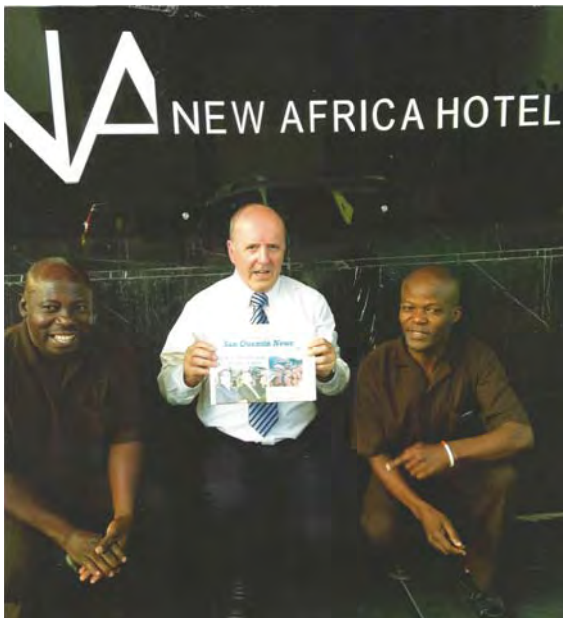


Photo courtesy of Bob Barton

Augustino Maguha, Bob Barton, Christopher Mpepo in front of New Africa Hotel in Dar es Salaam, capital city of Tanzania



Photo courtesy of Barry Zack

Pierre Joseph Romulus, Dr. Edwin Prophet, and Dr. Rolandy Edouard on relief duty in Haiti reading the SQ News

Education - The Greatest Gift

By Larry Stiner Jr.
Contributing Writer

An 'OG's' Perspective

Through the grapevine, I heard the question: How many different schools are they going to put her in? This was being asked in response to my wife and I enrolling our daughter, Khyra, into yet another new school. It would be the fourth school she would attend in her nearly 12 years of life. On the surface, we understood why our actions might have been questioned. We knew the importance of stability and consistency in a child's academic world and we were keenly aware of the negative impact frequently changing schools could have on a kid. Conversely, we also knew our child very well and recognized that settling would have absolutely been the wrong approach. In our case, it was safe to say that our young daughter's strong appetite for learning worked perfectly with our desire to provide her with the type of educational experience that

would benefit her for a lifetime.

"If the school work we are providing is not challenging enough for your daughter, then perhaps this is not the right school for her," the principal told us. "I have instructed the teachers to stick to the standards set by state of California for each grade level and they will not be going beyond that."

His words infuriated me. I could not believe this educated man of color would dare look us in the eyes and basically imply he was striving for educational mediocrity for the minority children he was hired to lead. Standing on the grounds of a school located in the heart of the inner-city, I was disappointed and confused. Our daughter and a handful of her classmates were consistently performing at levels much higher than their grade. Their teacher, recognizing this,

was more than willing to provide those students with more challenging work. For some reason, however, this principal had no interest in allowing those gifted learners to really spread their academic wings and see how high they could fly. So rather than standing by and being content with Khyra's mastery of a standard curriculum while her true potential remained untapped, my wife and I decided to move her.

Over the next few years, despite administrative promises to the contrary, we would continue to encounter similar issues within the area schools. The classrooms were typically overcrowded and there was a constant turnover in the teaching ranks. School resources were scarce and the young scholars showing a higher learning capacity were too of-

ten overlooked as the focus remained primarily on teaching students to score well on standardized tests which do not correctly reflect what a child has actually learned. Moreover, that teaching method in no way prepares students for college but rather stands as a primary reason inner-city students with college potential are so often at a disadvantage when competing with others for admission into institutions of higher learning. To us, it was beginning to look like a certain group of kids was purposely being set up to fail.

My wife, while continuing to supplement Khyra's public education with a creative form of home-schooling, began applying to the top schools in Southern California. These schools, all private, very expensive and difficult to get into, were outside of our residential area and definitely outside of our budget. Nonetheless, they offered all of what we wanted for our daughter: amazing academics, strong arts and enrichment programs,

limitless resources, diversity and a family atmosphere that could lead to a lifetime of networking and opportunities neither of us ever had. Impressed by Khyra's grades and personal package of achievements and extracurricular activity, the schools started calling to set up entrance testing and interviews. In the end, she received acceptance and a near full scholarship to the school of her choice. Attending one of the top schools in the nation, she has already adapted well, made a host of new friends and is absolutely loving the challenging new learning environment.

I am the proud father, indeed. Still, it saddens me to think that most children from neighborhoods like my own will never have the academic opportunities they deserve. For that reason, I urge parents and guardians alike not to settle for classroom mediocrity. Our children are worthy of so much more. Let's fight to give them that great gift of a good education.

Mark Leyner's Account of His Alter Ego

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

BOOK REVIEW

In the autobiography *Gone With the Mind*, author Mark Leyner uses a unique literary device to reflect on his past and tell his life story. More importantly, it helps him better understand who he is and how and why his life unfolded the way it did. After weighing Leyner's technique, I can understand the impact of using self-dialogue in writing an autobiography.

Leyner's literary device comes in the form of his alter ego, which he calls the *Imaginary Intern*. The Imaginary Intern is essentially Leyner himself, reliving his life in the context of a first-person-shooter video game. In the game, Leyner follows himself – or the Imaginary Intern – as he ventures from one level to

the next, or one life event to the next — from birth, to youth, to young adulthood and so on. This storytelling mechanism gives Leyner an exclusive kind of intimacy in deciding what events are important to tell.

Gone with the Mind begins with Leyner speeding down the highway—his drunken mother at the wheel. Under the circumstances, death is imminent. At that moment, Leyner understands the vulnerability of life, so he begins looking back. While watching life scenarios flash by, Leyner writes, "... the boy saw everything that would ensue in his life. Everything."

This setting puts readers into Leyner's mindset and his relationship with his mother. By

placing the Imaginary Intern side-by-side with him in this scene, readers can glimpse into Leyner's past while projecting into his future.

"How the brutal indifference of time was like a vast, inexorable army of locusts..."

Gone with the Mind (the Paris Review, Spring 2015 edition) made me think about the "insight" all life-term prisoners seek in defining who they are. Many lifers struggle to truly un-

derstand themselves, making it difficult to talk about their past, present and future. Perhaps some lifers could benefit by doing as Leyner does — that is, recounting their lives through stages and considering how each stage influenced and led to the next.

Leyner models his autobiography after an adventure-based video game, but he is in fact not a video game enthusiast. In *Gone With the Mind* Leyner purchases a real video game and attempts to play but fails. His ineptness leads to the realization that he is better at saying how he wants his life to be than living it in ways he imagined.

Aside from his creative literary techniques, Leyner's insightful passages in *Gone with the Mind* also grabbed my attention, for example, "...how the brutal indifference of time was like a vast, inexorable army of

locusts..." As a life-term prisoner, I have always considered time as a driving force in storytelling. I am fixated on doing my time in a way that makes me better at understanding who I am. I, too, seek insight into how I got where I am. I know there will come a time when I must closely look at my life and talk to everyday-people about some painful moments. *That* is my test.

What is interesting about Leyner's narrative is that he has recruited himself, the Imaginary Intern, to dissect the most significant events of his life. "... it's nice to have a friend, a comrade, a 'paracosm,' whatever, to share things with," writes Leyner about life and his alter ego. The advantage for lifers is that they too can do this in order to learn about themselves. Take a step back, and be unbiased about who you are.

When Who's at Fault Doesn't Matter

By SQ Reviews

MOVIE REVIEW

Into the Woods is a story that spreads enough blame around to indict half the cast as villains, but the movie ends with a restorative justice message. It takes a whole community to destroy a community; conversely, all members of society working together can make communities whole.

Director and producer Rob Marshall brought to the screen Stephen Sondheim's acclaimed musical medley of familiar fairytales and surprised the members of SQ Reviews (who as a rule do not watch musicals). Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), Red Riding Hood (Lilla Crawford), and Rapunzel (Mackenzie Mauzy) get lost in the proverbial woods, each in her own way. The Baker (James Corden) and the Wife (Emily Blunt) swindle little boy Jack (Daniel Huttlestone) out of his mother's cow with magic beans to fulfill a deal

the couple made with the wicked Witch to remove the Witch's fertility curse.

Reviewers meet to discuss the musical in the lot between the Education Department and the San Quentin News. We spend the first five minutes staring silently at Juan Meza who smiles, unfazed by our disapproval. He's the one who insisted we "do something different" and review a musical. "I'm just going to get this out of the way," Emile DeWeaver begins. "I liked it."

"It was a musical," says Rahaan Thomas. "I couldn't in good conscience watch more than 30 percent of it. If I ever get married, I might raise that standard to 50 percent."

Meza turns to talk to DeWeaver, pointedly ignoring Thomas. "It was interesting, right?" says Meza. "All those stories inter-

connected. I liked most of it; I wanted to shake Jack, though. That kid was dumb."

Everyone is laughing, but Thomas says, "That's wrong; you can't call a kid dumb."

"The boy was an idiot," Meza says. "His own mother told him every day: *You're stupid.*"

"Okay, I get your irritation," DeWeaver says. "But I wonder if being told he was stupid every day made Jack stupid?"

"You're such a liar, you're not wondering at all," Meza says, and everyone laughs again. DeWeaver has been sitting in too many Patten College classes where instructors ask leading questions to which they think they know the answers.

Meza continues, "I see your point. In real life, that's true, but in this movie, Jack was just dumb. I mean, his mom would

say it, and she'd look sad. She was just stating the plain facts: *My kid is an idiot.*"

"Jack's mom reminded me of my family," DeWeaver says. "They used to say I had the Devil in me. They did exorcisms; my father had the house anointed with holy oil. They didn't do it out of maliciousness, but I began to believe I was on the Devil's side of things and internalized it. Often in prison, people are treated like animals. Some resist, but many internalize the treatment and act out as animals. Careless judgments can create monsters."

Thomas agrees and switches topics. "Did anyone find the song between Red Riding Hood and the Baker creepy: *I know I shouldn't have strayed from the path, but I was excited by the wolf. He wanted to teach me things.*"

"That part was just wrong," says Meza, "and I was bothered that they tried to make it right. That creepiness aside, I liked the



restorative justice message. Everybody had a right to be mad at everybody, but they had to stop blaming and get to solutions. Everybody had a voice, everyone told their stories, and everyone faced their demons. Nobody commits an offense alone; it's a societal problem."

Contributors: Emile DeWeaver, Rahaan Thomas, Juan Meza, and Jonathan Chiu

'Dirty Look' Gets Teen Girl More Prison Time

'The only misconduct tickets she received prior to the new sentence were for defying an order and giving a guard an 'intimidating look,' and yelling...'

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Youths sentenced to adult prisons in Michigan are protesting with lawsuits.

Plaintiffs are suing Michigan for mistreating youth held in the adult prison system, the *Huffington Post* reported.

One of the plaintiffs is Jamie, a 17-year-old girl from Detroit who was originally

sentenced to two concurrent terms of six months for throwing a brick at a family friend. (A police report noted that the brick may not have hit the friend.) She was sent to serve time in the adult prison system, but she was referred back to court for resentencing, after prison officials reported her for "misconduct" she committed while she was there.

"The only misconduct tick-

ets she received prior to the new sentence were for defying an order and giving a guard an 'intimidating look,' and yelling at an inmate who allegedly had slapped her on the back of the head," the *Post* reported.

A spokesman for the Michigan Department of Corrections said that she "failed in every instance" to live up to the conditions the judge laid out.

During the court hearing, prison officials told the judge that the girl had "no motivation to be involved" in peer groups and missed school, which she was required to attend. But investigations by the *Post* revealed that Jamie was in segregation (not for disciplinary reasons), which prevented her from attending school.

Her sentencing judge, James Chylinski, revoked Jamie's special youth status, which would have cleared her record after the completion of her time. Instead, the judge changed her sentence from six months in prison to 11 months to a maximum of five years.

Judge Chylinski said, for kids who come from unstable environments, the youth pro-

gram, where some kids serve their time in adult prisons, is an opportunity, "like sending them away to college." He added, "It's actually an effort to try to help them, to lock them up; it's less punishment and more trying to rehabilitate them, making them go to school."

"At 17, you are literally still going through puberty and hormones are changing," said Kristen Staley, associate director of youth justice policy at the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency. "Moreover, factors such as early trauma or mental illness can stunt this growth... MDOC staff is not thoroughly trained to handle teenagers and this incident is clear indication of that."

A Trail of Sexual Abuse Snares Teen Girl Victims

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Imagine being a 13-year-old girl and being raped by someone who is supposed to protect and love you, then fleeing only to land in the hands of police who arrested you for truancy or landing in the hands of a pimp and eventually being arrested for prostitution.

Instead of helping, the criminal justice system is punishing Black and Brown girls for being victims of sexual abuse, according to a Human Rights Project for Girls report called: *The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girl's Story*.

"When poor Black and Brown girls are bought and sold for sex, they are rarely regarded or treated as victims of trafficking. Instead, they are children jailed for prostitution," wrote report author Ma-

lika Saada Saar.

Sex abuse victim Nadiyah Shereff said, "I was locked up ten different times within a two year period. Inside Juvie I met other girls like myself who were there for prostitution, running away and truancy. All of us were from the same neighborhoods, poor families, and seemed to have the same disposition of trauma, anger mixed with hopelessness. We were not violent girls. We were girls who were hurting," according to the report.

"Sexual abuse is one of the primary predictors of girls' detention," said Saar.

Eighty-one percent of the girls locked up in California and South Carolina reported sexual abuse, said the report. In Oregon, 93 percent of the girls in its juvenile justice system experienced sexual or physical abuse.

The FBI reported African-American children make up 59 percent of all prostitution-related arrests under 18 years old in America. Girls under 18 make up 76 percent of all prostitution arrests.

In South Carolina, the caregiver sexually abused 69 percent of the girls and dating violence occurred with 42 percent.

African-American girls are 33.2 percent of the youth incarcerated, but only 14 percent of the general population, according to the report.

The system views the way victims respond to rape as crimes. Criminal offenses that are common responses to living in abusive environments include truancy, substance abuse and running away.

"Once inside, girls encounter a system that is often ill-equipped to identify and treat the violence and trauma that lie at the root of victimized girls' arrests. More harmful still is the significant risk that the punitive environment will re-trigger girls' trauma and even subject them to new incidents of sexual victimization, which can exponentially compound the profound harms inflicted by the original abuse," said Saar.

The Human Rights Project for Girls Report offered several suggestions as steps to close the sexual abuse to prison pipeline. In sum, they recommended training staff to be aware of the effects of sexual abuse and to treat its victims as victims, including abolishing zero-tolerance school disciplinary policies for sex-abuse victims and attacking the buyer's demand for sleeping with minors instead of focusing on the abused, along with granting immunity to trafficked youth or funding diversion programs that help provide child victims with family support services, life skills training, and assistance with job placement, housing, education and vocational skills.

"We must surface the hidden and disregarded realities of how vulnerable Black and Brown girls are treated differently, and indeed punished, for their experiences of sexual and physical abuse. We cannot continue to leave them behind because their lives matter," said Saar.

from state prison under Proposition 47—including 36 women through the post-release community supervision program, 55 discharged from their sentence, and 250 paroled.

A review of statistics from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reveals that there are gender differences in treatment within the criminal justice system, that long-term impacts of a felony conviction differ between men and women, and women's histories of abuse prior to incarceration impact their experiences while incarcerated and after release.

The vast majority of incarcerated women (85 to 90 percent) have experienced physical or sexual abuse, the report finds.

The report states that since women are more likely than men to be convicted of drug felonies, they have more difficulty accessing public benefits and housing. For example, a 2001–2006 study of four diverse states found that approximately 61 percent of men had secured employment post-release compared to only 37 percent of formerly incarcerated women.

Girls Court Designed To Give Help Instead Of Incarceration

It's called Girls Court and it's designed to provide resources and rehabilitation instead of prosecution for at-risk girls who have a history of prostitution.

"Girls Court brings an all-hands-on-deck approach to the lives of vulnerable girls, linking them to social service agencies, providing informal Saturday sessions on everything from body image to legal jargon, and offering a team of adults in whom they can develop trust. And while still in its early years, the system is showing promise," *The New York Times* reported.

Despite the success of such programs, in most states, including California, young prostitutes continue to be prosecuted as criminals, despite a growing consensus that minors involved in the sex trade are victims instead of criminals, the newspaper reported in January.

However, things are beginning to change. In Alameda County, there is now a Girls Court designed to assist children who were recruited as prostitutes.

"The lives that unfold in Courtroom 401 in the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center contain few glimmers of gladness," the *Times* reported.

One such case is Toni J, an effervescent 16-year-old who lives with 11 family members on a street riddled with violence and street gangs. Her father was murdered in a shooting, her mom overdosed and died. In ninth grade, Toni was raped while on probation for shoplifting.

Having already appeared in court 38 times, Toni was picked up on a street known for sex-trafficking in Oakland and got the break that changed her life, thanks to an unusual collaboration between the judicial and social service systems.

"Toni is now doing well at school and even mentoring

other at-risk girls," the *Times* reported.

"You're stepping up to the plate," Judge Rhonda Burgess said to Toni from the bench before recommending that she be taken off probation.

Judge Burgess says she tries to understand the back story, the forces, often within their own families, that have made the young women feel diminished. Many girls come to court unaware that they are being exploited. "Once they begin to see it, they see their own power and have a chance at fashioning their own destiny," the judge added.

"The optimal strategies for helping these young people are still being developed, but training judges, lawyers and others to identify them is a first step," says Dr. Ellen Wright Clayton, a professor of pediatrics and law at Vanderbilt University.

"What is really needed is a collaborative approach that directs people to services rather than prosecution," Clayton stated.

In Alameda County, which includes Oakland, a survey last year of 113 sexually exploited youths by West Coast Children's Clinic found that 75 percent of such youngsters here and in a neighboring county had experienced abuse and neglect.

Alameda County's H.E.A.T. Watch Unit was designed to aggressively go after people who traffic in women. It was created by District Attorney Nancy O'Malley in 2006, and as of last year, 111 exploiters of children under 18 had been convicted.

"By coming together, working collaboratively and providing a comprehensive response, we will save lives and we will be more effective at preventing child sex trafficking from happening," said O'Malley.

—By John Lam

7 of 10 Women Behind Bars Are Mothers

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

In the United States, 1.3 million children have mothers who are incarcerated, according to a report released late last year. Seven out of 10 women in prison are mothers and two-thirds are mothers with minor children.

The Women's Foundation of California found women in California are nearly two times more likely than men to be in prison for petty theft with a prior conviction and three times more likely to be in prison for petty forgery or fraud. Since 2011, California has given counties more responsibility for criminal justice policy decisions, meaning those same dynamics now may be playing out within county jails, the report finds.

When Proposition 47, passed last November, it retroactively reduced some minor theft related crimes from felonies to misdemeanors—drug related crimes (small amounts) were also reduced to misdemeanors.

From the period of Nov. 5, 2014 to Sept 16, a total of 4,430 inmates have been released

Domestic Violence Victims Lack Follow-Up Help

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Nearly half of women and approximately two-thirds of men did not receive services after being victims of sexual violence, stalking, or intimate partner violence, according to a survey by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The 2011 survey, released late last year, found sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence affect the lives of millions in the United States.

"This suggests the critical need for primary prevention to focus on promoting healthy relational behaviors and patterns that can be carried forward into adulthood. Continued surveillance of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence is needed to understand these public health problems better and to serve as a measuring stick by which the success of prevention efforts can be gauged," the survey advises.

The CDC reported an estimated 19 percent of women and 2 percent of men have been raped during their lifetimes. An estimated 15 percent of women and nearly 6 percent of men have been a victim of stalking during their lifetimes.

Victimization could lead to "serious short- and long-term consequences including physical injury, poor mental health, and chronic physical health problems," CDC finds. "For some persons, violence victimization results in hospitalization, disability, or death. Furthermore, previous research indicates that victimization as a child or adolescent increases the likelihood that victimization will reoccur in adulthood."

The majority of victims of sexual violence knew their perpetrators, the survey finds.

Almost half of female victims of rape had at least one perpetrator who was an acquaintance, and an estimated 45 percent of female rape victims

had at least one perpetrator who was an intimate partner.

Alcohol and/or drugs were used in more than half of women victimized by an acquaintance.

About 44 percent of women and 23 percent of men experienced other forms of sexual violence during their lifetimes, such as "being made to penetrate, sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact, and non-contact unwanted sexual experiences."

Many victims of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence were first victimized at a young age.

Among female victims of rape, about 79 percent were first raped before age 25 years and about 40 percent before age 18 years. Among male victims who were made to penetrate a perpetrator, an estimated 70 percent were victimized before age 25 years; about 21 percent before age 18 years.

An estimated 54 percent of

female stalking victims and 48 percent of male stalking victims were first stalked before age 25 years; about 16 percent of female victims and 21 percent of male victims before age 18 years.

Finally, among victims of sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, an estimated 71 percent of women and 58 percent of men first experienced these or other forms of intimate partner violence before age 25 years; about 23 percent of female victims and 14 percent of male victims before age 18 years.

A variety of tactics were used to stalk victims during their lifetimes. An estimated 62 percent of female stalking victims were approached, such as at their home or work; an estimated 55 percent received unwanted messages, such as text and voice messages; an estimated 55 percent received unwanted telephone calls, including hang-ups.

In addition, nearly half of

female stalking victims were watched, followed, or spied on with a listening device, camera, or global positioning system (GPS) device.

- An estimated 24 percent of women were fearful
- Almost 21 percent were concerned for their safety
- 20 percent experienced one or more PTSD symptoms
- About 13 percent were physically injured
- Almost 7 percent needed medical care
- Nearly 9 percent needed legal services
- Just over 9 percent missed at least 1 day of work or school
- About 4 percent needed housing services
- Just over 3 percent needed victim advocate services
- Almost 3 percent contacted a crisis hotline
- Nearly 2 percent became pregnant as a result of intimate partner violence
- About 1.5 percent contracted a sexually transmitted infection.

Anti-Prostitution Activists Combat Sex Trafficking

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

A group of former pimps met with anti-prostitution activists to help them combat the huge sex trafficking industry.

"How would you feel if this was your daughter or sister?" asked former pimp Louis Scott at the San Quentin forum. "What would you do if they were forced into it?"

It is a crime that most people think won't affect them, but it's happening here in the United States, and it's not limited to people from the ghetto, said pediatric trauma nurse Jessica Munoz.

"Being young and vulnerable is all it takes to get caught up in the life (sex trafficking)," said Munoz of the non-profit organization Hoola Na Pua, which means: "New Life for Our Children."

San Quentin community volunteer Kathleen Jackson helped set up the event after being asked to interview pimps on their perspective on how to stop trafficking.

"I didn't know any pimps. I had to find some," said Jackson.

Inmates Scott, Harry Smith and others answered the call. Inmate Miguel Sifuentes helped facilitate the forum called STEP (Sex Trafficking Exploitation Prevention).

Scott said his mother was a prostitute and his father her pimp. Many of his 26 brothers and sisters followed suit. He credits his children not following in his footsteps to teaching them better.

Smith said he went from being an innocent middle-class Southern boy and walk-on basketball player for San Francisco State University to becoming a pimp. "A woman recruited me. I thought we were boyfriend and girlfriend. Then my whole focus changed from trying to get in the NBA to getting money. This lifestyle rapes all parties of their innocence."

Inmate Donald Ray Walker Jr. took responsibility for being a



Photo by Brian Assey

Panel of inmates and organizers discussing solutions to sex trafficking

customer.

"I was in the U.S. Navy. I went to all these countries and engaged. The military is a huge enabler of the sex trafficking," said Walker.

"Hearing your story gives me a different perspective. It shows what change looks like. People are people," said Erica Beedle.

The event started with a public service announcement created by the San Quentin Prison Report.

"Speak up and speak out so we can help you escape," Scott said from the screen to girls caught up in prostitution.

Scott warned pimps the penalty is a mandatory minimum of 15 years to life and being registered sex offender.

Scott received 199 years for pimping and pandering.

Betty Ann Boeving from the Bay Area Anti-Traffic Coalition plans to use STEP public service announcements at the Super Bowl to bring awareness.

"People think traffic only has to do with freeways," said Boeving.

Boeving said she and 12 friends started the Freedom Summit. In May, they held it in Levi Stadium, and Condoleezza Rice attended.

Ken Peterson and Allan Priest

of 3Strands Global want to get the PSAs played in schools also. (3strandsglobal.com)

The group heard ways pimps lure girls into the life.

"We prey upon those with low self-esteem, who don't have a crowd around them – the vulnerable. Like a wolf pack, you seek out the weak," said Scott.

Sex trafficking survivor Marya Edgar said that, although raised in a strict Christian home, a prostitute lured her into a pimp's hands. He trafficked her to Nevada and beat her every time she tried to leave. The college student escaped when the pimp went to prison on another matter.

"It is vital that education gets out there. I didn't know that there were people out there looking to help me," said Edgar. "I stayed because I was being beaten."

"Remember the hotline, because it is a great resource. They have a texting and number to call. Eight-two percent didn't know who to call to get out. Many said, 'I wouldn't run to the police; I run from them,'" said Boeving.

The groups came up with several possible solutions.

"Prostitutes are locked up for doing something that they are forced to do. They are survivors, not criminals," said Scott.

CHOOSE1 Pushes Three Strikes Reform

Continued from Page 1

to public safety.

As of February 2014, California prisons held 7,932 offenders convicted with a third strike who are sentenced to a minimum of 25 years to life in prison. Of these, 3,886 or nearly 50 percent, are older than age 50.

Life termers released on parole have been statistically proven to be far less likely to re-offend, state statistics show.

At the beginning of the state's

prison building boom in the early 1980s, adult and youth corrections accounted for 4 percent of California's General Fund expenditures at \$1 billion per year. Today, it represents 9 percent of the total General Fund, approximately \$9.5 billion.

"Criminal justice policies that rely on building and operating more prisons to address community safety concerns are not sustainable and will not result in improved public safety," California Penal Code reads.

Prostitutes aren't let off the hook by the police because it is believed they will run straight back to their pimps, explained Munoz. There is talk about ways to process them through the system and out of the life.

Munoz has done a TED talk on sex trafficking. She and co-board member Aaron Schnobrich flew in from Hawaii for the July 22 forum.

Smith said, "The solution is to keep showing unconditional love, because sometimes kids are going to run and look for the love they are not getting in the home."

Edgar said, "I suggest hotels have a card reader. Slide the ID to make sure it is valid so we can't check in with fake IDs. That can stop a lot of under-age people and people with incorrect information from checking in."

Jason Jones suggested, "Start in fifth grade, when they teach 'em sex education, teach them about sex trafficking. Pimps think the younger I get them the easy it is to mold them. So we have to think the same," said Jones.

The inmates produced a flyer with questions designed to awaken girls to the brainwashing. It will include the number to the national sex trafficking help hot line.

"It's beautiful to see people from other walks of life that didn't experience this growing up but are passionate about changing it," said Jones.

"I'm excited to see another attempt to further chip away at the terrible three strikes law that has put thousands of people away for decades," said Emily Harris, from Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. "These sentences are trumped up, tearing people away from their families and communities, while costing taxpayers billions of dollars."

For more information, the website is www.choose1.org. The AG web site is www.oag.ca.gov.

Supreme Court Justice Scalia's Death Penalty Views 'Dead Wrong'

By Thomas Gardner
Journalism Guild Writer

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia has expressed opinions about death penalty sentences that are dead wrong, said Tom Boggioni in an opinion piece published online by *Raw Story*.

Boggioni points to the case of Henry Lee McCollum, convicted for the rape and murder

of an 11-year-old girl more than 30 years ago.

Making reference to McCollum's case in 1994, Scalia wrote that "a quiet death by lethal injection" should be considered "enviable" when compared to the murder of a little girl.

Fortunately, Scalia's opinion didn't speed up McCollum's execution. Last year, McCollum and his half-brother, Leon

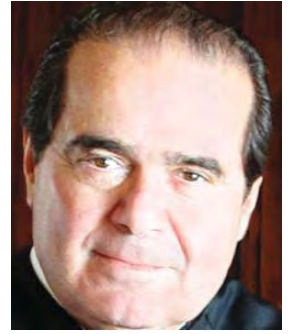
Brown, were cleared by investigators using DNA evidence and the two men were pardoned and released from prison.

Boggioni also noted that in 2001, after the Supreme Court had ordered a retrial in another controversial capital case, Scalia wrote this surprising opinion:

"This court has never held that the Constitution forbids the execution of a convicted

defendant who has had a full and fair trial but is later able to convince a habeas court that he is 'actually' innocent."

Scalia's written statement about the Constitution not protecting "actual innocence" was written well before McCollum's death penalty was overturned. But by ignoring the finality of death penalties when wrongfully applied, Scalia acquiesced to the possible



File photo

Justice Antonin Scalia

execution of innocent people in the future.

Rap Artists Who Sell Out for Money

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

Hip-hop went from having a positive voice to being dominated by images of drug dealers, pimps and gangsters by 1996. The Yard Talk panel discussed the materialization of rap in this segment of *Is Rap Your Daddy?*

Hip-hop music started with the Old School era, (1979 to 1987). "In the late 1980s, political content and Afrocentric musings were the most popular forms of rap music. And by the early 1990s, gangsta rap took center stage," wrote James Peterson in *Dead Prezence: Money and Mortal Themes in Hip Hop Culture*.

"Eventually the recording industry contemplated rap music as a potential billion-dollar opportunity, directly as a result of the popularity of gangsta rap. Mass mediated rap music and

Yard Talk

hip hop videos displaced the intimate, insulated urban development of the culture," wrote Peterson. (p. 907).

John "Yahya" Johnson: "The music of today isn't reflecting police abuse; it reflects drug use and materialism. You never heard Public Enemy talk about driving around in a Bentley. They spoke on real issues."

Demond Lewis: "Our morals and ethics fly out the window when it comes to money."

David Jassy: "A lot of MCs today wouldn't have survived in the rap game back in '93. I remember people said that they didn't understand rap. It had a language you had to be initiated to. Now it's dumbed down so more people can understand it."

Jassy's thought echoes Jay-

Z's lyrics, "I dumb down for my audience to double my dollars," in his song *Moment of Clarity*, on the Black Album.

Lewis: "Those who run hip hop say that they are helping young black men make money, without saying they are exploiting them. KRS1 spoke against selling out; now it's okay to sell out and be trash for the money."

Marcus Henderson: "We aren't a community no more. It's all about I -- I-Phone, MySpace and taking selfies."

Antwan Williams: "The road I wanted to take was urban. All I spoke about was pistols, killing, degrading women, balling out of control -- just harming people. It didn't reflect the life that I wanted or would wish for other people. Yet I felt it was

something I needed to write because I felt I would get further writing like that."

Williams didn't think the industry would accept him if he stuck to positive themes. Now he is Christian and delivers his truths in a sincere and aggressive way that gives praise to God and is accepted by everyone in San Quentin.

Underground artists aren't making gangster-rap money, however. Must rap artists compromise their lyrics to survive?

Jay-Z rapped, "If skills sold... I'd probably be, lyrically, Talib Kweli ...I can't help the poor if I'm one of them," in *Moment of Clarity*.

Qweli raps about conscious social themes.

Jassy: "Even the most underground rapper, offered a deal that will change his life, it's hard to turn that kind of money down if he's experienced pov-

erty. As a listener, you want it to stay underground."

J. "Killa Clown" Medvin: "I'd have to turn down a deal that involved only rapping about pimping and gangsters. I can't be censored. I don't knock the hustle, but I myself can't do it. What I have to say is more important than money."

The panel concluded that poverty and the desire for wealth make inner city youth susceptible to being used by the industry to turn profits. Instead of talking about real issues that impact their communities, they rap about vapid topics and material possessions they don't actually have.

In part five of six of *Is Rap Your Daddy?*, the topic of whether rap can be turned back into a positive force will be discussed.

- *Trenise Ferreira contributed to this story*

Prisoners Reaping the Benefits of the Health Fair

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

Significant events recently took place at San Quentin. An executive order from Gov. Jerry Brown prompted Warden Ron Davis to reduce the institution's water usage. The water was further restricted because of a bacterial contamination. Several men fell ill to Legionnaires' disease, a type of pneumonia, and Pontiac fever, a type of sinus infection caused by the Legionella bacteria in the water.

This month we asked two

Asked On The Line

questions: "What did you like most about this year's health fair? Among all the uses of water, which is most important to you?"

David Le: Acupressure was the highlight of the event for me. It was my first time getting acupressure. My most important use of water was to drink. (During acupressure, America College of Traditional Chinese Medicine volunteers placed ear

seeds on inmates' ears. The seeds were supposed to cause relaxation and warm sensations.)

Eusebio Gonzalez: Everything was a grandiose experience for me. I liked everything about the health fair. The important use of water for me is for daily hygiene and use of the toilet. The water for the sink and toilet were the most important for me.

Jesse Flores: I really liked getting a toothbrush and toothpaste at the health fair. I need to take better care of my teeth. The most important use of water for me is to drink it and to cook with it.

Syyen Hong: What I liked most about the health fair were the chiropractors. Using the water for showers is the most important for me.

Sonny Nguyen: I liked the drum therapy. That was something new. To drink is the most important use of water for me. (During drum therapy, participants played the drums. The musical expression was meant to cause spiritual healing.)

Brad Carney: I did not attend the health fair. Using the water to drink is obviously the most important. Drinking water is critical. Bathing would definitely be number two.

Eddie Hollingsworth: My favorite part of the health fair was

being part of the atmosphere. The important use of water for me is to drink. Number two is for showers.

Orlando Harris: My favorite part was seeing how the men were interacting with our outside guests, how men were able to take advantage of the information, and seeing the volunteers give freely of themselves. For me, bathing and drinking would be the most basic necessities of water.

Timothy Thompson: What I like the most is that there are individuals from the outside coming in here to make us aware of good health practices. Drinking water is the most important because I play a lot of sports.

Forrest Jones: What I liked most about the health fair was the outside people's passion to come in and see to it that we have good health. Water is important for my health, survival and hygiene.

\$8,000 Raised to Help At-Risk Youths

Continued from Page 1

torship."

Landrin Kelly started the foundation after his son, Terrance Kelly, was murdered in 2004.

Terrance "T.K." Kelly was born April 23, 1986, in Oakland and was raised in Richmond. He graduated in June 2004 from De La Salle, where "he never lost a football game and accepted a scholarship to the University of Oregon." His family says he was not involved in drugs or gangs, but he was shot and killed in Richmond just two days before departing to school, the Richmond Standard reported.

"Every anniversary of his death, his birthday, Christmas, all the holidays... I start get-

ting depressed, start feelin' bad, not wanna get up, not wanna do anything...It be tough sometimes," said Landrin Kelly.

His wife, Mary, commented, "I have to try everything to motivate him, and with the foundation, that's the one thing that motivates him ... I tell him, 'Terrance wants you to do this.' We have to go out there. We have to help these kids.' There's one thing Terrance said to him years ago. He started off coaching Terrance and Terrance used today, 'Dad, a lotta these kids don't have a father, so you're like their father figure.'"

"A lot of kids look up to him; they like what we're doing. We're presenting them with opportunities that they wouldn't otherwise have through helping

them further with their education. We also take them on a lot of different excursions -- we take them out of their normal surroundings -- and we show them the good, the bad and the ugly. We take them to the prisons. We take them to the corner's office -- we actually take them and show them where Terrance's resting place is," said Mrs. Kelly.

"The program is definitely not a 'scared-straight' program, but we want to show them life is basically all about consequences. So we are constantly giving them options other than street life."

Special Olympics involves children and adults with intellectual disabilities in a variety of athletic competitions.

October is the sixth of seven months with thirty-one days. This year, October has five Thursdays, five Fridays and five Saturdays. Columbus Day is on Mon., Oct. 12, Boss's Day is on Fri., Oct. 16 and Halloween is on Sat. Oct. 31. A full moon is expected on Tue., Oct. 27. For members of Christian community, the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels occurs on Fri., Oct. 2 and for St. Francis of Assisi on Sun., Oct. 4. According to the World Almanac, October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Diversity Awareness Month, and National Popcorn Poppin' Month. There are two astrological signs in September: Libra, the sign of the Scales (Sep. 23 to Oct. 23) and Scorpio, the sign of the Scorpion (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21). The Birthstone for the month of October is the Opal or Tourmaline.

News Briefs



1. Sacramento – A spike in suicide and attempted suicides in a California women’s prison is raising concerns, *The Associated Press* reports. Four suicides and 20 attempts were reported in the past 18 months at the California Institution for Women in San Bernardino County. Before then there were only three suicides in 14 years. A prison spokeswoman said investigators were unable to identify one single underlying issue as responsible.

2. Sacramento – Tens of thousands of former inmates can vote after their release from prison, Secretary of State Alex Padilla has announced. Padilla said he will not pursue an appeal filed by former Secretary of State Debra Bowen over a 2014 court decision favoring the plaintiffs. The decision applies to persons convicted of nonviolent felonies. “It is not lost on me that persons of color are disproportionately represented in our correctional institutions and that undeniable disparities exists,” Padilla said at a news conference. Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo ruled that the Realignment law approved by the Legislature supported reintegrating former inmates into society, including granting them the right to vote after they completed their sentences.

3. Sacramento – Federal Judge Lawrence K. Karlton, who played a key role in improving California prisons, died July 11 at age 80. He was instrumental in decisions forcing reduction of prison crowding and improving conditions for mentally ill prisoners. Karlton was appointed to the federal bench by President Carter. He “was one of the leading judges in the nation in forcing California to provide basic

services to severely mentally ill prisoners,” said Donald Specter, director of the nonprofit Prison Law Office in Berkeley, which brought suit on crowding issues.

4. Corcoran – Seventy-four inmates were honored at a graduation ceremony on June 12 at the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran. They had passed the GED test or had completed their high school educations. The audience included friends, family and staff. “Make this the beginning of a new chapter in your education. Take some college classes and work toward your degree.” “Don’t let this be the end,” said Associate Superintendent of Education Jennifer Wynn.

5. Los Angeles – The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has agreed to federal oversight of its scandal-plagued jail system. The agreement announced establishes an independent monitor, overseen by a federal judge, who will make sure the reforms are carried out. Richard Drooyan, a former Los Angeles Police Commission president who served on a blue-ribbon commission that was highly critical of Sheriff’s Department operations, was appointed as the monitor. Sheriff Jim McDonnell said he welcomes the oversight. He took office in December and previously served on a citizens’ commission on jail violence. Many of the reforms required by the settlement are completed or well underway,

he said.

6. Phoenix, Ariz. – Immigration officials have released some 200 Central Americans from family detention centers, the *Arizona Republic* reports. Most of those released were women and children. The newspaper said the number of women and children crossing the border from Central America dropped sharply this year after some 120,000 who crossed illegally in the 2014 fiscal year. Also, the *Republic* said the Government Accountability Office reported officers may have illegally deported thousands of unaccompanied Mexicans under age 14 in the past five years.

7. Alabama – Montez Spradley who spent about nine-and-a-half

years in prison, with more than three years on Death Row was released from prison after being convicted for a murder he did not commit. In 2011, the state’s appeals court ruled that his trial was unconstitutionally tainted by the admission of inadmissible evidence and because a subsequent hearing in 2013 revealed that a key witness against him had been paid for her dubious testimony, the *Marshall Project* reports.

8. Dover, Del. – A federal lawsuit accuses the Delaware prison system of unconstitutionally locking mentally ill prisoners in solitary confinement without proper evaluation, monitoring and treatment. The American Civil Liberties Union and Community Legal Aid Society filed the suit. “These circumstances deprive prisoners of any meaningful mental health treatment, because they are deprived of reasonably frequent care and because they are denied the opportunity to engage in normal human interaction, such as working, participating in educational or rehabilitative programs, or attending religious services, which promote mental health and well-being,” the complaint states.

9. Connecticut – The Legislature ruled in 2012 that the state’s death penalty is unconstitutional, but only to crimes committed after passage of the law. In August, the state’s Supreme Court ruled that the 2012 ban should extend to all of the state’s 11 Death Row prisoners, *The Huffington Post* reports. turn to prison within three years than those who didn’t participate. The study found that every dollar invested in prison education programs saved nearly \$5 on later incarceration costs.

Nebraska Prison Offers Construction Certification Program

Ten-week course puts inmates in a classroom for about five weeks and on a job site for another five weeks

By James R. Abernathy Jr.
Journalism Guild Writer

A prison program in Nebraska provides inmates with construction training and pre-apprenticeship certification.

The Nebraska prison system offers the program, which is run by Prairie Gold Homes Inc., a nonprofit organization

that teaches inmates how to build houses.

“The 10-week course puts inmates in a classroom for about five weeks and on a job site for another five weeks,” Renee Bauer, executive director of Prairie Gold, told *The Associated Press*.

To qualify, inmates must have a record of good behavior,

be nearing the end of their sentence and have a GED or high school diploma.

“I never did this before,” said Angelo Douglas, a 22-year-old inmate at the Community Corrections Center-Lincoln. “This is a great learning experience.”

The program consists of four courses per year and trains 6 to 12 offenders each course.

The course also provides CPR and first aid training, as well as resumes writing and job interview training. Offenders who graduate receive a pre-apprenticeship certificate through the Home Builders Institute.

These training skills are designed to help make offenders more employable while reduc-

ing the cost of training for their future employers, the AP reported.

“The program helps inmates better survive outside of prison,” said Mark Wentz, adult education principal for the Nebraska state prison system.

“It gives us vocational training aspect to help our inmates transition to the outside.”

Former Drug Addicts Create Recovery Group in Church Basement

‘I’ve seen a lot of people throw their lives away when they don’t have someone to intervene. I want to be the person who can intervene’

By John Lam
Journalism Guild Writer

Two former Nebraska addicts are leading the way towards recovery for others.

Harry Solomon, 54, has been clean and sober for 13 years and is the founder of a recovery group called New Playgrounds that provides recovering addicts help and support, the *Sioux City Journal* reports.

Established in the basement of a church two years ago, the

recovery group meets every second Sunday of the month to help each other maintain structure in their lives, complete Drug Court and stay drug-free after completion.

Drug Court is a “diversionary program ... in which community volunteers help guide adult and juvenile drug and alcohol offenders through recovery and probation by setting up a series of requirements that keeps sobriety as the focus. The goal is to rehabilitate substance abusers and reduce

recidivism by giving them individualized attention,” the *Journal* reported in March.

Once a graduate finishes Drug Court, he or she loses the structure that it provides, therefore increasing a former addict’s propensity for relapse.

New Playground is hoping to support addicts’ transition after Drug Court.

As someone who had his share of experience of being on drug binges and incarceration. Dustin Suppi, 28, a former addict and graduate of

Drug Court, joined Solomon to help others on the path towards recovery.

“I’ve seen a lot of people throw their lives away and they don’t have someone to intervene. I want to be the person who can intervene,” Suppi said.

Solomon and Suppi wanted Drug Court alumni, as well as those currently in the program, to be able to come and seek advice on maintaining the good behavior they’ve learned from Drug Court.

“There’s not many places for people to go talk,” said Suppi.

“I think people actually want help, but they don’t know where to go find it,” Solomon said.

Although Solomon and Suppi aspire to help many more people in recovery, few know about their program, and only six people attended their last meeting. Undaunted, Suppi continues to post fliers about the program all around Sioux City, hoping to attract some attention.

Bob Stix's Spirit Guides Giant Win, 10-7

By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer

It's going, going, it's gone! San Quentin Giant's Nico Vargas smashed a walk-off three RBI home run to overcome the visiting Los Angeles Dodgertown team in extra innings 10-7.

With two outs in the bottom of the 10th, a single from Giant Ke Lam Nghiep and a walk on C.J. Johnson kept the Giants alive for Vargas.

"Today was a special day and to come up with a big hit in front of all these people was great," said Vargas.

The game was dedicated to Bob Stix, who passed March 11. Stix came to play as a catcher in San Quentin in the 1950s with his Army team. One of his last wishes was for some of his ashes to be spread on the field and that his family witness a game. Six members of his family were present. His daughter, Amy Stix, threw out the opening pitch.

"Dad is smiling big. This was his spirit and personality, coming here talking to people. He was always telling us to come here for the experience. I think we got much more out of



Photo by David Stix

Catcher Bob Stix (top left) with Presidio army baseball team back the 1950's inside San Quentin for a game

this. It's a reminder that we are a part of the same big family," she said.

The Giants overcame a 6-1 deficit in the seventh; in front of about 60 on-lookers on that warm Aug. 15 day. Singles by Ruben Harper and Lam set up a John Appley triple to start the rally. Richard Zorn singled to score Appley. Dodger pitcher Dale Eby walked the next two batters. With bases loaded, Harper belted a line drive to

the left field gate for a double, scoring two for the tie 6-6. Eby struck out the next batter to close the inning.

"Today was pretty special. To have someone's family to come here, as one of their last wishes, makes you proud to be a part of this tradition. I think we gave them an exciting game," said Appley.

The Dodgers scored in the ninth for the 7-6 lead. Giants Appley walked the first two

batters. Dodger, Mike Gin moved to third on a sacrifice fly to deep center. A single up the first base gap by David Liptz scored Gin. Appley struck out the next batter to end the top of the inning.

The Giants answered to tie the score, 7-7. Vargas hit a single and stole second. Appley walked. The Giants advance the runners on a double steal with one out. Zorn singled down the first base line to

score Vargas.

The Dodgers put in closer Bill Moreno, who struck out the next two batters to send the game into the 10th.

"I was apprehensive about coming. I know now you have to hold on to this type of experience," Moreno said. "People tell you stories about this place. I say, don't let other people influence you. Try it yourself."

Ted Berg, a sport writer from *USA Today*, added "I came down here from New York. Some of my friends, who played for the Mission invited me to play these guys (Giants) last week. I was so impressed that I called my editor and asked could I write the story. I don't think this program is happening anywhere in the country. I got a chance to come back and witness a team that traveled from L.A. to play these guys and a family honoring their father's last wishes."

Dodger Bob Pone concluded, "This was amazing. I just returned from Italy the day before. I don't even know what time zone I'm in. But this was on my bucket list, to experience playing here. I also wish for my family to experience this."

Count Leaves Dodgertown Up Over A's, 13-9

The night game between the San Quentin A's and the visiting Los Angeles Dodgertown was called in the fifth inning due to institutional count time. The Dodgers had the last at-bat and were leading, 13-9.

Dodgers Coach/player Aaron Levinson said, "This is our annual pilgrimage. We come here to compete."

The Dodgers play in the Dodgertown West League that consists of five teams and 75 players. They are in the process of their playoff run for the Men's Senior Baseball League.

The Dodgers showed up in their multi-colored uniforms representing the different teams they played in Cuba this year.

"Playing in Cuba is similar to here. You have the same

factor of the unknown. The field looks the same (dried out from the drought) and the guys couldn't even practice on the field without approval. But coming here gave me a whole different opinion on rehabilitation," said Dodger Lance Aguila.

The game started out with both teams pitchers struggling. Dodger Bill Moreno gave up five runs in the first inning.

The A's Anthony Denard and Royce Rose singled. John "Dunnie" Windham tripled to score both runners. Bilal Coleman walked and Reggie Hunt, Anthony Redwood and Chris Marshall singled to bring in runs for the 5-0 lead.

Dodger Emiliano Love made a driving catch to end the inning.

The Dodgers put up three runs in the second. Paul Galletti singled and Matt Demasi doubled. A's pitcher Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla walked Mike Gin to load the bases. Mike Labanowski belted a double to score two runs. Gin scored on a sacrifice fly. The A's got out the inning with a strikeout, for the 5-3 lead.

The A's scored in the second for the 6-3 lead. The Dodgers scored three runs in the third for the 6-6 tie. Thompson-Bonilla walked the first three batters to load the bases. Singles by Levinson, Galletti and Moreno all scored runs. The A's got out of the inning on a double play and a pop fly.

The Dodgers took a 9-6 lead in the fourth. Thompson-Bonilla once again walked

the first three batters to load the base. Next David Liptz smashed the ball for a double and two RBIs.

"Man it's real laid back here. I don't feel like I'm in a prison; I feel like I'm at the park," said Liptz.

The A's put in pitcher Gary "Cool-Aid" Townes, who gave up a single to Lewis Cohen for a run. Townes struck out the next batter and closed with two pop flies.

"Not a lot of people get a chance to do this. We know why these guys are here. We just want to give something to people who don't have a lot of freedom," said Cohen.

The A's tied the game 9-9 in the fourth. Carlyle "Otter" Blake singled, stole second and moved to third on a sacrifice

fly. Windham singled Blake home and then stole second. Coleman singled, leaving Hunt to smash a triple and two RBIs.

In the fifth, the Dodgers scored four runs for the 13-9 lead. With the bases loaded, a Galletti bunt caught the A's defense off guard to score a run. Townes walked in a run and Labanowski doubled for two runs.

As night fell on the Lower Yard, the Aug. 15 game was called.

"This is a real great moment. You feel every emotion when you come here. You feel sad, happy and some fear all balled up into one. And all of us ending this game huddled in prayer is truly memorable," said Dodger Demasi.

—By Marcus Henderson

Anaheim Angels Score in 10th to Beat Giants, 9-6

The San Quentin baseball scoreboard proclaimed "Field of Dreams," when a visiting team from Southern California encountered enthusiastic baseball players, and not just incarcerated men.

"When we put on that uniform, we are ballplayers and not inmates," said Giant Rasheed Lockheart. "That's how I think they see us. We appreciate them coming to play us. Some people's own families don't travel this far to visit you. Baseball is bigger than incarceration."

The visiting Anaheim Angels battled for 10 innings against the S.Q. Giants, winning, 9-6.

The Angels are the Men's Senior Baseball League World Series champs. They traveled hundreds of miles over six

hours for the competition and love of the game.

"Out of all our games we played this season, this is the game most people want to hear about; because you can't bring phones or camera, so it's all about the story-telling," said Angels Head Coach, Rod Shipman.

Before and during the game, Shipman taught some baseball mechanics, from how to properly hold the bat, to seeing the pitches, to the way you should turn to take a pitch. For the pitchers, he taught the different angles to release the ball. Shipman also shared the importance of keeping stats.

"You build your game plan around stats and that's how we enter our tournaments," said Shipman. "I've been around baseball for 58 years. I de-

veloped a lot of players. I've worked with different pro organizations as a scout. Now I run the Halo Baseball Club, which consists of four teams and 60 members."

After an early 2-2 tie, the Angels added four runs in the eighth. Anthony Mitchell hit a single. Doug Ireland belted a line drive double to deep right field to score Mitchell.

Next Phil Shipman hit a single and Sidney Jackson walked. With the bases loaded, Gaston Escudero smashed a shot to deep center field for a double and two RBIs.

The Giants scored two runs in the eighth to close the gap at 6-4 off an error.

With the bases loaded, Angels catcher P. Shipman overthrew third trying to catch a Giant player cheating off the

base. The right fielder couldn't reach the ball in time, scoring two runs.

The Giants came up big in the ninth. After the Angel's pitcher walked John Appley, Nico Vargas smashed a double to center field. With the tying runs in place, Don Spence belted a line drive to deep left field to score both players. The Giants bench erupted as the score tied, 6-6.

Going into the 10th, Angel Mitchell was hit with a pitch. Ireland followed with a single. Coach R. Shipman got up from the bench and motioned for a double steal. With his son at the plate, the runners took off on the next pitch, catching the Giants defense off guard. Both runners were safe.

The double steal was to move a runner to second and cut off the chance of a double

play, said the coach. With the players in position, P. Shipman cracked a shot up the center field gap for a double and two RBIs. Matt Shults singled to score Shipman for the 9-6 lead.

The Giants fought back with the bases loaded and one out. But Coach R. Shipman sent in P. Shipman to relieve Donald Collier. After working a full count, Giant Damon Cooke hit into a double play to end the Aug. 8 game.

"This is the second year that they beat us in extra innings. We really wanted this win," said Giant Richard Zorn.

Spence added "This is what this program is about; it's a part of our rehabilitation. It's a blessing these guys come way out here; it shows we can function in society."

—By Marcus Henderson

S.Q. Baseball Players Remember 'Rugger'



Photo courtesy of Steve Reichardt

Rinaldo "Rugger" Ardizoia throwing the first pitch at 2014 Opening Day game between the San Quentin Giants and A's.

**By Marcus Henderson
Journalism Guild Writer**

San Quentin's baseball players will remember former New York Yankee pitcher Rinaldo "Rugger" Ardizoia, who died at age 95 from a stroke on July 19.

"I still have his picture on my wall," said John 'Yayah'

Parratt.

"He will be missed," said A's Anthony Redwood.

To the world, he was the Oldest Living Yankee for his short career as a pitcher with the major league team back in the 1940s.

Inside San Quentin, Ardizoia is remembered as the featured guest of the 2014

season ending game between the San Quentin A's and S.Q. Giants. He signed autographs, threw out the opening pitch, proudly showed off his Yankee ring and talked baseball.

"It was a memorable day to have the oldest living New York Yankee come in here. I think he truly enjoyed it," said Giant Trevor Bird.

"The appreciation he felt on that day gave him another six months to live," said Ardizoia's caregiver, Lynn Adams.

"They may have done bad things, but not all of them are bad," said Ardizoia after his visit.

"I thought that day was historical. An old school major leaguer came and shared his life with us. He signed my ball; I will cherish that all my life and pass it on," said A's James Wortham.

Back in the '50s, Ardizoia played baseball on the Lower Yard against the prisoners.

Baseball sponsor Steve Reichardt dedicated a game this year to Ardizoia, calling it Rugger Ardizoia Day.

"He was an under-appreciated piece of history because his major league career was so short. I think S.Q. was the first place to honor him with a day," said A's Manager Reichardt.

According to Ardizoia, his career started with the Yankees in 1941-1942.

The Army drafted Ardizoia in 1943, taking him away from his wife, Mary, and a promising pitching career that started with the Hollywood Stars in the Pacific Coast League, ac-

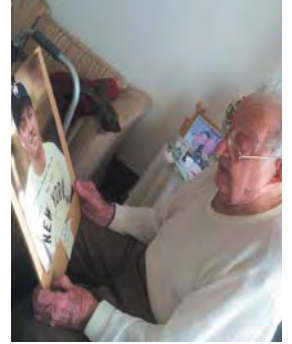


Photo by Steve Reichardt

Rinaldo "Rugger" Ardizoia Looking back at himself as a New York Yankee

ording to Bruce Newman's article for the *San Mercury News* called, *Oldest New York Yankee Laid to Rest In San Francisco*.

"World War II prevented Rugger from pursuing his dream to the fullest," the Rev. Al Mengon was quoted as saying at Ardizoia's funeral, according to Newman.

He spent the 1947 season on the Yankee's bench until called upon to relief pitch against the St. Louis Browns. He gave up four hits and only pitched two innings in the major leagues.

Kings Fight Off Outsiders' Comeback, 71-70

**By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer**

In the final seconds, the San Quentin Kings stole the ball twice from the visiting Outsiders basketball team, securing a 71-70 victory.

"It's always fun to be part of a close game," said Outsider Dave Gordon.

With 27 seconds left in the game, the Outsiders were down 70-68 with Gordon at the line. He nailed two clutch free throws, tying the score.

John Brewster fouled King point-guard Tare "Cancun" Beltranchuc. Beltranchuc made one of two free throws.

Brewster got the ball back with 23 seconds on the clock. The Kings' defense swarmed the Outsiders and Brewster looked to pass. Outsider 6-foot-11 center Karl Larsen was on the bench at the time. The seconds ticked off the clock, pressuring Brewster. He passed the ball inside and Beltranchuc picked it off.

"I thought I made a good pass," said Outsider John Brew-

ster.

"Cancun was the hero," said Outsider Steve Watkins.

Beltranchuc scored 9 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists and 3 steals.

"It's awesome to contribute to the win," said Beltranchuc.

Kings Coach Ishmael Freelon called Cancun his "Player of the Game."

Brewster fouled Beltranchuc with 4 seconds left in regulation.

Beltranchuc missed both free throws and Brewster secured the rebound and called time out.

The Outsiders had 3 seconds

to inbound the ball from half court and make a basket. They put Larsen back into the game and threw him the ball. Larsen caught the ball from the side of the basket at too awkward an angle for a good shot. While falling out of bounds he shoveled the ball toward a teammate, but King Demond Lewis intercepted the pass and held it as time ran out.

Larsen ended with 13 points.

Lewis finished with 5 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals and 1 block.

King Oris "Pep" Williams led all scorers with 26 points and Thad Fleeton dropped 12.

Referee Cory "St. Louis" Woods talked pre-game about being part of the basketball program.

"It's helping me be humble and patient. This program teaches me how to communicate without being aggressive," said Woods.

"It blows me away to see how common you guys are. This could be a pickup game in Concord," said Outsider Al Clark after the Aug. 22 game.

Warriors Vet Shells Paces Victory Over Green Team, 75-62

The sun beat down on a basketball court surrounded by barbed-wire fences and picnic tables. It was the stage for camaraderie, and the San Quentin Warriors' 75-62 win over the Christian Sports Ministry's "Green Team."

"It's not only basketball, it's the ministry that we give," said Craig Hunter of the visiting Green Team about why he comes into the prison to play. He's a former San Jose City and Cal. State at Los Angeles college basketball player. Hunter now coaches kids in basketball, he says.

Hunter led Christian Ministry with 15 points, 10 rebounds, 7 assists and 2 steals.

None of the Green Team's former Claremont-McKenna college players showed up because it was Beau Heidrich's birthday. This left them undersized against the Warriors, which included Harry "ATL" Smith back in the starting lineup after a three-game suspension.

The Warriors maintained an



Photo by Kristina Khokhobashvili

Brad Shells (left) and Allan McIntosh at work

early lead until Green Team players Dave Liss and Brooks Baldinger came off the bench.

If San Quentin inmates had access to Sports Center, they might have seen a highlight of the 2011 Pan-American Games showing Liss nailing a three-pointer from the corner. The

buzzer-beater broke a tie and gave the U.S. the win over Brazil, according to Liss.

Liss says he played for Cal Berkeley and Pomona while in college.

He dropped three treys before the Warriors' defense recognized and adjusted. Liss

finished with 11 points but was held scoreless in the last two quarters.

"He is nice. I love his game," said Warrior Coach Daniel Wright about Liss.

Baldinger added another five points that helped put the Green Team ahead 34-29 at the half.

The Warriors took over again in the second half, partly led by the 48-year-old Brad Shells aggressively crashing the boards. Normally ballers Shells' age play for the San Quentin Kings over-40 team. However, the veteran demonstrated he could still contend with younger people. He scored 14 points, grabbed 12 rebounds and 2 blocks.

"Coach told me that he was going to put me in a position to play well and that includes conditioning. He's been on my tail at practice. Conditioning has allowed me to run and defend," said Shells.

Warrior Allan McIntosh led all scorers with 23 points. Teammate Anthony Ammons added 11 points, 8 boards, 4 assists and 4 blocks. "ATL" Smith

contributed 15 points with 15 rebounds.

"Our size, strength and athleticism finally took over," said Coach Wright.

"Shells is my player of the game," said Wright.

Shells said track was his first love, but he played basketball at Cerritos Junior College until getting involved in robberies. He's in his 25th year of incarceration.

For Shells, "basketball is a sanctuary. It's a place I go to when I need to relieve stress and cope with walking this line."

He also feels blessed.

"I never thought being in a place like this that I'd be playing against this level of players," said Shells.

The Aug. 15 game ended, how it always starts with all the players, refs and coaches circled around half-court to share stories and pray together.

"Super wonderful atmosphere. I look forward to coming back," said Baldinger.

—By Rahsaan Thomas

Nine Men Complete CTE Course To Prep Them for Jobs After Parole



Photo courtesy of CDCR

Top row: Lashad Joyner, Ruben Harper, Philip Budweiser, Lucious Jackson, Marlon Morris, Jorge Gonzalez
Bottom row: Michael Vance, Dawud Robinson, Michael Thomas

**By Aly Tamboura
Contributing Writer**

The men had assembled a stage in an old industrial prison warehouse and proudly stood on its steps when they received certificates for completing the Career Technical Education (CTE) Construction Laborers Course. The program gives incarcerated men job skills aimed toward landing them employment upon completion of their prison terms.

The nine graduates participated in a six-month program that teaches prisoners OSHA safety and construction procedures, with a focus on concrete technology, according to the instructor, Greg Venegas.

"Sometimes it's a challenge to get the men to recognize the importance of what they are learning. The program is connecting them to a good future," said Venegas, who has been instructing the class since February.

In addition to providing job training, the graduates also gain an expense-paid entrance into L.I.U.N.A Laborers International, a year's paid dues, along with a set of hand tools — all of which are provided by CTE at no expense to the graduates.

"I've been in the construction trades most of my life," said one of the graduates, Phil Budweiser. He acknowledged the benefits of being in the laborers' union, which offers work-



Jorge Gonzalez and Greg Venegas

ers health, dental and retirement benefits.

The program is part of the California Prison Industry Authority's (PIA) commitment to reduce California's recidivism rate, which is currently 54.3 percent, due partly to innovative employment training programs.

"This program has a 7.1 percent recidivism rate, which is the lowest in the nation," Rusty Bechtold, an administrator with PIA Workforce Development Branch, told the graduates.

The program's significant reduction in recidivism is congruous with another impressive fact: The program is active in

14 California prisons, with 70 percent of the participants being women.

Despite construction labor being a male-dominated profession, graduate Lucious Jackson remarked, "I have learned to receive instruction from a supervisor and how to get along with co-workers from all walks of life as we worked together to meet the same goal: to successfully complete the project."

One of the class projects was building forms and pouring small practice squares of concrete adjacent to the warehouse, which provided the men practice in concrete finishing. The



Associate Warden Koenig and Lucious Jackson

graduates also refurbished the old San Quentin printing shop, transforming it into a modern computer coding class that is another innovative project taken on by PIA/CTE to prepare prisoners for employment.

The laborers' program began eight years ago when PIA began building modular buildings and decided to train prisoners to pour concrete slab foundations and install the buildings. This led to a partnership with the labor union, which assisted in training prisoners in construction, according to Bechtold.

The next recently approved project for the program partici-

pants will be removing and replacing a large swath of concrete in front of the computer coding classroom, according to Venegas.

Indeed, there is no shortage of opportunities for the program with San Quentin's aging infrastructure needing many upgrades and repairs.

Those who are interested in participation can request a job application from PIA and submit it to Mr. Laredo. The criteria for entering the program are possessing a high school diploma or GED and a parole date.



Associate Warden Koenig and Philip Budweiser



Ruben Harper and Greg Venegas



PIA Administrator
Rusty Bechtold

Photos courtesy of CDCR