



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Carlos Smith reads to his children

'Get On The Bus' Unites Fathers With Their Children

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

In celebration of Father's Day, dozens of children, many with painted faces, spent the morning of June 17 in a prison visiting room, laughing and playing with their incarcerated fathers. The event, held at San Quentin State Prison, also accommodated 35 adult sons and daughters.

"Children and incarcerated people don't have a voice. They are some of the least powerful

in society," said co-coordinator of the event, John Kalin. "That's what draws me to Get on the Bus."

The Get On The Bus project was founded in 1999 by Sister Suzanne Jabro, CSJ.

The program does all the paperwork for the visit. It provides chaperones for children who have no adult to accompany them. It charters the buses to and from the prisons, and provides all the meals during the travel.

For the last six years, John

and his wife, Catherine, have coordinated the Get On The Bus event at San Quentin.

"It's so rewarding to see children hugging their dads. They don't get to do it as often as children living in other places," Catherine said. "One 47-year-old woman said, 'He's still my dad and I still want to give him a hug.'"

See *Get On* on Page 20

CDCR Secretary Visits San Quentin



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Scott Kernan sitting down for an interview

By Richard "Bonaru" Richardson and Arnulfo T. Garcia

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Secretary Scott Kernan visited San Quentin with CDCR Director of Enterprise Information Services Russ Nichols to witness a historic event, the launch of a sophisticated and secure wireless computer server cluster which imitates the internet. The

system allows students in San Quentin's computer coding training program, Code 7370, to write codes in a simulated environment without actual internet connectivity.

"The last time I was actually in this room was 1983," said Kernan. He was standing in the empty warehouse of the old San Quentin Prison Print Shop, which is now the home of Code 7370.

See *CDCR* on Page 4

Potential Employers Interview Inmates for Brighter Futures

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

A group of inmates who will be looking for employment opportunities once they parole got a head start at San Quentin's third Employment Readiness Seminar (ERS).

A panel of 18 women and men from the outside representing employers, trade unions, apprenticeship programs and other

organizations attended the event held in May.

"I really believe what we're here for is to connect as human beings," Diana Williams told the audience. She co-founded and helped organize the seminar with inmate Nobel Butler, a member of the group TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training).

See *Employment* on Page 4



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Jason Calcanis talking with coder Azraal Ford about his app

Coding Students Pitch Apps to Investor

It's hard to imagine an investor going inside a prison to discuss putting his money into a business idea dreamed up by an

inmate, but that's exactly what Jason Calcanis did on June 22 when he visited one of the most innovative prison programs in

the world.

"If you're a great coder, you win. The world needs great coders," Calcanis told the inmates. "Nobody cares about the background of successful people. They care about the great product. Get up every day, making great stuff. You have the time."

See *Coding* on Page 5



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Inmates talking to potential employers

Governor Jerry Brown's prison inmate population reduction plan, The Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016, is on the November ballot as Proposition 57.

Family Visits for Lifers: The 2016-17 California State Budget includes statutory changes to allow life-term inmates to be eligible for extended family visits. See the next edition for details.

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



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.

We Want To Hear From You!

The San Quentin News encourages inmates, free staff, custody staff, volunteers and others outside the institution to submit articles. All submissions become property of the San Quentin News. Please use the following criteria when submitting:

- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles 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 artwork (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
- Letters to the editor should be short and to the point.

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Behind the Scenes

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Steve McNamara Helped to Resurrect San Quentin News

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Associate Editor

Steve McNamara is one of the principal advisers who brought the San Quentin News back to life in 2008 after it had been dormant for more than 20 years. Together, McNamara and his colleagues took on the unusual mission of training a handful of prisoners to run a newspaper.

When then-warden Robert Ayers was nearing retirement and wanted to revive the newspaper, he recruited four professional journalists, McNamara, John Eagan, Joan Lisetor and another adviser who, according to McNamara, did not last long.

“The guys at the prison had no prior writing experience, and that’s amazing when you think about it,” McNamara said. “Publishing a newspaper is a big deal – something news writers don’t do.”

The 82-year-old Irishman is the former owner, publisher and editor of Pacific Sun, an alternative newspaper serving Marin County since 1963. As an adviser to San Quentin News, McNamara took on the responsibility of keeping it afloat when it struggled financially (as it still does.) He played an instrumental role in the paper’s expansion, at times saving it from its own success by careful management of its sporadic cash flow.

McNamara did not exactly welcome the News’ expansion beyond the walls of San Quentin. “I was apprehensive,” he said. “It was kind of cool when no one knew we were here.”

However, because of McNamara’s business savvy, news and publishing experience, San Quentin News now prints more than 25,000 monthly issues and distributes them to all 35 of California’s prisons and beyond, in addition to publishing a website.

A believer in strong writing, McNamara brought 53 years of experience to San Quentin News. This made the Princeton graduate (Class of ’55) a good choice for directing the paper’s resurrection, particularly with prisoners who, like himself, once knew nothing about journalism.

“I had never worked for a newspaper, ever. Not in elementary school, not in high school, not in college,” McNamara told the Mill Valley Historical Society in a 2014 interview. “Princeton had a very good daily newspaper, but I’d never gone near the office. I had no idea of how you worked for a newspaper.”

McNamara started his journalism career at the Twin City Sentinel in Winston-Salem, N.C., in 1955. He went on to work on publications in Miami, Fla., and Europe before landing at the San Francisco Examiner as a magazine editor. He was the owner, editor and publisher of the Pacific Sun from 1966-2004 and was the prior owner of Marin Sun Printing which



File Photo

Steve McNamara

has been printing San Quentin News since 2010—something he arranged after the prison’s print shop closed due to budget cuts.

“There are a lot of things I didn’t know before I came here,” said McNamara. “I was startled by the realization that inmates get out and return with the same frame of mind or worse.” He said training prisoners to be journalists is not the point, emphasizing the fact that they learn all kinds of life skills.

“People will always want access to information. The question is how will the information be delivered?”

The fruits of McNamara’s success with the paper have not gone unnoticed. Every month prisoners across the country write to San Quentin News asking for information on how they can start a newspaper. One piece of advice is to do the impossible: find another Steve McNamara.

Smiling, McNamara recalled how some friends of his once asked him to come along with them for a get-together in their “men’s group.” “I have one,” he told them, referring to the men at San Quentin. “And they’re way more interesting.”

Reflecting on his decision to come inside one of the world’s most infamous prisons to work with men who have done some bad stuff, he said, “I was astonished at how smart and insightful people were who wore blue shirts and pants.”

What advice, if any, would McNamara give to other up-

and-coming prison journalists in California and around the nation who want to start a newspaper? He advised them first to find a warden like Ayers and then organizational support on the outside.

“I think it’s a great idea” for inmates to create newspapers, said McNamara. “It’s a time-intensive manufacturing business that depends on creative people for its success. You guys are the leaders. You do an amazing job, especially with all the barriers that come with it.”

Displaying a proud smile, McNamara said San Quentin News is growing while other print publications are shrinking. It’s “an unfair advantage,” he said, because the News serves a special readership without internet access.

On the future of journalism McNamara said, “People will always want access to information. The question is how will the information be delivered?”

Many people in McNamara’s position would not spend day after day of their retirement in a prison volunteering to help prisoners. That he did so is a testament to his character and his willingness to make society a little safer, one felon at a time.

McNamara is no longer an active adviser to the men at San Quentin News as of December 2015, but he continues to keep an eye on some of the paper’s finances through the Prison Media Project, an organization he created to fund the paper.

The weekly staff meetings are not the same without McNamara and his astute comments and advice. He took off the training wheels and let the guys ride on their own. If at some point they fall, they’ve also learned how to pick themselves up.

Steve will always be a friend and mentor to the men who worked with him.

We heard you, Steve, and we’re still paying attention.

Former Senator Supports Juveniles' Second Chance

By David Eugene Archer Sr.
Journalism Guild Writer

A former United States senator says he committed some serious crimes as a juvenile, and he supports giving youthful offenders a second chance.

Former Wyoming Sen. Alan K. Simpson made the revelation in a *My Voice* column published Feb. 11 in the *Argus Leader* of Sioux Falls, S.D.

"I am living proof that youth possess a unique capacity to grow and change," he stated.

He confesses to burning an abandoned barracks structure with his childhood friends. No one was injured.

He also played dangerous games with .22-caliber rifles, firing at each other "with the goal of coming as close as pos-

sible to each other without striking anyone. The bullets we stole from a local hardware store," he said.

They also shot at mailboxes, someone killed a cow, and they fired at a road grader. "Federal authorities charged us with destroying government property, and I pleaded guilty. I was sentenced to two years of probation and required to make restitution," he admitted.

"One night, as I arrived very late at a club in Laramie, Wyo., that was popular with African-Americans, I saw a fellow student leaving. It was obvious he had been in a knife fight, so I asked him what happened. He said he had uttered a racial slur, and I responded that if that was his attitude, he was sure in the wrong club. He attacked me,



Courtesy of AP

Alan Simpson

and I shoved him down, just as the police arrived," he said.

"Police assumed I was responsible for the guy's knife wounds. When they attempted to arrest me, I belted the offi-

cer. How dumb can you get? He responded by striking me with his 'billy club'. ... they took me to jail. My wife of 60 plus years – who was then my girlfriend – refused to bail me out, so I spent the night there. That's when I decided to marry her. She was ... smarter than I was," he stated.

In his 20s he decided to become a productive member of society. "I began to realize that my attitude was ignorant, stupefying, arrogant, hostile and cocky, and that I no longer wanted to live that way," he wrote.

He graduated from the University of Wyoming, and then obtained a law degree. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany and then in various state-level attorney positions, as a U.S. commissioner and a mem-

ber of the Wyoming House of Representatives before elected to the U.S. Senate for 18 years.

"As a result of God's grace and with the help of others, I have been able to use my experiences to the benefit of my community and our nation," he stated.

He strongly supports legislation proposed by South Dakota Sen. Craig Tieszen that would ban the practice of sentencing children to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

"The U.S. Supreme Court has also recognized that children are 'constitutionally different' from adults in a series of rulings.... That court has made clear that because children's brains are not fully developed, they are less deserving of the most severe punishments," he said.

Peaceful Prison Protest is Not a Rule Violation

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Prison inmates who participate in peaceful protests do not violate prison rules, according to an April 22 decision from a California appeals court.

The ruling is a reaction to a Pelican Bay inmate named Jorge A. Gomez who went on a hunger strike in 2013. Gomez said his

refusal to eat was an exercise in free speech, but prison officials argue otherwise. They say he violated a prison rule because, "significant disruptions of the normal operations" of Pelican Bay occurred when services were delayed and cancelled and personnel had to be reallocated to monitor hunger strikers.

Court documents say that during the 2013 mass hunger strike

more than "1,400 inmates at Pelican Bay refused nine consecutive state-issued meals." In the same court papers, prison officials contend that "an individual inmate may refuse food. But inmates may not organize a mass protest that disrupts prison programming."

In making its finding, the court focused on the rule Gomez allegedly broke. It requires in-

mates to avoid "behavior which might lead to violence or disorder, or otherwise endangers facility, outside community or another person," Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations, section 3005(a).

The court ruled prison officials did not give enough evidence to show "prison operations were thrown into disorder" because of Gomez's hunger strike.

The court found "adjustments to workloads and services in order to contend with the hunger strike and work stoppage, and (prison official's) statements do not indicate that the protest involved any violence or disorderly conduct."

Because the court found Gomez did not violate a prison rule, his free speech claim was not addressed.

San Diego DA Reviews Possible Wrongful Convictions

The San Diego County district attorney has launched a team to review possible wrongful convictions, according to the *San Diego Union-Tribune*.

District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis is formalizing her office's efforts to review troublesome convictions by creating a team of two full-time prosecutors to investigate claims of innocence, said reporter Kristina Davis.

The team will investigate claims of innocence where credible evidence exists or where there is new technology or evidence to run DNA tests, Davis reported.

"We recognize that despite our goal of pursuing justice and truth, in a few instances new evidence is discovered and in some cases, mistakes are found," Dumanis said. "As prosecutors, our legal, moral and ethical obligation is to ensure the right person is convicted for the crime charged."

Uriah Courtney, convicted of a rape he didn't commit, walked out of prison an innocent man after eight years behind bars, Davis writes.

Twenty-one years after a jury found Kenneth Marsh guilty of beating to death his 2-year-old son, he was told the case

against him was dismissed, Davis reports.

The men are two of the most notable examples in recent history of wrongful convictions in San Diego County, and Dumanis believes there could be more.

The team is looking at about 10 cases. The work will be done with the public defender's office and the California Innocence Project at California Western School of Law, Davis reports.

"As good as our system is, ...people do slip through the cracks," said Public Defender Henry Coker. "Things look like what they're not, and lives are

lost in that process."

The district attorney's office has been at the forefront of a nationwide sea change recognizing it is possible to put innocent people in prison, said Justin Brooks, director and co-founder of the California Innocence Project.

"It's all of our job together to right these wrongs," Brooks said. "It should be done in a way that's not about pointing fingers but getting the right result."

Claims must meet a threshold for review:

The conviction must have occurred in the San Diego County Superior Court;

The convict must still be serving the sentence;

The crime must have been a serious or violent felony;

There must be credible and verifiable evidence of innocence; and

The convict must be willing to cooperate with the process, reports Davis

Since 1989 DNA has led to the exonerations of 337 people in the U.S., according to the Innocence Project. Twenty of them were on death row.

DNA set Courtney free in 2013. He was accused in 2004 of raping a 16-year-old girl in Lemon Grove, near San Diego. The victim and a witness helped create a sketch of the man. The victim identified Courtney and a jury convicted him. DNA testing was not conclusive, according to Davis.

Courtney's family pushed to have the victim's shirt retested for DNA. The results pointed to a different man who bears a striking resemblance to Courtney, Davis said.



Courtesy of LA Times

Bonnie Dumanis

Marsh's case was different. After his son died of head trauma, Marsh said the boy fell from the sofa. Medical experts believed the injury was too severe to have come from a fall. Marsh was convicted largely on medical testimony, Davis reported.

In 2002, Marsh's attorney's filed a writ of wrongful conviction, and Dumanis, upon review, decided the case was no longer provable beyond a reasonable doubt and asked a judge to dismiss it, the report says.

Dumanis said that dozens of more cases have been dismissed before conviction, as new evidence surfaces pointing to innocence.

Applications may be submitted to have a case reviewed via the district attorney's website, www.sdcda.org. Applications will be accepted only in writing, Davis reports.

—David Eugene Archer Sr.

Writer Advocates for More Crime Victims' Resources

By David B. Le
Journalism Guild Writer

More resources should be allocated to help crime victims of color and their communities, Aswad Thomas wrote in the *Sacramento Bee*.

"It's nearly impossible to focus on healing and safety while trying to pay medical bills, handle inquiries from law enforcement and return to work," Thomas said. "Services intended to help survivors are unknown or hard to find."

Californians for Safety and Justice found that 1 in 5 Californians are victims of crime and the rate is higher among young people of color. What's more, services to help crime victims were inaccessible to

most of these young people, Thomas pointed out.

Thomas was offered the chance to play professional basketball until he suffered injuries from a robbery. He was shot twice in the back. While in recovery, he replaced his despair and resentment with a commitment to stop violence in communities of color, Thomas wrote.

"We have to change the unfair stereotype that when youth of color are victims of crime, we must have been involved," Thomas noted.

Realizing that community groups that have credibility with people in the community are under-funded, he works to organize young men to help their community. Thomas ex-

plained, "I began working with residents to call for peace and real solutions focused on preventing gun violence and healing our communities."

The federal Victims of Crime Act has increased funding now — from \$1.6 billion to nearly \$2.4 billion. A portion of that should go to groups that are best equipped to help the underserved communities, Thomas wrote.

"If this money only goes to the same places, we should not expect different results," Thomas insisted. "That's why I'm working with California survivors to ensure that a portion of the state's \$232 million goes to groups best positioned to serve our most vulnerable communities."

CDCR Secretary Scott Kernan Visits SQ

Continued from Page 1

"The programs at San Quentin are like night and day, I never thought in my 30 years with the department (CDCR) that this could be possible. To think that we would have programs like this (Code 7370) is beyond me. It's a very positive thing to see," Kernan said.

Participants of Code 7370 Az Ford, Aly Tamboura and Jason Jones presented websites and web applications they developed from scratch to Kernan, who asked, "Does this program really make a difference to inmates?" Instantly all inmates replied, "Yes, of course. Absolutely."

"I was having disciplinary problems for 10 months. For six months I was on C-status, where I was confined to my cell, and for four months I lost my privileges. Code 7370 changed my life and pushed me to take other programs," said graduate Jones, who introduced his website called Getting Parents' Attention (GPA) to Kernan.

"It does make a difference, especially for those prisoners who are looking for a viable skill to use when they parole," said graduate Henry Hemphill. "It's a huge interest for inmates; many of them ask to come to San Quentin to learn vocational and coding skills. The news about the coding program is spreading."

Code 7370, was founded by Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti in partnership with the



Photo by Krissi Khokhobashvili

Chuck Patillo, Scott Kernan and Warden Ron Davis on SQ Lower Yard

California Prison Industry Authority.

The California-based non-profit organization Turn 2 U, Inc., will start a joint-venture program with the business name RebootSQ, according to CDCR press release. The business will employ seven offenders at San Quentin, with plans to hire more inmate coders.

Only a few selected graduates of the Code 7370 class will be able to work for Turn 2 U's joint venture as software engineers. These men will "have a marketable job skill, a relevant portfolio, and savings to help them with successful reentry," said Redlitz.

"The prison should be very proud of what they have accomplished. Warden Davis and Lt. Robinson shouldn't expect

anything less," Kernan said. "I'm very proud of the CDCR officers who work hard every day to keep the prisons safe. The volunteers and correctional officers are a shining example of what rehabilitation in prison should look like."

Kernan hopes to bridge the gap between correctional officers and inmates. He said it will be a challenge, but it would also create a safer environment for both parties.

Kernan recalled some violent times when he first started working in the department 30 years ago. "Things are now starting to change more and more toward rehabilitation, so as staff we need to be professional in helping this change. I know that we have some work to do, but I also know that it is

possible."

Getting rehabilitation programs to rural areas is more of a challenge for the department because it's hard to get volunteers willing to travel long distances. However, Kernan said he's currently working on ways to bridge this gap.

"There is a lady who takes children to Calipatria State Prison to spend a week with their fathers. Those are the volunteers we need—committed and dedicated to rehabilitation," said Kernan. "I'm also aware of the large Spanish-speaking population in our prisons. A problem is the lack of Spanish-speaking volunteers to help run those programs."

Kernan indicated the governor is giving reasonable grants for long-term offenders' re-en-

try programs for parolees and a number of programs that are aimed toward rehabilitation.

As for the "lifer" population, Kernan said he is looking into those inmates who can be housed at lower-level institutions. "But for those lifer inmates without the possibility of parole, they are a higher risk and I don't see them coming to any lower-level institutions anytime soon."

To Kernan, ex-convicts working with CDCR are important. "Many parolees have been given entrance to Pelican Bay and Kern Valley state prisons. They go in and give speeches. I am not opposed to having ex-convicts come back inside the prison, on a case-by-case basis," said Kernan.

After watching Code 7370's graduates give presentations, Kernan went on to tour the prison's education department. Kernan said, "I want to be able to provide inmates programs that will help them with their rehabilitation and help inmates see that there is hope at the end of the tunnel."

When asked to comment on Gov. Jerry Brown's rehabilitation act initiative, which is expected to be on the November ballot, Kernan declined to comment other than saying, "I will say this initiative, if passed, will give more hope to inmates and hope for positive changes I support."

*—Aly Tamboura
also contributed to this article*

Employment Readiness Seminar Helps Prisoners

Continued from Page 1

Williams talked about the types of challenges inmates deal with in prison, such as no access to typewriters or computers to write résumés, and a recent weeklong lockdown.

The seminar allowed inmates to have one-on-one interviews with potential employers. Some were mock interviews while others were serious, but all were conversational.

"It's going to be like speed dating, so you're going to get like 10 minutes," Butler told the guests and inmates. "The purpose is to network."

Weeks leading up to the seminar, the men learned how to present themselves on paper with letters of introduction, résumés and turnaround packets. They also learned interviewing techniques.

"We did different kinds of résumés," said inmate Phillip Landis, 42, who has been incarcerated 14 years. "It helps to make connections. I haven't been in the job force for a while."

The ERS went beyond writing. It taught the men how to identify their strengths and weaknesses, transferable skills and work values.

"We try to take guys who are in prison, who have been a liability to their community, and turn them around," said Butler.

ERS guests came from the painters and glaziers union

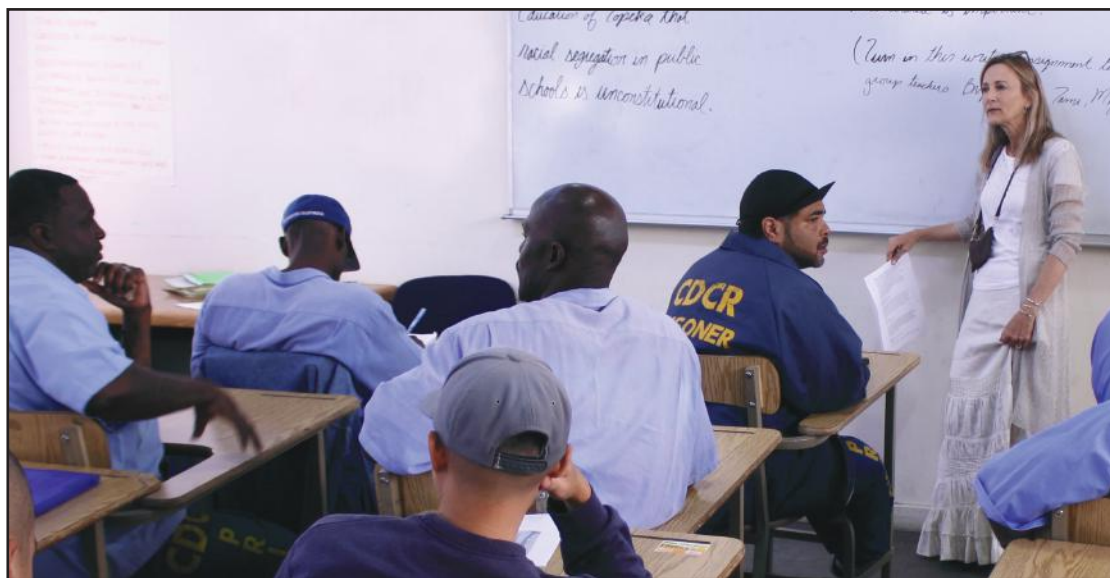


Photo by Brian Asey

Diana Williams teaching the Employment Readiness class in SQ Education

(District Council 16), Success Center, Goodwill Industries, Anders & Anders, Labor Ready, Every Dog Has Its Daycare, Home of Chicken and Waffles, Golden Gate Restaurant Association, Rubicon Bakery, Alliance for Change and California Re-entry Institute.

Lenny Wilkins of District Council 16 told the men, "It's never too late to start your career."

"We don't do background checks," one employer from the temporary agency Labor Ready said.

"One thing we have to offer is we can be part of your network," said Richard Scott from Goodwill Industries. "Your first job out doesn't necessarily mean

it has to be your last job out."

Goodwill Industries' Tito Guerrero said he started working there after paroling seven years ago. "The most rewarding part of the job is about the people you help," he said.

Terry Anders, an ex-offender, said, "I had a special population in mind (when he founded Anders & Anders) because that's who I was. The unions gave me that opportunity. It saved my life—literally."

"We give you access to 26 construction trades," another Anders & Anders representative said. "You earn as you learn. These aren't jobs, they're careers."

Home of Chicken and Waffles' owner said, "Eighty

percent of my staff is on parole or probation."

"It was useful because it covers everything," said inmate Sonny Nguyen. "Most of us have been away for a long time."

Associate Warden Jeff Lawson said, "It's really a great thing for me to see. It's a bridge that's been missing." As a parole officer, he frequently told parolees, "You're better off flipping burgers for minimum wage because all I can offer you is \$19 dollars a month (in prison) if you mess up."

The following week, ERS inmates attended a graduation ceremony to receive certificates of completion.

Parolee Troy Williams spoke to the graduates. "I don't know

how to overemphasize how much you have to offer," he said. "There are a lot of opportunities if you just take them."

The men expressed what it felt like to be seen as human beings. "They didn't look at us like a plague," said inmate Russell Bowden, 51, who has been incarcerated 30 years.

"You all did yourselves really proud," Diana Williams told the men. "We're trying to make it richer every time." She then read comments e-mailed to her.

"Thank you for putting on another fantastic, motivational and inspiring event," a business representative wrote from District Council 16.

"Each person I interviewed presented well, marketable skills, and expressed sincere desire to make a change..." wrote Michael from Goodwill.

"I wish more people from the outside could be part of the ERS, because meeting these men would have a very positive impact on the way the 'outside world' views incarcerated individuals," wrote Every Dog Has Its Daycare.

"This (ERS) was an idea I had, but you (Diana Williams) turned it into a reality," said Butler.

"What warms my heart is to see the smiles on your faces," said Williams, who volunteers at San Quentin in the California Re-entry Institute and TRUST. She holds an M.A. in counseling psychology and is a Certified Professional Co-active Coach.

Americans' Concern About Crime at 15 Year High

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

Americans are now more concerned about crime and violence than at any other time in the last 15 years. Gallup conducted a survey in March throughout all 50 states and found 53 percent of U.S. adults worry "a great deal" about crime and violence.

Previously, crime and violence (as polled by Gallup) peaked in March of 2001, prior to the 9/11 disaster, with 62 percent of those polled registering worry and concern. But after 9/11, crime and violence no longer were seen as most important, with terrorism rising to the top.

In 2002 Americans expressed

more concern for other issues: Iraq, terrorism, the economy, dissatisfaction with government and healthcare were cited as the most important problems facing the country. Crime and violence fell to a record-low 39 percent in 2014.

Gallup reporter Alyssa Davis stated, "The rise in Americans' level of concern about crime

could reflect actual, albeit modest, increases in crime as well as increasing media coverage of it. The number of violent crimes reported to police across the country in the first half of 2015 was up by 1.7 percent compared with the same period in 2014, according to the FBI's 2015 Uniform Crime Report."

Even though violent crimes

are down significantly since the 1990s, many large cities reported spikes in their homicide rate in 2015, including Milwaukee, St. Louis, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Demographics of the Gallup survey show worry of crime increased most among Americans without a college degree and those living in low-income households. Non-Whites' concern is much higher than Whites' worry about the issue. Women and older Americans are more worried than their male and younger counterparts.

The worry over drug use has followed the same pattern as concern about crime and violence over the last 15 years. The rise in worry over drug use preceded President Obama's announcement on March 29 about his plan to reduce drug abuse and overdose deaths.

According to the Gallup report these findings suggest that even if many Americans are not aware of increased crime where they live, they may be exposed to media coverage of rising crime and violence throughout the U.S.

Leslie Van Houten Found Suitable for Parole

By Noel Scott
Journalism Guild Writer

Leslie Van Houten, one of the Manson family members, was finally found suitable for parole after having been denied 19 times, reports Amy Taxin of *The Associated Press*.

The hearing took place at the California Institution for Women at Frontera on April 14, 2016. Van Houten, 66, had been incarcerated for 46 years. When Van Houten, a former homecoming queen, and her cohorts murdered the La Biancas she was only 19, the youngest of them all.

At the hearing there was much opposition from La Bianca family members and the Los Angeles District Attorneys office, reports the *AP*.

Van Houten told the commissioners, "I don't let myself off the hook. I don't find parts in any of this that make me feel the slightest bit of good about myself."

After nearly five hours Commissioner Ali Zarrinnam said to Van Houten, "Your behavior speaks for itself. Forty-six years and not a single serious rule violation." Van Houten also earned bachelor's and master's degrees, and facili-

tated self-help groups, reports the *AP*.

After the ruling Van Houten's attorney Rich Pfeiffer told reporters that Van Houten said she felt "numb" and that "she's been ready for this, for a long time...it really should have happened a long time ago."

If the parole board's legal team upholds the decision, Gov. Jerry Brown will then review.

Charles Manson, 81, and the rest of his followers still remain incarcerated, with the exception of Susan Atkins, who died in prison in 2009.



Courtesy of AP

Leslie Van Houten

Coding Students Pitches Apps with Social Conscious Component

Continued from Page 1

The program, Code 7370, teaches inmates how to develop apps based on their inspirations that have a social-conscious component. The program is the brainchild of venture capitalists Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti, who established the coding program in conjunction with California prison officials.

Redlitz and Parenti invited Calcanis along with podcaster and author of *Unmistakable, Why Only is Better Than Best*, Srinivas Rao, to hear the inmates pitch their ideas.

The ideas included a mobile app that helps parents and teachers track students' educational and athletic progress, another that follows the recovery of substance abusers through a fitness regimen, and one that uses technology, sensors and fire-retardant to fight wild fires.

"I had a family member who lost a beautiful home in San Diego, and I also worked as a firefighter. I always wondered why technology wasn't interfaced with wild fire protection," said

Azraal Ford, 44, who has been in prison for 18 years. He said that he's been in and out of jail since he was 14 years old.

Ford's app, F8 Fire Protection Systems, stores 1,500 gallons of water along with a smaller unit of a fire-retardant substance. The system is controlled electronically through sensors that are programmed to douse wild fires that get too close to a home.

"The fact that F8 uses sensors, and they are cheap, and if each person in the community installs sensors, and they were linked, that could be something relevant," Calcanis said.

The next presenter, Jason Jones, is finishing the last 10 months of a 12-year sentence.

His app, Getting Parents Attention (GPA) "would make parents more aware of what's needed toward public education and sports," he said. "Younger people need to be aware of the value of education, if they want to succeed in life."

"You are a good communicator, because it's personal to you; it sounds exciting," Calcanis told Jones. "There's a gem



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Coding students watching the presentation of Jason Calcanis

of an idea in there because the app brings the parents closer to the children. The features need to be tested. Since it has a bunch of features finding the one that grabs users will be the challenge."

Chris Schuhmacher created his app, Fitness Monkey, because he said, "16 years ago,

drug and alcohol addiction led me to prison."

"Fitness Monkey allows recovering addicts to track recovery and relapses in real time," Schuhmacher said. "And, it allows its members to connect with each other for support."

"Treatment centers could pay commissions if Fitness Monkey delivers clients," Calcanis told Schuhmacher. "Build the platform and allow recovery centers to place their names on it. Plant a flag, and then it'll be like clock-work."

Later Calcanis took on questions from the class.

In recognizing the advantages of taking prison programs, he said:

"You guys made a mistake, and now you're paying a big price. However, I've seen a lot of people make mistakes and recover. Being an entrepreneur is the most rewarding thing you can do because everybody begins in the same place when it comes to creativity. You guys are starting with the world against you. You are counted out. But the truth is, your product will speak for

itself."

To keep the inmates motivated and focused, Calcanis said:

"A lot of people are going to try to stop you from being successful. Don't listen to them. You've got to use the fact that people count you out as motivation to be successful. To the extent you can do it, take the hand you were dealt and go and do it."

Calcanis gave his take on failure:

"Failure is something you have to deal with to be successful. As an angel investor I have to try a lot of things, and some don't work. But I'm going to continue to keep knocking on doors. You have to have that mindset, even being in prison. We are running around at light-speed out in the free world, while you're running with a huge brick on your ankle and still being successful."

An inmate asked Calcanis if he would come back:

"How can I not? I want to hear how it turns out. There is strength in numbers. Entrepreneurship is a team sport. Work together."

—Juan Haines

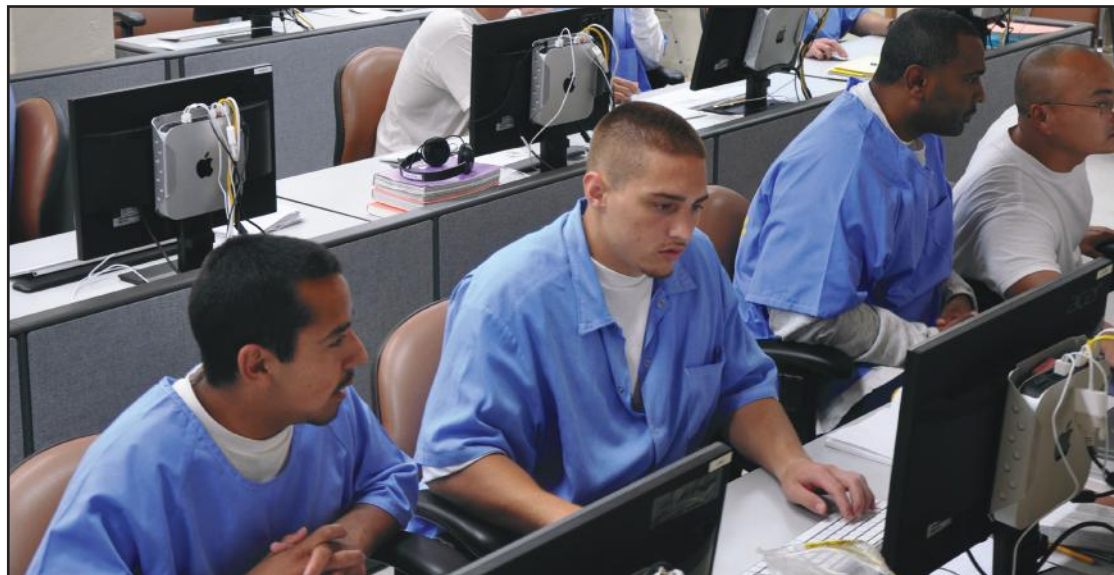


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Code 7370 student coders at work

California Revamps Penal System After Decades

By David Eugene Archer Sr.
Journalism Guild Writer

California is radically revamping its prison system in response to a national movement to reduce mass incarceration.

After decades of being tough on crime, the state is shifting to an emphasis on crime prevention and criminal rehabilitation, reports the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The state was forced to change by a panel of three federal judges who declared California's prison overcrowding was so severe it was providing prisoners with an unconstitutional standard of health care, states the *Chronicle*.

"I'm a little surprised at how much the tenor of things has changed, but it's clear that the public's mood has shifted," said Santa Clara County District Attorney Jeff Rosen.

"It's clear that the public is saying...let's try a little more rehabilitation, drug treatment,

mental health treatment," he stated.

Voters showed they were ready for a change in November 2014 by passing Proposition 47. This initiative reclassified some drug and property crimes as misdemeanors, reported the *Chronicle*.

Realignment reduced the number of state prisoners by more than 30,000 inmates. Most studies don't show an increase in state crime because of realignment, the report said.

While California had one of the highest recidivism rates in the nation, it is currently at 54.3 percent with room for improvement. The price tag for housing, feeding and caring for an inmate in the state is nearly \$64,000 per year, reports the *Chronicle*.

There are about 127,000 inmates in the state prison system, according to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Secretary Scott Kernan.

The decrease, which affects

what Kernan calls "the pure density of the population," has allowed rehabilitation programs to be started. He said the state's 35 prisons have a long way to go. They have established substance-abuse treatment at nearly every institution.

"I hope the people of California understand that just locking people away and not giving them any incentive to rehabilitate themselves is not good public safety," Kernan said.

"We can no longer afford to lock up large segments of our population for extended periods of time," the *Chronicle* wrote in an editorial.

"When someone's in custody without any services, that is not a situation that's going to get them ready to re-enter society safely," said Mary Butler, president-elect of Chief Probation Officers of California.

"What we've really learned is that we have to develop programs that allow people to start to change their way of thinking about crime and their life,

so that they can make changes that will let them become a productive member of society," she said.

Another step is being taken by Gov. Brown in the form of a proposed November ballot measure. It would allow non-violent felons who have earned enough credits through good behavior and rehabilitative achievement to spend less time in prison.

While reforms have reduced the prison population, they may not result in major cost savings, stated the report.

"I think there's an unreasonable expectation of budget reductions," Kernan said. "We haven't closed a prison, and there are other things that have imposed on our budget."

Some of those things, such as improved medical care, were court ordered. Improvements in mental health care will improve public safety in the long run, said the *Chronicle*.

"We need to shift money from the criminal justice sys-

tem and put it into the mental health system, especially in poor communities," said San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon.

California's decision to pursue a punitive criminal justice policy for decades carried huge social costs for families and communities. That's a cycle that has led to more crime, more recidivism and more generational poverty, said the report.

"We have a three-judge panel who's told us that there's a limit to the number of people we can have in California prisons. I don't think there's going to be a lot of prison building... It takes a lot to reduce recidivism, especially with people who may not have hopefulness after experiencing extreme poverty," said Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

"There are a lot of steps to reducing recidivism and, right now, it's our job as leaders to maximize our efforts there," O'Malley said.

Billie Mizell's Calling with Inside Prison Project

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Billie Mizell's path to becoming executive director of several prison programs that help offenders take responsibility for their crimes was inspired by a traumatic occurrence in Mobile, Ala., in the 1980s.

"When I was a teenager, just starting high school, a girl who was only a couple of years older than me was murdered," Mizell said. "A Black man was arrested, soon convicted and sentenced to death."

Mizell says the man, despite having numerous alibis and no physical evidence tying him to the crime, was convicted and spent eight years on Death Row before being cleared.

Years later, Mizell read about the case, and it sparked a fire in her.

"I knew I wanted to work on capital cases," Mizell said. She worked as a defense investigator, looking for evidence on why the crime happened.

"My job was to unearth the trauma the defendant may have endured prior to the taking of someone's life," Mizell said. "The goal was to connect the dots, from the trauma to the crime, for the court."

Mizell said her journey led to doing investigative work on the Angola Three case.

Robert King, Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox (the Angola Three) were put in solitary confinement for the 1972 death of prison guard Brent Miller at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, known as Angola.

No forensic evidence tied the Angola Three to Miller's killing, and they always maintained their innocence.

During Mizell's investigation, she tracked down Miller's widow, Leontine "Teenie" Rogers.

"I expected Teenie would slam the door in my face, but she welcomed me in," Mizell said. "It was not long before I realized that the social history/



Teenie Rogers, Albert Woodfox, and Billie Mizell

mitigation investigation I had done of the Angola Three was indeed useful."

Mizell found that many of Teenie's questions about what happened to her husband had gone unanswered.

"Once she was given the opportunity to connect to the humanity of the men she had previously known only as Black Panthers and murderers, she was able to review the case through a different, more objective lens," Mizell said. "I also became more acutely aware that victims of crimes did not get services or care, or a voice in their own needs. Teenie revealed how re-victimized she felt in the years after Brent's death."

Woodfox, the last of the Angola Three, had spent 43 years in solitary confinement before being released from prison in 2016.

Mizell said that when she heard about the Insight Prison Project (IPP) she realized it was similar to the kind of work she did while "connecting the dots" so that the court could make informed sentencing choices.

"I took my investigations outward," Mizell said, referring to

the work she did for the courts. "While IPP was helping incarcerated people take that same investigation inward."

San Quentin's IPP program, launched in 1997, supports a number of programs similar to the kind of work Mizell had experienced. In 2015, she became IPP's executive director.

"It has, at times been a challenging transition for me," Mizell said. "But, I am fortunate enough to work with a team that is simply remarkable."

Karena H. Montag, MFT, joined IPP in September as programs director and clinical supervisor.

Montag maintains a dozen IPP programs in 15 prisons and three states.

"Her tireless commitment, efficiency and energy make it a joy to work with Karena," Mizell wrote on the IPP website.

Jennifer Thompson, associate director, has been with IPP for six years.

"Jennifer is the glue that binds our operations," Mizell said.

Andrea Travers joined IPP in July as replication program coordinator.

Travers has been able to suc-

cessfully replicate IPP programs in many institutions in Southern California, resulting in hundreds more people receiving direct IPP services and the opportunity for those at underserved institutions to be enrolled in the Victims Offender Education Group (VOEG) program.

Ayola Mitchell, community and survivor outreach specialist, has spent many years working with crime survivors as well as the incarcerated population, advocating for more resources for crime prevention and rehabilitation.

Rochelle Edwards directs the Victim/Offender Dialogue program.

Edwards trains facilitators to mediate meetings between survivors and the person who committed a crime against them.

Troy Williams, youth programs development Specialist and VOEG facilitator trainer, spent six years of his 18-year incarceration at San Quentin before being released in 2015.

Williams facilitated VOEG at San Quentin, along with facilitating mental health and wellness workshops and Restorative Justice.

"Troy is uniquely qualified to act as a successful liaison between prisoners, volunteers, community members/organizations, prison administrators and media groups," the website reads.

Prisoners must identify the harm their actions caused to

victims, write a crime impact statement, participate in a victim-impact panel, and work on strengthening relapse-prevention skills.

Prisoners who graduate from VOEG may go on to its Next Step program to put into practice what they've learned with each other, family and friends.

Acting with Compassion and Truth (ACT) is a first of its kind program in the US. ACT is dedicated to building empathy and compassion regarding gender identity and sexual orientation within prisons.

The San Quentin Artistic Ensemble helps participants reflect upon their lives and communities, using ideas and feelings to create original works of movement, music and theater.

Participants in Men Creating Peace/Man Alive are taught the origins of their anger and are offered skills to track and manage strong impulses before reacting.

The Work helps prisoners learn critical thinking skills to become aware of "self-talk" and to reframe thinking errors that impact one's emotional well-being and behavior.

Veterans Healing Veterans works to heal wounds that can result in suicide and incarceration among war veterans.

The Brothers' Keepers program was founded in response to the 2005 suicide of a San Quentin prisoner. It is a 90-week course that trains a select group of prisoners, referred to as "peers," in crisis resolution, mentoring, and suicide prevention techniques.

IPP transforms the lives of those impacted by incarceration through programs designed to develop behavior inspired by insight, accountability and compassion, according its curriculum.

Participants develop responsible social behavior and produce a significant reduction in recidivism, according to a 2006 study by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy.

Maryland Reforms Juvenile Prison Practices

By Miguel Sifuentes
Journalism Guild Writer

For years, the youth in juvenile justice systems have been subjected to two controversial practices: shackling and strip searches.

However, many states have banned one or both practices, with Maryland the most recent state to attempt to curtail shackling in the courtroom, the *Baltimore Sun* reported.

In Maryland, juvenile justice officials maintain that security remains the reason for shackling and strip searches — even for those detained briefly for low-level offenses. It is the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services’ policy that juveniles must still be shackled during disturbances within the facility and during any transport by staff, including to medical appointments.

Child psychiatrists note that both of these practices can have a lasting mental impact on the youth. With the treatment of juveniles in custody under debate around the country, many argue that these are vestiges of a broken system, according to the *Sun* article.

SHACKLING

Last September, Maryland’s highest court passed a voluntary resolution giving judges discretion over when to shackle in the courtroom. However, the *Sun* reported many judges

Kid CAT Speaks!

continue to defer to the policies of correctional officials.

Public defenders argue before judges that shackles make the youth appear guilty and dangerous before the witnesses and even the judges themselves. In Maryland, the *Sun* wrote, “the complete set of chains can weigh eight to 25 pounds.” These include shackles around the ankles, which are linked with a chain. The youth’s wrists are also locked in handcuffs and attached to a chain draped around the youth’s waist. That is then secured with a black box and heavy padlock.

One youth, interviewed by the *Sun* about his court appearance, said of the shackles, “They feel like fire, like someone put hot metal into your skin. Even when they aren’t tight, they hurt when you walk,” he was facing a robbery charge for being with a group of boys when one of them stole a cellphone.

“You got your feet and your hands shackled like you’re a cold-blooded killer,” added the youth. “You feel like you don’t even have a fighting chance in the courtroom.”

In 2005, the Supreme Court stopped this practice for adults by ruling that it violates the due process rights

of those who posed no flight or safety risks. The Supreme Court ruled that shackling caused individuals to appear guilty in the eyes of a judge or jury.

Twenty-three states have followed suit in cases involving children, by either passing laws or binding court resolutions.

STRIP SEARCHES

In Maryland, juveniles are strip searched when they are admitted to detention facilities, after court dates, and visits with family and attorneys,

reported the *Sun*.

To search for contraband, staff required juveniles to completely disrobe, squat and raise their arms.

“I felt violated,” a Baltimore girl said. “It made me feel like I did something wrong — I mean I did — but like I’d hurt somebody bad.”

SECURITY

Officials at Maryland’s Department of Juvenile Services say that both shackling and strip searches are considered best practices by the American Correctional Association.

Officials cite two escape attempts and the murder of a teacher in a facility over the past six years.

“For us, this is a life-and-

death issue,” said Jay Cleary, Chief of Staff to Juvenile Services Secretary Sam J. Abed. “The community is counting on us to keep them safe and keep the youth safe,” he added.

REFORMS

Public defenders and child advocates want further reforms.

“These policies have nothing to do with any particular risk from a child,” said Sen. Dolores Kelley, who filed a bill that would have banned strip searches and limited shackling except in the case of a particular security threat.

“If you were to look at ...’ cruel and unusual punishment,’ this is it,” she added.

Kansas Passes Legislation To Counter Recidivism

A nearly unanimous vote in February by the Kansas Senate passed legislation shifting the focus of the state’s juvenile justice system to reduce incarceration of low-risk offenders.

The bill shifts millions of dollars into community-based programs to counter recidivism by funding education and treatment.

The bill was advanced by Senator Greg Smith (R-Kansas). It was praised by Democrats and Republicans alike.

Senate Bill 367 was passed to the House by a 38 to 2 margin.

Under the bill, the level of out-of-home placement of juveniles is expected to drop 60 percent by 2020. It is estimated \$75 million could be reallocated to juvenile programs. “It truly reflects the charge ... to promote public safety, hold juvenile offenders accountable, control taxpayer cost, and improve outcomes for youth, families and communities,” Smith said, reported the *Topeka Capital-Journal*.

According to the Kansas Department of Corrections, drug charges are a common theme for juveniles serving time in the local detention centers. Currently, juveniles could be returned to

the Juvenile Department of Corrections for any violation of the terms of probation. These violations could include drug use, not attending school, hanging out with drug users, and getting fast food at a restaurant when ordered to go straight home. In addition, Kansas incarcerates youth at the sixth highest rate of any state in the U.S.

In response, a bipartisan group of legislators hopes to shift resources away from incarceration and into programs that help young people.

For example, the bill would also limit a court’s jurisdiction over a juvenile’s case to 12 months for a misdemeanor, 15 months for a low-risk felony, and 18 months for some high-risk felonies.

Probation would reflect the outcome of risk and needs assessments. Terms of probation would be graduated from six to 12 months depending on the offense.

The Kansas Department of Corrections would be required to adopt regulations by January 2017 for a series of graduated responses to technical violations of probation. A system of multidisciplinary teams would also

be created to review cases of a juvenile’s failure to substantially comply with intervention efforts.

Katrina Pollet, Southwest Regional Juvenile Detention Director said, “We need (the) type of program to meet the needs (of our kids),” she added. She also believes education and training inside the juveniles homes are better methods than incarceration. “We need to get them to services at home that are known to help.” The legislation would shift control over policies and programs to the local level.

Smith, chairman of the Senate’s corrections committee, said criticism of the bill as soft on crime is mistaken. Smith himself has been affected by crime. His daughter, Kelsey, was abducted and murdered in 2007.

He urged colleagues to review the research for answers to why the state can’t simply warehouse troubled children.

“Rarely does the Legislature address the needs of the people. It seems we always address the needs of the institutions,” said the senator. “We’re putting kids first, families first, and promoting public safety.”

—Miguel Sifuentes

Dear Kid CAT

My name is Samuel Joe Bowie. The Kid CAT story of Vinh Nguyen touched my soul. SB 260 allowed the brother to once again taste freedom.

I would like to tell my story. Born in Camden, Ark., in 1961, I was one of 14 children. Back in the ‘50s and ‘60s, Blacks went to school in churches. In 1967 other students and I began to be bused to Hampton for integration. Those were rough times for me, being interracial.

In 1974 I moved to California. I started junior high school at Woodrow Wilson. Years later I graduated from Oakland Tech and started work at Oakland Airport.

The drug epidemic came in the 1980s. I found myself addicted and lost everything. My addiction led me to commit the crime of murder. I pray for the victims and am remorseful. In 20 years I never have disrespected an inmate or correctional officer or had a disciplinary infraction.

The stories I read in *San Quentin News* give me hope to endure. Do you think there’s hope for me? I have been very patient and have made many prayers for repentance and accepted responsibility for my crime. Thank for reading my letter.

Kid CAT Response:

Mr. Bowie, thank you for your letter. As incarcerated men, we are motivated by redemption. The act of redemption begins with the decision that you have already made — to lead a positive life despite serving a life sentence. That decision is rooted in accountability and remorse. Your deeds reflect that you want to make amends by the life that you lead. That your life has changed is a sign of hope and an inspiration to others. Personally, I knew, and spent several years and walked several laps around the prison yard with Mr. Nguyen. What he would say is to work on yourself for yourself, and live your remorse; only then will freedom find you. Thank you for sharing your story with us.

—Miguel Quezada

Kid CAT and *The Beat Within* hold monthly writing workshops. *The Beat Within* conducts writing workshops in juvenile detention centers throughout the country. Kid CAT Speaks will publish one topic each month. Your writing should reflect a positive message that may help the youth make a better decision in life. Your stories will be read by the youth in detention centers. If published, you will receive a free copy of the publication. Your story can make a difference. Tell *The Beat Within* you read about them in Kid CAT Speaks! Send response to: *The Beat Within*, P.O. Box 34310, San Francisco, CA 94134.

July Writing Topic: Asking For Help. When you are at your lowest and everything seems hopeless, is there someone you turn to? What happens if you hold it in when you are having problems and dealing with issues? Is that something you have done in the past? If so, why? What stopped you from asking for help? Why should we reach out to our loved ones or other supporters when we need help? Tell us how it was for someone to help you in a time of need or personal crisis. What was your problem? What have you learned that you’re now willing to ask for help?

—Prompt by Miguel Quezada

Kid CAT (Creating Awareness Together) is a group of men who committed their crimes under the age of 23 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 all juvenile lifers, educators, and policymakers concerning juvenile justice issues and rehabilitation. Contact us at San Quentin News, Attn: Kid CAT Speaks, 1 Main St., San Quentin, CA 94964.

Working Together Towards a Brighter Future

By Richard “Bonaru”
Richardson
Editor-in-Chief

I arrived at San Quentin State Prison in 2007 from Soledad along with 20 other prisoners. It wasn’t 24 hours before we were called to the lieutenant’s office and warned, “San Quentin is not your average prison, and we don’t need trouble makers like you guys here.”

Being a Black man, with tattoos and braids, opens a door for society to judge me by my appearance. Yet, I refuse to succumb to the pressure of societal beliefs of what a Black

man should look like and how he should behave.

I immediately enrolled in the Prison University Project because I wanted an education; I was determined to not be judged only by my looks and labeled a trouble maker.

I was soon placed in the vocational print shop with instructor John Wilkerson. On my first day he asked me to fold newspapers for *San Quentin News* (*SQ News*). By the end of the day, I really hated *SQ News*.

As time went on, Wilkerson taught me how to operate a grumpy old Heidelberg printing press. I printed the *SQ News*

Editorial

and institutional calendars on the Heidelberg until the print shop closed in 2009. I was the last prisoner to operate the Heidelberg and receive a vocational trade in offset printing, thanks to Wilkerson.

After the print shop closed, then Editor-in-Chief Michael Harris and Arnulfo Garcia asked if I would continue running the press to print the *SQ News*.

The last edition of the *SQ News* printed at San Quentin was in April 2010. Since then, an outside printing plant has taken over the job, thanks to our former adviser, Steve McNamara.

I later learned how to design *SQ News* using Adobe Acrobat and Adobe InDesign with the help of Aly Tamboura. Having the opportunity to design the *SQ News* gave me a chance to really understand why prisoners write stories for publication.

In my opinion, the *SQ News* stories highlight prisoners who want society to know what real rehabilitation looks like. We write about programs that work and about policies that don’t.

We are proud pupils of longtime advisers - Linda Xiques, Professor William Drummond, Jon Spurlock, Joan Lisetor, John Eagan and Steve

McNamara. Our new volunteers (and soon-to-become advisers) - Nikki Meredith, Josh Quittner, Sarah Horowitz, Quentin Hardy, Susanne Karch and Jan Perry are leaders with a strong belief in people like us who are striving toward rehabilitation.

As a father and grandfather, public safety is now and should have been all along my primary focus in life. I realize the damage and corresponding effects I have caused to my victims and their families, to my family and their communities.

No one who knew me earlier could ever believe that I could or would attempt to improve the lives that matter to all of us through writing. Building a working relationship with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Press Secretary Vicky Waters and Public Information Officers Krissi Khokhobashvili and Lt. S. Robinson has given me the opportunity to have a dialogue about important criminal justice policies that affect society and public safety.

As I step into the role of the editor-in-chief, it is my responsibility to ensure that *SQ News* continues to move forward and explore programs that change prison culture and



Richard “Bonaru”
Richardson

embrace policies which open doors to rehabilitation.

It is and always will be our goal to make *SQ News* accessible to every prisoner in California. We know the task isn’t going to be easy as we struggle for funds to provide a newspaper for each and every prisoner. We are not there yet, but we’re working to make that happen.

Regardless of what society thinks about you (or me) as a prisoner, your voice is important, and it needs to be heard. Feel free to come to the Journalism Guild in the newsroom on Friday mornings, at 9 a.m., and learn how to express yourself through writing. If you are at another prison, please send us your thoughts via mail. Your letters are valuable, and they define the reality of our growth here at *SQ News*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In your report (Court Denies Condemned Prisoners’ Rights to Petition for Execution, March, 2016), you state that “more than 900 people have been sentenced to death in the state since 1978; only 13 have been executed.”

Actually, 15 have been executed when you include Kelvin Malone, who California extradited to Missouri and executed on Jan. 13, 1999, and Alfredo Rolando Prieto, who California extradited to Virginia and was executed on Oct. 1, 2015. Both of these men had been previously convicted and sentenced to death in California prior to their convictions in their relative states of execution. Keep up the good work.

A fan,
D. Mickey
San Quentin State Prison

I just had the opportunity and privilege to digest the entire content of your February issue, and as usual, I found it to be insightful and encouraging. Thank you.

What particularly caught my attention were your articles regarding Kid CAT, Employment Readiness Seminar, Toys for Tots and VOEG. The general population at CSP-Corcoran is in the process of discussing with the administration here various ways in which to create and implement viable and creative programming, and each of these would be a perfect fit for what we are striving to achieve.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Richard
Corcoran State Prison

Keep the good news going. A job is done well when good people do it. Enclosed are four stamps; the extra, keep it for the cause.

R.Collins
CTF Soledad

Let me say that I truly enjoy reading your paper when I am able to ... or when a fellow inmate passes it along. Keep up the good work. You brothers really keep us reading. Enclosed are four stamps so that I may receive your latest issue. I thank you brothers for your time and work.

D. Velasquez
California Correctional Institution

Millions of Children Have at Least One Parent in Prison

By James King
Journalism Guild Writer

Millions of American children have a parent in prison, and it causes the youngsters a variety of problems, a new report states.

About 2.7 million children, or one in 14, have at least one parent behind bars, according to *Parents Behind Bars: What Happens to Their Children?*, a report by Child Trends, a national research organization based in Bethesda, Md.

“Most research finds negative outcomes for these children, such as childhood health and behavioral problems and grade retention,” according to David

Murphey, report co-author and senior research scientist at Child Trends.

“Children who grow up with a parent in prison are more likely to suffer from poor mental and physical health in adulthood,” he said.

The statistics become even worse for impoverished or Black children. One in eight poor children has an incarcerated parent, and one in nine Black children has at least one parent in prison.

The problem is getting worse, according to the report. Ten years ago, 60,000 children in America had an incarcerated parent. Today, that number has skyrocketed to 2.7 million chil-

dren due to the increase in the rate of incarcerated women, the report stated.

The children who have a parent behind bars often experience shame, depression and an increased likelihood that they themselves will have negative encounters with the law, according to Hope for Miami, an organization that advocates for the children of incarcerated parents.

The information contained in this report came from data compiled by the U.S. Department of Health. The data was collected between February 2011 and June 2012 during a telephone survey that included 95,677 interviews.

Childrens’ Challenge with Family’s Criminal Record

By Marcus Henderson
Staff Writer

Nearly half of the children in America have at least one parent with a criminal record, according to a recent report by the Center for American Progress.

There are between 33 million and 36.5 million children, the December 2015 report estimates.

Even a minor criminal record can be a life sentence to poverty, obstacles to employment, housing, education and training, public assistance, financial empowerment and more, the report adds.

The parent with the criminal

record has a lower earning potential, having to face criminal background checks on job applications and state laws on hiring and occupational licensing, which bar individuals with certain types of convictions from at least 800 occupations nationwide, the report says.

Formerly incarcerated men take home an average of 40 percent less pay annually than if they had never been incarcerated, resulting in an earnings loss of nearly \$179,000 by age 48, the report stated.

Children in low-income homes can develop limited language skills affecting school performance that could lead to bullying, not going to class

and withdrawal. They are less likely to complete high school and can exhibit emotional and behavior problems.

The families also have a difficult time acquiring savings and assets because states and other agencies have steadily moved to user fees and an offender-funded justice system.

Fines and fees place heavy debt burdens on many prisoners. They place 85 percent of returning citizens into criminal justice debt that can total thousands of dollars.

Children can suffer emotional and mental health issues from the family’s financial debt, having to face food shortages, not having health care or

having the utilities turned off.

The parent can face public housing policies that can make it physically impossible to re-join the family. Seventy-nine percent of returning citizens reported being denied housing because of their criminal history, while 18 percent of families reported being evicted or denied housing when the family member returned home, the report stated.

Barriers to education and training can prevent the parent the needed skills to compete in the current job market. Sixty-six percent of colleges and universities do background checks in the admission process, decreasing the chance to access

higher education.

People with a felony drug conviction are denied American Opportunity Tax Credit for life. It is a partially refundable tax credit to offset educational expense.

The report suggests Congress reauthorize the bipartisan Second Chance Act. It allows the Department of Justice to award federal grants to non-profits and government agencies to provide services to support re-entry programs.

“We must enact solutions to ensure that a criminal record does not consign an individual—and his or her children—to a life of poverty,” the report concludes.

Master Cabinetmaker Applies Skills 20 Years Later

By Wesley R. Eisiminger
Staff Writer

San Quentin now has a master cabinetmaker who has worked on many special cabinetry projects for the prison.

Inmate Jerome K. Vernon said, “I have been here at San Quentin only about one and half years. I came from Old Folsom and this is the first time in 20 years I have done any cabinet work.”

He explained that was because the other prison had few work assignments and no programs in woodworking.

Vernon said, “I learned cabinetmaking from my father’s construction and glazing company and worked for him for 15 years and through high school before coming to prison.”

He learned most other trades in the construction company, in-



Photo by Raphaele Casale

Jerome K. Vernon

cluding working with glass.

Asked how he wound up with his job in the San Quentin cabinet shop, he said, “I first went to the Painting and Glass shop and

there were no jobs at this time doing glasswork. They said to check with the Mill and Cabinet2 shop.

“I went over for an interview and talked to four of the bosses and within two weeks I was hired and began working doing cabinets.”

Vernon went on to say there are now five workers at the cabinet shop, two from West Block and three from H Unit.

Among the recent cabinet work Vernon has built is a “special cabinet with bookshelves for the Jewish temple.”

He has done several other cabinets like the one at the watch commander’s office and has created special doors for Sgt. Martinez, in addition to replacing old cabinets. He also makes custom cabinets for the prison housing units located outside the prison walls.



Photo by Raphaele Casale



Photo by Raphaele Casale

Jerome K. Vernon’s handmade bookcase and cabinet

Jerome’s cabinet in the Jewish Chapel

Inmates Showcase Musical Talents at Recital

San Quentin News

Inmate pianists and guitarists performed in a recital: *Dancing with the Keys plus Bach, Beethoven and The Blues.*

San Quentin State Prison’s Catholic Chapel hosted the March 20 event for about 45 inmates and outside guests as students from the Arts-in-Corrections piano and guitar class displayed their talents.

“Most students didn’t read music when we started,” said guitar instructor Kurt Huget.

Huget’s guitar class performed a wide assortment of music by Bach and Beethoven, plus Brazilian songs, blues and rock. “It’s gone beyond my wildest dreams,” he said.

Huget has been teaching guitar sheet music to the men of San Quentin on Thursdays for eight years. This was the first recital for Huget’s guitar class.

Thomas Washington, Walter Watson, Manuel Miranda and Kevin D. Sawyer were the performing guitarists.

When some individuals struggled during their performance, the crowd cheered encouragement until they completed the song. No one gave up, drawing inspiration from a very supportive audience.

Inmate Dwight Krizman, who is not in either class, played drums to back up other

musicians. He also worked the sound for the recital.

“It was an incredible effort on each of the students’ behalf,” said Krizman. “What I found most amazing was the camaraderie.”

Richard “Richie” Morris

attended the recital to support his fellow musicians. He plays guitar and used to attend Huget’s class regularly.

“I really enjoyed that it was cool and very casual,” said Morris. “I thought the interaction between the crowd and

people performing was entertaining.”

“I was really proud of everybody. We worked hard,” said Huget.

Huget said he would like to do another recital. “It was very successful, I thought.”

Many of the men who performed have little experience playing in front of a live audience.

“It’s not about perfection; it’s about putting the time and work in,” said piano instructor Patricia “Trish” Allred. “The more you play in front of people, the better you get.”

Allred accompanied Phil Melendez performing “Come Home” by One Republic and Noble Butler on “Hello,” by Greg Kurstin and Adele.

Allred had a few hours before the recital to get acquainted with both songs.

“Prelude in C” written by Johann Sebastian Bach was performed as a piano ensemble by Matthew Jaspas, Julian Glenn Padgett, Gino Sevacos and Robert Tyler.

“I’ve listened to Gino play guitar and piano for a few years. This was by far his best performance,” said Sawyer, who attends both guitar and piano classes. “It helps that Trish pushes us to color our compositions with what we learn in her class.”

Allred has been teaching piano classes on Sunday afternoons for a little more than three years. This was the third recital for her classes.

“I was incredibly proud of all of them,” said Allred, adding the performances were “fantastic.”

The guitar class played in unison:

- Minuet in G, by Johann Sebastian Bach
- Ode to Joy, by Ludwig Van Beethoven
- Simple Gifts, by Joseph Brackett
- Girl from Ipanema, by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Vinicius de Moraes, and Norman Gimbel; Vocals – Thomas Washington; Guitar Solo – Kevin D. Sawyer.
- On Broadway, by Barry Mann, Cynthia Well, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller; Vocals – Thomas Washington.
- Nobody Knows You (When You’re Down and Out), by Jimmy Cox; Vocals – Walter Watson.
- Come Together, by The Beatles; Vocals – Walter Watson.
- Black Magic Woman, by Peter Green; Vocals – Thomas Washington; Guitar Solo – Kevin D. Sawyer.
- Star-Spangled Banner, by John Stafford Smith.

Individual piano performances:

- Planet Love, Words and Music by Gino Sevacos; performed by Gino Sevacos.
- Largo, by Antonin Dvorak; performed by Byron Prudhomme
- Rikki Don’t Lose That Number, by Walter Becker and Donald Fagen, performed by Joey Barnes.
- No. 12 Bouree, by Bach; performed by Salvador Solorio.
- Today is the Day, by the Bar-Kays, Walkin’ Away, by Kevin D. Sawyer, Again, by Janet Jackson, Your Daddy Loves You, by Gil Scott-Heron, and Easy, by Lionel Ritchie; original medley performed by Kevin D. Sawyer.
- Lean On Me, by Bill Withers; performed by Yancy Andress.
- The Scientist, by Guy Barryman, Jon Buckland, Will Champion, Chris Martin; performed by Julian Glenn Padgett.
- Hello, by Greg Kurstin and Adele; performed by Noble Butler.
- Come Home by One Republic, performed by Phil Melendez.
- Moonlight Sonata, by Beethoven, performed by Robert Tyler.
- Somewhere Over the Rainbow, music by Harold Arlen, lyrics by E.Y. Harburg; Draw Me Close To You, by Kelly Carpenter; performed by Matthew Jaspas. He also played the bass to back up other musicians, who performed songs accompanied by a band.

Shakespeare Play a Hit with Prison Audience

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

A Court Jester’s comical version of the Harlem Shake dance and audience participation revamped Shakespeare’s play “As You Like It,” making it a hit with the San Quentin State Prison audience.

“I don’t think I’ve ever laughed so hard at a Shakespeare play, and I’ve been to a lot of them,” said Samantha Armacost, a visiting audience member.

“As You Like It” is a comedy/romance/musical play about the exiled Duke Senior (Azraal Ford) finding more happiness in the simple life than his insatiable little brother, Duke Fredrick (Jessie James Smith), who cheated Senior out of land and wealth.

This version preformed inside the San Quentin Protestant chapel had several unique twists that made the Shakespearean language relatable to a captured audience.

Antwan “Banks” Williams, who played Jacques, said, “We have never seen a Shakespeare play outside of us. We created our own back-stories; we made it accessible, a more urban version.”

Touchstone (Adnan Khan), fitted with a multi-colored jester hat, delivering his lines in a Kermit the frog voice and doing an alternate shoulder-shaking dance kept laughter flowing from the audience.

Director Suraya Keating added, “Everybody really embraced their own character in a new way. I’ve never seen a version of



Photo by Eddie Herena–San Quentin News

Orlando and the Wrestler battling for the Duke’s prize

‘As You Like It’ like this, and it was hilarious.”

Other new twist to “As You Like It” included musician Amiens (Richie Morris) performing several original compositions on his guitar.

Also, actors Belize Villafanco, Morris, Williams and Edmond Richardson invited four audience members on stage to dance. Then Williams, playing the role of Jacques, rapped “DucDane” while stepping.

When someone asked Jacques what is DucDane, Jacques called everyone on stage at the time into a huddle to tell them, “DucDane is an incantation to call fools into a circle.”

Keating says she came up

with the audience participation idea in collaboration with Williams.

The San Quentin version of “As You Like It” included other touches like the beat to Tupac’s Hail Mary playing every time Duke Frederick headed for the stage, and Adele’s “Hello” introducing another scene.

“I’ve seen a lot of Shakespeare national productions, and this was by far the best,” said Brad Burkhart, who came from Santa Cruz with his wife to see the play.

“You guys breathed a whole lot of life into Shakespeare and made it accessible,” said Amad Jackson, an actor who was in the audience.

For the incarcerated actors, a “big part of the program is healing through the arts,” said Marin Shakespeare Company’s managing director Lesley Currier, who edited the San Quentin production of “As You Like It.”

Emile DeWeaver, who played Sylvius, said, “Drama therapy help me to stop hiding my emotions. Hide them long enough and it makes you anti-social. A lot of things happen in drama therapy that help us get back social tools people take for granted.”

Williams added, “Prison is filled with characters. Drama therapy teaches there is a backstory to everyone.”

Alex Goldsmith, who played Celia, remembered Khan being



Photo by Eddie Herena–San Quentin News

Oliver being threatened by the Duke



Photo by Eddie Herena–San Quentin News

Rosalind disguised as a man with Cecilia and Orlando



Photo by Eddie Herena–San Quentin News

Orlando and his faithful servant, Adam

nervous when he first preformed in a previous show. She credits drama therapy with helping him and the other men break out of their shells.

“And now he’s (Khan) the star of the show,” said Goldsmith. “You see who men truly are ... they break down barriers. You don’t get that on the outside; men being vulnerable and opening their heart, and it’s very inspiring.”

Men of all races and ages came together to make the production a success, including young newcomers David Silva and Kory Morse.

During a question and answer segment after the show, Morse said, “I got suckered into this. A friend asked, ‘Do you want to go to this class?’ I show up, and it’s an acting class. It helped me in-

teract with people, build bonds with people, build a memory with people that we’ll never forget.”

Andrew Wadsworth, who played Charles the wrestler, said, “I have a thug look, and I have thug in me because that’s how I grew up. My insecurities made me think people didn’t believe in me. I said I’m showing them. I give praise to my grandma. She was the only person who believed in me, and when she died ... she knew I had a lot of good in me. She’s been gone since 2009, I do everything in her name.”

“Healing doesn’t happen alone. It happens in communities of support,” said Suraya.

To see the play online, go to www.marinshakespeare.org and follow the social justice links.



Photo by Eddie Herena–San Quentin News

Phoebe rejecting Silvius’ request

San Quentin Inmates Perform *The Tempest*

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Inmate Nythell “Nate” Collins, 40, said acting lessons from Marin Shakespeare Company have helped him understand the human condition of oppression.

“How did he come up with all this stuff?” Collins asked about Shakespeare. “What was his thought process so his work stayed with us all these years, especially with relationships? Shakespeare was a visionary.”

Dozens of Bay Area community members, along with more than 200 inmates and prison staff, came to the chapel at San Quentin State Prison on May 27 to enjoy “The Tempest: A Tribute to Prince.”

Collins has been at San Quentin since 2008 and has been a member of Shakespeare at San Quentin since 2010. He was Prospero in “The Tempest.”

“Prospero was really manipulative in how he used Ariel to do his mischievous business, but in the end, he learned how to forgive,” Collins said. “It took the people around him to talk to him and change him, just like here with the programs. Everyone has the ability to change into kind and caring people. But, until we cultivate the good things in us, we can’t prosper from it.”

Steve Emrick, San Quentin community partnership manager, said inmates learning Shakespeare produces a public benefit.

“Examining the characters



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Caliban surrounded by dancing spirits

in the plays allows the men to understand their own crimes and the dynamics of their own character,” Emrick said. “For men to be in prison and to put themselves out like that in front of their peers shows they’ve learned a better persona, one better than the gang or tough-guy persona common in prison,” he added.

The music for the play was scored by inmate LeMar “Maverick” Harrison.

“A lot of us had last-minute changes in our character,” Harrison said. “I wasn’t going to play the part of Ariel as Prince until he died.”

Harrison said his inspiration came from inmate Christopher Marshall, Sr., who played King Alfonso of Naples.

“Shakespeare helps me get in touch with my humanity,” Marshall said. “My character’s main objective is to find his son. In doing so, he comes to the realization that he needs to let those around him advise him, just like I’ve done in my life. I have to trust those around me that they’ll never lead me astray.”

Prior to opening curtains, tensions were eased with jokes featuring Shakespearean themes of religion, sexuality and father/daughter relationships by comedian, inmate Eric Durr.

Lesley Currier of Marin Shakespeare Company gave an outline of the drama. It helped the audience understand how envy, jealousy and revenge affected the relationship between Prospero, Antonio, his younger brother, the King Alfonso of Naples, and Ariel. Currier described Ariel as a spirit with a positive energy who was indebted to Prospero for freeing him after 12 years of imprisonment.

“Forgiveness is one of the many themes highlighted by Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*,” according to the director’s notes. “What changes in Prospero’s life when he chooses forgiveness and reconciliation rather than revenge and hatred? What changes are possible in our own lives when we choose to forgive?”

The play began with a storm, shipwrecked Prospero on an island.

All the actors spoke their lines clearly, which made it easy

to follow the plot.

“Antonio, the Duke of Milan, stole the dukedom from his brother, Prospero,” Jason Jones said when describing his character. “Antonio relates to my real life as I have experienced a lot of betrayal and to play the other side of betrayal is disconcerting. I had to embody Antonio’s character to get an understanding and feel the hurt and pain of victims and to learn my character flaws.”

Reggie Hola who played the Boatswain said, “My character comes from a family of boatswains, which relates to my real life because of my Polynesian culture. Being a boatswain requires the person to know the ins and outs of the sea and to

use the stars to navigate the world.”

Later, the inmate actors were asked how they prepared for the play:

“I had a hard time reading,” Jones said. “I didn’t read my first book until I came to prison. And at the prison I came from, people wouldn’t sit down and help a person read; but Luke (inmate actor, Julian Glenn Padgett) helped me.”

“One of the ideas behind drama therapy is to help the healing process,” Suraya Keating said after hearing Jones. “Healthy relationships help people heal.”

“Showing emotion can bring ridicule,” Juan Carlos Meza said. “Shakespeare allows me to express myself without judgment. I can now do this without judgment. I have enriched my life in ways that cannot be paid.”

“I have learned to be vulnerable,” Vance Farland added, “There have been times in my life where I could have done things in a lead position. Performing Shakespeare has allowed me to get over that fear.”

“Telling jokes helps the men,” Durr said chiming in. “I’m impressed with hanging out with the guys. It helps me. I’m getting soft from doing this.”

Ronell Draper said, “It allows me to like people that I don’t normally like. It helps me to build relationships. They pressured me into being nice.”

“This helps me get out of the tough character that I thought I had to be,” Arthur Miller said.



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Trinculo and Stephano



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Prospero with King Alonso in the background



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

The spirit Ariel taking a hold of King Alonso



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

The boatswain tells his tale to his shipmates



Bacalar Lagoon

Photo by P. Jo

Snippets

G–Force is technically a misnomer as it’s a measure of acceleration not force.

Aspirin was the number one selling drug worldwide in 1899. Aspirin was a brand name, coined by Bayer, so the “A” was capitalized.

Che Guevara did not start out as a revolutionary; in fact, he intended to become a physician (and actually reached this goal before being killed at the age of 39.)

High-fructose corn syrup is made by soaking and fermenting corn kernels to extract cornstarch, then using enzymes to turn the glucose in the starch into fructose. It is a primary sweetener in processed foods because it is cheaper than sugar. Many studies have suggested that high-fructose corn syrup is more harmful to the body than cane sugar.

Estevanico, a Moroccan slave, accompanied Cabeza de Vaca on his explorations of southwestern USA in the 1500s and was the first black man to set foot on North American soil.

Sudoku Corner

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

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

Someone

A man worn down by time,
a man who does not even expect death
(the proofs of death are statistics
and everyone runs the risk
of being the first immortal),
a man who has learned to express thanks
for the day’s modest alms:
sleep, routine, the taste of water,
an unsuspected etymology,
a Latin or Saxon Verse,
the memory of a woman who left him
thirty years ago now
whom he can call to mind without bitterness,
a man who is aware that the present
is both future and oblivion,
a man who has betrayed
and has been betrayed,
may feel suddenly, when crossing the street,
a mysterious happiness
not coming from the side of hope
but from an ancient innocence,
from his own root or from some diffused god.

He knows better than to look at it closely,
for there are reasons more terrible than tigers
which will prove to him
that wretchedness is his duty,
but he accepts humbly
this felicity, this glimmer.

Perhaps in death when the dust
is dust, we will be forever
this undecipherable root,
from which will grow forever,
serene or horrible,
our solitary heaven or hell.

–Jorge Luis Borges

Last Issue’s Sudoku Solutions

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

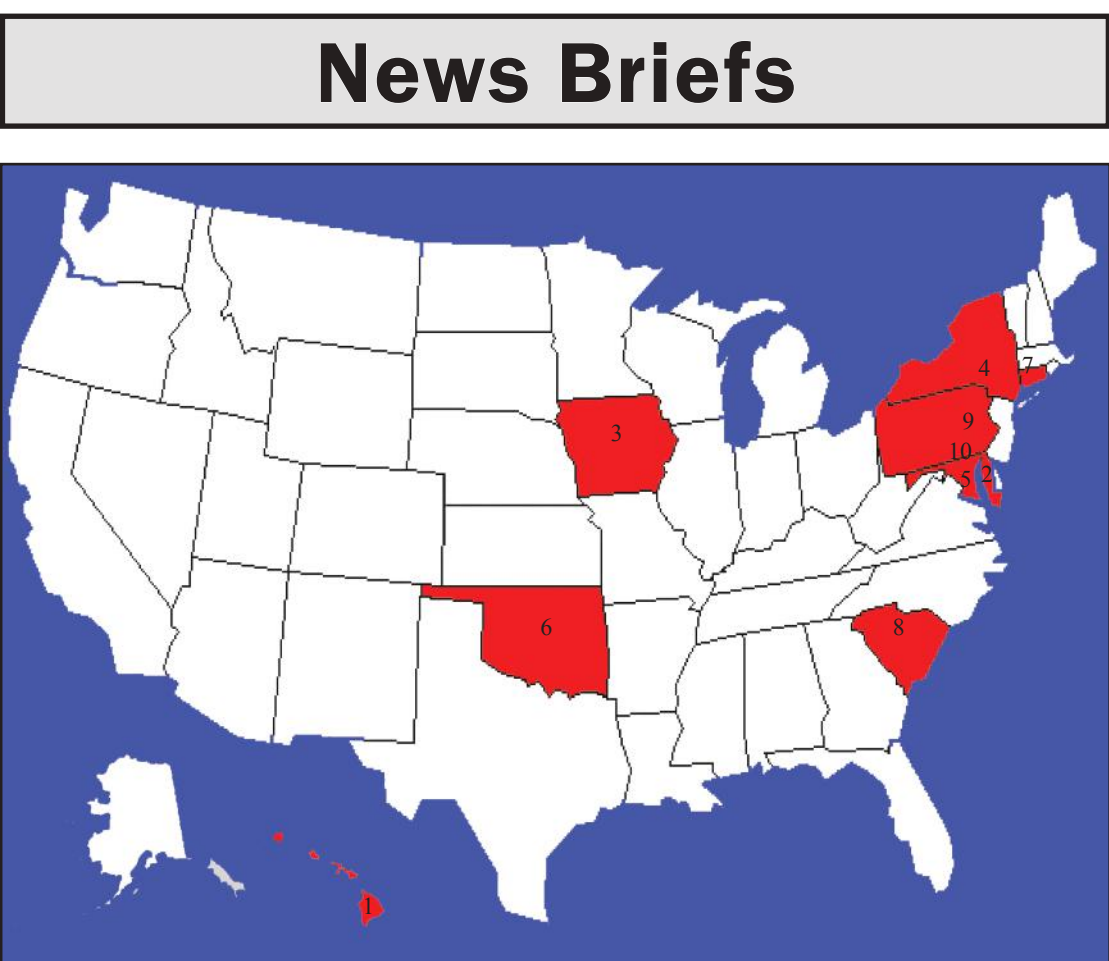
9	3	8	5	6	2	7	1	4
4	5	6	7	1	9	8	3	2
7	2	1	8	4	3	9	6	5
5	8	4	9	3	1	6	2	7
1	7	3	2	5	6	4	8	9
2	6	9	4	8	7	3	5	1
8	1	7	3	9	5	2	4	6
6	2	4	1	7	8	5	9	3
3	9	5	6	2	4	1	7	8

1. Honolulu, Hawaii — An inmate serving time in a private prison in Arizona has filed a lawsuit over the prison system’s policy requiring all mail to and from inmates to be written in English, *The Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reports. The English-only mail policy prohibits prisoners from receiving letters written in Hawaiian and unduly burdens communications between families and their loved ones behind bars, the lawsuit claims.

2. Maryland — As the state eliminates mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders, beginning October 2017, about 1,600 inmates will become eligible for release, *The Washington Post* reports. Hundreds of nonviolent offenders who have been given long sentences over the past three decades will be allowed to appeal to a judge to have their sentences reduced.

3. Iowa — The state’s high court ruled in a split decision that sentencing juveniles to life in prison without parole is unconstitutional because it amounts to cruel and unusual punishment. Justice Brent Appel wrote that juvenile character is “a work in progress” and that courts should not preclude the chance for juvenile offenders to be released for good behavior by parole boards after they have fully matured.

4. Brooklyn, NY— A federal judge says sentencing courts should pay closer attention to the effect upon a person’s life when they are sent to prison. The judge believes the collateral consequence of having a felony conviction is punishment enough. So, sending a person to



prison instead of giving them probation has “no useful function other than to further punish criminal defendants after they have completed their court imposed sentences,” *The New York Times* reports.

5. Washington, DC — President Obama commuted the prison terms of another 42 federal felons in an effort to overhaul the nation’s sentencing laws for drug related crimes, *the Washington Examiner* reports. Obama already had commuted 348 sentences, which is more than any other president. The closest were Presidents Clinton and Nixon, with 61 and 60, re-

spectively.

6. Oklahoma City, Okla. — Community leaders and organizations across the state submitted more than 220,000 signatures, more than the 65,000 necessary, for a November ballot initiative that would reclassify as misdemeanors instead of felonies some low-level offenses, such as drug possession and some property offenses of less than \$1,000.

7. New Haven, Conn. — Ten years after Reginald Dwayne Betts was released from prison, he graduated from Yale Law School. While Betts was in prison, he realized he wasn’t being

given all his time credits and he didn’t know how to properly apply for them, the *New Haven Register* reports. “I didn’t do it because I wanted to be a lawyer,” he said in the article. “I did it because I didn’t want to be in another situation where I didn’t know the answers to questions that affected my life.”

8. University of South Carolina, SC — Nearly half of Black males and almost 40 percent of White males in the U.S. are arrested by age 23, which can hurt their ability to find work, go to school and participate fully in their communities. A new study in the journal *Crime & Delin-*

quency provides the first contemporary findings on how the risk of arrest varies across race and gender, says lead author of the study criminology professor Robert Brame. The study is an analysis of national survey data from 1997 to 2008 of teenagers and young adults and their arrest histories, which run the gamut from truancy and underage drinking to more serious and violent offenses. The study excludes arrests for minor traffic violations.

9. Philadelphia, PA. — More than 40 police officers have been awarded commendations since December for resolving conflicts “without shooting, clubbing or otherwise using maximum force against anyone,” *The Associated Press* reports. The Los Angeles Police Department recently created a Preservation of Life award. And later this year, the U.S. Justice Department’s new Community Policing Awards will recognize officers who prevent tense situations from spinning out of control.

10. Washington, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court rejected a broad constitutional challenge from Louisiana asking whether the death penalty violates the Constitution. The high court, on the same day, May 30, reversed a death sentence in Arizona, *The New York Times* reports. In the case from Louisiana, the court turned down the appeal without comment. In the Arizona case, the court reversed a death sentence in an unsigned opinion, saying the jury had not been told an important fact: that the only alternative to a death sentence was life without the possibility of parole.

WORDCROSS PUZZLE

- Across
1. “Kiss from a Rose” singer

5. New CDCR Press Secretary Waters

10. Johnny Cash’s cover of Nine Inch Nail song

14. Reid of “American Pie”

15. June’s story about peace summit organization

16. Awards given for Off-Broadway plays

17. Former US Attorney General Holder

18. Candy Now and _____

19. Term for exercises within a set

20. “Fight Song” singer Rachel

22. Actors Norton and James Olmos

24. Abbreviation for chemical element 18

25. Spielberg movie about an alien

26. Comedic Shakespeare play performed at SQ

33. Rock band _____ Against the Machine

35. Kristen Stewart movie “American _____”

36. Brother of actor Luke Wilson

39. Agency that advocates for prisoners’ phone and visitation rights (Abbrev.)

40. Inmates’ cell toiletry necessity (Abbrev.)

41. Every inmate is issued

this card

42. Hospital department for extreme emergencies (Abbrev.)

43. PBS show “The _____ of a Chef”

45. _____ Macabre: French term for dance of death

47. Young person who is insolent (Slang)

48. Event at SQ which unites fathers and children

51. As a cry of pain

52. Abbreviation for chemical element 49

53. Prison friends (Prison Slang)

58. Distinguished behaviors

63. Fluids from urine used to make plastics or adhesives

64. Toxin found in castor beans

66. French for a female friend

67. Hunter’s target

68. Pleasant smelly odor

69. Book “Of _____ and Men”

70. Important Mafia leaders

71. June’s issue profile of Photography _____ Poor

72. College and Town in Berkshire, England

Down

1. SQ program tackling sex-trafficking (Abbrev.)

2. Jason Lee’s Fox TV show “My name is _____”

3. A melody in an opera

4. Enzyme in milk splitting lactose

5. Farewell in Latin

6. ‘80s African-American supermodel

7. SQN Column Kid _____ Speaks

8. Swiss abstract painter Paul (1879-1940)

9. Prison exercise area

10. SNL alum Sans

11. Car sharing service

12. Comic book movie starring Jeff Bridges and Ryan Reynolds

13. Nicholas Cage movie “Guarding _____”

21. To subject a severe test

23. TV personality Pee-_____ Herman

26. Most prison population are

27. To exceed or surpass

28. 1st letter of the Jewish alphabet

29. Rank above Sergeant (Abbrev.)

30. “The Luck of the _____”

31. Actress Strickland of “Private Practice”

32. MLB Team Minnesota

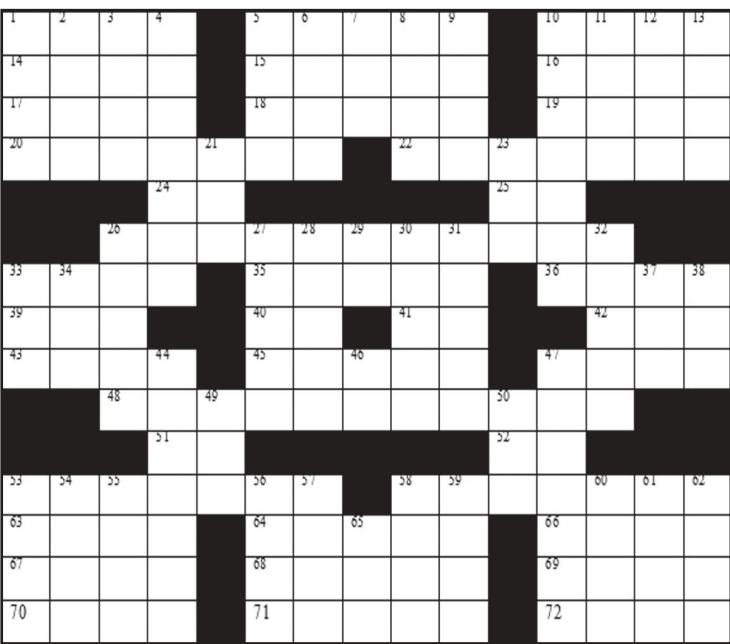
33. Odometer’s measurement (Abbrev.)

34. Community of all Eastern Asian countries (Abbrev.)

37. Environment or habitat

38. A bolt’s mate

44. Tall Himalayan trees



46. Abbreviation for a division in Canada including Yellowknife??
47. Family name
49. “It takes _____”
50. An inmate’s storage receptacle
53. “Ant-Man” Paul
54. Cookie that comes in double and triple stuffed
55. To think; imagine
56. Hmong movie starring Clint Eastwood “_____ Torino”
57. Apple’s iPhone helper
58. An actor who performs with gestures and actions
59. Slang for obsessive orderly, stingy, or stubborn

LAST MONTH’S ANSWERS

60. Transmit by radio waves

61. Federal drug charges, e.g. “As _____ On TV”

65. Any of a series of teeth on the rim of a wheel

Sistema de Fianza Necesita Reforma

Por Noel Scott

El sistema de fianzas que mantiene encarcelados a gente de escasos recursos económicos injustamente, necesita una reforma, de acuerdo a Cantil-

Sakauye Tani Jefe de Justicia en California.

“No deberíamos penalizar a la gente de escasos recursos económicos únicamente por ser pobres”, comento Cantil-Sakauye en su discurso anual

dirigido a la Legislatura de California.

Esta fue la consecuencia del rechazo a una demanda judicial por la Juez del Distrito de los Estados Unidos, Ivonne González Rogers, el 1 de Febrero en la Ciudad San Francisco, contra el sistema de fianzas en efectivo, notifico *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

A partir de entonces, los demandantes han presentado una versión más concisa de sus demandas, la cual se enfoca al

periodo donde la oficina del sheriff fija una fianza después de un arresto, reporta *The Chronicle*.

“Necesitamos mas programas de liberación antes de un juicio para establecer un balance en la seguridad y evitar la necesidad de pagar una fianza”, comento The Chief Justice. El mantener a personas bajo fianza no solo es injusto sino también ineficaz para prevenir delitos.

Cantil-Sakuye comento que ha nombrado a Martín Hoshi-

no, Director de administración de las Cortes de California, para encabezar un estudio nacional sobre los programas de fianzas.

Actualmente, existen programas de liberación en 12 cortes locales que mantienen a los acusados bajo supervisión, en vez de mantenerlos encarcelados hasta que tengan la posibilidad de pagar una fianza, reporta *The Chronicle*.

—Traducción Tare

Beltranchuc y Marco Villa

United States Became More Punitive in Last Three Decades

By David B. Le
Journalism Guild Writer

The United States has become increasingly punitive, according to a Pew Charitable Trusts 2016 study.

“As measured by the punishment rate, the U.S. became 165 percent more punitive from 1983 to 2013,” reported the Pew study, “The Punishment Rate.”

The increase in imprisonment over a 30-year period was the result of an increase in criminal penalties, measures that sent more offenders to prison with lengthier sentences, the study indicated.

The National Research Council’s 2014 report concluded that “statutes mandating lengthy prison sentences cannot be justified on the basis of their effectiveness in preventing crime,” the study cited.

“Many experts also argue that the increase in imprisonment has reached a point of diminishing or even negative public safety returns,” the study pointed out. “At the same time, research shows that policy choices – not crime rates – drive increased imprisonment.”

The punishment rate accounts for the state’s prison population by factoring the imprisonment and crime rates to assess the relationship between crime and punishment. The punishment rate is calculated by the number of inmates sentenced to a year or more for felony offenses per 100,000 residents of a jurisdiction, the study explained.

“Analysis of punishment rates over time across jurisdictions make clear that the nation has become more punitive,” the study concluded.

Análisis Sobre Niveles de Encarcelamiento

Por David B. Le

Los Estados Unidos se han convertido en una nación con altos niveles de encarcelamiento, informa un estudio del Pew Charitable Trust.

De 1983 al 2013 los Estados Unidos alcanzaron un nivel alto en sus sentencias con un 165%, reporta un estudio efectuado por The Pew, acerca del Uso de Medidas Sobre el Índice de Castigo en las Prisiones Relacionadas con el Crimen.

El incremento de personas encarceladas durante un periodo de 30 años fue el resultado de castigos más severos, medidas que enviaron a más ofensores a las prisiones

con sentencias muy largas, indica el estudio.

El reporte del Ayuntamiento Nacional de Investigación del 2014 concluyo que “Estatutos que ordenan condenas largas en la prisión no pueden ser justificados en base a su efectividad para prevenir la delincuencia”, menciona The Pew.

“Muchos expertos argumentan que el incremento en la población de las prisiones a llegado al punto en que el incremento disminuirá o tendrá un impacto negativo en la seguridad publica”, el estudio señala. “Al mismo tiempo la investigación demuestra que la elección de pólizas lleva al aumento de encarcelamiento, y

no los niveles de crimen”

El nivel de castigo es responsable por la población de la prisión del estado al juntar el encarcelamiento y los niveles de castigo para evaluar la relación entre delito y sanción. El nivel de castigo se calcula por el número de presos sentenciados por felonías, a un año o más por cada 100,000 residentes de una jurisdicción, explica el estudio.

“Un análisis sobre los niveles de castigo a través de las jurisdicciones explican de una manera clara que la nación se ha convertido en un agente de castigo”, concluye el estudio.

—Traducción Tare

Beltranchuc y Marco Villa

TRUST Spanish Anger Management Graduation

By Eddie Herena
San Quentin News
Photographer

The first TRUST-sponsored Spanish-speaking anger management graduation was held in San Quentin’s Catholic chapel. The ceremony is one of only a few programs exclusively dedicated to the Spanish speakers at San Quentin.

The celebration was nothing like the average self-help graduation that numerous groups put on within the walled city. There was no food, no drinks, and no deluge of musical performances or acceptance speeches. Instead, a soft, soothing prayer by retired probation officer (and outside sponsor and instructor) Erich Plate Montes filled the surrounding space as he and his co-instructor, Arnold Chaves, D. Ed., joined hands in circle fashion with their graduating class.

The calm, quiet atmosphere created by the altar, and relief sculpture of Christ’s crucified body — symbols that normally contribute to the church’s serenity — was analogous to what the men learned during the 12-week course curriculum.

The program was geared to help the men learn “acceptable ways of expressing anger by gaining a better understanding of self,” said Chaves. The men also learned “stress tips” like the “3-second rule,” a self-talk strategy designed to challenge a decision before an action. The program also focused on the importance of communicating



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

TRUST – First Spanish anger management graduating class

and understanding “war words versus win words,” added Chaves.

But the peace and tranquility that both the chapel and Montes’ prayer provided at the ceremony’s start was quickly filled with laughter and smiles as the men, both young and old from different parts of Latin America, relished their accomplishments.

Pablo Ramirez from Guerrero, Mexico, who is currently serving a 34-to-life sentence for attempted murder, said, “I learned that there are four different styles of communication: aggressive, assertive, passive and passive-aggressive. I was passive. I let people walk all over me. I held in my feel-

ings until one day, I exploded.” Ramirez finished by saying, “Through the program I now better understand what caused me to commit the crime that led me to prison.”

Toward the ceremony’s end, Chaves reminded the men of the importance of effective communication and said, “Remember the story of the little girl and her father.” As it was told, a girl had two big, shiny red apples that her little hands could barely manage. Her father asked for one and before she gave one over, she bit into both, whereupon she was quickly criticized for being a greedy spoiled brat. Turns out, all she wanted was to give her father the sweetest one. Effective communication

is key and an important concept the 19 graduates learned in the program.

Graduate Manuel Murillo has spent 30 years behind California prison walls — the last three at San Quentin. During these three years, he has been involved in more programs at San Quentin than he was able to during the 27 years he spent at other prisons. And yet, though he learned much through the 12-week process, he thinks there’s still a problem. “There are a limited number of programs offered to the Spanish-speaking community,” Murillo said. “I learned enough English to get involved in other programs, but the rest of the Spanish speakers are left out.”

There’s no doubt that the program was a tremendous help to the graduating men. But given the considerable percentage of the prison population whose first language is not English, the shortage of programs for them creates great difficulty when they have to face the Board of Prison Terms with little to no self-help programming.

These 19 graduates were “hungry to learn” said Chaves. And they gained the tools to “process anger before anger turns violent,” added Miguel Saldana, another incarcerated graduate striving to be a better person and ultimately, a freed one, in a pro-programming institution that has yet to break the language barrier.

Men Graduate from Seminary School

By Marcus Henderson
Staff Writer

The Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (GGBTS) graduated 14 spiritually committed men in San Quentin on June 10.

The seminary provides educational and ministry experience to prisoners under its contextualized leadership development (CLD) courses.

“When you talk about the gospel you talk about God,” said Seminary President Dr. Jeff Iorg. “I am proud of these men. Hearing their life stories and how the program impacted them, I can see the effects of their leadership inside and outside of prison.”

Nine men earned diplomas in Christian Ministries, and four earned advanced diplomas in theology.

“I enjoyed the spiritual leadership formation class,” said Antoine Watie, theology gradu-

ate. “It teaches you to be close to God but not to get too far from the people. It showed me what God really wanted me to be and my identity in Christ.”

At the graduation, Watie gave a powerful sermon in front of a large crowd and eight of his family members.

“I knew he had a special gift,” said Mae Thompson, Watie’s grandmother. “I love that he has reached this point in life. Now he can direct the family into the Lord.”

La Quita Germany, Watie’s fiancée, added, “I like to see his progress; he used his time to turn a negative into a positive. He let his light shine wherever he goes, trying to bring people to Christ.”

Ferrari Moody also received his diploma in theology and fired up the guests with his moving words of devotion.

“The classes prepared me for the ministry and to be a part of an organized church,” Moody

said. “If need be, it afforded me the tools to start my own. I thank Mother Jay (San Quentin Protestant Chaplain Mardi Jackson) for allowing us to exercise our spiritual gifts in the chapel. That allows us to gain confidence and implement what we learned.”

“Having my wife witness me graduate was major,” Moody added. “She had the chance to see my transformation, and that gave me a lot of joy.”

Derrick Holloway and Sunshine Prado addressed the guests and received their diplomas in Christian Ministries.

“It feels good for my mother to see me in this light,” Holloway said. “When I was a kid she used to rub blessed oil on me; I thought she was crazy, because I had my own agenda in life. Now I’m on God’s agenda. I want to be a church planter and reach people who don’t know about Jesus or the church.”

Prado added, “I’m going to get

involved in addiction recovery ministries. That’s what God has put on my heart. Having been an addict myself, I understand the effect it puts on a family. Now I can encourage people to seek help through God’s word. I would like to give honor to my mother Sister Betha.”

Billie Prado came to witness her husband’s transformation.

“I never thought I would be a preacher’s wife,” she said. “But here I am. I’m really proud of him.”

Chaplain Jackson awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Rev. Don Beall, GGBTS CLD National Director, his wife Reta Beall; and Dr. Iorg for their work in the program.

Don Beall is retiring after 10 years.

“It’s not about the color of your skin or your background,” Beall said. “It’s about walking with a changed life, and we received as much from these men

as we gave.”

The San Quentin Garden Chapel Praise Team had everyone on their feet singing along and swaying to songs like “Crown Him with Many Crowns,” “Amazing Grace” and “Nobody Greater.”

The CLD instructors led with prayers and gave inspirational words for the graduates.

“It’s a blessing to see these men’s hard work, that can take them beyond this process,” said Rev. Miguel Rodriguez, CLD Director. “They have special training that can lead them throughout their lives.”

Dr. Brice Butler, Pastor of Tiburon Baptist Church, added, “Keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus will give you perception in any season of life.”

Reta Beall closed the ceremony with words of wisdom.

“Keep studying,” she said. “Don’t let the diploma stop you from learning.”

Seventeen Inmates Graduate From Alliance for Change

By Rahsaan Thomas
Staff Writer

After taking classes four days a week for three and a half months, 17 men inside San Quentin completed the Alliance for Change Social Justice Group.

For Isaac Rubio Flores, who spent 18 years in security housing units (SHU) it is the first self-help group he’s ever had a chance to complete.

“It’s uncomfortable for me still (being around) people,” said Flores. “I go into the corner and keep people in front of me. (Alliance for Change) helped me work on my social skills.”

Alliance for Change teaches the different types of justice, like restorative justice and distributive justice.

Alliance teaches parolees more than how not to recidivate, including how “to make positive contributions to society to create a just society,” said sponsor Karen Lovaas, a professor at San Francisco State University.

“Everyone who has graduated from this program and left has flourished,” added Lovaas. “I have not heard of anyone coming back behind bars.”

For Flores, completing Alliance is his first step toward a chance to leave prison since his incarceration at age 17. He has been denied parole since 1996. He says the reasons given were lack of insight and not taking self-help groups. However, no self-help was available to him in the SHU.

Flores said a hunger strike led to his release from SHU and to

Salinas Valley State Prison. He couldn’t get into any self-help groups during his time there, so he asked to be transferred to San Quentin and arrived in March 2016.

“I heard they have the most and best self-help groups; that’s why I wanted to come here,” said Flores, adding that he’d waived his last parole hearing to take groups first.

Flores graduated with many men who also had no prior associations. They were: Anthony Wayne Williams, Ronald Bruce Carter, Gregory Miller, Joseph Krauter, Tommy Lee Wickerd, Christopher Gallo, Allan S. Bennett, Edward Gentry, Marcus Henderson, Robert Louis Tolbert , Le Lam, Amir Shabazz, Troy Allen Smith, Marcus Eduardo Landeras, Oscar Jer-

emy Arana and Dan Cooper.

“We came from so many different patterns of people that the group really united us ... It formed a tapestry,” said Krauter.

That tapestry included former Alliance graduates.

“People who inspire me are Charlie Spence and Chris Deragon,” Miller said of his mentors.

Each graduate came to the podium in the ARC trailer on the Lower Yard and expressed what the group meant to them and said something about the next man up to receive his certificate.

Williams said, “I did most of my time in level threes. I’d never been in a group before and now I know what self-help is. And boy do we need self-help.”

Gala said, “Everybody on the same path with me is my brother, no matter what race you are.”

Gentry said, “I learned to understand that a voice is important. Instead of sitting back letting things happen, I got a voice and my voice matters.”

Arana said, “I thank you for

believing in us, Lovaas.”

Lovaas took the podium last. She said, “The Alliance for Change social justice class should not end today...we should keep walking.”

Sponsor Mana Jaundoo said, “This graduation had a lot more meaning. It rejuvenated me to want to continue to do this with all things Alliance is going through.”

Volunteer Lindsey French, a San Francisco University graduate, says she got involved in Alliance for Change after taking former sponsor Kim Richman’s criminology class.

“We took a tour and saw we are putting people in prison and we aren’t giving them a real way to get out — so it is our responsibility as citizens. I wanted to do my part in helping with this process,” she said.

Alliance President Isaiah “Raheem” Thompson-Bonilla congratulated the class and said, “You are now members of a growing family of members who are connected.”

Jail Healthcare Causes Needless Deaths

By David Eugene Archer Sr.
Journalism Guild Writer

Needless deaths have happened in jails because of a broken healthcare system, according to a *CBS News* investigation.

One of the nation’s largest healthcare providers for county jails, Advanced Correctional Healthcare (ACH), is fighting multiple lawsuits. The company serves 255 correctional facilities in 17 states, said Jeff Glor for *CBS News*.

Dante Wilson, 39, was in a Wisconsin jail for a child support violation. He complained of chest pains. The jail nurse thought he had heartburn and gave him two Tums. Less than an hour later, Wilson asked for help again. “Relax,” was the nurse’s advice. Soon after, Wilson died of a heart attack.

The nurse told a detective: “Yeah, we don’t wanna drag it out, s--t happens.” The nurse was fired. She worked for ACH.

“Dante Wilson’s death was not unique. We found ACH settled at least six lawsuits with families whose relatives died from preventable causes.

Like Wilson, the inmates were charged with non-violent offenses,” reported *CBS News* in April.

Danny Ray Burden, a diabetic accused of insurance fraud, asked for insulin, but never got it and collapsed, a police investigation showed.

“He didn’t deserve a death sentence at Grant County jail,” said his brother, Mark Burden, a retired Kentucky state police detective.

The investigation found that Burden should have been sent straight to the hospital just next door.

Some might say inmates can’t expect the best possible healthcare coverage, but Mark Burden disagrees. “I think that if you go to jail and you got a medical condition, like my brother ... you should be checked out by a physician at any hospital,” he said.

Six weeks before Danny Ray died, the U.S. Department of Justice sent a letter to the jail warning, “Unqualified staff are serving as gatekeepers to medical care.”

“ACH would not talk to *CBS News* on camera, but they told

us, ‘Staffing decisions are dictated by local jail administration,’” the news program stated.

Problems with ACH medical staff extend beyond Kentucky, the broadcast reported. A nurse in Tennessee was convicted of covering up his failure to take an inmate’s vital signs. The inmate died of a drug and alcohol overdose, reported *CBS News*.

Another inmate died from a bleeding ulcer in Ohio, where the medical examiner concluded the “need for urgent medical intervention” would have been obvious to anyone.

In one Alabama jail, three wrongful death lawsuits are pending – including one by the family of a 19-year-old accused of shoplifting. He was found naked with gangrene in his leg, reported *CBS News*.

ACH claims they provide better healthcare than inmates would receive outside of jail, and at a competitive price. But Mark Burden commented, “At the expense of someone’s life—at the expense of my brother’s life.”

ACH lost its contract with the jail where Danny Ray Burden died, reported *CBS News*.

Free Learning Software For JPay Tablets

By Salvador Solorio
Journalism Guild Writer

JPay is now offering free learning software for owners of JPay tablets.

Learning Equality can be accessed by JPay’s KA Lite, an open source offline software pipeline to correctional facilities. San Quentin inmates currently can buy tablets that allow them to read books and play games, but cannot access JPay’s pipeline.

Prisoners with pipeline access can search and download thousands of instructional and educational videos free, JPay reported in a Feb. 24 news release. Facility-approved content is part of JPay’s education initiative, led by Lantern, the JPay-built education platform.

“We designed KA Lite for anyone who lacks access to

high-quality education resources, including inmates who might benefit the most from what we regard as a universal right,” said Elizabeth Vu of Learning Equality.

More than 325,000 KA Lite videos have been downloaded at 50 facilities, the company reported. Inmates download content onto their JPay tablets, and are able to learn at their own pace and on their own time.

“KA Lite’s unique offline model gives facilities the peace of mind of security and provides inmates with educational resources that were previously inaccessible. The goal is to reduce recidivism; education can do that,” reported JPay CEO Ryan Sapiro.

JPay services and products include money transfer, tablets, email, video communication, education, games and music.

The Love Between a Boy and His Dog

By Juan Haines
Senior Editor

Ever since I’ve known Tommy Winfrey, he’s been an inspiring and honest teller of tales. His storytelling abilities were acknowledged when he won first prize in the Memoir Category of the 2016 PEN prison writing contest.

Stray is a classic story about the love a boy has for his dog.

Bugsy was there in the morning just looking at me when I woke up. He had made his bed next to me. His little body lay there stretched out and fragile. He looked me in the eyes as I opened mine, scooted closer to me, and licked my face. There was something comforting about

Book Review

that. From that moment on, we became inseparable.

Winfrey enrolled in a college class last summer and his instructor, Andrew Maynard, had the opportunity to workshop the story.

“The heart of *Stray* exists in the surprising yet heartbreaking moments when Tommy begins to realize that he will never be fit to take care of his friend until he learns to care for himself,” Maynard said. “This moment never comes, but the care and craft exposed in this essay reveals a writer who, in

retrospect, has learned to take care of his readers with a story refreshingly raw and realized.”

Stray is more than just a classic tale when it reflects deeply upon Winfrey’s inner struggles with drug addiction, driving him away from his true self and into someone able to commit the most heinous of crimes, murder.

Bugsy could no longer stand the smell of meth, and anytime someone besides me had meth on them he would growl at them. Whenever I would smoke the stuff he would just look at me, and I imagined it bothered him,

but he never let me see that judgment.

After Winfrey commits the murder for which he is currently incarcerated, the dog’s response is profound.

What I liked most about this story is how Winfrey was able to describe his disconnect from his family and the rest of the world and how that played into his relationship with and love for Bugsy, the one being he felt close to.

Winfrey’s storytelling has always captured me, beginning with *The Things I Peed On*. This funny story about Winfrey’s



Courtesy of Tommy Winfrey

Bugsy

bonding with his father also is a thoughtful story about relationships.

Both stories are available upon request. Your comments would be greatly appreciated.

Looking Back at the Last Five Years

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

“Asked on the Line” or AOTL, has reached its five-year milestone. In March 2011, the editors of the *San Quentin News (SQN)* decided to start a regular column to collect and share the thoughts, opinions, and memories of the residents inside San Quentin. Editors appointed a member of the Journalism Guild to write the column and the first

article, about Cinco de Mayo, was published in May 2011. Over 60 articles later, “Asked on the Line” is still acquainting readers with the “men in blue” at San Quentin.

Today, the *San Quentin News* is an award-winning periodical read in dozens of U.S. correctional institutions as well as online by fans and followers. In addition to reporting on events inside this institution, *SQN* reports on state, national, and world-wide is-

Asked On The Line

sues that impact prisoners everywhere.

However, no column captures the honest and tender memories of the mainliners more than “Asked on the Line.”

How would men — with no social media addictions or smartphone obsessions, separated from the unconditional love of parents or children — define love? How do they express love? Go online and read any February AOTL articles.

What advice would adults give to a younger version of themselves if they could go back in time? Would the young person listen to the wisdom of the future? Check out the 2015 January AOTL.

Would people pay an additional 30 percent for fast food to donate money to charity? The men at San Quentin do this every other month. Read the 2015 March AOTL.

If time and resources were not an issue, what career paths would people take? The April 2014 and September 2015 AOTL articles will amaze you.

Are men a reflection of their mothers or of the women that raised them? Do those with fathers or father figures love their male role models? Read any May AOTL and June AOTL for a type of sweet sincerity uncommon in today’s frigid social media blogs.

Do men behind bars still

feel patriotic? Do they love their country? Read the 2015 July AOTL for how men celebrated the Fourth of July.

How would men, paying their dues to society, feel about a prison guard who saved an inmate’s life? Their responses will change the way you feel about prisoners. Read the 2014 August AOTL.

Prisoners do feel remorse and they do want to change. Read the October 2014 AOTL or the January 2015 AOTL.

Are the men on the mainline grateful? Read any November AOTL articles and you too will count your blessings.

Do the winter holidays still warm hearts behind cold concrete settings? Read any December AOTL articles.

Online “Asked On The Line” articles go back as far as May 2011. Feel free to comment on our Facebook page.

- July is the fourth of seven months in a year with thirty-one (31) days. This year, July has five Sundays, five Fridays, and five Saturdays.
- Independence Day is on Monday, July 4.
- For the Christian community, the Memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is on Saturday, July 16; the Memorial of Saint Mary Magdalene is on Friday, July 22; and the Memorial for Saints Joachim and Anne—parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary—is on Tuesday, July 26.
- For members of the Muslim Community, Eid al-Fitr begins at sundown on Wednesday, July 6.
- There are two astrological signs in July: Cancer, the sign of the Crab (June 22 to July 22) and Leo, the sign of the Lion (July 23 to August 22)
- The July birthstone is the Ruby.

California Bail System Penalizes the Poor

By Noel Scott
Journalism Guild Writer

The bail system that unfairly keeps poor people locked up needs reform, according to California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

“We must not penalize the poor for being poor,” Cantil-Sakauye said in her annual State of the Judiciary address to the California Legislature.

This follows the dismissal of a lawsuit challenging the cash bail system in San Francisco on Feb. 1 by U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, the *San Francisco Chronicle* noted.

The plaintiffs have since filed a narrower version of their lawsuit that focuses on the pe-

riod just after arrest when the sheriff’s office sets bail, reported the *Chronicle*.

“We need more pretrial release programs to balance safety against the need to post bail,” the chief justice said. Holding people on bail may be both unfair to the poor and ineffective at preventing crime, she added.

She said she has appointed Martin Hoshino, the administrative director of the California courts, to head a national task force to study the bail-setting program.

At present, there are release programs in 12 local courts that place defendants under supervision, rather than holding them until they can post bail reported the *Chronicle*.

After two elections, there are many new faces within the Men’s Advisory Council (MAC), and recently, new confirmations to the Executive Body took place.

New arrivals to the mainline have been asking, “Who are the MAC Representatives at San Quentin?”

After MAC elections in December 2015 and March 2016, there are now 17 elected MAC Representatives working in 18 Subcommittees. Eleven men volunteer their time to make up the General Body of Representatives and six men make up the Executive Body that includes three assigned positions.

General Body representatives are elected by the inmate population and Executive Body members are confirmed by a vote of all MAC Representatives.

The following men make up the Executive Body: S.W. Johnson, Sr.—Executive Chairman, A. Alvarez—Vice-chairman, M. Nguyen—Executive Secretary, D. Hill—Parliamentarian, W. Thompson—H-Unit Senior Advisor, and N. Bucci—Ser-

geant at Arms. Only the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary positions are considered job assignments.

Executive Body members receive, organize, and document issues that affect the inmate population and discuss them in monthly or quarterly meetings with Captains, Managers, Associate Wardens, the Appeals Coordinator, the Chief Medical Executive, the Chief Deputy Warden and/or the Warden.

General Body Representatives are: A. Alto, J. Vieyra, W. Goodman, W. Tolbert, W. Anderson, B. Shipp, F. Toalepai, M. Lanear, D. Lewis, J. Murray and T. Bryant.

General Body representatives receive and document issues that affect the mainline population and discuss them in monthly or quarterly meetings with Correctional Officers, Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, Institutional Staff, Supervisors, and Managers. Continuous or ongoing issues

not resolved at the General Body level are normally forwarded to the Executive Body for review.

Every MAC representative must chair or serve in a Subcommittee. Subcommittee assignments are as follows:

J. Vieyra—Canteen, F. Toalepai—Education, W. Goodman and B. Shipp—Food Services for North and West Block, A. Alvarez—Health Care and Mail, A. Alto—Inmate Movies, N. Bucci—North Block, W. Anderson—R&R, D. Hill—Recreation events, S.W. Johnson, Sr.—Visiting, W. Tolbert—West Block, M. Lanear—H-Unit Canteen, T. Bryant—H-Unit Education, J. Murray—H-Unit R&R, and W. Thompson—H-Unit Health Care, H-Unit Laundry, H-Unit Recreation, and H-Unit Visiting. At the discretion of the Subcommittee chair, non-elected inmates may volunteer and assist MAC representatives.

– Angelo Falcone

MAC Corner

Super Bowl Champion Visits State Prison

By Rahsaan Thomas and
Juan Haines

Brendon Ayanbadejo, a 2012 Super Bowl champion with the Baltimore Ravens, ventured into a prison for the first time, and no guards were around to protect him.

"When I got here, the single biggest thing I saw was all those classrooms, no guards, everybody walking with their books, you guys smiling," Ayanbadejo said about his impression of seeing men going to self-help programs inside San Quentin State Prison. "It's amazing you guys are doing what you're doing."

Ayanbadejo came as the guest speaker at a Freeman Capital Financial Literacy class taught by co-founder Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll, who is incarcerated.

Carroll preaches anyone can learn financial literacy.

"People think financial literacy is a skill set, but it isn't. It's management, and if you can manage time, you can manage money," said Carroll.

Freeman Capital classes are held in an unassuming building, obscured by a baseball scoreboard, on the prison's Lower Yard. Ayanbadejo and Carroll sat in front of more than three dozen inmates and several community supporters of the program to have a conversation about successfully managing life.

"Anything I can do to make a difference, I'm all in," said Ayanbadejo. "I think there needs to be a reform because

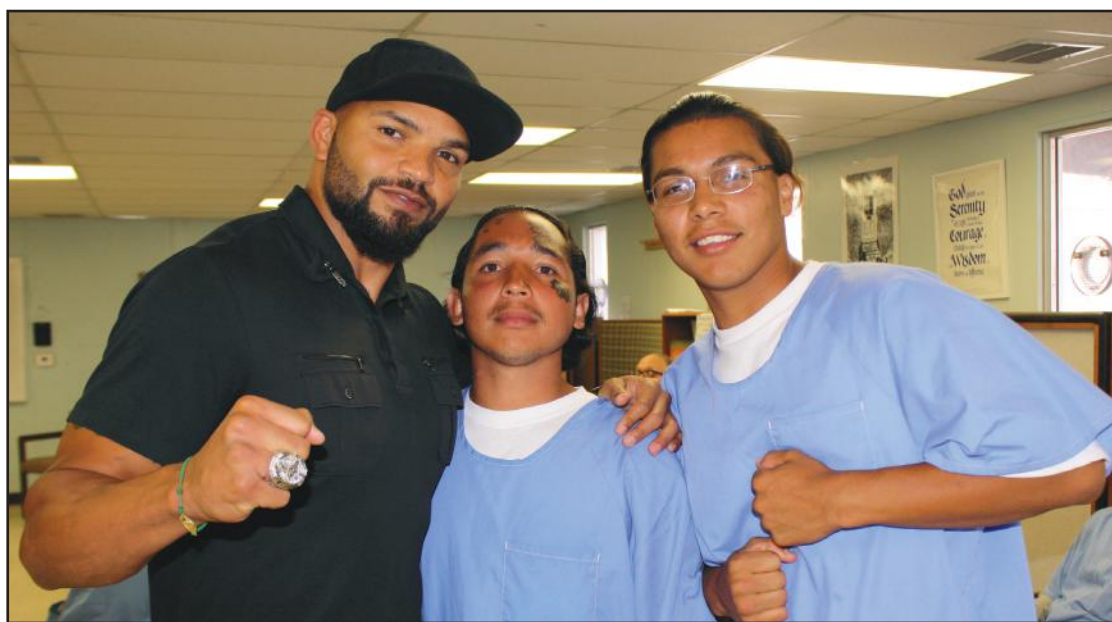


Photo by Sam Hearnes

Brendon Ayanbadejo, Johnnie Mendoza and David Silva

the U.S. has the highest prison population. You have countries with billions of people that don't have so many people in prison. Why is that?"

Ayanbadejo told the class what it took to overcome his struggles, starting with growing up in the Chicago project without his father, who lived in Nigeria.

"My reality was trying to get home safe and play my sports," said Ayanbadejo.

At 10 years old, his mother's friend moved the family to Santa Cruz, which he describes as "going from gangbanging to granola."

His path to the NFL didn't start at a university, and he wasn't drafted. His first three NFL teams cut him. He was 26

when he finally played as a Miami Dolphin. However, he excelled in the league, becoming a three-time pro bowler, playing for the Ravens from 2008-2013 and going to two Super Bowls.

"You have to dedicate yourself to your craft every day. I saw the people around me, and I was willing to outwork, out-study and have a better attitude than them," said Ayanbadejo about his keys to success. "I wanted to be great."

Ayanbadejo said greatness doesn't last forever. He talked about how he planned for retirement by getting his master's degree in business while still in the league. Then he invested in Orange-Theory Fitness franchise. He now owns 13 fitness centers.

"I think ... JJ Watt said, 'Being great is just a lease, but what's next,'" said Ayanbadejo.

Prior to his presentation, Ayanbadejo called the inmates closer to him. He reached in his back pocket and pulled his 2012 Super Bowl ring out of a small gray satchel.

With widened eyes and huge smiles on, many San Francisco 49er fans forgot that the Baltimore Ravens beat them in Super Bowl XLVII and posed for photos with the champion and his ring.

"This ring just means that a goal was accomplishment. It's not this ring; it's what was achieved," said Ayanbadejo. "You can take this away, and I'm still a Super Bowl champ."

After the presentation,

Mathew "Ed" Ward, 39, said he learned, "When you do good, good comes back to you. Stay committed and don't get distracted."

Andrew Boivin, 20, said, "I think it was very motivational. He had a lot of insight. We can all learn something from his perseverance and apply it to our success."

According to Carroll, success breeds success, something he said he got from a person he calls his adopted father, Paul Blevins.

Blevins, a hedge fund manager, cited Carroll's reason that money issues lead to crime as his motivation for supporting Freeman Capital.

"I think the financial literacy class is invaluable," said Blevins. "It is allowing people to think about concepts they wouldn't think about, and it's preparing men for financial independence. Teaching them financial independence is going to help them avoid coming back to prison."

Ayanbadejo added, "You guys have time right now to make a change. It's never too late to make a change. It takes time to learn. You have to come to it. You have to start banging down doors. There are a lot of people to help you grow."

Ayanbadejo was asked about hiring ex-felons.

"We're a new company," he said. "That's something we'll take a look at," he added, "If you can get a fitness certification, it's something you could come to our company with."

Forty-Niner Rookies Tour San Quentin

The San Francisco Forty-Niners took a tour inside San Quentin State Prison as part of its many programs to help rookies prepare for a successful life within and after the NFL.

"Every rookie is here except two who are graduating from Oregon today," said Earl Smith, a chaplain for the Niners and the Golden State Warriors. "All of them have to go through my class."

Former Niners act as mentors to the rookies. Three came along, including Jim Webb, who played from '75 to '80; Parys Haralson, a Niner for seven years; and Dennis Brown, a Niner from '90-'98.

Haralson said, "We're helping them with their transition from college to the NFL. It's a totally different life."

Haralson spoke about some of

the programs the NFL offers, including helping men finish college, learn how to sell real estate and self-help. Haralson says he's getting his MBA next year.

Webb said, "I want to see these guys succeed and not do stupid things."

Brown said, "These are about to be a bunch of young men with money in their pockets, facing many temptations."

Brown wants them to see the bigger picture.

Incarcerated men Sam Hearn, Joey Mason, David Silva and Clay Long opened the tour in front of a water fountain just inside the prison. Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll joined later. They told the rookies about the realities of prison and their rehabilitation.

Then the incarcerated men broke off in individual

groups to dialogue with the rookies, including: Demetrius Cherry, Arizona State; Jered Bell, University of Colorado; Aaron Burbridge, Michigan State; Jason Fanaika, Utah; Wynton McManis, University of Memphis; John Lunsford, Liberty University in Virginia; Darren Lake, University of Alabama; Rashard Robinson, LSU; Fahn Cooper, Old Mississippi; and John Theus, University of Georgia.

"It's a good education for them to understand all aspects of culture and break down stigmas," said Crystal Heart, a Niners staffer who's been behind the scenes helping to organize tours and came for the first time. "Knowing the consequences of one choice can be life changing."

Lunsford has visited other prisons before, but at San Quentin he experienced something entirely new.

"They wouldn't let us near any inmates (in a super max in Virginia)," said Lunsford. "This is how you really experience this."

From there, Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson led the Niners around the prison, starting at the dungeon that used to serve as segregation.

"Getting locked up in the 1850s is bad news," Franklin Smith, the son of Earl Smith, said after walking out of the dungeon. "The San Quentin of today shows there's been a lot of



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Forty-Niners and inmates at the Garden Plaza

changes, in that people are now being treated more humanely."

When the rookies went onto the Lower Yard it was bustling with activity. Men were running around the track. A basketball game between the SQ Warriors and the visiting Lincoln Hill team was in progress, as well as a baseball game between the visiting Santa Monica Suns and the SQ All Stars.

Smith said he restarted the San Quentin baseball program in 1994 after a conversation with an incarcerated man sparked by seeing his baseball glove. That team was called the Pirates.

"It took nine months to build the field," said Smith.

As the Niners walked the yard, Niners fans shouted out accolades, while Raiders fans

heckled good naturedly.

Next, the Niners went to North Block and saw the small cells two men share.

"I don't know how people like me can do it," Cherry said. "That top bunk with the locker on top is really crowded."

Then it was on to cages used for the Death Row inmates' yard. The tour ended at the hospital and with the rookies having new perspectives.

"People inside the prison are just like us," said Theus. "One bad decision can put you here. I have much more respect for (incarcerated people) than I had before."

Cooper said, "A lot of smart individuals gave us some real good advice."

—Rahsaan Thomas



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Forty-Niners walking on SQ Upper Yard

Kings and Warriors Fall to the Green Team

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

The visiting Christian Sports Ministry "Green Team" swept the Warriors and Kings in a basketball double header. The Warriors lost their fourth straight game of the season 76-63. In the Kings' game, Brion Krivoy, normally a bench-rider, led the Green Team from down 20 to win 65-60.

The day opened with a moment of silence for Muhammad Ali, the former heavyweight

champion who died the night before the June 4 game.

Krivoy started the first game against the Warriors on the bench while former pro player Evan Fjeld went to work. Fjeld says he played pro overseas and in the D-league with Oklahoma City's Tulsa team and in Maine. He scored 40 points including flushing down a dunk, showing why he's known as the "Plumber" in San Quentin.

The Warriors kept the game close, down 2 at 54-52 at the end of the third quarter. However,

they had no answer for Fjeld.

"I thought we played a whole lot better, but we still have to learn how to finish," said Warrior Coach Daniel Wright.

With 3:26 left in the game, the Warriors had a chance to close the gap at 65-61 but Green Team's Chris Blees scored a layup, then grabbed the offense rebound on the other end. Fjeld scored, putting the Green Team up 73-61.

With 39 seconds on the clock, Warrior Harry "ATL" Smith stole the ball, passed down court to Allan McIntosh who passed it to Anthony Ammons for the dunk, making the score 73-65.

The Warriors fouled to stop the clock, and the Green Team finished from the free-throw line.

Four Warriors finished with double figures, including McIntosh with 17 points and 12 rebounds; Tevin Fournette with 15 points and 11 rebounds; Dave Lee with 13 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 1 steal and Ammons with 12 points.

Blees had 16 points and 6 rebounds, and teammate Pat Lacey scored 12 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

For the Kings game, Fjeld left and Krivoy moved into the starting lineup.

Krivoy missed his first six



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Pat Lacey defending Kings' Timothy Long

shots, and the Kings were up 50-31 with 4:08 left in the third quarter. Then Krivoy got hot. He dropped three out of four from three-point range to lead his team's comeback.

"I'm used to sitting on the end of the bench so it's extra special when I can contribute to the game itself," said Krivoy.

Krivoy did not make his Claremont-McKenna college basketball team with Lacey, Blees, Tajas Gala and Pinson. However, Krivoy says he won an under-six-foot one-on-one intramural league championship.

Blees motivated his team in the huddle to stop the Warriors on the offense boards or go sit on the bench. The Green Team snatched every offense board afterward, except one. The Kings were out-rebounded 54-

45.

With 1:30 left in the fourth quarter, Pinson, who went 0-9 from the field against the Warriors and 2-10 against the Kings, got his team the lead with a three-pointer, making the score 61-60.

Missed shots and Green Team offensive rebounds forced the Kings to foul to stop the clock. Lacey and Pinson hit their free throws and secured the win.

Lacey got a second double with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Blees led his team with 17 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists and a steal. Gala clocked 11 points and 12 rebounds.

D. "Zayd" Nickolson and Demond Lewis led the Kings with 10 points each.

"That was a battle," said Lacey. "Really good basketball."

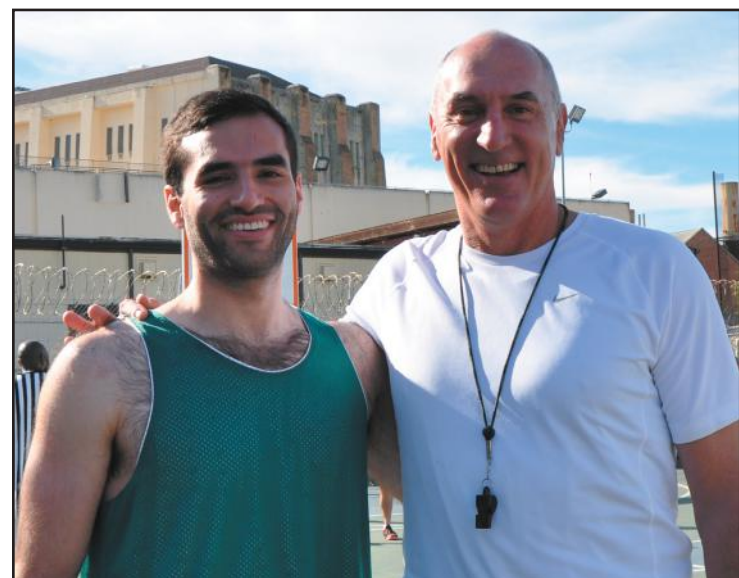


Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Brion Krivoy and Green Team Sponsor Bill Epling

Diego Brothers Topple Hardtimers in Softball Opener

By **Marcus Henderson**
Staff Writer

It was a Friday the 13th massacre. The visiting Diego Brothers softball team defeated the San Quentin Hardtimers 29-7.

From the opening pitch, Diego Brother AJ Ferreira smacked a deep home run over the left field gate. The Brothers continued to put on a clinic throughout the game.

"This is our sixth year coming in. I had a blast," said JD Diego. "It's like a family reunion, these are our brothers. We always feel the love here. It's all about the vibe and we got to meet the new guys."

The Hardtimers revamped with a lot of young players getting some real game experience.

"It was a difficult game," said Hardtimer Cordiare McDonald of the May 13 game. "Everybody was still supportive of each other. We need to show a little more dedication to the practice. At the end of the day, mistakes happen."

"We are thankful for the chance to interact with the outside team."

Nicholas Darrett, of the Hardtimers, added, "It was a challenge. We are going to grow from it. We played a good team. We have to work hard for what we want and we will get everything we need."

The Diego Brothers scored four runs in the first inning, then batted around in the third and racked up seven runs to extend the lead 11-0.

"We geared up for this," said Sean "Captain" Morgan, of the Diego Brothers. "There were no

holes in our defense today. The Hardtimers were competitive and positive; they might need to bring some of the old guys back to give them more pop at bat. The younger guys do show promise."

The Diego Brothers put up four runs in the fourth, fifth and eighth, while scoring three in the sixth and ninth.

The Hardtimers managed to score one in the fourth and seventh, two in the sixth and three in the eighth.

"We have to communicate more," said Hardtimers assistant coach John "Ya Yah" Parrett. "We kept fighting to the end. It's plenty of positives we can take from this game."

Dan White, Hardtimers Head Coach and sponsor added, "This is a teachable moment; we need to fine-tune some things. This is not brain surgery; it's just a game. We will get our chemistry and rhythm together."

The Diego Brothers have been

waiting for this day since the game was cancelled due to the Legionnaires' disease outbreak last year.

"We come to be a service to these guys," said Alike Von Tempsky, of the Diego Brothers. "We all have things we need to overcome and fear is one of them – the fear of success or fear of failure. You got to keep telling yourself, I can face everything and recover."

The May 13 game brought lessons and frustration.

"This is where the rubber meets the road," said Hardtimer Jaun Arballo. "This is where you are tested. If you can't handle frustration on the field, you won't be able to handle it on the streets. We will unify and form one mind."

Diego Brothers Head Coach Phil Martino concluded, "We hope we set the bar for something they can strive to. We care about everyone here; everybody matters to us."



Photo by Sam Hearn

Diego Brother Captain Sean Morgan at bat

Neither Rain Nor NBA Playoffs Stop Lacob's Visit

Weather reports threatened rain, and the Golden State Warriors were tied 1-1 in the Western Conference; yet, their Assistant General Manager, Kirk Lacob, visited San Quentin to play basketball against the San Quentin Warriors anyway.

Lacob came in with the Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team and sponsor Bill Epling.

Epling knew it might rain but took the chance to come because of how much both the inside and outside teams look forward to meeting up every other Saturday.

This made the second year in a row that Lacob came into San Quentin while his Golden State team was in the midst of the NBA playoffs. Last year Golden State won the championship.

"I think it might be (good luck); it worked last year," Lacob said.

The May 21 game got off to a great start for Christian Sports Ministries even without their leading scoring center/forward Chris Blees or Pat Lacey. In their place, Kyle Fowlers, who used to play for Wake Forest, and Antoine Maddox, a former Washington General, stepped up. Fowlers had 15 in the first

half, with highlights including a reverse layup and a layup that resembled a dunk. Maddox followed up with another 15 points, while the S.Q. Warriors' 0-3 season start struggles looked to continue.

After the second quarter both teams, refs and coaches crowded around half-court circle. There Robert Butler spoke about paroled men who had run into problems and about helping each other succeed on the outside, like Danny Cox, who he said works for Tesla.

Epling spoke about how God used a prostitute to save people.

"If God can use Rahab (a heroic prostitute in the Old Testament) He can use you," Epling said.

Lacob talked about a selfless man who started with Golden State 24 years ago as a ball boy and was rewarded for his hard work and loyalty with a championship ring and Steph Curry mentioning his name during an MVP acceptance speech.

"I strive to be like him," said Lacob.

Rain ended the game just as the third quarter started with Christian Sports Ministries up, 37-33, and one clear winner—everyone involved.

—Rahsaan Thomas

Casey Affleck Bats Against SQ All Stars

By Marcus Henderson
Staff Writer

Actor and producer Casey Affleck's Los Angeles Love baseball team fell to the San Quentin All-Stars in a double header 7-6 and 13-3.

In the first game, All-Star John "Dunnie" Windham smashed a walk-off grand slam home run to cap off a ninth-inning rally for the win.

"That was a profound baseball moment," said David Gould, Loves' Head Coach and player. "No lead is safe; you have to stay humble. You can't get cocky."

Windham added, "We never lost confidence. We believed we could win like this."

L.A. Love is from the Beverly Hills Wood Bat League. The club was started seven years ago by Affleck and Gould. They have won a L.A. City Championship.

Affleck has appeared in such movies *The Assassination of Jesse James*, *Ocean's Eleven* and in *Good Will Hunting* with his brother, Ben Affleck. He has a new movie, *Manchester of the Sea*, coming out in November.

"I learned a lot about life in here," said Affleck. "People



Photo courtesy of LA Love

Elliot Smith with Casey Affleck and the L.A. Love Team

should be aware of what is going on; there is a need to prepare people to assimilate back into society."

Affleck and Gould are working on a movie about the life of Earl Smith, who restarted the baseball program at Quentin.

"He has an inspirational life, and redemption through baseball it's really an interesting story," said Gould. "We all have a universal passion for the game."

Down 6-1 in the ninth, All-Stars Joshua Burton and Cleo Cloman singled. Burton made it to third off of Cloman's hit.

He scored on a double steal with Cloman, catching the Love off guard. Two more singles and a walk set the stage for Windham.

"These guys are a real class act," said Alex Ansolenga, Love catcher. "My perception about people in prison has changed. This experience has opened my eyes; especially the way all the guys accepted responsibility for what they've done."

The Love put up three runs in the fifth. Ben Conely singled down the third base line and Boomer Wells hit a line drive double past center field for the

score. Kody McCarty singled to bring in Wells. Patrick Kennedy got the RBI single for McCarty for the 6-1 lead.

The Love's first three runs came as All-Star pitcher Jeff "Dewey" Dumont struggled at the mound. He walked in a run, and Taylor Ervin came in on a sacrifice fly in the first. Dumont closed the ending, striking out Affleck.

In the second, Love Pitcher Brian Nichols singled and stole second, and Ervin bought him home with a base hit.

"We struggled at first," said Dumont. "It took me awhile to settle in, but it was gut check time in the ninth."

Nichols added, "Being here is one of my most memorable moments. Baseball is beautiful whatever level you play it on."

Nichols played in the minor leagues with the New York Mets from 1999-2001.

"These guys are competitive and respect the game," said Nichols. "They didn't disappoint; they made me work."

Not only did the All-Stars batting come to life in both games, but they also made some spectacular defensive plays.

David Fairie was a one-man double play. He secured a

ground ball, touched third base and from his knees threw the runner out at first.

"I love all this; it's no looking back," said Fairie. "We are all winners. I feel alive again; back in the SHU (Security Housing Unit) it's like you're dead. These guys inspire me to do better."

Conley, of the Love added, "I've played in front of 8,000 people and this is right up there. The energy you feel when first come here is unique. I'm impressed with their pitcher professionalism."

Conley also played in the minors.

The May 14 game had players bonding and reflecting.

"These guys surprised me. This let you know that more is going on behind bars," said Love's Jeff Pruitt. "As a Black man I could have been the 'one-in-four' in prison. I feel privileged."

In the second game, the Love struggled at the mound and the All-Stars took advantage racking up the score.

"We are starting to gel and good teams have to have chemistry," said Frankie Smith, All-Stars inmate Head Coach. "It's a privilege that they came all this way; it's a blessing."

Sonoma Semi-Pro Team Stomps SQ All Stars 16-0

The visiting Sonoma Stompers semi-professional baseball team's 16-0 win gave the San Quentin All-Stars a lesson in playing against pros. In addition, each team member saw the paths their life could have taken.

The Stompers first baseman, Daniel Baptista, pulled off a home run hat trick.

In the first inning, he smashed a homer over the Lower Yard right-field gate. In the third, he belted the ball over the left-field gate. Continuing to show his power, he wracked one over the center-field gate in the fourth.

"This is an experience you never forget," said Baptista. "These guys are good competitors. You get to come here and see how some people got sucked

into the street life."

All-Star John Windham added, "I enjoyed the game. I got to see them do what I could have been doing, at their level and making the right choices."

The Stompers took a quick 4-0 lead in the first.

Their quality pitchers Mike Jackson Jr., Greg Paulino and Jose Flores all threw in the '90s against the All-Stars.

Paulino came from the Dominican Republic and played in the minor leagues for the Oakland A's. Jackson is the son of Mike Jackson Sr., who played 19 years in the majors and was a closer and relief pitcher for the San Francisco Giants from 1992-1994.

"We came out to give the guys the competition they wanted,"

said Jackson. "People shouldn't worry about the stereotypes; get a feel for the people and enjoy the experience."

All-Star Don Spence added, "I faced a major league pitcher. You see that type of pitching on TV all the time, but to be at the plate is amazing. It shows why they get the money they get to play; it's no joke."

Jeff "Deuy" Dumont, the All-Star pitcher, had a rougher outing; he hit three batters but struck out six.

The Stompers widened their lead 10-0 in the third with three doubles and two home runs. Mark Hurley hammered one over the left-field gate, right after Baptista.

"This was a special and eye-opening experience," said



Photo courtesy of Elliot Smith

The Stompers outside of San Quentin State Prison

Hurley. "These guys give us motivation. You have guys who have been down 20 or 30 years, and they're not complaining; that's life changing."

Takashi "Yoshi" Miyoshi, the Stompers manager added, "We are honored to play here. I played all over the world, and this is a reminder for our players to have love for the game. Because playing on a professional level, it's just about winning."

Miyoshi is the first Japanese person to manage a professional baseball team in the U.S.

"My job is to prepare our talent for the majors," said Miyoshi.

The All-Stars gave up three runs in the fourth and the sixth, ending any hopes of a comeback.

"We were short-handed," said Isaiah Bonilla-Thompson, All-Stars assistant coach. "But what could you expect? We played professionals. We will live to fight another day."

The May 28 game ended with the teams exchanging signed balls from each club.

"This game gives our guys

perspective," said Theo Fightmaster, Stompers General Manager. "A lot of people would like to be in their shoes. Last year's game helped with our team chemistry, and this year we are looking for the same."

"It's also a reminder that people here are real, live human beings."

Stompers Cam Stimpson added, "I saw the CNN special before I came. It's easy to lock people up, but a lot of these guys are following up with their rehabilitations. They are trying to turn their lives around, and that's a good thing for society."

Bob Padecky from the *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* came to witness the game.

He said what impressed him the most was that he asked a guy what's so special about this field and the guy responded "I'm talking to you."

"Then it hit me," said Padecky. "We are just talking to people. This teaches you not to take life for granted or just don't go stupid or you will be playing for the San Quentin A's or Giants."

— Marcus Henderson

Taylor Shatters Seventh Track Record

Markelle Taylor broke the One-Hour Run record.

Taylor ran 9 and 15/16 miles, or 39 laps, beating the 2015 record set by Eddie Herena of 9 and 3/8 miles, or 37 laps.

"I dedicate this run to women and children who suffer from domestic abuse," said Taylor. "I want to be a source of healing and peace for them."

"We should honor our victims and uplift the causes we believe in when we run."

Taylor holds seven San Quentin 1000-Mile Club records and he set four this season.

The May 20 race had 25 runners chasing their personal best.

Chris Sculls took second with 8 and 7/8 miles. Carlos Moreno and Herena came in third and fourth with 8 and 13/16 miles.

"This run was the opportu-

nity for the guys to develop themselves for the coming marathon," said Dylan Bowman, volunteer and lap counter. "This was their time to challenge themselves and own their craft; to constantly improve."

Runner Bernard "Raheem" Ballard ran 7-3/16 miles for 12th place.

"I will use this as a springboard to get back in shape," Ballard said. "Being in the club is a release and a way to express myself. It provides an outlet to mingle with positive people."

"When people are doing positive things, positivity will rub off on you."

First-time runner Michael Wilson came in last but pushed through with heart and determination.

"I set my mind to accomplish my goal. That's with any thing



Photo by Raphael Casale

Markelle Taylor in stride

in life, I'm not going to give up and persevere."

— Marcus Henderson

‘Get On The Bus’ Brings Families Together

Continued from Page 1

Get On The Bus, in conjunction with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, has held the annual event for 16 years. This year, 11,000 children will be reunited with their parents in the visiting rooms of seven men’s prisons and three women’s prisons across the state. Next year, the program is scheduled to expand to High Desert State Prison.

Keya Banks traveled from Los Angeles with her son, Demauri Williams, so that he could meet his incarcerated grandfather. Travis Banks has been incarcerated since his daughter, Keya was 16 years old.

“I want them to get to know each other,” Keya said. “I want my son to have that bond that I didn’t have growing up.”

“My father has always reached out to me and stayed connected, even when he was in and out of jail,” she added. “At first, I didn’t want a relationship with him, but when I got older, I realized people make mistakes, they learn from them and grow from them.”



Eusebio Gonzales with his daughter, Sheylas

Keya acknowledged that “it’s important to be with your family. Things happen and we have to move on.”

Keya’s mother added, “It feels good to be connected. As long as he’s here, we’ll keep coming back.”

A 2013 study shows more than 1.75 million children under the age of 18 had a parent in a state or federal prison in the United States. Nationally, about 53 percent of men and 61 percent of women in the U.S. prison population are parents. This represents nearly 810,000 incarcerated parents.

“It is joyous to see families reunited,” said Philip Haik, one of the 22 Get On The Bus staffers assisting the San Quentin event. “It’s good to give back, especially when you have been so blessed.” Haik also volunteers in feeding the homeless and makes contributions to the Navajo nation.

For the last four years, inmate John Vernacchio, the visiting room photographer, has worked during the event.

“I look forward to this every year because the sponsors are some of the nicest people you can meet,” he said.

Jason Jones has about 10 months left to serve on his 12year sentence.

His wife, Katy Flood, and his step-children Kiley Lyon and Rappor Lyon made the



Anthony Smith with his grandson

three-and-a-half-hour trip from Visalia, California, to see him.

“Getting time to spend with Jason is good,” Kiley said. “We get to do things that we don’t do on regular visits,” Jones added, referring to the face painting and games, Subway sandwiches for lunch and photos.

“They had all kinds of refreshments on the bus and

blankets. They made us pancakes and bacon for breakfast,” Katy said. “They did a great job. Next year, I’ll have to make the pancakes,” she added, while looking at Jones.

“I can’t wait for that,” Jones replied, smiling.

For more information about Get On The Bus, go to www.getonthebus.us.

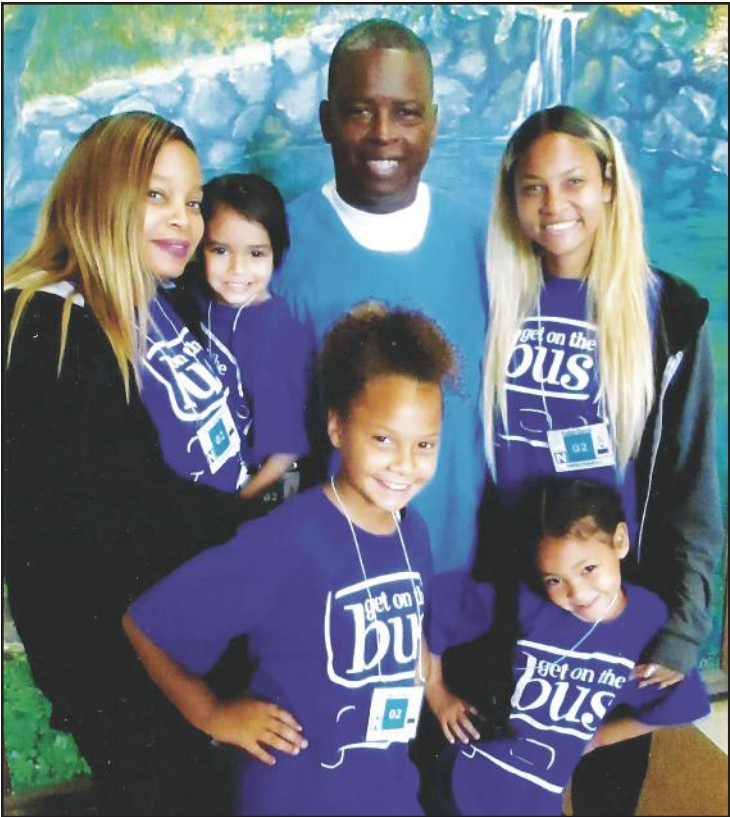


Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

(Top row) Robin Robertson, Leeah Wells, Harold Robertson, Kiley Dauer, (Bottom row) Jaelyn Dauer and Emri Wells

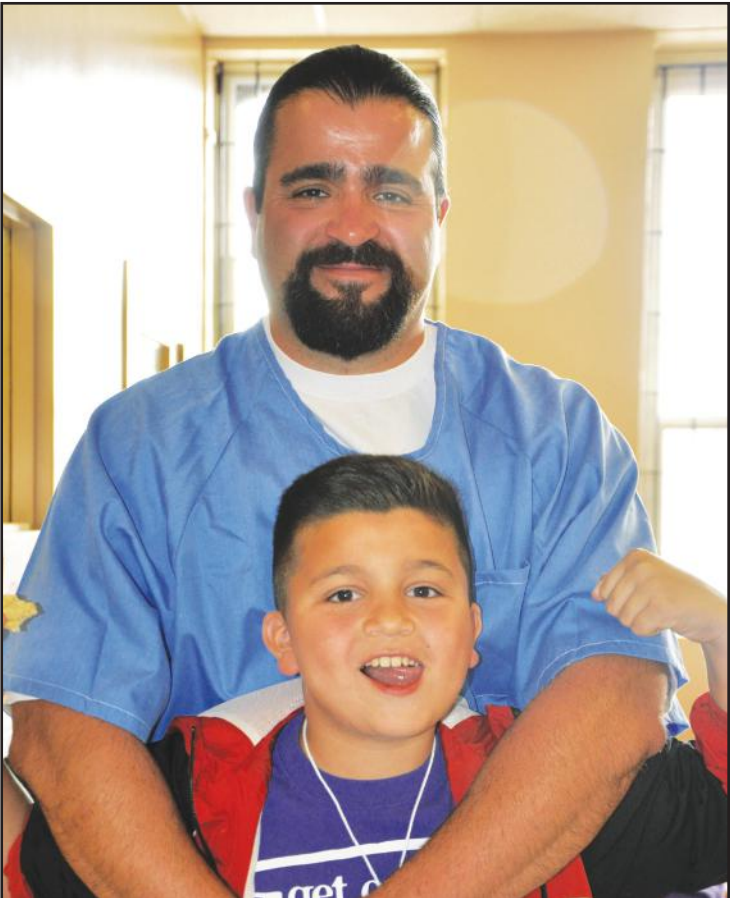


Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Fernando Lopez with his son Fernando Lopez Jr.



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Travis Banks with grandson Demauri and daughter Keya Banks



Photo by Eddie Herena—San Quentin News

Four generation reunited: Henry Manson III with Vickie (Left), Makayla (center) and Iesha (right)