

# San Quentin News

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## Vice Mayor Looks to SQ to Improve Oakland

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Oakland Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington came to San Quentin State Prison and talked about improving her community, including the city's scandal-plagued Police Department, and to hear suggestions from inmates.

She spoke at a meeting of the Society of Professional Journalists - Northern California, San Quentin Chapter (SPJ), the

only satellite chapter inside a prison.

"I know people ... and have respect for people that work for the Police Department," said Washington. "To know there are officers engaging in sex with a minor when we are working so hard to stop sex trafficking is heartbreaking. Repairing the community and the Police Department is a farce if I'm in the dark about things like that."

See *Vice Mayor* on Page 4



Photo by Harold Meeks

Eric Metzgar and Oakland Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington talking with inmates

## Student-run Newspaper Drops In on Inmate-run Newspaper



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Kali Persall interviews Managing Editor Miguel Quezada

By **Kevin D. Sawyer**  
Associate Editor

Several students and faculty from *The Pioneer*, California State University East Bay's (CSUEB) student-run newspaper, visited San Quentin State Prison and its media center last month.

The visit allowed the aspiring student-journalists, along with CSUEB staff, to have a first-hand look at the prison and its newsroom, where the inmate-run *San Quentin News* is produced.

"It's almost unreal. It's surreal," said Tam Duong Jr., a visual editor for *The Pioneer*.

"It's almost a world in itself," he said, explaining his impression of the prison. He interviewed inmate Arnulfo Garcia, *San Quentin News*' executive editor, and may produce a three-minute clip of the experience.

See *Student-run* on Page 5



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Prison University Project graduates celebrate with the traditional cap toss

## Prison Univ. Project Awards Degrees to Seven Graduates

By **Emile DeWeaver**  
Staff Writer

"Beginnings" emerged as a dominant theme at the Prison University Project's (PUP) graduation ceremony.

The graduation began with music, cheers, and applause for the seven graduates who filed down a center aisle created by

strategic placement of chairs in the visiting room. Alumni, volunteer teachers, and PUP staff congratulated the class of 2016 as they walked, clapping their shoulders and shaking their hands.

In the crowd were Valedictorian Timothy Warren's two sisters and brother; graduate Alexei Ruiz's mother, aunt, and three cousins; graduate Orlando Harris' mother, aunt, pastor, and his life partner of 34 years; and graduate Danny Ho's daughter who is beginning a new life in college with her fiancé.

"I left Orange County at 1 am to get here," said Ho's daughter. She hadn't seen her father in 10 years, and she expressed nervousness about their meeting.

Host Philip Melendez, who attributes his success with public speaking to three instructors in PUP's communication course, opened the morning's speeches. He talked about how the men graduating embodied limitless possibility, but their accomplishments were "only the beginning."

See *Prison Univ.* on Page 10

## California Allocates \$10.6 Billion for Prisons

By **Juan Haines**  
Senior Editor

The 2016-17 California budget includes \$10.6 billion for operating the state's prisons, which represents 8.5 percent of the state budget, compared to 11.4 percent in 2011-12.

### THE BREAKDOWN

The budget includes statutory changes to allow life-term inmates to be eligible for extended family visits.

Twenty million dollars are allocated for Napa County to replace its jail as a result of damage by the 2014 earthquake. For counties that have not previously received full funding for replacing their jails or to improve custodial housing, re-entry, rehabilitative programming, mental

health services or treatment space, renovating may apply on a competitive basis for \$250 million.

### PROPOSITION 47 SAVINGS

Calculated savings of \$39.4 million are anticipated due to: a reduction in the state's adult inmate population; trial court workload associated with fewer felony filings and more misdemeanor filings, and the number of offenders re-sentenced and released from the Department of State Hospitals, and increased costs due to a temporary increase in the parole population and trial court re-sentencing workload. Ongoing savings are expected to be approximately \$62.6 million.

See *California* on Page 5

**INSIDE EDITION # 83**

Prison Univ. Project	1	Groundskeepers	9
Vice Mayor looks to SQ	1	Hope for Lifers	9
Student-run newspaper	1	Calif. creating campaign	9
California allocates	1	Arts & Entertainment	12
Sakaria Tagaloa retires	2	News Briefs	13
Incarcerated veterans	2	Wordcross	13
Criminal justice experts	3	Hunger strikes erupt	14
U.S. houses one-third	3	Report: California youth	14
Scotland considers	3	Antipsychotic drugs	14
Face-to-face visits	3	Federal judge criticized	14
Kingian nonviolent	4	Jails and prisons'	15
Private prisons	4	Prisoners' Hep C	15
'Ban the Box'	5	CDCR implements	15
Juneteenth celebration	6	Book Review	16
New tool released	6	Asked On The Line	16
Cal State Fullerton	6	MAC Corner	16
Battle brewing	6	Court ruling bars SHU	17
Restaurant manager	6	Connecticut governor	17
Kid CAT Speaks	7	Officials failed to act	17
Native Americans	8	Sports	18
Terms 'felon' and 'convict'	8	Sports	19
Reggie Hola paroles	8	Musicians showcase	20

# Correctional Officer Sakaria Tagaloa Retires After 30 Years

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

On June 25, after working more than 30 years for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Officer Sakaria Tagaloa retired. Almost no one wanted to see him leave.

"He's going to be missed by a lot of officers and inmates," said M. Allen, a 27-year veteran officer who worked with Tagaloa for 10 years. "He's lovable, a pleasure to work around. You don't have to ask him to help; he's real good people. I want him to stay 'til I retire."

Three days before his scheduled last day, Tagaloa sat inside the Prison Industry Authority (PIA) area where coworkers tried to convince him not to leave.

"Stay until I retire in February," said coworker Joseph Robinson.

Tagaloa responded, "When I make my mind up, I go. I was supposed to retire in December, but my daughter asked me to stay six more months."

"Then we're asking you to stay six more months," said Sgt. D.L. Robinson and Officer Joseph Robinson.

Tagaloa laughed while refusing to change his mind.

Dewey Terry, an incarcerated worker in the PIA area, joined in, saying, "You got to stay."

Terry said he didn't want Tagaloa to retire because "he is a fair man. You don't run across a lot of officers that are fair."

Tagaloa resembles more of a retired football linebacker than a correctional officer. This is for good reason. He said he played defensive tackle for California State University Hayward back in 77 and 78.

"I had a chance to tryout for the pros, but I was out of shape," said Tagaloa.

Tagaloa started his correctional officer career in 1985 at Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, which was a level four (maximum-security) prison at the time. He transferred to San Quentin in August of 1990. Tagaloa said at the time, San Quentin started transitioning to a level two prison. Tagaloa preferred working in level fours, but



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Sakaria Tagaloa enjoying his last days at work

decided to stay at Quentin because it was closer to his family.

He worked all around San Quentin, including Death Row, until landing in the PIA area about five years ago.

"I got used to the changes," said Tagaloa.

He says he's learned a lot during his 30 years working as a correctional officer.

"I've learned how to be patient, mainly, and how to be courteous and how to make decisions according to what happens," said Tagaloa. "You grow as you go along. You mature."

"You learn how to not take things personal. When I was [working] in Death Row, with people I heard killed people, I see that [inmate's] name, and he wants a phone call, and I feel personal for what he did. I had to check myself and not take personal what they did."

J. Robinson said that Tagaloa became like his brother when they started working together five years ago.

"We got the best work relationship partnership since he's been here working PIA," said Robinson. "We knew each other before, but I didn't really know him. If I have a problem, he'll help me with my problem. We do things together and do things the same way so inmates won't be confused."

Tagaloa returned Robinson's praise. "He's like a motivation.

He's a blessed person to work with. It makes work more pleasant. I check him, and he checks me. He'll let me know if I'm doing something wrong.

"When you work with a good crew, you look forward to coming to work," said Tagaloa. "I'll miss some of my coworkers and supervisors that I worked for and the fun, the motivation that makes you want to come to work."

Tagaloa says that if he stayed until November, he'd get a 5 percent pay increase. However, the extra money didn't sway his decision. He'll make 90 percent of his current salary during retirement as pension for working more than 30 years with the CDCR.

"He's a real genuine person," said Charles Sylvester, an incarcerated PIA worker. "The job is going to miss him."

Tagaloa offered his coworkers parting words. "I'm gonna miss all of them that I worked with. It's been a blessed journey. I want them to be safe and make it through the years that they're gonna stay. May God bless them all, all my fellow coworkers, supervisors and administrators."

He added, "When I retire, first I'm going to travel and figure out what I'm going to do after that, and enjoy myself, since I've been working for 30 years."

Enjoying the rest of his life is something Tagaloa earned.

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



## 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.

Send Submissions to:  
**San Quentin News**  
1 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964

For inmates that want to receive a copy of the *San Quentin News* in the mail, send \$1.61 worth of stamps for postage to the above address.

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

### Behind the Scenes

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# Incarcerated Veterans Reach Out to Community

By **David B. Le**  
Journalism Guild Writer

A group of prisoners has donated nearly \$5,000 to support a community park in Salinas.

The money was raised by military veterans at Salinas Valley State Prison, *The Salinas Californian* reported.

"Veterans in the community can bring their children and grandchildren to the park and feel included, no matter what,"

said inmate Tim Brown, the Veterans Group's chairman.

"Praiseworthy efforts such as this one help the incarcerated stay connected to their community," *The Californian* pointed out. "That link is critical to helping those on the inside prepare for a return to life on the outside."

The \$4,995.10 donation to the Tatum's Garden Community Park in Salinas was raised by holding a food sale for the pris-

on general population. About 625 inmates participated, the newspaper reported.

The park features play areas and equipment accessible to kids in wheelchairs and walkers.

Tatum's Garden organizers, Mike and Ellie Love, went inside the prison to accept the inmates' donation. The Loves said the money is one of the largest donations the park has received since it opened.

# Criminal Justice Experts Call for More Reform

By David B. Le  
Journalism Guild Writer

Some criminal justice experts say major reforms have been adopted in America's criminal justice system, but others say changes have been modest, according to *The Crime Report*.

The report says it asked some key experts to assess the progress so far, and reactions were decidedly mixed.

"One preliminary conclusion: 'tweaking' certain policies doesn't work when it comes to meaningfully solving America's mass incarceration problem. But another — more optimistic assessment — is that

states have come a long way in changing a massive system that took decades to build," *The Crime Report* said.

The report said lawmakers acknowledged that these strategies were both costly to taxpayers and ineffective in reducing crime despite two decades of tough-on-crime policies.

This realization prompted legislatures in various states to repeal harsh mandatory minimum drug sentences, to create alternatives to incarceration, and to reduce penalties on repeat offenders.

"We are really starting to see a culture shift in which policymakers are becoming eager

to base decisions on data and evidence rather than emotion or ideology," said Adam Gelb, director of the Pew Charitable Trusts' Public Safety Performance Project. "There's been a tremendous amount of progress, but there's still a long way to go."

"Most states have not made any progress," said James Austin of the JFA Institute. "Those that are making some progress, it's been pretty miniscule."

Researchers claimed minor changes to sentencing and parole policies by states have not significantly resolved the mass incarceration problem, the report stated.

"What's being done is these little tiny tweaking around the edges and then making big projections," said Michael Tonry, director of the Institute on Crime and Public Policy at the University of Minnesota.

"Criminal court cases have dropped by 16 percent in the last decade, but the number of people who are incarcerated is still rising," said Rep. Brent Yonts, D-Ky. "If we don't do anything to solve that problem, nothing is going to change."

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that the U.S. has more than 1.3 million prisoners. The report noted that in the last decade, the number of

prisoners showed no significant decrease.

The Sentencing Project analysis showed states' progress in handling the growing prison population has been "relatively modest." The Report revealed.

In recent years California has focused its reform efforts on repeat, elderly and youth offenders.

Some San Quentin prisoners observed that one category of offender has been overlooked.

"If reform efforts are being done categorically, it just makes sense that first-time offenders should be included as well," inmate Son Nguyen said in an interview.

## U.S. Houses One-Third of World's Female Prison Population

By Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer

Nearly one-third of the world's women prisoners are in the United States, noted Hillary Clinton in an op-ed piece for CNN and on her website.

The presumed Democratic nominee for president outlined her reform plan for incarcerated women.

"I will institute gender-responsive policies in the federal prison system and encourage states to do the same — because women follow different paths to crime than men," said Clinton.

Women in state and federal

prisons have grown between 1991- 2015, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

The statistics show the female prison population increased in 36 states.

Clinton suggests, "First, we need to reform policing practices, end racial profiling, and eradicate racial disparities in sentencing. Second, we need to promote alternatives to incarceration, particularly for non-violent and first-time offenders, so families aren't broken up."

Between 2012 and 2013, female prisoners sentenced to more than a year in a state or federal prison grew by almost

3 percent (2,800 inmates) while male prisoners increased 0.2 percent (2,500), according to BJS.

White females comprised 49 percent of the prison population compared to Black females (22 percent), according to the BJS. However, the imprisonment rate for Black females was twice the rate of White females.

"We need to improve access to high-quality treatment for substance abuse, inside and outside the prison system," said Clinton. "Because drug and alcohol addiction is a disease, not a crime — and we need to treat it as such."

Twenty-five percent of wom-

en prisoners were serving time for drug offenses, compared to 15 percent of male prisoners, reported the BJS.

"Most women in prison are there because of nonviolent drug or property crimes," said Clinton. "Over 60 percent of them report drug dependence or abuse in the year before they went to prison."

"Many of them grew up in abusive households."

The BJS reported that 82 percent of the women had suffered physical or sexual abuse as children or had experienced domestic violence.

Clinton shared the stories of two formally incarcerated women, Alice and Tanya. Both names were changed to protect their privacy; together, they spent nearly 30 years behind bars.

Alice grew up in a home scarred by domestic violence, and wound up in an abusive relationship herself, according to the Clinton article. She spent 17 years in prison.

"Being a woman — being in prison, it's terrible," she said. "A woman has needs. Sometimes she can't get basic necessities, like maxi pads. There's a limit to how many panties you can have. There's a limit on everything."

"Sometimes the security of-ficers are not too kind to women in prison. You have to be strong. You have to mentally be

stable to do this time that they give you.

"Any amount of time for a woman in prison is bad, but when you're a long-termer doing long prison time, it can be really bad for your mental health."

Based on self-reported data by the BJS, 73 percent of female inmates had mental health problems compared to 55 percent of male inmates in state prisons.

Tanya was sentenced to 12 years in prison for a robbery she didn't commit, according to the article.

"There's no such thing as being good in prison," said Tanya. "It doesn't matter how smart you are, how hard you fight, how diligent you are. You're in there, they have control, and they're going to break you down in any way possible."

She earned her associate's degree on the inside and is now working toward a B.A.

"When people hear you've been incarcerated, automatically the way they talk to you changes," she said. "The way they treat you changes."

The articles also highlighted, that women faced sexual abuse by guards, substandard access to reproductive care and being shackled while pregnant on the way to the hospital.

"We say we are a nation of second chances — and it's time that we act like it," opined Clinton.

## Scotland Considers Scrapping Short-Term Jail Sentences

By Noel Scott  
Journalism Guild Writer

Scotland is considering scrapping jail sentences of one year or less to reduce its prison population.

The number of people in Scotland's jails is "unhelpful and unnecessary," said David Strang, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland. Scotland has one of the largest prison populations in Western Europe. It houses 142 inmates for every 100,000 citizens.

The current policy, which

stopped three-month sentences, was passed in 2010, but it has failed to reduce the prison population, *Herald Scotland* reported.

The change is urged by a coalition that includes Chief Inspector Strang. It includes dozens of authoritative groups supporting a more liberal approach to sentencing aimed at cutting recidivism and reducing the amount of people behind bars.

Sheriff Frank Crowe, a former prosecutor and ex-director of Judicial Studies, says that a

maximum jail term of one year should only be used as a last resort for serious offenses.

Short prison sentences disrupt family life, employment and housing and rarely address the causes of crime, said Lisa Mackenzie of the Howard League for Penal Reform Scotland.

Scotland Justice Secretary Michael Matheson stated he intends to build "the most progressive justice system in Europe."

Belgium has banned sentences of less than one year, and Germany has suspended sentences of up to 12 months.

## Face-to-Face Visits Vital to Inmates' Personal Relationships

By Charles David Henry  
Journalism Guild Writer

One of the most important ways for prisoners to nurture personal relationships with their family and friends is to have face-to-face visits.

In many instances "in-person visits can place a substantial burden on the visitor, who may have to miss work, pay for childcare and cover the cost of travel," said Fred Patrick, Director of the Center on Sentencing and Corrections — Vera Institute of Justice (Vera).

In early 2016 the agency released the results of its national survey targeting state departments of corrections to determine the possibility of using video visitation in 50 state prison systems. All state Department of Corrections responded

to the survey.

The survey asked about all the potential expenses associated with video visitation, such as hiring and training staff and purchasing supplies and equipment. Researchers interviewed a director and manager at JPay to determine the vendor's expenses for implementing and operating the services, and more than 200 incarcerated people were also given the opportunity to use the new system.

Today, the availability and access to the scheme is in 30 percent of the states surveyed. Video visitation is in nearly all facilities in four of those states, but in nearly half of all states using video visitation, it is available in fewer than 20 percent, the survey revealed.

In seven of the 15 states with video visitation, visitors can ac-

cess it from any location on personal computers. Vera pointed out that availability is also influenced by how visitors are able to access the service. Two states have made plans to expand access to visitors' smartphones and tablets.

The system's availability varies between 30 and 66 percent of state facilities in four states. Another nine states report plans of implementing it, and seven more intend to offer it in the future. Fourteen states have no plans to use the system configuration at all, the survey noted.

Even when a prison offers video visitation, it may be limited by rules that make the service accessible only to certain categories of incarcerated people. The survey found that the majority of the people held in administrative segregation,

protected custody, special behavioral or mental health housing units were often unable to access the system.

"The most restrictive option for visitors to access video visitation is on-site in the prison," according to Vera.

As this model of service delivery appears to be growing in popularity, and it's likely to expand, there is concern that California jails will eventually eliminate in-person visits.

A recently released publication from the Prison Policy Initiative found that since the implementation of California's realignment, many more people are serving time in county jails than ever before.

The California State Bill 1157 sponsored by Senator Holly J. Mitchell (D)- Los Angeles, was successfully approved by the

Public Safety Committee. This enactment would "preserve visitation rights for all people in county jails, juvenile facilities and private facilities by clarifying that video technology cannot be used to replace in-person visits.

Mitchell said, "The Legislature has spent a great deal of time grappling with this issue of humane treatment of people in California jails," the Prison Policy Initiative reported.

"We have approved funding to reduce overcrowding, improve educational and rehabilitative services and reduce recidivism. We would be going backward to now eliminate a basic human right, in-person visitation. Maintaining familial relationships is key to their success once released," she acknowledged.

# Kingian Nonviolent Teachings Make Way to SQ

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

In a secluded room, tucked away in a corner of a prison yard, about two dozen inmates stood face-to-face, staring at each other, eye-to-eye. They paired off with the person they were looking at to quiz each other about the meaning of family, a place called home, a favorite game and something exciting that happened recently.

The exercise took place on May 23 for inmates enrolled in Restoring Our Original True

Selves (ROOTS), a self-help program at San Quentin State Prison.

ROOTS, facilitated by inmate Phoehn You, teaches its participants self-awareness and helps them understand the significance of history and how it relates to who they are.

The program, called Kingian nonviolence, is based on the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said Kazu Haga, coordinator of East Point Peace Academy.

"Nonviolence is a practice that we try to improve every

day," he said. "I've been practicing Kingian nonviolence for 18 years, and I still mess up sometimes."

After the inmates finished questioning each other, a few of the pairs stood in front of the class to impart what they learned.

Each speaker was instructed to call himself by his partner's name and to use the information he learned to tell the audience about his partner. The audience was instructed to look at the person whose name was called, not the person talking.

With arms swaying, fingers pointing and signaling like a traffic cop, Haga constantly redirected the gaze of the audience away from the person talking and toward the person being talked about.

Most inmates defined family as a place where mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers were together. Games revolved around sports, although one person called the Harry Potter game Quidditch his favorite. Exciting things ranged from becoming an uncle to meeting a high-powered CEO to a visit from a 6-year-old nephew who did a river dance. One inmate, smiling ear to ear, said he got married.

"It was an exercise to show that you could remember and tell another person's story," Haga said. "It also trains your mind to think differently and to put yourself in someone else's shoes," he added. "It teaches empathy."

He concluded by saying that the activity causes people to share stories and gives rise to vulnerability.

Many times people will say, "I'm like this or I'm doing it this way, because it's a part of my culture," Haga said. "That's not true. We need to rethink how we treat each other as human beings. Being a part of culture is not an excuse for violence."

Haga then analyzed the difference between the words non-violence and nonviolence by focusing on the hyphen.

The hyphenated non-violence

is an absence of violence, while nonviolence is an action, he said.

Non-violence could result in what Haga called, "negative peace." He defined negative peace as inaction in a time where action to stop violence is necessary but not exerted.

He said working toward non-violence requires a commitment to be "obnoxious at times, to challenge the status quo, and to take action against violence when it is in your presence."

Someone who practices non-violence seeks to understand other people's perspective, Haga says, even when you disagree with that perspective.

"All perspectives are needed to understand the whole story," Haga said. "Peace is messy. Peace is conflict."

Haga concluded by talking about the meaning of love, how it is understood and expressed.

After describing different types of love, Haga told the group that nonviolence is rooted in "agape love," which is unconditional.

"True power is grounded in love," he said. "Love is powerful."

As part of an investigation into the effectiveness of self-help programs in prisons, NBC Bay Area We Investigate producer Michael Bott attended the session.

"I am amazed at the amount of work that is taking place at this prison," Bott said. "More people need to see the tremendous amount of insight gained from these programs."

## Private Prisons Corporation Extends California Lease

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) has announced a four-year extension of its lease agreement for the California City Correctional Center with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), reported *Globe Newswire*.

CCA agreed to extend the lease through Nov. 30, 2020, during which time CCA will provide up to \$4 million of certain facility and other tenant improvements, according to *Globe Newswire* on June 13, 2016.

"We are pleased ... to further extend the relationship we

have had with CDCR since 2006 when we entered into our first contract with CDCR," said Damon Hininger, CCA's president and chief executive officer.

He also said, "Our California City Correctional Center has proven to be a great solution to provide CDCR with in-state prison capacity operated by CDCR, while avoiding significant up-front capital costs associated with new construction."

The initial lease agreement included a three-year base term ending on Dec. 1, 2016, and unlimited two-year renewal options upon mutual agreement, reported *Globe Newswire*.

CDCR now has the unilateral

right to extend the lease for two additional two-year periods through Nov. 30, 2024, with indefinite two-year renewal options thereafter upon mutual agreement, according to the press release.

CCA is the nation's largest owner of partnership correctional, detention, and residential re-entry facilities, the company announced.

CCA owns or controls 73 correctional, detention, and re-entry facilities, with a design capacity of approximately 75,000 beds. It also manages 11 additional facilities, with a design capacity of approximately 14,000 beds. CCA operates in 20 states and the District of Columbia, reported *Globe Newswire*.

## Vice Mayor

Continued from Page 1

Louis Scott, a man incarcerated for pimping and pandering who is now part of an organization called Sex Trafficking and Exploitation Prevention (STEP), suggested that Washington bring in city officials "to hear what we have to say and get this education."

Twenty-five men like Scott, who changed their lives and became journalists while incarcerated, sat around a straight line of tables listening to Washington, who is also the City Councilwoman for District Four and the wife of Glenn Washington, host of NPR's "Snap Judgment." She talked about programs she's pushing for; like The Oakland Promise and Financial Literacy, with the SPJ members.

Also in attendance at the June 29 gathering were Washington's chief of staff, Adam J. Simons, documentary film maker Eric Metzgar, and Life of the Law Executive Producer Nancy Mullane, who brought in the outside group.

Mullane asked, "What makes a great police chief?" *San Quentin News* Executive Editor Arnulfo Garcia answered, "Interacting with the community. Richard Word was good. He came in, asked a lot of questions."

SPJ member Lonnie Morris added, "I think a person willing to break from the stan-



Annie Campbell Washington, Forrest Lee Jones and Adam Simons listening to suggestions from inmates

ding quo makes a great police chief."

Washington told the SPJ members how helping the community keeps the police scandals from getting her down.

"This is the thing that I love that keeps me going in City Hall when it's pretty terrible," said Washington. "I really get rejuvenated when working in the community, helping small business and engaging schools."

One such program she spoke passionately about is a pilot program in 13 schools, called the Oakland Promise, that plans to invest in getting every Oakland kid to strive for a college education.

"It starts at the birth of a

baby with a single parent. We open a saving account for college with \$500 and an account for the parent," said Washington. "Part of that is a financial literacy curriculum to teach them why the account is so important, about the mindset that we expect everyone to go to college and we are just helping you get there."

SPJ member Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll stressed that financial literacy must have an emotional management component.

"When I hear financial literacy, most people don't think about management style or emotions," said Carroll. "Bad management makes even big checks disappear. People don't see the connec-

tion with managing time with kids, managing what they eat — they see it as purely financial need. When you meet with people, try to get them to see the emotional component there."

Besides college money and financial literacy, the Oakland Promise aims to provide help for kids of all grades including helping high school graduates obtain college scholarships and mentors to guide them through their academic pursuits. Private sponsors largely fund the Oakland Promise, but Washington seeks to have more parts of it paid for by the city.

Mullane asked the SPJ members what type of additional legislation they would

like to see Washington get passed. Several SPJ members answered.

Juan Haines: "Restore Oakland." (An Ella Baker Center Project aimed at providing training, jobs and a platform to start a business in the food industry for citizens returning from prison that will double as a restorative justice center.)

Marcus Henderson: "Use more returning citizens."

Scott: "Place a community board over officers."

Kevin Sawyer: "Have an at-risk fetus program."

Miguel Sifuentes: "Teach emotional intelligence."

Guest Metzgar: "Meditation programs."

Forrest Jones: "Fund after-school vocation programs."

Carroll: "Teach pillars of financial literacy."

Eric Phillips: "Bring back music and art programs."

Richard Richardson: "More employment for the hood."

Jonathan Chiu: "Gun control and buy-back programs."

Garcia next asked Washington, who started her career in city government 16 years ago as Jerry Brown's chief of staff, her thoughts on Brown's Rehabilitation Act.

"I'm really proud that he (Brown) is willing to work on that," said Washington. "What I think he is trying to do is say that we have a lot of people in prison who need a second chance and we need to work on that. I think he believes we have people in prison that should be on the outside."

# 'Ban the Box' Might Have Unintended Consequences

By Forrest Lee Jones  
Journalism Guild Writer

A recent study shows two-thirds of former inmates are rearrested and re-convicted within three years of their release from prison, reports Kate Irby for *McClatchy*.

A staggering 60 to 75 percent are not employed a year after their release.

People who can't earn money often use illegal means to survive. Moreover, efforts to fix the problem may unintentionally complicate the matter for those who have never committed crime, according to the report.

A new policy called "Ban the Box" was created to remedy the problem. However, a Princeton study shows the law benefits Whites more than Blacks

and Hispanics.

Ban the Box legislation has been adopted by many cities and states and in 2015 was applied to federal employers by President Barack Obama. It prevents employers from including a box on applications for potential employees to check if they were convicted of a crime. It deters questions about criminal history until "late in the hiring process."

The law was designed to empower parolees to prove their employability and lessen the likelihood of employers to toss convicts' applications due to their convictions. The ideology behind this law is to decrease recidivism rates, according to the report.

However, according to *McClatchy*, it has unintended negative consequence, creating

biased hiring practices for Blacks and Hispanics, even for those Blacks and Hispanics who have not been convicted of a crime.

A study done by Princeton researchers of fictitious job applications submitted to employers in New Jersey and New York prior to the enactment of the ban the box policy tracked how many responses these applications received. The applications had randomly assigned race and criminal backgrounds. The total New York numbers were incomplete, but the New Jersey results were startling as to how employers reacted once the ban the box policy became law.

Employers who required criminal history background checks on a job application called White people back

slightly more often prior to the laws enactment, but the gap dramatically increased after employers were forbidden to ask about criminal history.

Jennifer L. Doleac of the Brookings Institution said, this discrimination comes up because employers are trying to use extremely limited information in a job application to find people who would be "peaceful, honest, agreeable employees who won't be taken off the job by an arrest or conviction." Most employers do that partially by checking criminal backgrounds, even though some former convicts are perfectly capable of fitting that mold. But without that check, they turn to another, even less accurate indicator: race.

"Black and Hispanic men are more likely than others to have

been convicted of a crime: the most recent data suggests that a Black man born in 2001 has a 32 percent chance of serving time in prison at some point during his lifetime, compared with 17 percent for Hispanic men and just 6 percent for White men," says Doleac. "Employers will guess that Black and Hispanic men are more likely to have been in prison and therefore less likely to be job-ready."

Doleac concludes that ban the box policy hurts more people than it helps: "Just because employers can't see an applicant's criminal history doesn't mean they don't care about it," says Doleac. "Under ban the box, they will avoid ex-offenders by avoiding groups that are more likely to contain ex-offenders, like Black and Hispanic men."

## Student-run

Continued from Page 1

"He (Duong) expressed enthusiasm about seeing a bunch of inmates putting a newspaper together," said Garcia. "He was amazed at the talent behind the walls of San Quentin and expressed an interest in coming back."

Marina Swanson, *Pioneer* production assistant, said, "It looks like our campus," describing the prison's upper yard plaza entrance. "I thought it was really pretty until I got to the yard." That was the moment she walked among hundreds of convicts. "I wasn't expecting to walk through the yard. It felt much calmer than I expected," she said.

Inmate Miguel Quezada, managing editor for *San Quentin News*, spoke with his counterpart, Kali Persall, managing editor of *The Pioneer*. "She's been in the position six months, and I've been in the position two months," Quezada said. They exchanged what he called "professional tips" about the responsibility that comes



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Marina Swanson photographs Layout Designer Keung Vanh at work

with doing the job.

Persall asked how inmate journalists obtain source material to write news articles as inmates are prohibited from having direct access to the Internet, email or an outside, unmonitored telephone line. She was told that outside *SQN* advisers are approved to bring the information in on flash drives.

"I'm on social media a lot so I find stories there," said Persall. She admitted that she has never been in a newsroom

outside of her classroom environment. "It's really similar to ours. You guys have it together. I'm impressed," she said.

Persall said *The Pioneer* has frequent turnover. "One of our biggest problems is getting people to stay," unlike *San Quentin News*' staff, who have the opposite problem: they can't leave. "We want to partner with you guys," she said.

Leaving the newsroom with the prison's public information officer, Lt. Sam Robin-

son, *The Pioneer* staff took an alternative route past north block and toured other parts of the prison. They walked past the north and south dining halls, east block's Death Row, and through the south block rotunda on to west block.

Once inside the cell block, the students and faculty were able to photograph, videotape, record, and interview

many of the 700-plus inmates housed inside the five-tier structure.

"It was super cool," said Christina Galanakis, who does layout design for *The Pioneer*. She captured sights and sounds on videotape and commented how going into the prison was not like anything she expected from watching television shows. "It was inspiring," she said, adding that walking on the yard among inmates "has a school atmosphere."

Gary Moskowitz, *Pioneer* faculty advisor, took advantage of the opportunity to speak with men who have been convicted of all kinds of crimes, a starkly different experience from that of many journalists who write about prisons but have never stepped foot inside.

CSUEB students are real "Pioneers" - placing themselves ahead of some seasoned journalists who report from behind a desk. "We're happy to get our facts right," Moskowitz said.

Two years ago *The Pioneer*'s then-student editor-in-chief, Yousuf Fahimuddin, and the paper's student sales executive, Yesica Ibarra, responded to an invitation to visit San Quentin News. About a year later CSUEB student photojournalist, Valerie Smith, made the same trek into the prison alone.

The CSUEB Faculty Coordinator, Dr. Katherine Bell, suggested this recent group of students visit the prison. "We don't want this to be the last time," she said. Initially she had planned to take part in the first *Pioneer* visit but had other obligations. "We want to make lifelong connections."

## California

Continued from Page 1

A discretionary one-time investment of \$28 million for grants is allocated to support drop-out and truancy prevention programs (\$18 million) and grants to support mental health and substance use disorder treatment and diversion programs (\$10 million).

The total Proposition 47 savings is \$67.4 million.

### REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS

- \$431 million for inmate rehabilitative programs, an increase of approximately \$100 million compared to the 2015 state budget.
- \$2.2 million to expand cognitive behavioral programming to all institutions. Cognitive behavioral therapy programming includes substance

abuse disorder treatment, criminal thinking, anger management and family relations.

- \$18.9 million to expand substance abuse disorder treatment programs to the 11 remaining institutions without a program and expand the number of slots at prison-based re-entry hubs.
- \$8.6 million for Innovative Programming Grants for programs focusing on offender responsibility and restorative justice principles; \$5.5 million is a one-time allocation focusing on programs proven successful in serving long-term or life-term inmates.
- \$4 million to expand Arts in Corrections to all institutions through a partnership with the California Arts Council.
- \$3 million to provide inmates enrolled in community colleges access to eReader textbooks.
- \$3.7 million to develop content and create the necessary infrastructure at each prison

- \$3.1 million to add 136 parolee service center beds. Parolee service centers provide residential and support services focusing on employment, job search and placement training, substance use disorder education, stress management, victim awareness, computer supported literacy and life skills.
- \$3.4 million, of which \$2.1 million is one-time to add a Long-Term Offender Program

- \$3.1 million to expand employment preparation, teaching job-readiness, and job search and prerequisite skills needed for the current job market to all institutions. Participants learn about community resources and social service agencies in their counties of residence. The department will discontinue the use of contractors for this program and will hire teachers to serve approximately 23,000 inmates annually.

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### COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY PROGRAM

- \$32.1 million for re-entry programs that assist with substance abuse disorder, mental health care, medical care, employment, education, housing, family reunification, and social support. Funds are allocated for a total of 680 beds in 2016-17 and increase the eligibility criteria from 120 days prior to release to up to one year.

# Juneteenth Celebration Held in Prison Chapel for First Time

By Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer

San Quentin's Rastafari Theater and Arts Ensemble team put on its first Juneteenth celebration in the Catholic Chapel on June 18.

The team was founded by The House of the Lion of Judah Ecumenical Rastafari. The theme of the program was "The Day of Your Mind Emancipation."

Host and prisoner Shai Alkebu-lan greeted the crowd of about 80 men with one love and respect.

Speaker Darrel Smith opened the celebration with a short but in-depth history lesson on how Texas became part of the Union and why it took so long for the slaves to be freed after the Emancipation Proclamation.

"They had a war with Mexico, and they just got out of the Civil War. Basically, everybody was wore out," said Smith. "But those slaves who were finally freed should be celebrated."

Inmate Bilal Hamilton spoke on the harms of having a sense of entitlement and being judgmental.

"It can lead to captivity," said

Hamilton. "It seems like the world is headed that way again. We all should think before we label people. Instead we should be giving each other a helping hand."

In the footsteps of the great African storytellers, inmates Bryant "The Truth" Harrison, Ira "SC Prince" Perry and Harun Taylor performed thought-provoking spoken word.

Harrison's "A Call to Order" spoke to the pitfalls of materialism in the community.

"Hard work and not fast money is the remedy to get somewhere," said Harrison. "We

shouldn't take the easy way out."

Perry drew a standing ovation with "Love Ballot" as he masterfully connected different popular songs together to form one solid love story.

"It's about what songs you would use to say to someone you like," said Perry.

He performed "How Do I Love Thee" about a lost love and "I Surrender Get You Shot and Killed," a politically conscious piece on growing up Black.

Taylor debuted his "I am 4.4" number, an esoteric journey

through several religious beliefs.

He wove Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Native aboriginal principles into one beautiful quilt of togetherness.

He pronounced, "I am" after reciting each faith's main principles, to highlight the shared internal human qualities.

"The program was a complete success," said Alkebu-lan. "Everyone got a big dose of wisdom. We thank Father George Williams and Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Chapel for being a great host."

## New Tool Released for Analyzing Criminal Justice Policy

By Wayne Boatwright  
Journalism Guild Writer

Incarceration rates are not the entire story of the criminal justice system. For reformers seeking to rationalize our criminal justice policies, the Prison Policy Initiative (PPI) has created a significant new tool for analyzing the complicated issue of developing proposals for reform.

PPI's "Correctional Control: Incarceration and Supervision by State" issued on June 1, is the first report to aggregate

data on all types of correctional control nationwide. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/50statepie.html>

The scope of correction control includes federal prisons, 50 state prison systems, thousands of county and local jails, juvenile incarceration, civil commitment, Indian country jails, parole and, most importantly, probation.

According to PPI, "the criminal justice system's reach in this country is far more expansive than usually assumed."

The national average is 2,111 people under correctional control per 100,000 (pht) residents. California's rate is 1,582 pht. Georgia is over double the California rate, and Maine has the lowest rate at 858 pht.

The report has identified a tremendous variation between states that is largely driven by differing uses of probation. Fifty-six percent of the people under correctional control in America are on probation. Georgia has 78 percent of the people under its control on

probation, while Nevada has 31 percent. Parole (conditional release from prison) makes up 11 percent of the total.

With this new tool, policy makers and reformers can identify the disproportionate use of any given criminal justice policy tool by comparing their local system to other states. For example, Georgia's probation population pht residents is "greater than every other states' total rates of correctional control," according to the PPI press release issued in conjunction

with the report.

Of particular concern to the PPI is the need to assess whether the community supervision mechanisms of probation and parole are being used as alternatives to incarceration or "as a net-widener that unnecessarily expands the criminal justice system's reach to low-level crimes."

Use of this tool can aid in the objective valuation of existing criminal justice policy mechanisms and identify areas of potential reform.

## Cal State Fullerton Offers Programs to the Formerly Incarcerated

By David B. Lê  
Journalism Guild Writer

California State University, Fullerton is expanding college opportunities for formerly incarcerated people by adopting Project Rebound, a program led by San Francisco State University, the CSUF News Center reported.

"As an institution that embraces academic excellence and respects and supports diverse scholars and students from all backgrounds, California State University, Fullerton looks forward to welcoming students who are seeking a second chance through higher education," said Mildred Garcia, president of the college.

Planning its first Project Rebound for students enrolled in spring of 2017, the university will have a staff of formerly

incarcerated people for its three-year pilot program. The program assists students with textbook stipends, transportation, meal vouchers, financial aid, academic advising, housing, employment, and legal aid, the CSUF News Center stated.

"I am proud to partner with San Francisco State and our other CSU sister campuses in supporting this historically underserved population and confident Project Rebound adds to our legacy of purveying equitable access to higher education for all those who seek it," said Garcia.

Based on a RAND study on correction education, the recidivism rate is reduced by 51 percent for parolees who participate in college programs. Specifically, "the number of Project Rebound students who

returned to prison was just 3 percent," the CSUF News Center said.

"When a person leaves prison, they're often told, 'Just go out there and do the right thing,'" said Jason Bell, Project Rebound program director, who was formerly incarcerated. "But how do you accomplish that if you don't have places to help you do what's considered the 'right thing?' Education is definitely one of those places, and Project Rebound has been a pioneer in making sure those leaving the criminal justice system have access."

Expanding access is critical, said Airtto Morales, a Project Rebound alumni and Data Specialist, who had been incarcerated for 10 years. "When you come to a university, which is a huge place, after living

on a prison yard for so many years, to be able to walk into an office and know that there is someone who understands what you're going through helps a lot."

"CSU Project Rebound aims to create that access and support to make higher education a reality for these individuals. And by supporting such students, Rebound will play a part in building stronger, safer communities," said Brady Heiner, an assistant professor of philosophy, who oversees

the Project Rebound program at the Fullerton university.

The program expansion is funded through a \$500,000 "Renewing Communities" grant that is supported by nine states and national foundations, the CSUF News Services noted.

Working to expand Project Rebound at others CSU campuses next year, Bell plans to establish program leaders and student enrollment at each site, the CSUF News Center reported.

## Battle Brewing Over Prop. 47 Savings Allocation

There is a battle brewing over who will have a say on how Proposition 47 savings from the recent reduction in criminal penalties will be allocated.

The Board of State and Community Corrections determines how to allocate nearly two-thirds of projected Prop. 47 savings (estimated to be \$29 million in the 2016-17 budget.)

The board's executive director Kathleen Howard has told community rehabilitation service providers that they may have a conflict of interest if they seek board funding while also sitting on the board.

According to Sen. Loni Hancock, D-San Francisco, the board has demonstrated what seems to be a bias in favor of law enforcement. This opinion is shared by the nonprofit service providers, said Steven

Meinrath, an advocate with the American Civil Liberties Union.

"The community already feels shut out from this process," said Brian Goldstein, an advocate with the Center of Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

Howard states that a recent legal review uncovered this potential conflict; however, she promised that the board will be balanced nonetheless.

Rather than relying upon Howard's promise, Hancock's budget subcommittee voted to seek a change in state law to define a conflict of interest to assure advisory board members don't vote on grants to their own nonprofits. This narrower definition, if it becomes law, would address the concern of bias and assure nonprofits have a say in the board's distribution of Prop. 47 savings.

- Wayne Boatwright

## Restaurant Manager Offers Employment To the Formerly Incarcerated

San Francisco's hottest restaurant has a general manager who believes it is smart business to hire the formerly incarcerated.

Opened in September 2015, Cala with its Mexico City star-chef Gabriela Camara is San Francisco's most talked-about 2016 restaurant, according to Daniel Smith of [www.bayarea.com](http://www.bayarea.com). The *Atlantic* magazine named Cala the poster child of a new wave of chic, experimental Mexican cuisine.

Under-reported in all the media hype, however, is that Cala opened with 70 percent of its staff composed of the formerly incarcerated, thanks to the efforts of its general manager,

Emma Rosenbush.

She used to work for the Prison Law Office, a nonprofit in Berkeley. There she developed an appreciation for this at-risk community. "I would like to see former inmates given a second chance and overcoming the odds," Smith wrote.

Rosenbush worked with the San Francisco Adult Probation Department to find training space and to organize interviews.

The biggest challenges in hiring the formerly incarcerated are training, as most arrived with zero prior restaurant experience, and addiction "No different than employees without (a record),"

Rosenbush said.

Inexperience (not criminal behavior) is the most challenging aspect of her staff. "There's a steeper learning curve," she said.

After six months, the results are mixed. The percentage of formerly incarcerated staff has now dropped to about 40 percent, due to people moving on to another job and having to let some go. Despite these challenges, Rosenbush plans to keep hiring the formerly incarcerated. "There's nothing about being incarcerated that makes you a second-rate employee," she concluded.

- Wayne Boatwright

# NY's Solitary Confinement of Youth Persists Under Different Name

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

I was 17 years old when I first entered a Rikers Island cell. An icy wind blew through the crack in a window sealed behind a metal grate. The pistachio-green walls absorbed the cold.

I lay dressed in corduroys and a goose down jacket under a thin blanket, shivering in the C-74 building where they kept juveniles. I spent the weekend there in isolation.

On Monday, a grand jury freed me by not returning an

indictment. I returned to the streets worse than I left – more hyper-vigilant, angrier and more likely to see violence as a solution to unfairness.

I share this story as I reflect on President Obama's recent ban on solitary confinement for juveniles in federal custody. Many states followed suit recently, including New York, but recent reports reveal that changes have been largely in name only.

New York City has ended solitary confinement for juveniles, but has replaced it with Enhanced Supervision Hous-

## Kid CAT Speaks!

ing Units (ESHU), a new form of restrictive housing.

People incarcerated in ESHU have complained that it is no different than being locked in administrative segregation (aka solitary confinement), according to Raven Rakia's article in *The Nation*.

In the article, Department of Correction Commissioner Joseph Ponte argues that ESHU are necessary to control the

"most dangerous and violent inmates." Jail administrators place individuals in ESHU by predicting those most likely to commit violence. The determination process for ESHU result in more of the same—placement in solitary.

At root, the problem lies in the danger and violence of incarceration. People are labeled "dangerous" because they become dangerous when put into the violence and chaos of the dilapidated, environmentally unsafe jails of Rikers Island.

In 1995, I returned to Rikers for the third time, and they had just started what they called the "predicate cutter program." This program sought to predict which individuals would literally "cut" other people. The administration thought labeling the violent inmates with ID cards laminated in red would stem the violent behavior. Today, such labels land incarcerated people in ESHU.

For example, I was housed in a building known as "HDM." It's an older jail with three-tiered cells that have bars. Guards rarely walked the tiers, and their office was out of view, leaving us unsupervised.

There I once saw one man stabbing the three men who were stabbing him. On the way to court, I saw some Bloods cut a handcuffed, defenseless teenager. I feared being next in that world where guards allowed thugs to rule with violence. I armed myself with a single-

edge razor blade and a warrior's mentality.

Eventually, a guard found the razor inside my cell, and they placed me in solitary confinement for six months. Although I hadn't cut anyone, correction officials labeled me a predicate cutter for having a weapon to protect myself from predicate cutters. They reissued me a red ID card, meaning I had to be handcuffed everywhere I went.

The guards placed me in North Facility, also known as the "bing." The large single cell had a knee-high slab of concrete with a gray-vinyl mattress on top. Frigid air blew through a vent high on the wall above the sink. Those who protested or went stir-crazy said guards took them to places without cameras and beat them.

While in the "bing" I relied on the state to feed me every 12 hours because we weren't allowed to purchase food from the canteen. I tried to sleep off the hunger, but the cold air kept waking me. Time outside the cell meant walking cuffed in kennel-sized cages on the yard.

By the fifth month, I was talking to myself and answering back.

No one should be put in an incubator that makes you worse. States should comply with federal guidelines to end solitary for juveniles. Ending solitary confinement should mean actually ending it, not just changing its form or name.

Instead of renaming the same broken tools, jails must change the physical environments, practices, and cultures that breed violence.

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. You are invited to take part in the writing workshops by responding to the prompt. 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!

### Election Season, So What?

In the U.S., over 2.3 million citizens cannot vote because they are in prison. There are thousands more because they were formerly incarcerated. Voting allows citizens to participate in deciding the laws they want to pass and electing leaders to represent them. However, voting is politically equated with influence and power. As a result, voters have been historically denied the right to vote due to race, education level, gender, and land ownership. This creates a class of citizens in society that exerts little to no political influence and/or power. Many people in our communities have social problems: crime, drugs, poverty and early negative contact with the law. How did that shape your opinion about politics and voting? How did this opinion make you see yourself in relation to society? Back then, when you were out how many people did you know that had been in prison? When you were out how many people did you know who could vote? Did your incarceration change your opinion? If so, how? What would you say to a youth who feels that politics or voting does not matter? Why should politics matter to them? What does the prompt make you think about politics and voting?

-Prompt by Managing Editor Miguel Quezada

Send response to:

The Beat Within  
P.O. Box 34310  
San Francisco, CA 94134.

## Great Books Empowers Teenagers to Tackle Life's Lessons

By **Miguel Quezada**  
Managing Editor

For parents, connecting and building healthy relationships with their teenagers can be a challenging task. For an incarcerated parent, it can be downright daunting.

Phone calls are prepaid, expensive and limited to 15 minutes. Some families must travel hundreds of miles for a few hours of visitation in a crowded room. The travel can cost hundreds of dollars, limiting visitation to once or twice a year. The remaining means of communication, letters, can take weeks to make it through the prison's mail censors.

*Great Books for High School Kids: A Teachers Guide to Books That Can Change Teens' Lives* (2004) Beacon Press Boston, [www.beacon.org](http://www.beacon.org), is a great resource for teachers and the incarcerated parent.

Authors Rick Ayers and Amy Crawford give teachers and incarcerated parents tools to guide maturing teenagers

by engaging them on themes like abuse, identity, race, culture, violence, and spirituality.

***"Revenge is an extremely dangerous thing to be a part of, and it has a lot of consequences for you and even your family"***

The power that lies within *Great Books* is that it uses the show don't tell method – allowing teachers and incarcerated parents to reach teens without telling them how to feel, think and live. *Great Books* permits teens to compare their own life experiences, knowledge and values to real-world issues through fiction and non-fiction.

"The stuff we were dealing with was real," Ayers says, in reference to a class assignment asking students for an example of a revenge cycle similar to Aeschylus's *Oresteia*.

One student, Francisco, reflects on how many of his friends have been victims of gang violence and, in turn, sought revenge. "Revenge is an extremely dangerous thing to be a part of, and it has a lot of consequences for you and even your family," he says. "The cycle... keeps going... both are living the life of *(The Oresteia)*."

"Francisco dug right into the sense of futility and frustration engendered by the cycle of violence in his life and found pieces of Aeschylus's writing that speak directly to him," Ayers commented.

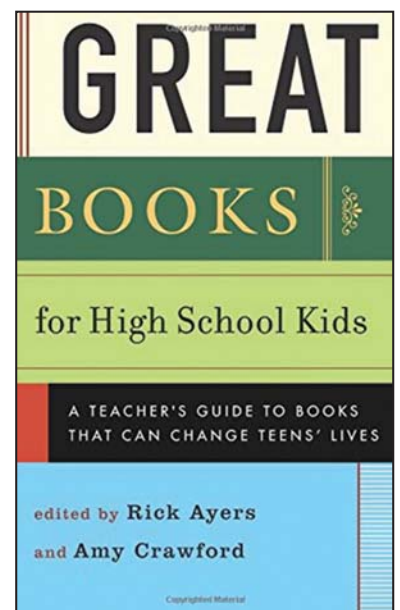
*Great Books* empowers students by giving them analytical skills to think independently, make safe judgments and decisions in their life, all while instilling a value system within them to consider

the impact their lives have on family, peers, the environment, and community.

Through class discussion, each teacher discovers students, even the quiet and hard to reach, are filled with an abundance of curiosity and desire to learn and express themselves. They have a wealth of knowledge and valid opinions concerning real world issues.

Certainly a teenager's journey to adulthood can be fraught with risk and mistakes. During this period of life, youth absorb their environments, shape their own identities, and seek to establish their independence.

*Great Books* is a valuable



resource for educators and incarcerated parents to influence the growing minds of teenagers, without imposing any added pressure.

**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 all the 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.**

# Native Americans Are Overlooked in Mass Incarceration

By Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer

Native Americans are often overlooked when it comes to mass incarceration and police abuses, according to an article in *Truth-Out News Analysis*.

Native Americans are incarcerated at a 38 percent rate higher than the national average, according to the Bureau of Justice.

They are incarcerated at nearly twice the rate of Whites and slightly more than Latinos but less than half the frequency of Blacks, according to the article.

Native American women are incarcerated at six times the rate of White women, according to a report compiled by the Lakota People's Law Project.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights attributes lack of access to adequate counsel and racial profiling for the higher rates and the differential treatment by the criminal justice system.

"For Native American's, being overlooked is nothing new, said Simon Moya-Smith, a journalist quoted in the article. "Our voices are seldom in the mainstream, our issues disregarded ... this country has yet to recognize our humanity."

From 1999 to 2013, Native American deaths in custody per capita was roughly equal to those of Black people and nearly double the rates for Hispanics and almost three times the rates for Whites, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Those who have died at the hands of police in recent years are Rexdale Henry, Mah-hi-vist Goodblanket, Allen Locke, Paul Castaway and Sarah Lee Circle Bear, the article states.

Henry and Circle Bear passed away in police custody under suspicious circumstances, according to the article. Locke and Goodblanket died in a hail of bullets. Henry, a Choctaw, died a day after Sandra Bland, a

Black woman who made headlines after a traffic stop and death in custody. But Native American deaths have attracted little media attention beyond the indigenous circles, the article states.

**"Our voices are seldom in the mainstream, our issues disregarded ... this country has yet to recognize our humanity"**

Under federal jurisdiction Native people faced longer sentences when Native courts lost its sovereignty in the legal criminal realm, the article stated.

In 2014, the U.S. Sentencing Commission formed the

Tribal Issues Advisory Group to address federal commission reform recommendations from 2003.

Native Americans represent about 2 percent of the overall U.S. population.

Yet in states like South Dakota, Natives represent 8.9 percent of its population but are 29 percent of the prison population, and juveniles were 38 percent, according to its 2011 state's Department of Corrections, as reported in the 2013 April edition of the *Prison Legal News*.

In Montana, Natives are about 7 percent of the general population but 19 percent of the men state's prison population, and women made up 33 percent of its prison population. Minnesota in 2012 indicated that 1.3 percent of Native American were state's residents, but its DOC reported that 9 percent of its prisoners were "American Indian," according to the same *Prison Legal News* article.

Tribal authorities are fighting to re-empower its courts to bring about genuine alternatives. That embodies a restorative justice model that differed from the punitive and adversarial system of the U.S., the *Truth-Out News* article stated.

True justice, argues Robert Yazzie, chief justice emeritus of the Navajo Nation, "rejects the process of convicting a person and throwing the keys away in favor of methods that use solidarity to restore good relationships among people. Most importantly, it restores good relations with self," the article quoted.

The article concluded, "Even today, many tribal courts sit in peacekeeping circles rather than vesting all authority in one judge seated on high. While politicians seek answers to mass incarceration in metadata and cutting-edge risk assessment tools, they might find a more genuine alternative by listening to Native philosophers."

## Terms 'Felon' and 'Convict' Stricken by Justice Department

By Emile DeWeaver  
Staff Writer

The Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs announced in May that it will no longer use words such as "felon" or "convict" to refer to people released from prison.

Assistant Attorney General Karol Mason wrote in a guest

piece for the *Washington Post* that the nation bears a responsibility to reduce both physical and psychological barriers to reintegration.

The American Bar Association has documented more than 46,000 barriers that formerly incarcerated citizens face after they've paid their societal debts, Mason noted.

"These legal and regulatory barriers are formidable, but many of the formerly incarcerated men, women and young people I talk with say that no punishment is harsher than being permanently branded a 'felon' or 'offender,'" Mason wrote.

Eddie Ellis, a criminal justice advocate who was impris-

oned for 23 years for a murder he maintained he did not commit, began a movement a decade ago with a widely circulated "open letter" urging people to abandon nouns like "convict," reported *The New York Times*. Ellis believed such terms erased the humanity of formerly imprisoned people.

"The worst part of repeatedly hearing your negative definition of me," Ellis wrote, "is that I begin to believe it myself, 'for as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.'"

John W. Parrat Jr., an incarcerated American and member of social justice group Alliance for Change, appreciates the policy change. He describes words like "felon," "convict" and "inmate" as words that erase individuals and replace them with everyone's worst hatreds and fears. "It's almost like using the N-word," he said.

Correctional Sgt. S. Hasan has worked for CDCR for 30 years and is currently assigned to the North Block dining hall. "I never use words like 'convict' or 'inmate,'" Hasan said. "You ask anyone who works for me, I call them workers."

Michael Calvin Holmes works as a clerk in San Quentin's Education Department. He helps incarcerated men gain access to college through correspondence courses. He also agrees that being branded a "felon" is worse than the 46,000 barriers to reintegration that he will one day face, which include penalties like disenfranchisement, employment prohibitions and housing restrictions.

"All these problems are caused by that label," Holmes said. "It feels bad because I know I've changed and progressed, but it feels like nobody else does. It's just hard."

When Attorney General Loretta Lynch delivered a speech in April about re-entry programs, she avoided objectifying nouns like "felon," report-

ed *The New York Times*. Lynch instead referred to formerly incarcerated Americans as "citizens."

"The reference to former inmates as 'citizens' was strikingly humanizing," wrote the Editorial Board of the *Times*.

"I like that," said Holmes, when he heard about the Attorney General's speech. "I am a citizen. I live in America. When I was a criminal, I didn't think like I do now, and I deserved to be incarcerated when I was arrested. But the men incarcerated in here with me, the volunteers and counselors, they helped me change the way I see things."

**"The reference to former inmates as 'citizens' was strikingly humanizing"**

"I would like to be called a citizen now and when I get out," Holmes continued.

Zachariah Casey McCormack is an incarcerated American who earned his GED in 2000. He spends his time tutoring other incarcerated men, so they can earn their GEDs. He also likes the idea of being called a citizen. He appreciates the Justice Department's effort to humanize incarcerated people.

"Some people get out of prison and commit crimes, and they are criminals," McCormack said. "But if we've used our time well in prison, and we've rehabilitated ourselves, then we're not criminals anymore."

McCormack acknowledged that it may be hard for the public to tell the difference between who is rehabilitated and who is not. His message to America: "Give us a little time, let us show you."

## Reggie Hola Paroles After Seven-Plus Years

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

Reggie Hola was surrounded by more than a dozen men who were touching foreheads and bumping noses with him, followed by a firm handshake and a pull-in for a close hug as Hola's seven-year, five-month incarceration came to a close.

It was his last full day in prison and the atmosphere in the gym was typical for San Quentin State Prison. Two televisions aired the French Open, the fantasy gamers crowded around a table totally immersed in their worlds, a full-court basketball game was going on, and way back in a corner, the sound of a handball echoed as it smacked against the wall.

Hola had just finished the last of three basketball games and his team had won them all.

He and his friends were mingling and talking about the future, while bowls of rice, chicken, Chinese sausage, and beef sausage were passed around.

Before eating, prayers were offered by one of the Polynesian elders.

Speaking of Hola, Joe Demerson said, "I know that he had a different mind-set before he came in."

Demerson had completed an entrepreneurial self-help program, The Last Mile, with Hola.

"It's inspiration for me," Demerson said. "For that I'm very happy for him. I know he has a lot of good people around him."

Hola said he plans to get in contact with The Last Mile founders, Chris Redlitz and Beverly Parenti, for support and employment assistance. "They might be at the gate waiting for me," he said.

"It's inspiring to see Reggie leave," Philip Melendez said. "It gives me hope. I'm going to the same place as he's going," referring to Sacramento. "The bond we had in here will continue when he gets to the streets."

One of the elders of Hola's community, Upu S. Ama, said, "We would like to observe that today is Memorial Day through a moment of silence—which is the same day as we're celebrating Reggie's last day in prison."

Ama added, "Like anyone, if you don't apply what you know, it won't work. Just like a doctor has to apply what he's learned in medical school to be a good doctor, Reggie has to apply what he's learned in the programs he's taken. I have confidence he won't do the



File photo

Reggie Hola on the Lower Yard

revolving-door thing. He got it on the first time in."

"He learned above anything else in this penitentiary that family comes first," Damon Cooke, another community elder, said. "When he lost his freedom, he learned that he'll never make the same mistakes that would bring him to prison."

"Reggie also learned that men in here can love and care for him and there's no walls that can stop that," Cooke said. "The value comes from watching his elders."



# Groundskeepers Find Their Work Therapeutic

By Wesley R. Eisiminger  
Staff writer

San Quentin State Prison has very beautiful gardens, the inmate caretakers say.

"I enjoy working on the garden," said Frank Smith, who is the lead man of four groundskeepers for a garden near the prison's entrance.

Smith said he's been doing this job for five years to make

it a place full of beauty. "I trim the bushes to take shape, to bring them out, and it is part of my meditation doing my work here."

He went on to say that no seeds, plants or material are given to the caretakers. The plants' seeds are used to re-plant new flowers and roses. The dead plants are used for compost.

Some of the rare and types of plants are: Yankee spirit, bougainvilleas, Lilies of the Nile, Sonoma yucca, as well as a Norfolk pine that can be seen standing high over the top of the chapel buildings, one of only four in the Bay Area. There are many different types of plants, such as roses, marigolds, firs, palm trees and numerous other types, turning these grounds into a picture-perfect place.

"I enjoy this



Photo by Ralpheale Casale

Carlos Meza, Frank Smith, Samuel Woige and Curtis Roberts appreciating their work at Central Plaza

work outside and watching things grow and planting new plants and watching them take shape," said Carlos Meza, who has been a caretaker about a year and half.

"This is good therapy for me, working on trimming the grass and bushes and working on the pond and working outside," said caretaker Curtis Roberts.

Samuel Woige another caretaker added, "I've only been

here a short time and I like working to help make this area very beautiful and great. You never see plants or trees at other prisons, only concrete walls."

Smith said, when members of the Americans with Disabilities Act came to San Quentin about a year ago they were very impressed with the beauty of the Garden Chapel area.

Jeffery Long has been caring for the garden in the education

area, located on the prison's Lower Yard.

Long voluntarily took care of the garden for about two and a half years before getting a permanent assignment to the job.

"I took this job because of the influence of Patten College," Long said. "I watched my grandfather grow and create, and later in life I discovered that I can grow and had a green thumb."



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Jeffery Long at SQ Education

# Hope for Lifers Facilitates Life-Changing Opportunities

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

Gary Kosta and Marty Walters are the most unlikely characters to facilitate life-changing opportunities for inmates serving life sentences.

Kosta, 59, has been in and out of prison his whole adult life. His last conviction for a 1996 robbery got him 50 years to life under California's Three Strikes law. Walters, 58, is serving a life sentence for a murder in 1996.

But despite their own life sentences, Kosta and Walter co-chair San Quentin State Prison's self-help group called Hope for Lifers.

They didn't know each other prior to coming to prison. However, once incarcerated, they learned they had both lived in the same house at different times in their hometown of San Diego.

Kosta said the coincidence began a friendship that has



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Hope for Lifers facilitators (top row) Kevin Carr, Gary Kosta, Marty Walters and Robert Tyler (bottom row) James Metters and Nicolas Bucci

lasted throughout their respective journeys from prison to prison, and continued now that they are both housed at San Quentin.

"Alcohol and gambling

played a big part in my self-image," Kosta said. "I had the Las Vegas type of personality; it's about fast money and always looking for the easy way out."

Kosta said once he got to San Quentin, all of the self-help programs available had an effect on him.

"It got to the point where I had to take a good look at myself," Kosta said. "I didn't like what I saw in the mirror and I wanted to change."

Both must appear before the California parole board. In order to earn their freedom, they must be able to demonstrate they are no longer a danger to public safety.

"When I got here, the consensus was that strikers were different lifers (than murderers)," Walter said in reference to what inmates must demonstrate to the parole board in order to earn a release date. "But when Jennifer Shaffer (executive officer of the parole board) came, we learned that the board was going to treat everyone the same. Strikers would have to address their issue, just the same."

Kosta and Walters structured Hope for Lifers so that participants sat in circles and worked on a curriculum de-

signed to address causes for criminal behavior as well as parole plans that include housing and employment opportunities.

"The guys acknowledged their vulnerabilities and places where they need help," Kosta said about the Hope for Lifers participants. "This isn't easy for guys who have been down for a long time."

Kosta recognized that many of the men are learning how to articulate themselves "from their hearts about the changes they've made in their lives."

"Seeing this kind of work gave me an awakening, like I'm doing something good for our community," Kosta said. "I'm tired of hurting people; I want to start helping people. I still have my relapses, but now I know I can do so much good."

"You can't just show up and say to the board I go to Hope for Lifers and get out," he said. "That's not true. We all have to do the work."

With more than 3,000 members of the Bay Area regularly coming inside San Quentin to teach pro-social ways to live, Kosta and Walter are taking advantage of the opportunity.

Paige Mackenzie and Jared Rudolph are two Bay Area community members who support Hope for Lifers. Rudolph, executive director of Prisoner Reentry Network, specializes in housing, health care, job placement, credit reports and budgeting. Most of the logistical aspects of the program, such as curriculum building, are managed by Mackenzie.

"We run the program, but Paige and Jared are the engines," Kosta said. "The peer-to-peer model works because it gives me the opportunity to learn. Every time I read the work that the men do, I learn something new."

# Calif. Creating Campaign to Aid Victims of Childhood Trauma

By Steven Harris  
Journalism Guild Writer

A campaign to aid victims of childhood trauma is under way in California.

Such trauma is the source of significant lifelong health issues that affect families and communities across the state, said Nadine Burke Harris, founder and chief operating officer of the Center for Youth Wellness, a San Francisco-based pediatric clinic, reports Jeremy Loudonback of *The Chronicle of Social Change*.

A focus of the campaign was a recent San Diego conference. Unaddressed trauma as a

result of being a victim of a crime or witnessing violence can lead to tremendous consequences later in life, said Lenore Anderson, executive director of Californians for Safety and Justice.

Anderson labeled childhood adversity as a public safety crisis.

A Kaiser Permanente-Centers for Disease Control study called "Adverse Childhood Experiences" connected early experiences of trauma during childhood and subsequent health issues later in life by the organization.

The Center for Youth Wellness released the Children Can

Thrive: A Vision for California's Response to the Adverse Childhood Experiences report.

The report recommended these steps for preventing and responding to child trauma:

- Raise public awareness
- Develop a trauma-informed workforce
- Increase access to interventions
- Promote early identification coupled with interventions
- Partner in efforts to address the determinants of childhood adversity
- Cultivate trauma-informed systems

# Prison University Project Awards

Continued from Page 1

Keynote speaker Sean Pica introduced himself as the Executive Director of Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison, Senior Fellow of Center for Social Justice, a member of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Council for Community Re-entry and Re-integration, and a high school dropout. A week before, he'd been in the White House talking to President Obama about spreading PUP's educational model across the nation.

"But my story didn't start in the White House," Pica said. "It started a long time ago with poor choices."

Pica said he shot and killed a man when he was 16 years old. Instead of finishing ninth grade, Pica went to an adult prison where he eventually found his calling educating the men who were incarcerated with him.

"That's when it began," Pica said, before he addressed the graduates directly. "Your job doesn't end here with your diplomas, with inspiring your families." He expressed his belief that education is about more than a diploma. It's about having the power to help people. Graduation was an accomplishment that could mark that beginning.

"I'm the only formerly incar-

cerated person to be coordinating a college program, but I will not be the last," Pica said.

Valedictorian Timothy Warren continued the theme of beginnings after he stepped up to the lectern and received the honor from the 2015 valedictorian, Keung Vanh. Warren talked about new beginnings before he addressed his family directly.

"I know for a long time, you guys have been searching for something good to come from this situation," Warren said, struggling to speak while crying. "But I'm here to tell you that I'm a bigger man because of what I've been through. What we've been through." Warren said he can't wait to get out and show his family the better man he's become.

Warren is the first member of his family to graduate from college. His two sisters and his brother were inspired by both Warren's accomplishments and his speech. His youngest sister,

who attends CSU Stanislaus, said she now wants to become the valedictorian of her graduating class, too. His oldest sister said Warren inspires her to go back to college. Warren's brother, who just finished a tour in the military, also said he is now determined to join the ranks of college graduates in his family. The class of 2016 suffered a

minor setback in that the tassels on their caps were missing. The missing tassels provided several occasions for humor after Jody Lewen, Executive Director of PUP, suggested the use of imaginary tassels.

"Just another case of the endless opportunities this environ-

ment offers to show you what matters and what doesn't," said Lewen about the missing tassels.

What mattered for those gathered was the sense of community fostered by Lewen's program.

"Most of the guys had family



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Sean Pica, Jody Lewen, Abraham Antonio Rueles and Marc Porter congratulating the Class of 2016 on their accomplishment



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Boris Portal Jr., Judith Leon, Laura Del Carpio, Alexei Ruiz, Diana Kronstadt, Gina Portal and Nora Ruiz enjoying the celebration



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Danny Nha Ho spending time with his daughter Dorothy Huang Ho



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Orlando Harris with his mother Evelyn L. Smith



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Joel Tomei, Robert L. Butler III and Patricia Tomei enjoying the ceremony

# Seven Associate of Arts Degrees



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Prison University Project's graduating Class of 2016 posing for group photo

in the audience," Robert L. Butler III said, after accepting his Associate of Arts Degree. "But my community of students, that's my support. Family is more than a biological thing, so

I still feel like my family is here to support me." Hannah Evans, Executive Assistant at PUP, expressed how important it was for her to be a part of the PUP community. "It

means a lot because there's a lot of inequality in the world, and I wanted to do something after I graduated to promote equality," Evans said. "I feel higher education is a way to begin equal-

izing." The PUP community appears to be partly built on the mutual admiration between students, volunteers, and staff.

"Everybody here is a leader in this community," Evans said. "It's about supporting and empowering each other, that's what's so special in this community. Leaders are born out of this phenomenon."

Alexei Ruiz, another graduate, talked about how one volunteer teacher empowered him. "I witnessed a teacher, on a rainy evening, walk into the classroom soaking wet with a glowing face radiating excitement, carrying containers with sheep brains for dissection," he said. "I will never forget

that evening because I learned more than a Biology lesson. I learned that when you do something from the heart, something that you believe is worth doing without expecting anything back, the joy you get out of it is insurmountable. I learned that I could make a difference in this world if I desire to do so."

PUP teachers, tutors, students, and guests celebrated new beginnings for the class of 2016: Alexei Ruiz, Robert I. Butler III, Isaiiah Fields (recently paroled), Orlando Harris, Danny Ho, Edwin "Zakee" Hutchinson, Mark Tadeschi, and Valedictorian Timothy Warren.

*-Rahsaan Thomas contributed to this story*



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Valedictorian Timothy Warren celebrates his achievement with family members



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Curtis Penn and graduate Edwin "Zakee" Hutchinson having fun at the graduation

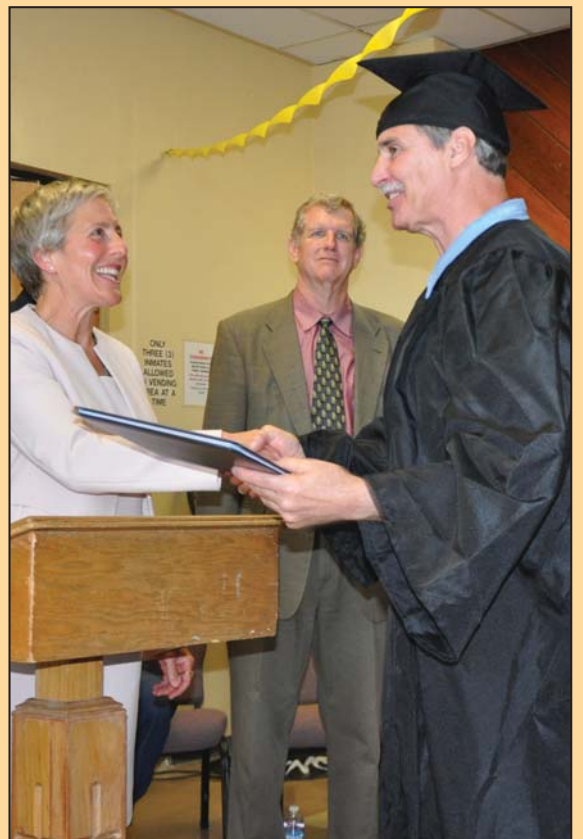


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Mark Tadeschi accepting his diploma from Jody Lewen



American Car @ www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk

Photo by K.L.

## Snippets

Malcolm X was gunned down in broad daylight at a political rally at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem, New York on February 21, 1965.

Iceland's flag's coloring depicts a vision of the nation's landscape. Red is the fire produced by volcanoes, white reflects ice and snow and blue is for the Atlantic ocean.

Salmon do not eat any food during the time they swim upstream to spawn.

Ghandi's quote "The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

Apples have more quercetin than any other fruit. Quercetin is a heart-healthy flavonoid that possesses outstanding antioxidant and antiinflammatory properties.

Mexico City is the largest city in the world and was built over the ruins of the Aztec city, Tenochtitlán which is a water reserve.

Yogurt was originally marketed as medicine and sold in pharmacies.

## Sudoku Corner

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

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

### Thoughts Are Free

Thoughts are free, who can guess them?  
They flee by like nocturnal shadows.  
No man can know them, no hunter can shoot them with powder and lead:  
Thoughts are free!

I think what I want and what delights me, still always reticent, and as is it is suitable.  
My wish and desire, no one can deny me and so it will always be:  
Thoughts are free!

And if I am thrown into the darkest dungeon, all this would be futile work, because my thoughts tear all gates and walls apart:  
Thoughts are free!

So I will renounce my sorrows forever, and never again will torture myself with some fancy ideas.  
In one's heart, one can always laugh and joke and think at the same time:  
Thoughts are free!

I love wine and my girl even more, only I like her best of all.  
I'm not alone with my glass of wine, my girl is with me:  
Thoughts are free!

-Hans Litten

### Month of August

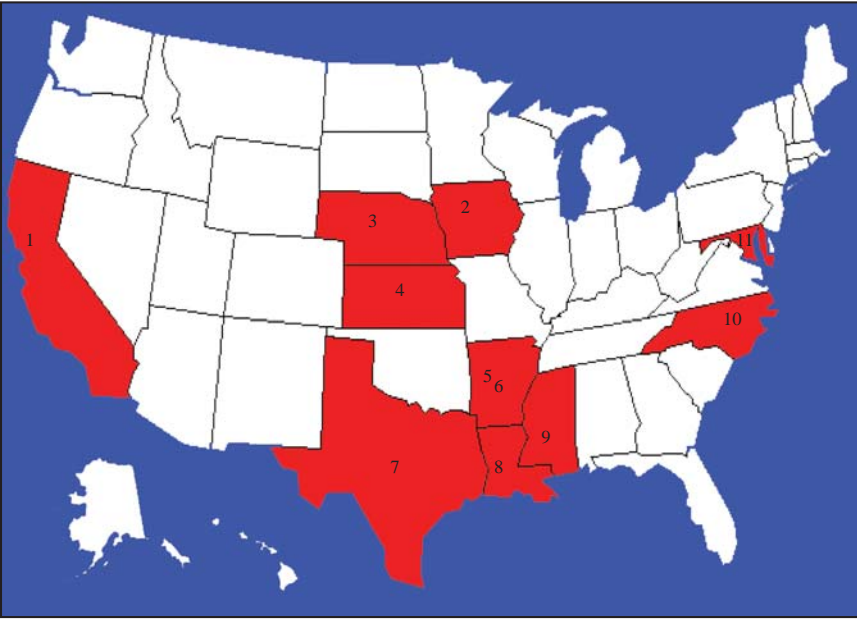
- August is the fifth of seven months in a year with thirty-one (31) days.
- This year, August has five Mondays, five Tuesdays, and five Wednesdays.
- For the Christian community, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Monday, August 15; the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Monday, August 22; the Memorial of Saint Rose of Lima is on Tuesday, August 23; the Memorial of Saint Monica is on Saturday, August 27 and the Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist is on Monday, August 29.
- According to the World Almanac, August is Black Business Month, Happiness Happens Month, National Immunization Awareness Month, and National Toddler Month.
- There are two astrological signs in August: Leo, the sign of the Lion (July 23 to August 22) and Virgo, the sign of the Virgin (August 23 to September 22).
- The August birthstone is the Sardonyx or Peridot.

### Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

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

# News Briefs



**1. San Francisco**— San Francisco State University will lead a statewide effort to expand college access for formerly incarcerated individuals, the university announced June 17. Seven California State University campuses — Bakersfield, Fresno, Fullerton, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino and San Diego — will establish programs modeled after SF State’s Project Rebound. Established in 1967 by the late Dr. John Irwin, a formerly incarcerated individual who became an SF State sociology professor and internationally recognized advocate for prisoners’ rights, the program helps those who have spent time in jail or prison earn college degrees, drastically reducing the likelihood they will return to incarceration. The expansion is funded through a \$500,000 “Renewing Communities” grant from The Opportunity Institute.

**2. Iowa**— The state’s highest court on June 30 refused to restore voting rights to more than 20,000 of the states ex-felons, ruling that the state constitution allows the disenfranchisement of people convicted of “infamous crimes,” *THINKPROGRESS* reports.

**3. Nebraska**— State legislators passed a law calling for prison officials to use the least restrictive means, while maintaining safety and order in the prisons, when separating inmates from the general prison population. The law grew out of hearings in 2014 by a legislative investigative committee that showed a lack of formal rules on solitary confinement allowed Nikko Jenkins to be isolated much of his time in prison and contributed to him killing four people in Oma-

ha following his release directly from solitary confinement to the community.

**4. Kansas**— The state high court ruled on June 17 that solitary confinement can, in extreme cases, amount to a violation of constitutional rights and ordered district judges to take into consideration how long prisoners spend in solitary confinement, *The Topeka Capital Journal* reports.

**5. Arkansas**— A corrections analysis group reports the state’s inmate population will climb 2.4 percent a year and increase from more than 17,000 inmates last year to more than 22,000 inmates by 2026, *The Arkansas*

*Democrat-Gazette* reports.

**6. Arkansas**— The state can execute eight death-row inmates, a split state supreme court ruled June 23, *The Guardian* reports. The ruling upholds a state law that keeps information about its lethal injection drugs confidential.

**7. Texas**— According to data from the state comptroller’s office, 101 men and women who were wrongfully sent to prison received \$93.6 million over the past 25 years, *The Texas Tribune* reports.

**8. Louisiana**— A lawsuit seeks to restore voting rights for some 70,000 Louisiana residents who are on probation or parole for

felonies, *The Associated Press* reports. The suit claims state laws preventing people who are on parole or probation from voting violates the Louisiana Constitution. The 1974 constitution allows suspension of voting rights for people judicially declared mentally incompetent or those who are “under an order of imprisonment” for a felony. The lawsuit contends that the denial of voting rights does not extend to felons who have been released on parole or probation. The suit asks the court to declare unconstitutional state laws that prohibit voting by felons on parole or probation.

**9. Mississippi**— The U.S. Jus-

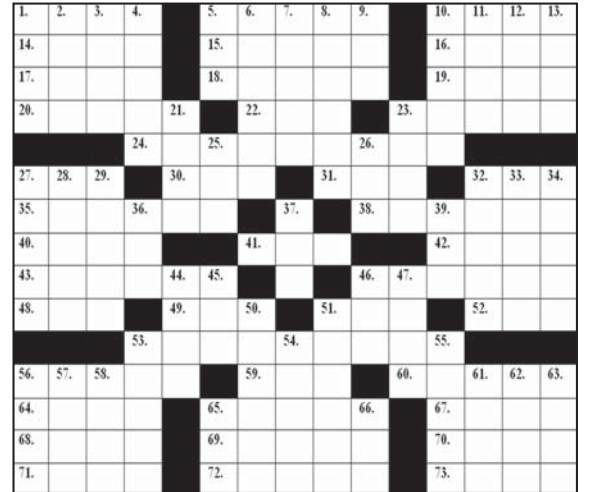
tice Department reached an agreement with Hinds County on June 23 requiring the county government to provide programs offering alternatives to jail, reentry services for inmates leaving incarceration and the prohibition of some jail sentences for failure to pay court ordered fines and fees, *The New York Times* reports. The settlement comes after the Justice Department found, last year, that the county’s jails regularly violated the constitutional rights of inmates by keeping prisoners past their release dates and that it failed to protect prisoners from violence perpetrated by guards and other inmates.

**10. Raleigh, North Carolina**— Prison officials announced on June 29 plans to stop isolating inmates who are 17 and younger in solitary confinement, *The Charlotte Observer* reports. In addition, prison officials said the state will establish a new Youthful Offender Program that will focus on the education, behavioral health and treatment needs of the approximately 70 inmates younger than 18 housed in the state prison system.

**11. Washington, DC**— The Obama administration on June 24 announced approximately 12,000 prison inmates will be able to use Second Chance Pell Grants to go to college, *Politico* reports. The taxpayer-funded grants would allow prison inmates to receive financial aid for college for the first time in more than 20 years. There are 67 colleges and universities participating — ranging from Alvin Community College in Texas to Villanova University in Pennsylvania. Most are public colleges No for-profit college is on the list.

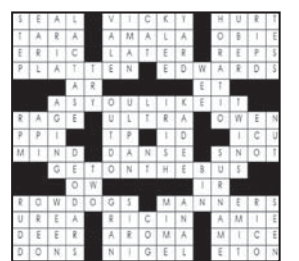
# WORDCROSS PUZZLE

- Across
1. Foods served in solitary are compressed into this type of ball
  5. Sacrifice or proposal
  10. L.A. football team
  14. Roman poet 43 B.C. – A.D. 17
  15. U.S. surgeon George Washington
  16. Norse god of art and music
  17. A type of truck or trailer
  18. Wayne’s World actor Carvey and TV actress Delaney
  19. Emperor of Rome known for cruelty
  20. Terminator term “\_\_\_\_\_ la vista, baby”
  22. Wheel of Fortune Sajak
  23. Muscular power
  24. CMA winner singer Chris
  27. Gone by
  30. Indebted to
  31. Comes after “hot” or “fishing”
  32. (Abbrev.) for Old Dutch
  35. July story of cabinetmaker Vernon
  38. College program at SQ
  40. A list of food items
  41. Great sorrow or misery
  42. King of the Huns in Norse mythology
  43. A type of exercise nutrient bar
  46. That which is directly produced by an action
  48. Blues Singer \_\_\_ Charles
  49. “Yes” in French
  51. Acronym of med. chart to measure height & weight
  52. Fish eggs, i.e.
  53. Teammate who cannot carry his own weight (Prison slang)
  56. Prison term to ask (Two words)
  59. Sooner than or rather than
  60. A prisoner with no gang affiliation (Prison slang)
  64. Maroon 5 singer Levine
  65. CDCR Secretary Kernan
  67. Result of the ocean’s warming, “El \_\_\_”
  68. Sonic game maker
  69. To do this on one’s shoulder (Two words)
  70. TV car show “Top \_\_\_”
  71. To move or go forward
  72. Pacino movie “\_\_\_\_\_ of a Woman”
  73. City in SE European Russia on the Ural River Down
  1. Radnor of “How I Met Your Mother”
  2. Vascular layer of the eye
  3. TV actors Allen and Daly
  4. To corrects one’s writing
  5. Acronym for uncontrollable repeated behavior
  6. Dessert iced drink over shaved ice
  7. Movie \_\_\_\_\_ Destination
  8. Click Beetle
  9. Matter, case, point
  10. Wandering samurai without a lord or a DeNiro movie
  11. Former colony in SW Arabia now part of Yemen
  12. Area of wet, soggy ground
  13. Game of Thrones character Jon
  21. A particle
  23. Coke or Pepsi
  25. Power to inspiring intense fear
  26. Off the \_\_\_\_\_ of one’s head
  27. City in NW India
  28. Actress Davis of “The Long Kiss Goodnight”
  29. Having an ugly disposition
  32. Watery animal
  33. Battery maker AC \_\_\_\_\_
  34. To come together
  36. Done by us
  37. Chemical car accelerant
  39. Acronym for a substance developed in a tumor
  44. Prices in canteen always do this (two words)
  45. Delicious
  46. Large flightless Australian bird
  47. Literary character



- Huckleberry
50. Drink substance to induce vomiting
  51. The Celtic language spoken in Brittany
  53. Author Alexander of “The Count of Monte Cristo”
  54. The use of words in a figurative sense
  55. Member of Africans in of N. Angola and SW Dem. Rep. of Congo
  56. A type of hinge used to lock a cabinet
  57. Mental conception or image
  58. Spraying graffiti on walls
  61. SQ building floor i.e.
  62. Term “\_\_\_\_\_muchas”

## LAST MONTH’S ANSWERS



- to mean to the extent that
63. The other white meat
65. Cadillac car model
66. Acronym for high explosive used for blasting

# Hunger Strikes Erupt in Immigration-Detention Facilities

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writers

Hunger strikes erupted in fall 2015 at a number of for-profit immigration detention facilities, protesting long detentions, inadequate health care, staff abuses and living conditions.

The protests included facilities in California, Texas and Louisiana.

More than 300 men stopped eating meals at the Adelanto detention center in California, reported the *Los Angeles Times*. The Adelanto facility is run by GEO Group, a for-profit private contractor based

in Florida. The hunger strike ended in November.

Adelanto detainees were protesting long detentions, unacceptable level of medical care and physical abuse by GEO staff, including a death and a miscarriage, *World Socialist Web Site (WSWS)* reported in November. Homeland Security officials stated the pneumonia death of Mexican immigrant Fernando Dominguez was because he "received an unacceptable level of medical care."

El Salvador immigrant Raul Morales-Ramos died in Adelanto from an undiagnosed intestinal cancer after four

years of detention. Ramos had complained numerous times to medical staff about his worsening condition, his family attorney told the website.

Hunger strikers at Adelanto have demanded: better medical care, a grievance counselor who does not work for GEO Group, dental care, better food instead of "slices of cold turkey" and to be treated with respect.

At the El Paso, Texas detention center, 54 South Asian men refused meals; five days later 14 South Asian men at the LaSalle Detention Center in Louisiana did the same. At the Corrections Corporation

of America's T. Don Hutto Facility in Austin, Texas, 27 women mostly from Central America, demanded an end to their mistreatment and immediate release.

"The hunger strikes are in response to Obama administration's inhumane anti-immigrant policies," *WSWS* reporter Kevin Martinez wrote. "More than 2 million men, women and children have been deported during the last seven years."

Forced deportations are having deadly consequences for immigrant and asylum seekers being dumped into their countries of origin, *WSWS* noted. Since January 2014, at least 83 deportees have been killed since their return to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the story said.

Nine current and former detainees at the Aurora Detention Center in Colorado sued GEO Group for violating the state's minimum wage law and violating the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act, which forbids forced labor.

Adelanto hunger striker Zakir Hosain could not pay the

\$25,000 bond set by an immigration judge, the *LA Times* reported. Hosain told reporter Kate Linthicum, "Where can we get this kind of money? We are not criminals. We just want protection."

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**"The hunger strikes are also in response to President Obama's inhumane anti-immigrant policies"**

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Asylum-seekers are being kept in detention for long periods because immigration officials are under pressure to fill tens of thousand of detention beds per a 2009 congressional mandate, said Victoria Mena, an associate with the Community Initiatives for Visiting Immigrants in Confinement who has been working with the hunger strikers in Adelanto.

## Report: California Youth Arrest Rate Drops

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla  
Journalism Guild Writer

There has been a dramatic reduction in the number of arrests of young California children in the past 30 years, a research report by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice reports.

The arrest rate for children under age 12 dropped by 92 percent. "This trend has significant long-term consequences, as those who are arrested at early ages are more likely to develop chronic offending patterns and have repeated contacts with courts, correctional programs and prisons," the May 2015 report author Michael Males wrote.

Forty-seven of California's 58 counties have shown significant reduction in pre-teen arrests since 1980, according to the report. In 1980, Los Angeles County recorded 485 arrests

of children 10 years old and under. That number dropped considerably spanning a period of three decades. There were only 17 arrests recorded in 2013.

Fresno, Alameda and Lassen counties showed results that paralleled Los Angeles County during the same period.

The report says California is leading a national trend. Having favorable numbers in school graduation, college enrollment, violent death reduction and lower self destructive behaviors are examples of social and generational factors transforming cognitive moral expression, thus reducing crime among youth.

The large decline in arrests of California's youth (pre-teen), in the last three decades covered a spectrum of offenses from homicide and rape to shoplifting and truancy.

The reduction in arrests shows

more of a generational transition over a period of time where children and young adults' behavior has transformed. This suggests that harsher policing or policy change is not the catalyst for the decline.

Males contends that, "If the large decrease in child arrests is an artifact of large, heretofore unmentioned changes in policies or policing, we would expect to see it concentrated in jurisdictions that substantially changed their policing and other practices toward young ages..."

As a means of understanding how and why the decline of arrests over a period of three decades happened, Males suggests that "the most plausible factors consist of broad social currents, primarily cohort effects but also temporary period effects, which affected younger generations more than older ones."

## Federal Judge Criticized for Handing Out Lenient Sentence

By David B. Le  
Journalism Guild Writer

A federal judge called for scrutiny of the effects of felony convictions, after he sentenced a woman in a felony drug case to probation rather than prison, reported *The New York Times*.

Being a convicted felon, the collateral consequences were enough, Brooklyn, N.Y., Federal District Court Judge Frederic Block said. The consequences have "no useful function other than to further punish criminal defendants after they have completed their court-imposed sentences."

Arrested for 600 grams of cocaine at John F. Kennedy International Airport, Chevelle Nesbeth claimed she was unaware that the suitcase given to her by friends contained cocaine. Unpersuaded, the jury convicted Nesbeth of importing and possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute, *The Times* revealed.

The judge's opinion is groundbreaking and "it's going to generate debate on a critical issue in the criminal justice system—the ability of people

convicted of crimes to get on with their lives," said Gabriel J. Chin, a law professor at the University of California at Davis.

Nesbeth was sentenced to one year probation, six months of home confinement, and 100 hours of community services, *The Times* stated.

Convicted felons faced about 50,000 state and federal statutes and regulations, including being ineligible for public benefits, wrote Judge Block, in his 42-page sentencing opinion.

The collateral consequences are "particularly disruptive to an ex-convict's effort at rehabilitation and reintegration into society," and could result in many ex-convicts "becoming recidivists and restarting the criminal cycle," explained Judge Block.

"However laudable it is for the judge to highlight this problem, his decision can't solve it," said former federal prosecutor Daniel C. Richman, who teaches criminal law at Columbia.

Yet, "It's refreshing, really, to see a judge considering the ramifications that a lot of people don't even know about,

much less consider, when they think about a person being sentenced," said Amanda L. David, a federal public defender, who represented Nesbeth.

On the other hand, the United States attorney's office memo to the judge stated that the collateral consequences of Nesbeth's convictions were necessary because of her "serious criminal conduct." Moreover, the restrictions were "meant to promote public safety, by limiting an individual's access to certain jobs or sensitive areas," and "to ensure that government resources are being spent on those who obey the law," *The Times* highlighted.

Judge Block, who served more than two decades on the federal bench, pointed out that it is for Congress and state legislatures "to determine whether the plethora of post-sentence punishments imposed upon felons is truly warranted, and to take a hard look at whether they do the country more harm than good." Meanwhile, Judge Block also called other judges to consider the collateral consequences of a defendant at sentencing, reported *The Times*.

## Antipsychotic Drugs Used on Juveniles In Pennsylvania

Youthful offenders in the Pennsylvania juvenile justice system are being managed by use of powerful antipsychotic medications, an independent news group reports.

The kids spend months in mostly private-run correctional facilities receiving mood-altering psychiatric medications "at strikingly high rates, particularly antipsychotic drugs that expose them to significant health risks," wrote Halle Stockton of *PublicSource*.

The medications prescribed are approved to treat schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and irritability with autism, according to the story, part of a series published by *PublicSource*.

Doctors and juvenile justice experts said they are confident the drugs are used off-label in the state facilities to induce sleep or to reduce anxiety or aggression, Stockton wrote. This is the practice even though kids are more vulnerable to severe side effects such as rapid weight gain and diabetes and potential debilitating effects on developing brains and bodies, the story noted.

Child advocates refer to the off-label use as a "chemical restraint." Psychiatrist Dr. Mark Olfson of Columbia University reviewed data provided by *PublicSource* and commented, "The new findings will hopefully spur much-needed institutional reforms."

Over a seven-year period enough antipsychotics were or-

dered to treat one-third of the confined youth, whereas only 1 to 2 percent of kids in the U.S. take antipsychotics, the story noted.

*PublicSource* analyzed data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Communication between the state agency and *PublicSource* was almost entirely through email.

The department had weeks, sometimes months, to respond to questions after being reviewed by the legal department. Department secretary Ted Dallas abruptly cancelled an interview with *PublicSource*, which shared its findings with the agency on Oct. 6.

The state would not release the names of the state-contracted doctors that care for and prescribe the antipsychotics to the youthful offenders.

Department spokeswoman Kait Gillis wrote in an email that 44 percent of residents in the facilities on Sept. 30 had a psychotropic medication prescribed by a psychiatrist.

"There aren't that many kids in juvenile justice facilities who are psychotic," said Dr. Terry Lee, a child and adolescent psychiatrist who treats residents of a Washington state-run secure juvenile facility. Most antipsychotics used in correctional facilities are given to control disruptive behavior, like outbursts, aggression and breaking the rules, he said.

— Salvador Solorio

### CORRECTION TO LAST MONTH'S ISSUE:

In last month's issue, CDCR Secretary Kernan was misquoted. The following is the correct quote: As for the "lifer" population, Kernan said that, "We are looking at lifers and those lifers without the possibility of parole who have sustained positive behavior and how we can open opportunities for these groups."

# Jails' and Prisons' Poor Healthcare Burdens Communities

By David Eugene Archer Sr.  
Journalism Guild Writer

Poor medical care in jails and prisons is contributing to poor health in some communities, the Vera Institute of Justice reports.

"The burden of disease behind bars is unacceptably high and largely invisible to the health system, and the negative impacts of incarceration on the health of communities is a serious issue," the report says.

"The millions of people who cycle through the nation's courts, jails and prisons experience chronic health conditions, infectious diseases, substance use and mental illness at much higher rates than the general population," the November 2014 report says.

When released, these former prisoners bring their health problems into their home communities, the report adds.

Between 1980 and 2000, people in higher socioeconomic groups experienced larger gains in life expectancy than

those in poorer groups, according to the report.

Those living in poverty have faced more barriers in accessing care, received poorer quality care, and experienced worse health outcomes than the rest of the population, the report states.

Over the last 40 years the criminal justice system has expanded to such a degree that, today, mass incarceration is one of the major contributors to poor health in communities, reports David Cloud with the institute.

Since the 1970s, the correctional population in the U.S. has grown by 700 percent. From 1982 to 2001 state expenditures on corrections increased each year, swelling from \$15 billion to \$53.5 billion, the report says.

It concludes that mass incarceration is one of the factors contributing to diminished educational opportunities, fractured family structures, stagnated economic mobility, limited housing options, restricted access to essential so-

cial entitlements, and reduced neighborhood cohesiveness.

## THE INSTITUTE REPORTED THE FOLLOWING FACTORS

- HIV/AIDS is two to seven times more prevalent in jail or prison, and an estimated 17 percent of all people with HIV living in the U.S. pass through a correctional facility each year.
- Hepatitis C occurs at rates eight to 21 times higher among incarcerated people and accounts for more deaths in the community than HIV/AIDS.
- Tuberculosis is more than four times as prevalent in the incarcerated population.
- Common sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), such as chlamydia and gonorrhea, are more prevalent, especially among incarcerated women who have significant histories of sexual trauma and/or engage in sex work.
- One-third of women admitted into jails who receive a screen for STDs test positive for syphilis.
- Syphilis rates among women incarcerated in New York City are 1,000 times that of the general population.
- Diagnosable substance use disorders in the general population are 9 percent; in state prisons, 50 percent; in all jail inmates, 68 percent.
- Serious mental illnesses in jails and state prisons are two to four times higher than in the community.
- Suicide accounts for one-third of deaths in jails.
- 15 percent of state prisoners reported violence-related injuries and 22 percent reported accidental injuries.
- 72 percent of people in jail

with a serious mental illness also have substance use disorders.

• Between 39 and 43 percent of people in custody have at least one chronic medical condition.

• People aged 55 years and older are among the fastest growing segments of the incarcerated population. This rate from 1992 to 2012 grew by 550 percent. Older adults have higher rates of chronic conditions and mental and physical disabilities.

• Overcrowding underpins many of the poor living conditions in jails and prisons. Decades of sustained prison growth created significant risks to the health and safety of people living and working in these institutions.

• Today, at least 84,000 individuals live in conditions of solitary confinement, isolation, sensory deprivation, and idleness in U.S. jails and prisons. This grew 40 percent between 1995 and 2005.

• Since passage of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) in 2003, sexual victimization remains a serious problem in state jails and prisons. A 2012 BJS survey found that 10 percent of former state prisoners reported being sexually victimized while incarcerated.

• The continuous cycling of people with high rates of disease between corrections and communities poses risks to the health of people living where incarceration is most endemic.

• For people with a history of injection drug use, failure to promote continuity upon release increases risk of relapse, overdose and risky behaviors that spread HIV/AIDS and HCV disease in communities.

• Researchers from the Justice Mapping Center compared neighborhoods where incar-

ceration is most concentrated. It reported that the highest rates of incarceration and the greatest rates of disease are concentrated in the same neighborhoods. For example, Central Brooklyn, the South Bronx, and Upper Manhattan – where incarceration is most prevalent – also have STD prevalence, asthma rates, disproportionately high infant mortality rates, HIV incidence, and high hospitalizations due to assault.

• 2.7 million children under the age of 18 are living in the U.S. with at least one parent in prison.

• Some of the financial burdens for the families of incarcerated individuals are:

• Depositing money into prison commissary accounts for use by incarcerated family members.

• Traveling costs and wages lost related to visiting correctional facilities that are often located in rural locations hours outside metropolitan centers.

• The high cost of staying in touch by phone, which can force families to choose between paying to stay in touch and other basic living expenses.

• The emotional stress and financial commitment can foster familial conflict that is damaging to marriages and parental-child bonds.

The institute said human health is determined by a range of social, economic and political forces beyond the control of the individual. The current laws, policies and practices that sustain overcrowded jails and prisons are undermining the prospects for economic security and causing families and communities an unwarranted degree of suffering and need to be examined and overhauled, the report concluded.

## Prisoners' Hep C Treatment Is Effective But More Costly

Treatment for Hepatitis C in California prisons is now more effective but much more costly, according to a report.

About 17,000 prisoners in California have tested positive for Hepatitis C though health officials suggest the actual number is probably much higher, according to George Lavender for *Market-Place*.

Haar said the new drugs raise the (success) rates close to 90 percent from "pretty much a toss of a coin."

The new drugs are much more expensive. A course of treatment costs between \$70,000 and \$80,000, according to California's prison health department. Last year the state saw medication costs skyrocket from just over \$10 million to \$47 million, states the report.

"While the drugs are expensive, liver transplants and treatment for patients with Hepatitis C in its later stages are also costly," said Dr. Jagpreet Chhatwal, assistant professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School.

"Treating the disease in prison is worth it in the long run because cutting the number of infected people in prison has a dramatic impact on the number of people living with the disease society wide," he said, adding "The average length of time anyone spends in prison is three years, but it can take 20 or even 30 years before the more damaging consequences of Hepatitis C manifest. The majority of those who had been in prison have been released and would require treatment in the community."

Chhatwal said, "If all prisons tested all prisoners and treated all those who needed it, they would diagnose between 41,900 and 122,700 new cases of the disease in prison over 30 years," Lavender reported. It would require prisons on average to ramp up spending by an extra 12 percent. "It's a question of spending now versus later."

—David Eugene Archer Sr.

*"... It's a question of spending now versus later"*

Liver cancer as a result of chronic Hepatitis C infection is the most common cause of cancer death in the state's prisons. Intravenous drug use is a common way infection occurs, though sex and sharing needles for tattoos also play a part in spreading the disease, reports Lavender.

The disease affects about 1 percent of the country's population as a whole, but 17 percent of those in prison, Lavender states.

The arrival of the new medications is "pretty miraculous," said Dr. Johannes Haar, chief medical executive at the California Men's Colony near San Luis Obispo.

Before the introduction of new drugs, the chances of actually being cured were about 50/50. That changed in 2011, when the FDA approved the first of a new generation of drugs.

California's prison health care providers' have been using two of those drugs, Sovaldi and Harvoni, since 2014.

## CDCR Implements Chronic Pain Management Programs for Inmates

By Kenneth R. Brydon  
Journalism Guild Writer

The San Quentin Mental Health and Medical Departments conducted a pilot "Chronic Pain Management" workshop. The 12-week program met once a week for two hours. Participants were referred by their primary health care provider (Doctor) to mental health services.

Social Worker Ms. Cline and Dr. Combs were the facilitators of the group. A curriculum developed at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility was used, and the objective was to provide information and techniques for coping with chronic pain.

There are two sorts of pain: "acute pain" and "chronic pain." Acute is anything from smashing a finger to being shot or stabbed. Chronic is defined as a pain which may or may not have a clear cause and lasts longer than three months. Chronic pain can result in or be accompanied by substance abuse, anxiety attacks, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression and can have a very negative impact on one's qual-

ity of life.

Those involved in the workshop were taken at their word. Whatever the type of pain or location, no one was questioned to see if they were faking. The ground rules were clearly laid out. Whatever was discussed in the group was confidential, but the participants could take the information to their doctors. The staff facilitating (Ms. Cline and Dr. Combs) neither interfered with nor were involved in prescribing medications or discussing medical treatments.

Nor was the group meant to be a gripe session. Its focus was on how one can have an increased understanding of chronic pain and how to better cope, using that knowledge. Some of the things discussed were the practice of various mindful meditation techniques and body scanning, and this was accompanied with an accepting support group.

Another discussion concerned treatment with opioids (methadone, morphine, codeine, etc.) and how the American Medical Association at large is pulling back on

their use. Only 30 percent of those with chronic pain are effectively treated with opioids. Many changes are happening throughout the nation in both the dosage amount and reasons for prescribing them.

When asked what he thought those involved should take away from the workshop, Dr. Combs stated: "To understand they won't necessarily get rid of their pain but that they have a sense of control in order to make it more tolerable—pain will interfere less with their quality of life."

Over 100 million people in the U.S. (about 30 percent) suffer from chronic pain. As a result of the lifestyles of those in prison, one can easily conclude that the percentage is even higher behind the walls.

Ms. Cline stated that she wished those involved would find new skills to deal with pain and learn that they are not alone. Those who participate in this 12-week program do not have to be a part of the Mental Health delivery system and will receive a certificate of completion. If this program continues, those who qualify should be referred by a doctor.

# Man Grapples with Retaliation and Revenge

By Juan Haines  
Senior Editor

When Tobias Wolff came to San Quentin State Prison on June 15 to sit in Zoe's Class-Creative Writing, the class had already read his short story, *The Chain*.

The story begins with Brain Gold remembering the day a dog on a chain attacked his daughter.

*It should be put down. It was crazy, a menace, and it was still there, waiting to tear into some other kid, because the police refused to do anything.*

As the story goes on, Wolff's interjection of small, seemingly insignificant details about the characters gives readers a familiarity that feels natural and relatable.

*Gold loved his daughter's face. He loved her face as a thing in itself, to be wondered*

## Book Review

*at, studied. Yet after the attack he couldn't look at Anna the same way.*

Brain thinks justice would be best served by retaliating against the dog, while his cousin, Tom Rourke, considers revenge the better form of justice.

How justice is supposed by Tom influences his choice about how to eradicate the problem, which could be a draw to some readers. However, the slippery slope of right and wrong gets muddled in *The Chain*, as common sense takes a back seat to the instant gratification for how Brain and Tom define justice.

After the deed was done, Brain felt a deep sense of guilt for acting on vengeance, in addition to the strong sense of

indebtedness to his cousin for doing something he thought he couldn't do.

Brain knew he had to redeem himself.

*He could feel his own rage, and distrusted it. Only a fool acted out of anger. No, he would do exactly what was fair, and nothing more.*

What a lot of prisoners have learned from the various rehabilitative programs: true behavioral change only happens when the perpetrator of crime gains insight into the causal factors of why they've committed the offense. Next, we learn the impact that our criminal acts have had on the crime survivors. We have come to the realization that the

lack of insight for personal behaviors typically leads to bad decisions, mistakes, errors in judgment, and an inability to understand accountability.

When all of the events that occur in *The Chain* are realized neither Brian nor Tom was able to connect their choice to fairness and justice.

Wolff said the idea for the plot started from a true event, in that there was a dog on a chain and the dog did attack someone. However, the flare that made it a profound story came from his creative mind, seeking a better understanding of the unintended consequences of revenge.

*The Chain* is available upon request. Your comments would be greatly appreciated.

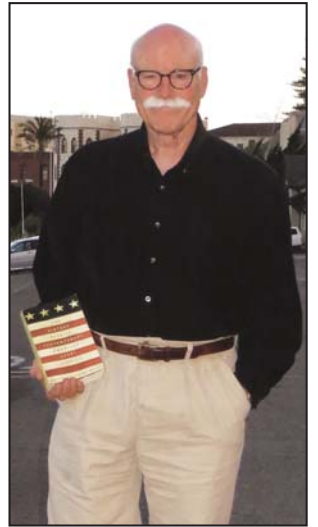


Photo by Zoe Mullery

Tobias Wolff posing with his book in front of San Quentin

## Questionable Convictions Result from Zealous Prosecutors

By Angelo Falcone  
Journalism Guild Writer

There are many state prisoners serving time in prison for crimes they did not commit. Often they were either wrongly convicted or "overcharged" by prosecutors with more severe crimes than of which they are guilty. For instance, prosecutors overcharge defendants with murder instead of manslaughter or attempted murder instead of assault and battery, regardless of the facts.

It has cost California taxpayers more than \$220 million, adjusted to 2013 dollar values, to overturn 692 wrongful convictions from 1989 to 2012, as reported by *San Quentin News* in June 2016.

According to the University of Michigan Law School,

"2015 was a record-breaking year for exonerations in the United States." Earlier this year, the university released its annual *National Registry of Exonerations* and reported that in 2015 there were 149 exonerations in "29 states and in the District of Columbia, plus three federal cases and one exoneration in Guam."

DNA exonerations accounted for 24 percent of all reported exonerations in the Registry and 59 percent of the exonerations in 2015 were for violent crimes: 39 percent were for homicide, 10 percent were for sex crimes, and another 10 percent were for other violent crimes such as attempted murder, assault, and kidnapping. "A record 27 exonerations in 2015 were for convictions based on false confessions, and more than 80

## Asked On The Line

percent of them were homicides."

However the number of exonerations did not actually reflect the frequency of false convictions. Rather, these were found "in large part because of the efforts of prosecutorial Conviction Integrity Units" or CIUs. CIUs are a division of a prosecutor's office that works to prevent, identify, and correct false convictions. There are only 24 CIUs in the United States among the hundreds of thousands of prosecutor offices.

As to overcharging, the Criminal Law Handbook, 11th Edition, says that prosecutors often initially charge defen-

dants with more serious or multiple offenses expecting to reduce or drop some as bargaining chips. Because a great many plea bargains occur when the prosecutor agrees to drop one or more of the charges facing a defendant in exchange for a guilty or no contest plea on one or more of the remaining charges, prosecutors tend to charge high in the beginning. Defense attorneys term this practice "overcharging." By filing as many charges as possible, the prosecution improves its chances of conviction should the evidence to support any particular charge not pan out. However, when it comes to the "politics of overcharging" many critics argue that both defense lawyers and prosecutors are involved in a cynical game of overcharging. If prosecutors file high, then defense lawyers can appear to be getting defendants a deal by convincing prosecutors to lower the charges.

In Plea Bargaining: Critical Issues and Common Practices by William F. McDonald, published by the U.S. DOJ National Institute of Justice, one prosecutor said about overcharging: "We get what we want; the defendant thinks his attorney is great, and the attorney gets his money."

Asked on the Line polled the men on the mainline with an informal survey and asked, "Do you believe other men in prison (friends and non-friends) when they claim to be innocent of the crime? The men polled were given the option of answering "Yes, always; No, never; Depends on the Crime or Depends on something else" and finally, the men polled were asked if they claimed innocence or not.

Twenty-two percent (22%) of the men polled would believe that a friend or acquaintance in prison is innocent but only eleven percent (11%)

would believe the innocence claim of an unknown prisoner. Seventeen percent (17%) of the men polled would not believe a claim of innocence from anyone in prison.

Twenty-eight percent (28%) of the men polled claim that it would depend on the crime for someone they know, and 33 percent for inmates they do not know.

Thirty-three percent (33%) of the men polled stated it would depend on "other" factors for other inmates they know and 39 percent for inmates they do not know. Other factors included: circumstances of the crime, what they know of the person, tangible and direct evidence, the person's character, and witnesses. A few of the men claimed it would depend on the "facts of the case," but did not indicate facts according to whom.

For the 28 percent that answered that it depended on the crime—for inmates they know—men on the mainline would not believe a claim of innocence for crimes like sexual assault, kidnapping or sex crimes against children, especially if the child makes the accusation. When it came to other inmates that the men do not know, the men in blue would not believe a claim of innocence when it came to murder of a spouse, girlfriend, rape victim, or child, nor crimes such as kidnapping or child molestation.

Finally, 11 percent of the mainline inmates polled at San Quentin claim that they were wrongly convicted, 44 percent claimed they were overcharged, six percent (6%) claim they were convicted under California's felony-murder rule—which holds participants responsible for any homicide that occurs during the commission of a felony, regardless of who killed the victim or how—and 39 percent of the mainline inmates polled stated that they are guilty and take full responsibility for their crimes.

## New Legislation Changes Inmates' Family-Visiting Policy

California Gov. Jerry Brown has signed legislation changing a number of rules affecting visitation of prison inmates.

Senate Bill 843 was signed June 27. Among several dozen amendments and additions to existing state law, the new law affirms that when the Legislature and governor amend regulations affecting visitation of inmates, they must "recognize and consider, among other things, the value of visiting as a means to improve the safety of prisons for both staff and inmates."

The new law adds that effective July 1, inmates could not be prohibited from family visits "based solely on the fact that the inmate was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole or was sentenced to life and is without a parole date established by the Board of Parole Hearings."

The Men's Advisory Council (MAC) met with Chief Deputy Warden Kelly Mitchell

## MAC Corner

and Associate Warden Gary Forncrook regarding this new law and its impact and change to the current visiting policy.

"Senate Bill 843 now authorizes family visits for lifers. We were just informed, but we cannot process applications for overnight visits with family until the regulations are written. Until we know the criteria, we cannot authorize family visits for lifers," said Mitchell.

"Let the (general population) inmates know that they may contact their counselor for a family visit application. However, applications will not be processed until we receive the criteria from headquarters. We will also be meeting with all of the counselors to inform them."

"The only exclusion that will

remain is that Close Custody inmates may not participate in family visiting," said Forncrook. "Close custody inmates are not eligible for family visits. Other exclusionary criteria are not yet known at this time."

So for now, all mainline/general population inmates who are not Close Custody and interested in receiving a family visit may contact their correctional counselors regarding a "family visiting application" or inmates may send a request via a form CDCR-22 to the "Family Visiting Coordinator" for more information. Completed applications must be submitted to counselors but they will not be processed until the administration receives the new regulations that establish the family visiting criteria.

—Angelo Falcone



# Court Ruling Bars SHU Inmates from Good-Time Credits

By Thomas Gardner  
Journalism Guild Writer

The Supreme Court recently decided that validated prison-gang members do not have a right to earn good-time credits when serving time in the SHU (Security Housing Unit).

The ruling upholds a California law enacted in 2010 that added gang membership

to a list of violations and infractions that disqualify SHU inmates from receiving time off of their sentences.

"Before the 2010 law, some prisoners could keep accruing credits for eventual early release while in secure housing," *McClatchy News* staff writer Michael Doyle explained.

(SHU houses inmates who have been classified as safety

and or security threats in relation to other inmates, staff or the institution as a whole. As a result, they are assigned to cells in facilities that isolate them from the prison's general population).

The 6-2 decision rendered by the highest court reverses an earlier ruling made by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that questioned the 2010

law, according to the *McClatchy News*.

"That is a terrible ruling to get from the Supreme Court. I guess it means litigants will have to find a way to get a case before the state supreme court," says Los Angeles-based defense attorney Caleb Mason, according to *McClatchy*.

The legal action was brought by Corcoran inmate Antonio A. Hinojosa, who began serving a 16-year sentence for armed robbery and related crimes in 2003.

In 2009 Hinojosa was validated as a member of the Mexican Mafia by Corcoran prison officials, *McClatchy* reports.

Later, in 2010, Hinojosa realized that the policy change regarding earned credits would cause him to remain incarcerated in the SHU for a year longer than under the prior rules. From that point forward he did not let up at challenging the new policy that excluded him from credit earnings that other inmates were receiving, *McClatchy* reports.

After repeated unsuccessful attempts at being granted relief through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) administrative appeals process, Hinojosa petitioned the State Supreme Court for relief, *McClatchy* says.

By diligently following the rules of the legal process through multiple levels of judicial review, "in February 2015, against the odds, the Ninth Circuit sided with Hinojosa's complaint that the 2010 state law violated the Constitution's ban on ex post facto laws. These are laws that punish someone retroactively, for past actions that were for-

merly not illegal," says Doyle.

"In punishing Hinojosa for his in-prison gang-related misconduct, the state has effectively increased his prison sentence for his underlying crimes. And it has done so by means of a regulation that was enacted after Hinojosa committed those crimes," Judge Carlos T. Bea wrote, according to *McClatchy*.

However, Attorney General Kamala Harris' office in turn sought a Supreme Court review of Hinojosa's case, noting that the 2010 law had previously survived a challenge from an alleged Mexican Mafia member at Pelican Bay State Prison. Harris argued [by brief] that the Ninth Circuit's reasoning "makes no sense at all," Doyle reports.

Although the high court ultimately rejected Hinojosa's claim, justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg entered a written dissent against the majority opinion, calling it an unsound argument.

The Supreme Court's unsigned ruling was issued without oral argument and could affect other state prisoners, especially concerning court procedure in handling inmates' habeas corpus petitions, according to *McClatchy*.

Even while "he lost; in being heard, he also made a point," said Doyle, speaking of Hinojosa.

As an indication of how difficult it is to have a case heard by the nation's top court, *McClatchy* says that out of more than 7,000 petitions received last year by the Supreme Court, it issued only 186 written opinions.

Hinojosa has since paroled from Corcoran, according to the news report.

## Connecticut Governor Opts For 'Second-Chance Society'

By Salvador Solorio  
Journalism Guild Writer

Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy says the state's juvenile justice system has been transformed and it's time for the nation to return to its roots as a "second chance society."

"If you're not a Native American, or your people were not brought here in slavery, everyone came here for a second chance, or a third or fifth chance," Malloy said in a keynote speech at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

In America's current political climate, the approaches to criminal justice are more inclined toward punishment than rehabilitation. America has "turned its back" on the concept of providing second chances, according to a June 14 story in *The Crime Report*.

Malloy also spoke at a symposium on "Children and the Law." He addressed some of the nation's top professionals, law enforcement and activists lobbying for juvenile justice reform. "No one should go to jail simply because we have



Courtesy of yahoo.com

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy

lost patience," he said.

The number of incarcerated young people dropped by nearly half to 36,000 in the last decade, but serious problems remain, according to reporters Alice Popovici and Isidoro Rodriguez of *The Crime Report*.

"News stories about children dying in jail or suffering psychological damage from

incarceration cause concern, and people should be asking why kids are in prison in the first place," said Jody Kent Lavy, director of the Campaign for Sentencing Youth.

"Most of our resources should be used for the vast majority of kids who don't pose a risk to public safety," said Liz Ryan, president of Youth First!, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit.

Connecticut reduced its juvenile detention population by increasing the age at which young people are diverted to adult courts rather than school-based diversion programs. The state has recorded one of the largest decreases in violent crime rates of any state in the nation, said Gov. Malloy. He also wants to raise the current adult jurisdiction from 17 to 20, to create a "youth justice" category.

The governor also admitted that implementing juvenile justice and criminal reforms oriented to giving a "second chance" can strain budgets when the country is hampered by a "permanent slow-growth environment."

## Officials Failed to Act on Substandard Prison Healthcare

By Rahsaan Thomas  
Staff Writer

Despite years of warnings that private prisons gave substandard medical care, federal officials failed to act, according to an investigative report in *The Nation*.

The warnings included monitoring reports, riots, a prison guard's murder and unnecessary deportees' deaths, reported journalist Seth Freed Wessler.

He reviewed 20,000 pages of previously unreleased documents about the federal use and oversight of private prisons and found "constant alarm from investigators — and disregard from leadership."

Wessler detailed his findings in *The Nation* in an article titled, "Federal Officials Ignored Years of Internal Warnings About Death at Private Prison." The story was in the magazine's July 4-11 issue.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) started using two private prisons decades ago under a mandate from President Bill Clinton. At

the time it was considered an experiment. BOP created a monitoring system to oversee them and Congress ordered comparison studies. A study slated for 2001, but never released until a recent lawsuit, "concluded that privatization had not saved substantially on costs yet had eroded the quality of care."

The private prison became "the fastest, easiest way" to house violators of illegal re-entry prosecutions that doubled under the implementation of zero-tolerance immigration enforcement policies between 2004-2013.

Today BOP uses 12 private prisons to hold non-citizens convicted of federal crimes. About one-third of the private prisons are owned and run by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the largest private-prison company. BOP's 2015 fiscal year budget for private contractors "was over \$1.05 billion," according to Wessler's article.

A riot happened May 20, 2012, in Adams, one of CCA's 2,500-bed prisons. The incarcerated men took two guards hostage during the riot, in-

cluding 24-year old Catlin Carithers, a member of the emergency-response team. One of the men incarcerated there called a TV station and said, "We're trying to get better food, medical, programs, clothes, and we're trying to get some respect," according to *The Nation*.

### ***"Federal officials ignored years of internal warnings about death at private prison"***

When the tear gas cleared, Carithers was dead and 20 other people were injured.

The Adams' uprising marked the fourth riot in BOP's private prisons over medical care grievances since 2008.

"Even before the officer was killed, there were significant issues," with CCA's management, said Doug Martz, the chief of BOP's private-prison contracting office at

the time of the 2012 riot. "Inadequate medical care, low staffing levels, food-service issues; when you put all those together, it became ignitable."

At least 38 men died due to inadequate medical care in BOP's privately run prisons from 1998-2014, the story said. Files showed that "gravely ill prisoners had been left untreated, or relegated to the care of low-level medical workers," according to the article.

"The records and interviews with former BOP officials reveal a pattern: Despite dire reports from dozens of field monitors, top bureau officials repeatedly failed to enforce the correction of dangerous deficiencies and routinely extended contracts for prisons that failed to provide adequate medical care," wrote Wessler.

The BOP has the power to deduct from the amounts owed to CCA on their contract or to cancel contracts when they find violations.

Martz, who retired in frustration, says BOP's failure to shut down Adams was due in part to a cozy relationship be-

tween bureau leadership and private operators, according to the article.

For example, BOP Director Harley Lappin left after eight years to become the CCA executive vice president, where he earned more than \$1,600,000. Two other former BOP directors now have leadership position with BOP-contracted companies.

When on-site contracting officials proposed imposing contract deductions on private prisons due to clear deficiencies, their proposals were met with a "No" or a proposed deduction of \$250,000 would be reduced to \$25,000, according to the article.

The Department of Justice launched an investigation into how BOP monitors its contract prisons in 2014. Since the investigation was launched, five deportees died in 2014 because of substandard medical care and monitor reports show that Adams has ongoing signs of negligence, the article stated.

An \$811,000 deduction was imposed on Adams, but its contract was extended for another two years.

# Warriors and Kings Defeat the Green Team

By **Rahsaan Thomas**  
Staff Writer

Both the San Quentin Warriors and Kings defeated the Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team in their basketball double-header. It marked the first win of the season for the Warriors, who won 69-63. The Kings won 75-68.

In the Warriors' game, teams traded buckets in the first quarter until 5-foot-3 Warrior Harold Malbrouga came off the bench and ignited his team.

Warrior Coach Daniel Wright said, "He (Malbrouga) is what I consider to be my only true real point guard—his IQ of the game makes him a natural. He stabilized the offense."

Malbrouga broke down the defense with his speed and made a dime pass to David Lee for the layup in traffic. Malbrouga also nailed two jumpers, including a three. By the end of the quarter, the Warriors led 25-13.

"We lost in the first quarter," said Green Team guard Remy Pinson.

Malbrouga expressed his appreciation for being a Warrior.

"I played for the Valley High Vikings," said Malbrouga. "For



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

David Lee driving to the rack

basketball to still be part of my life while I'm going through the disciplinary part is an opportunity in itself."

At halftime, Green Team center and Claremont-Connection recruiter Pat Lacy told the Warriors, and later the Kings, how he explains to people why he enjoys going into a prison to play basketball so much.

"It's inspiring to see how you guys keep trying to better

yourself, and I know your life's been hard," said Lacey. "In my life, I think about how you carry your burdens, how you keep being good people, and it's inspiring. I love coming in here."

Warrior Darrell Benford answered, "It's inspiring to know people outside this prison care about us. It really makes me feel like there's hope. It inspires me to be a better person

and give back to society."

The Warriors kept their distance until the Green Team made a run in the third led by Pinson, who heated up and made 9 of 11 shots straight, including four threes, to take a 45-44 lead. He finished with 28 points.

However, Warriors Harry "ATL" Smith and Allan McIntosh answered back. Smith got to the line and made two free throws. McIntosh got an and-One, taking the lead back at 49-45.

Pinson closed the gap again in the fourth quarter with his team down six. Lacey hit him with a behind-the-back pass for a layup. Then Pinson hit a deuce, making the score 64-62 Warriors.

Warrior Tevin Fournette increased the lead, nailing back-to-back short-range jumpers, making the score 68-62. Fournette finished with 10 points, McIntosh 17, Smith 13, Anthony Ammons 11, Lee 8 and Malbrouga 5.

Lacey fouled out, and the Green Team couldn't make a bucket in the final minute of the June 18 games.

Lacey finished with 7 points, 9 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals

and 4 blocks.

In the Kings game, D. "Zayd" Nickolson and Thad Fleeton led their team to victory with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

The Kings led all the way through the game, although the score was close at times. In the third quarter, Beau Heidrich nailed a three for the Green Team, making the score 36-34. Then Fleeton came to life, hitting his post-up turnaround jumper twice in a row, then again after teammate Tare "Cancun" Beltran scored, increasing the lead to 49-36.

Heidrich finished with 13 points, Pinson 19, and Lacey clocked a double-double with 18 points and 16 rebounds plus 5 assists, 2 steals and a block.

Lacey three-pointer in the fourth brought the Green Team to within three at 66-69 in the fourth with 68 seconds to go.

The Kings sealed the game when Demond Lewis made his first free throw but missed his second and Nickolson got the rebound, was fouled and made another free throw.

Lewis and Beltran finished with 9 points each.

King Joseph Kelly credits the win to "defense and passing the ball."

## Cavs Recover After Visiting SQ During NBA Finals

For the second year in a row, the team that won the NBA Championship visited San Quentin State Prison during the playoff finals. This time, it was the Cleveland Cavaliers' staff.

"The key to winning an NBA championship is to come to San Quentin," said SQ Warrior and resident Anthony Ammons.

On Saturday, June 18, the evening before game seven between the Cavaliers and the Golden State Warriors, Cleveland's coaching staff toured San Quentin.

Several incarcerated men said they saw Lt. R. Luna lead Tyrone Lue, Chancy Billups, James Posey, Rod Strickland and others into North Block during the 4 p.m. institution-

al count while the incarcerated men in the building were locked inside their cells.

After count cleared and North Block released the population to go to dinner, several incarcerated men spotted the Cavaliers' coaches walking by the chow hall.

Some prisoners looked on with awe while a Warriors' fan heckled the Cavaliers staff, letting them know they were in Golden State's backyard.

San Quentin has a huge Golden State fan base. Not only is San Quentin located in the Bay Area, but also Golden State's coaching and management staff has been coming into the prison to play the SQ Warriors in an annual basketball game since 2012. Golden State stars like Draymond



Courtesy of foxsports.com

Cavaliers' Tyrone Lue

Green and Maurice "Moo-Buckets" Speights have come with their staff.

Last year Golden State came inside San Quentin for the first

time during the NBA playoffs. First, Golden State Assistant GM Kirk Lacob and Golden State accountant Ben Draa came in to play against the Kings after Golden State defeated Memphis and clinched the Western Conference finals in six games. They had just arrived back in the Bay Area at 4 a.m.

Then, on June 6, 2015, the day before game two of the NBA finals between the Warriors and Cavaliers, Golden State General Manager Bob Myers and Lacob were on the San Quentin Lower Yard's outdoor basketball court playing with the Christian Sports Ministry's Green Team against the San Quentin Warriors. That year, Golden State won the NBA championship over

Cleveland in six games.

This year, only Lacob visited San Quentin after game two of the Western Conference finals when Golden State tied 1-1 with the Oklahoma City Thunder. Golden State went on to recover from a 3-1 deficit by winning three straight games.

However, this year only Cleveland staffers visited San Quentin during the NBA finals, and the next day LeBron James and Kyrie Irving led the Cavaliers to their first NBA championship, recovering from a 3-1 deficit for the first time in NBA history.

Could visiting San Quentin be good luck for winning an NBA title?

"I think it might be; it worked last year," said Lacob.  
—Rahsaan Thomas

## Club Mexico Hammers San Quentin All-Stars

By **Marcus Henderson**  
Staff Writer

The visiting Club Mexico baseball team hammered the San Quentin All-Stars for an 18-6 win.

The All-Stars struggled with its pitching corps. They gave up more than 20 hits and three big home runs.

"We had an off day," said Doug Aubineau, All-Stars third baseman. "But what team hasn't had one? It was good competition for us. Anytime people come out we have fun."

All-Stars pitcher Ruben Harper started out strong, but a couple of defensive errors allowed two runs in the first inning.

In the second Harper couldn't find the strike zone. He threw a lot of balls into the dirt, which

led to the bases being loaded, setting up Club Mexico manager Jim Ryan for a line-drive double for two more runs, moving the lead to 4-0.

"We will share this experience with the rest of our league," said Ryan. "I'm sure more would be coming out to play. These guys competed; they didn't give up."

Club Mexico is a semipro team from the California Mexican Baseball League in Stockton. They are league champions three years running and hold 29 overall.

The league was formed in 1955 by Mexican-American field workers who had to deal with racism from other leagues. The league started with six teams and has blossomed to 20. Club Mexico is the last original team.

"Being here shows how life can go either way for you," said Joe Elias, Club Mexico coach. "I grew up in the mean streets of Stockton, but through baseball I was lucky. I had a chance to play in three different countries and 26 states."

Club Mexico scored six runs in the fourth. Power hitter Geno Ballardo smashed a home run over the Lower Yard center field gate.

"This was an eye-opening experience," said Ballardo. "I'm definitely coming back. I will tell anyone who wants to do this to put away their concerns and just do it."

The All-Stars pulled Harper in the fifth, leaving the mound for Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla, who didn't fare any better. He gave up five runs in two innings, including two home runs.

Ballardo slapped his second home run over the right field gate with an RBI. Ryan, who went six for six on the day, smashed his home run over the left field gate in the sixth.

"All and all, it wasn't our best baseball," said Thompson-Bonilla. "The thing about these types of games, you have to have a short-term memory and reload for the next game."

All-Star David Fraire added, "A setback leads to great comebacks. Baseball is relative to life; you recognize your mistakes and make the adjustments. Also, everybody wants to make it home safely."

The All-Stars managed to score three runs in the seventh and ninth, falling short 18-6.

The June 25 game had some great defensive plays. Chris Urbistondo, Club

Mexico shortstop, looked like a golden glove winner for the spectacular catches he made; nothing got past him.

"You always hear about the bad things that happen in prison but not the good," said Urbistondo. "But, this is an experience I will share with my kids."

Club Mexico's catcher Leon Duron added, "I didn't think we were going to be this close to the people. I thought everybody would be hostile. This atmosphere has changed my perspective; how often can a person walk on a prison yard and go home the same day?"

Elliot Smith, the All-Stars sponsor and manager, concluded, "The best part of the game was when it was over. They were a great team, and we have to play better against great teams."

# Santa Monica Splits Baseball Doubleheader

By Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer

The San Quentin Baseball program hosted Lou Profumo Day between SQ All-stars and the visiting San Monica Suns in a double-header.

The first game ended in a 7-7 tie, while the Suns squeaked away with a 7-6 win in the late game.

"This program is over 100 years old," said Mark Mac Rae, baseball historian, who attended the game. "California has always been a head of the integration curve with its teams since 1916. It's its 100-year anniversary."

The day was about honoring the Bay Area baseball pioneers. Profumo could not attend due to an injury.

Pat Irvine, sister of famed New York Yankees' Manager Billy Martin, threw out the opening pitch and in his signature move, she kicked dirt on the umpire.

"Billy would have loved this," said Irvine. "Everybody was so friendly. I'm very honored to come do this in his memory."

Irvine shared stories about getting Billy from James Kenny Park in Berkeley for dinner. On how he recruited a guy from prison and how he had a good and funny spirit until dealing with the Yankees front office.

"We were raised to stick up



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Dick Mayberry, David Turnbull, Charles Fracchia, Mark Mac Rae and Pat Irvine (holding bat) on SQ Lower Yard

for our rights and to like a person for that person," said Irvine.

In the first inning the All-Stars took a 2-0 lead over the 2015 Triple A Pacific Coast Champion Suns.

The Suns gained the lead in the third 3-2. Tim Wayne doubled and Sanjay Naqarker singled for the score. Andy Greene singled and All-Star pitcher Ruben Harper walked the next batter and hit a batter to bring in a run.

"We drove six-hours; I wouldn't miss this. It's historical," said Wayne. "Life is about experiencing things because you never know when it can be over."

The Suns put up two runs in the fifth and sixth for the 7-2 lead.

The All-Stars scored one run in the fourth and rallied in the eight racking up four runs. Anthony Denard single and stole second, Joshua Burton singled. Harper singled past shortstop to bring in Denard. Cleo Cloman was intentionally walked. David Fraire hit a line drive, but Sun Will Greene couldn't secure the ball and over threw first, allowing two runs.

"That was a key error," said Greene. "But it's great to play people who love the game and to meet Billy's sister was cool."

The Suns' defense regrouped. Wayne struck-out a batter and caused two fly-outs for the tie.

There was no extra inning due to time restraints.

"I'm reminded how sports can help one forget their problems," said David Turnbull, who played for the San Jose Bees from 1961-67. "These guys opened their hearts; there is no strangers only people who have not met."

In the second game, the Suns were holding a 7-3 lead to close out. But gave up a run and Harper hit an in field homerun with a RBI to close the gap 7-6. The Suns finished with good defense for the win.

"We are keeping record," said Sun Zach Mann. "The games mean more here, we are now 2-1-1. All ball players should do this; these guys just want to be seen as regular people."

Basketball historian Coach Dick Mayberry added, "I will share this with the kids in my school. It's about opportunity and your service to the world and the thing about games it's never over until it's over."

Mayberry also played semi-pro baseball and he coach against Pete Rose and Tony Winn when they were in high school.

Denard added, "We fought to the end in both games and stuck together as a team."

Even sponsor Elliot Smith got in on the fun and had two singles as he batted for the Suns.

"I felt a lot of pressure everybody was looking at me," said Smith. "I showed them I can still play at 73."

Harper added, "It was good to embrace those pioneers. They shared a lot of baseball knowledge. It's amazing for people to come out and have fun with us."

The June 11 Profumo Day has now become a part of baseball history.

"No lead is safe at the Q," said Suns Manager Bob Sharka. "I've been on both sides of the come back. That's what makes this place special; next year can't come soon enough."

## Milestone and Records Broken at Annual Track Meet

The 9th Annual Eddie Hart and Ralph Ligons Track Meet brought a milestone and broken records.

Club member Tommy Wickerd reached his 1,000 mile mark after he completed the one-mile race. Meanwhile, Markelle Taylor shattered his one-mile record with 4:50.52, by 13.48 seconds.

"I put in the hard work," said Wickerd. "What better day to reach that milestone than today. It's priceless to have Eddie Hart here. He inspires me and my grandpa Wickerd. He used to run track bare-foot."

Taylor's lightning speed had him coasting in easily for the win.

"He threw down," said Hart. "That's what records are about—to be broken."

Hart definitely knows about speed and breaking records. He won a gold medal in 4 x 100 relay at the 1972 Olympics in

Munich, Germany. He set the world record in the 100 in the Olympic trials.

He missed his chance for gold in the 100, which he has chronicled in his book *Disqualified*.

"It's a blessing to hang out with the fellas," he said. "This is real-world stuff; it's not a lot of fluff here."

A new record was set in the 4 x 400m relay by Carlos Moreno, Oscar Aguilar, Donald "Tex" Walker and Taylor with the time of 3:47.34 beating the old record by 20.66 seconds. Taylor even lapped their opponents.

Walker won the 100-yard dash with the time of 0:12.63, beating last year's winner, Aguilar. Lorinzo Hopson, who won the 100 with the time of 0:14.04 for the 50-and-up age group. Dennis Barnes took second with 0:16.46.

"I've been working out with



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Members Tommy Wickerd and Tim Gentry

Markelle," said Walker. "I wanted to be an asset to get the record."

Hopson added, "It felt like I ran more than the 100 yards, but my ultimate job was to push the rest of the guys in their races."

Jonathan Cannon won the 200 easily with the time of

0:25.84. Michael Wilson was a distant second with the time of 0:27.44. Wilson has become one of the most improved runners; he went from a 13-minute mile to 6:50.

"It was a challenge," said Cannon. "I will start back training; I'm going for some records."

—Marcus Henderson

Wilson added, "This program taught me not to give up. It's about persistence and determination."

John Levin took the 200 for the 50 and up with 0:30.3. Kenny Rodgers finished in second in 0:31.48.

"I think that's my first win," said Levin. "I never liked running before. Now I enjoy it."

Chris Sculls won the half-mile race in 2:41.27 with poise and good technique.

"I left my heart out there," said Sculls. "I'm honored to be a part of this day."

The iron man of the day was Jonathan Chiu, who ran in every race.

"I think we all should be involved when we have great people coming in from the outside," said Chiu. "We are a team even though we compete with each other; that's what makes this program special."

—Marcus Henderson

## Athletes Battle in Tournaments on United States' Birthday

San Quentin prisoners celebrated the Fourth of July holiday with an array of tournaments on the Lower Yard.

David Silva was crowned the mainline most physically fit man in the Iron Man competition.

"You learn a lot about yourself and others when you are facing trials," said Silva. "I just kept telling myself to push through it."

He completed a seven-station obstacle course with the time of 10:12.

The competition was the prison version of the Olympic

heptathlon. In the first station, the competitors pushed a steel cart with two 50-gallon trashcans filled with water from the Addiction Recovery Center (ARC) building up a steep hill for about 120 yards to the prison industry gate.

After a quick sprint to station two, the pull-up bars, each competitor had to do 25 pull-ups. Once completed, station three was 100 military style push-ups. Then a 50-yard sprint passed the guard shack to station four, the baseball field, for 50 squats. After the squats, the contestants

had to carry the heavy punching bag around the in-field bases back to home plate. The final six and seven station consisted of pushing the steel cart back up the hill with one trashcan and run one lap around the yard track to finish.

"A lot of people didn't show up after they saw how hard it was," said Willis "Country" Randolph, one of the judges. "You can do burpees and workout all day, but you have to be prepared to do all that."

David Fairie took second with the time of 10:42 and

Darell "Obadiah" Flowers came in third with 10:57.

"I think I'm one of the oldest out here," said Flowers. "But I showed I still got it."

There was a softball tournament, where the teams The Sandlots and The Strikers were the last two teams standing for the best two out of three championship. The Sandlots took the first game 9-8. The Strikers regroup the second game for a 14-2 blow out. The Sandlots finish for the win 21-7.

"We thank everybody who contributed to this win," said

Angelo Ramsey. "It was a great day, and we had fun."

The Asian Pacific Islanders held their annual basketball tournament, which was about "fostering unity, healthy competition and having fun," said organizer V. Chau.

"Society is built on trust," said Damon Cooke. "That's why we want to promote unity among the population and break the barriers of mistrust. So we all can develop and grow as human beings."

Rafael Cuevas' team won the tournament.

—Marcus Henderson

# Musicians Showcase Talent for Juneteenth Celebration

By Marcus Henderson  
Staff Writer

The San Quentin Music Program put on a Juneteenth Celebration on the Lower Yard this year.

Juneteenth is the celebration of the final slaves being freed from Texas in 1865, two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

"This was a wonderful stress reliever," said spectator Charles Ross. "It's a lot of talent locked up. Today shows we might have been knocked down, but we weren't knocked out."

The band New Syndicate of Funk (NSF) primed the crowd with soul classics by the Dazz Band and the Isley Brothers.

Lead singer and keyboardist Rico Rogers' voice soothed with each note and Lee "Jazz" Jaspas' guitar dazzled. Daryl Farris played bass as drummer Dwight Krizman's and Latin percussionist Jimmy Rojas' rhythmic skills rounded out the symphony of funk.



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

## The band Contagious performing at Juneteenth

"Today was about honoring everyone who had fought for our freedom," said Rogers. "It's about not mixing the negative with the positive."

Jaspas had the crowd singing along to "What You Won't Do" by Bobby Caldwell and also performed a blues number.

Rogers performed two original songs, "I Can't Stand It" and "Slow Dancing." The band ended its set with "Joy and Pain" by Maze featuring Frankie Beverly.

"Our group has a lot of diversity," said Rojas. "Being able to take people back with our music to places they once enjoyed is a healing."

The band Contagious brought a mixture of Hip-Hop, Rock and African-Caribbean soul. The group consisted of singer/rapper David Jassy, keyboardist Kevin D. Sawyer, drummer James Benson, vocalists Jesse Reed and Paul Comaux, percussionist John "Doc" Holiday, guitarist Jaspas, and bassist Farris.

They performed eight original songs. "Gambia" was a song about a musician singing to feed his family.

Jassy sang the verses in the West African dialect of Jola, Wolof and Mandinka as the

band provided the cultural sounds.

They performed "Not the Mistakes I Made" that had a rock twist and "These Walls," a song about prison life that had a reggae rock vibe.

Jassy's lyrical versatility painted vivid storylines to each song.

The most personal song was "Don't Worry 'Bout It," a letter to Jassy's son.

"My son is in Sweden," he said. "It's hard to be supportive when you are so far away and incarcerated; that was my way to express my love for him."

"I think it captures how all fathers here feel."

He dedicated "Homing Coming" to his former cellmate Samuel Woige, who returned to Kenya.

"It's a song about faith and to walk with hope," said Jassy. "It depicts the feeling that you are really going home."

The group ended with "Freedom," a song that perfectly fit the day; it spoke to everyone.

Rapper Jesse "Jessie James Smith" Smith energized the young crowd with his song

"Nintendo."

"It's about growing up with nothing and how the streets changed me," said Smith.

He performed "You Can Be Anything," a song to inspire kids to follow their dreams.

"Today gave you the sense that we haven't made it, but we are still on the road to get there," said spectator Obadiah Flowers. "The goal is to strive for peace."

The smooth grooves of jazz group Con-Sensus had the crowd cruising to the sounds of "What's Going On" by Marvin Gaye, "Lydian" and "For the Love of You," two renditions by Norman Brown.

The musical ensemble consisted of guitar man Charlie Spencer, saxophonist Joe Demerson, bassist Terry Slaughter, vocalist D. "Champ" Hill and keyboardist sponsor/volunteer Denali Gillaspie.

"It's always good to see everyone enjoying the day," said Denali. "We worked hard every day of the week for this."

"I'm lucky to be involved with a great group of musicians—shout out to Raphaelle Casale."

Denali sang "Giving You the Best that I Got" by Anita Baker to the delight of the crowd.

The group closed with Stevie Wonder's "Master Blaster (Hotter Than July)" that made the audience stand up and whistle.

The June 18 event wrapped up with Harun Taylor, accompanied by the band, holding a moment of silence for everyone who has lost someone this year, including Muhammad Ali and Prince.

As the soft sounds of the band eased in, Taylor performed a masterful spoken word piece chronicling the life of Ali. He depicted Ali's childhood, his fights, not going to war, his Parkinson's disease, and his carrying the Olympic torch.

Taylor underscored why Ali was the people's champ, and the crowd join in unison yelling "Ali Bum-bi-ye."



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Jimmy Rojas performing NSF's "I Can't Stand It"

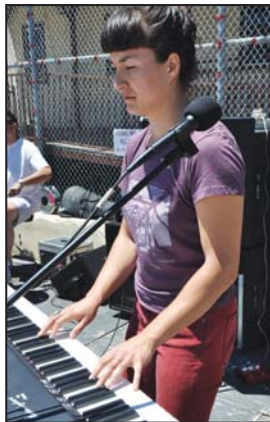


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Denali Gillaspie playing Marvin's Gaye's classics



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Audience enjoying the performance



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

NSF members Lee Jaspas and Rico Rogers



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Charlie Spencer, D. "Champ" Hill, Joe Demerson and Terry Slaughter jamming on the Lower Yard



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Aaron Taylor pays tribute to the late Muhammad Ali



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Dwight Krizman performing classics from the Dazz Band