

San Quentin News

THE
REVA & DAVID LOGAN
FOUNDATION

THE PULSE OF SAN QUENTIN

SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL
JOURNALISTS

Award Winner

VOL. 2016 NO. 11 November 2016

SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA 94964

www.sanquentinnews.com

POPULATION ????

Golden State Warriors come back to the Lower Yard

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Staff Writer

A parade of Golden State Warriors, including Draymond Green and Kevin Durant, made their fifth annual visit to San Quentin State Prison for fellowship, fun and basketball.

Golden State General Manager Bob Myers, Assistant GM Kirk Lacob, and Assistant Coach Willie Green were also among those who marched down the hill leading to the Lower Yard on Sept. 24.

See *Warriors* on Page 10

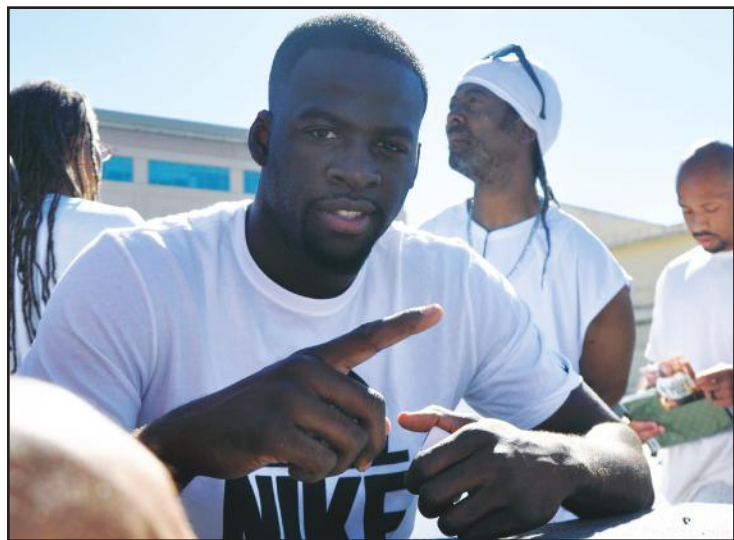


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Draymond Green on the Lower Yard playing dominos



Courtesy of Jody Lewen

President Obama and Jody Lewen at the White House

White House award to Jody Lewen

By **Marcus Henderson**
Journalism Guild Chairman

As students with makeshift backpacks and see-through plastic folders hustle in and out of an education building, teachers greet their students by name. It is a college campus at San Quen-

tin, where the Prison University Project works to transform inmates from convicts to college students.

President Barack Obama recently handed PUP Executive Director Jody Lewen the 2015

National Humanities Medal, recognizing PUP's years of hard work and dedication.

"We did it," Lewen told the students, "This is all our award."

See *Jody Lewen* on Page 4

SQ Death Row holds poetry slam

By **Juan Haines**
Senior Editor

A poetry slam helped 10 condemned men talk about the challenges they face living on San Quentin's Death Row. They presented poems to prison administrators and custody staff

on Sept. 7 and 14.

There is a stereotype that "we have no redeeming qualities," said Clifton Perry, 46. "Although a jury thought this, I will never accept that I have no redeeming qualities. I know we are inmates condemned to death, but we're not lying

down. We're still trying to do something good with our lives."

Perry was 26 when he committed the offense that got him sentenced to death, and has been on Death Row for 20 years.

See *Poetry Slam* on Page 4



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Death Row inmates in SQ's CHSB with recreation therapist D. Bell

Joint venture provides opportunity for SQ

By **Charles David Henry**
Journalism Guild Writer

A new opportunity for paying jobs for San Quentin inmates has been approved by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The

job source is a joint venture operated by a company calling itself "Big Dawg" Manufacturing, LLC. The company manufactures refrigeration products.

The company will choose from a pool of inmates who

are free of disciplinary violations. They will come from H-Unit, North Block and West Block, according to the operations manual.

Here are the requirements:

See *Big Dawg* on Page 5



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Hosts Rahsaan Thomas and W. Kamau Bell

'Artistic Rebirth' showcases talented artists to a packed house

By **John Lam**
Journalism Guild Writer

Nineteen San Quentin men shared stories, music, dance and acting with a packed chapel audience to demonstrate how art has inspired transformative change and growth in their lives. Packed into wooden pews in the Catholic Chapel were over 200 San Quentin men and 70 outside guests for the event, entitled Artistic Rebirth.

"The inspiration for this event is to give these men a voice for the public to hear, to showcase rehabilitation and the artistic value that people in prison

have," said Greg Eskridge, director/producer of Artistic Rebirth and radio reporter for KALW 91.7 FM.

The night's program contained handcrafted necklaces of a heart enclosing a crucifix. The crosses represented Guadalupe Leon's journey in prison.

"Making crosses has changed my life. It takes me about five to seven hours to complete a necklace, but it keeps my mind clear, it helps me to think about the person who receives the necklaces and it gives me a sense of self-worth."

See *Artistic* on Page 20

Innocence Project wins release for Kimberly Long

By David Eugene Archer Sr. Journalism Guild Writer

A California prisoner, whose murder conviction was overturned, was released on bail, according to the *CV Independent*.

Kimberly Long received help from the California Innocence Project. She had been convicted of murdering her boyfriend,

said the *Independent*.

"I know I'm going home. It's just a matter of time... I have the utmost faith in the California Innocence Project — and faith in God," she told the *Independent*.

Riverside County Superior Court Judge Patrick Magers reversed Long's conviction on June 10. He ruled the public defender did not provide

adequate representation. After being in prison since 2009, she was released on bail.

Long told the *Independent*, "Being released from jail, walking out to fresh air and no correctional officers, it was a different kind of feeling. It's been absolutely fantastic since that day."

She was tried twice. The first trial ended in a hung jury, with nine of the 12 jurors voting to acquit. Her second resulted in a second-degree murder guilty verdict. The judge stated he would have acquitted her, *Independent* reporter Brian Blueskye stated.

Alissa Bjerkhoel is Long's attorney for the Innocence Project. "After we get a con-

viction reversed, prosecutors have two options, and they can do one or both," she said.

"...they're going to appeal the decision.... it's going to put Kim in this legal limbo for about two years or so, until the appeal is resolved.... they have the option to put her on trial again for a third time. ...They're telling us they're going to do both.... They seem to be taking this conviction reversal a bit hard," Bjerkhoel said.

"We were really lucky the judge we had was the original trial judge: (Magers) was familiar with the case and all the evidence...(That) really benefited us," Bjerkhoel said. Long said she's lucky

compared to some of the other people the California Innocence Project has helped exonerate. "I haven't spent as much time in prison as others have.... Now I'm a 40-year-old woman trying to find my place in life."

She is facing problems that all ex-inmates go through. "It's just trying to get re-established.... You need a vehicle.... There are so many things you need.... Now I'm dependent on people, and that's a very hard place to be," she said.

Though she currently has no conviction on her record, she is finding it hard to find employment due to a big gap in her résumé.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I am an inmate at California Institution for Women. I am the public relations representative for our lifer group here. We are interested in asking Diana Williams of TRUST (Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training) to do an Employment Readiness Seminar here. Our chair, April Adkins, has asked me to obtain a contact address for Ms. Williams so we can send her an official request which must be approved by our sponsor. Can you please send me that?

Thanks,

Carol W.
California Institution for Women

P.S. Nice job on the newspaper.

I am currently incarcerated at Central California Women's Facility. One of the females here had one of your newspapers, and she passed it on to me. OMG (Oh my God). You guys are great. There is so much news. I love it, and I appreciate all the work that you put into it. Fantastic!

Thank you very much,

Luanne G.
Central California Women's Facility

I am an inmate at High Desert State Prison and am paroling December 21 this year. I've struggled with a major drug problem most of my life and last year completed SAP (substance abuse program). I have no family, no support and nowhere to parole to. I've asked the counselor and mental health staff for help but am told because I'm getting out on county supervision, not parole, there's nothing they can do. This is my seventh term over 20 years. I want to stay out, but I'm terrified having to go straight out to the streets. PLEASE HELP. Anything you could do will be much appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven F.
High Desert State Prison

It's crazy to think that states impose the death penalty sentence but then make it almost impossible to execute those on death row. If the prisoner deserves the death penalty, it should be carried out quickly. The Bible certainly supports the death penalty for the worst crimes. Yes, a firing squad would be a very effective, quick and inexpensive way to carry out executions!

Sincerely,

Jeff S.
San Quentin State Prison

P.S. I am currently on San Quentin's Death Row over three decades. I'm giving you permission to use my full name.

Feds ask governors to issue ID cards to newly released

By Salvador Solorio Journalism Guild Writer

Every year many of the 600,000 people released from federal and state prisons are without government-issued ID cards. Attorney General Loretta Lynch asked all state governors to provide state-issued IDs for newly released federal inmates reported the *Atlantic* magazine.

The Department of Justice cannot legally require states to do so, but it can ask states to allow citizens returning from federal prisons to exchange their federal Bureau of Prisons inmate ID and their authenticated release documentation for a state-issued ID.

At a re-entry event in Philadelphia in April, Lynch stated, "This basic step would have a powerful impact. As a practical matter, it would standardize the current patchwork of state policies around providing returning citizens with identification, and it would eliminate one of the most common — and

most harmful — barriers to re-entry across the United States."

"...Employers and other agencies do not recognize those IDs as legitimate"

Paul Samuels, president of Legal Action Center of New York, commented on the ID problem. "Most people don't focus on it, but it's a huge barrier for the formerly incarcerated, a huge barrier for caring for their families and themselves. It also leads to high rates of recidivism. People return to criminal activity when they run out of legitimate ways to normalize their situation," he said.

BOP staff often work with inmates to obtain birth certificates so they can get a state-issued ID, where that's an option. The stigma associated with having a criminal record

makes it difficult to imagine providing prison-issued IDs as legitimate. Samuels asks, "Who will accept that in the community? Employers and other agencies do not recognize those IDs as legitimate."

DMV rules in New York state allow the state prison ID to actually help people get a driver's license or state-issued non-driver ID. Samuels warned that for many returning citizens the financial cost can be another barrier. He advises, "That's why we suggest a waiver for people who are indigent. When people come out of jail they have very little money to get on their feet, so it's important for the fees to be waived to help them get started."

According to Lynch, California and a few other states allowed released state inmates to exchange their corrections department documentation for a state-issued ID to meet primary identification requirements for other state-issued forms of ID.

Study reveals how 'Ban the Box' can do more harm than good

By Rudy Morales Journalism Guild Writer

"'Ban the Box' Does More Harm than Good," an op-ed by Jennifer L. Doleac and published by the Brookings Institution, says that the policy that's supposed to help ex-offenders find jobs doesn't really help many. It actually winds up hurting the employment chances for Black and Hispanic men who don't have criminal records.

Doleac reports that Black men born in 2001 have a 32 percent chance of imprisonment, Hispanic men have a 17 percent chance, and White men have only a 6 percent chance. Employers often assume, therefore, that Black and Hispanic men have a greater chance of having been in prison and, as a result, are probably less job-ready.

Ex-offenders have it tough because it is difficult for those with criminal records to find jobs. Most employers won't even give ex-offenders an opportunity for an interview, let alone accept their applications, according to the article.

Doleac reports that two researchers, Amanda Agan and Sonja Starr, wanted to study how "ban the box" would affect job applicants' chances. They sent thousands of fake job applications to employers in New Jersey and New York City, where "ban the box" is in effect. Though employers call White applicants slightly more often than Black applicants when criminal records have been disclosed, that gap becomes four times larger when "ban the box" is in effect. That bigger gap is an unintended side effect of the

policy. Stated another way, the unintended side effect is that the people who gained the most from "ban the box" were White applicants with criminal records.

In a different study, Doleac reports, she and Benjamin Hansen measured the effects of "ban the box" on young, low-skilled men across the country. Their results showed that Black and Hispanic men who did not have college degrees were employed significantly less under "ban the box" than before.

Doleac ends by suggesting that because "ban the box" has had such counterproductive consequences, concentrating efforts on helping disadvantaged ex-offenders improve their job readiness would be more effective and most helpful to ex-offenders.

Virtual reality and the solitary prison experience



A still from the '6x9' virtual reality experience

By Noel Scott Journalism Guild Writer

Solitary confinement can now be experienced by non-prisoners in a "virtual reality (VR)" setting, reports Chloe Veltman of KQED.

6X9: A Virtual Reality Experience of Solitary Confinement was spearheaded by the U.K.'s

Guardian Media Group. "You can be mentally damaged by being placed in isolation," says Francesca Panetta, the project's executive producer. "But by using this technology, I hope that you will get a more visceral feeling of what it is like to be locked in a 6x9 cell for 23 hours a day — of the boredom — of the fear — of the confusion."

The VR experience was created from in-depth interviews with prisoners in California and New York, who have been in solitary confinement. It also uses the sounds from a PBS Frontline documentary "Solitary Nation."

"It's the sound that really sets up the experience, and transports you to that tiny cell, and makes it real," said Panetta.

One of the stories that inspired the project came from Dolores Canales, who spent nine months in segregated housing when she was at the California Institution for Women in Chino. "It's like you've been put into another country where you don't know the language or the area or anything," said Canales.

The project's goal is to bring

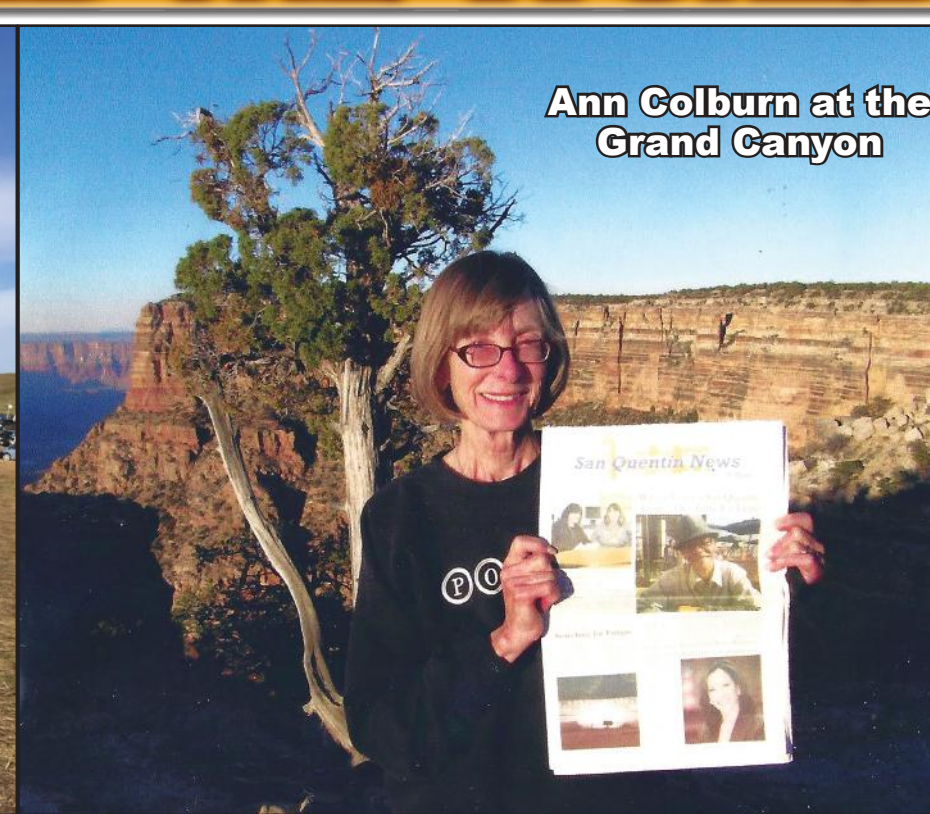
to light the psychological damage caused to the thousands of men and women, who are currently being held in solitary confinement, said Panetta.

The project premiered in March at the Sundance and Tribeca film festivals. Solitary confinement survivors also attended and shared their experiences.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD



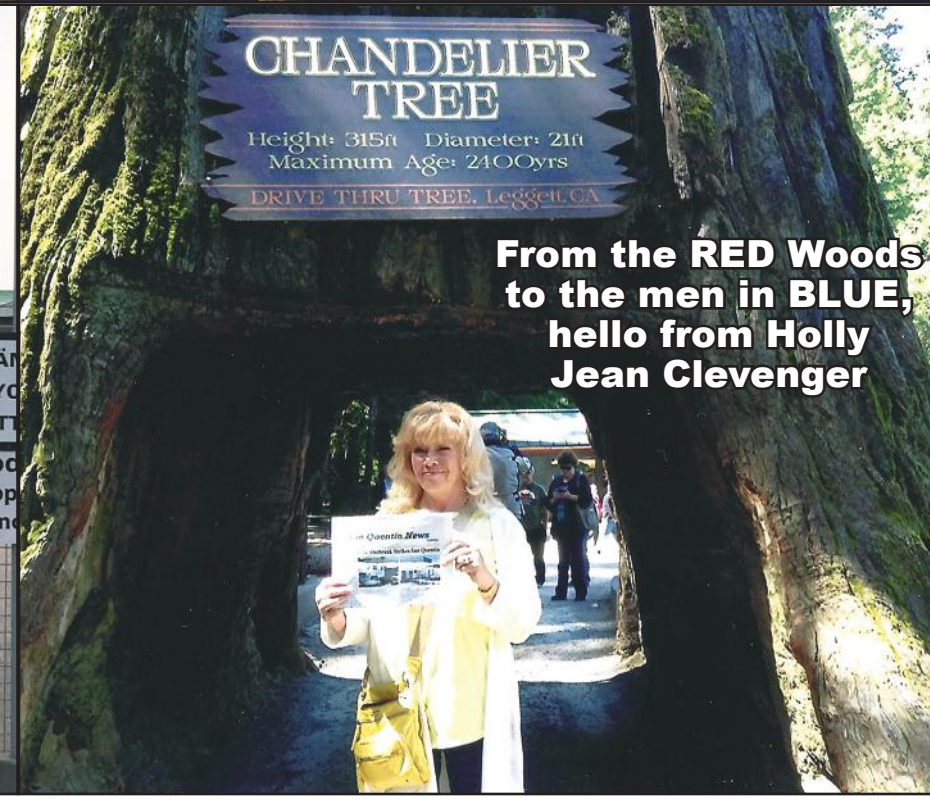
Bonnie Chan at Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota



Ann Colburn at the Grand Canyon



James Fox at Kumla Prison, Sweden



From the RED Woods to the men in BLUE, hello from Holly Jean Clevenger

NBA all-stars attend Golden State Warriors basketball game in San Quentin

Warriors

Continued from Page 1

The Golden State squad won the game 77-68, bringing their record against the San Quentin Warriors to 4-1.

"I always look forward to coming back here," said Draymond Green. "Growing up where I grew up at, I have homies doing time. We were all one mistake away. I've had my share of mistakes, some real recent. Things can change, keep your head up."

Draymond first came into San Quentin during his 2012 rookie year and played dominoes on the sidelines. Since then, he has won the 2015 NBA Championship and, along with new teammate Kevin Durant, Olympic gold.

Upon arriving on the yard, Draymond went straight back to the domino table.

"I got cracked last time [in dominoes], but now I'm three years tougher," said Draymond. He managed to win a few games this year.

Fans swarmed the NBA All-Stars who signed autographs and posed for pictures.

Montrell McDuffie, a 19-year-old San Quentin resident, said, "Seeing Golden State play shows us positive role models and makes me want to stay out of trouble so I can do something positive with my life and my time."

"I've been with Kevin Durant all week in five cities," said Paul Solotaroff, senior writer for *Rolling Stone*. "He is a righteous dude; he is very interested in social justice. He loves kids and helps rebuild basketball courts for them with his foundation (Kevin Durant Court Foundation)."

Members of the San Quentin Warriors greeted their old friends Myers, Kirk and Kent Lacob and the rest of the GS squad.

Both Warrior organizations prepared for this game.

"We had basketball in mind while hiring this year," said Kirk. "All interns had to be 6-feet and better."

GS Luke Locks, who played professional basketball overseas, added, "Basketball was a qualification. Can't get in the door if you can't hoop."

Ninety minutes before game time, San Quentin's Anthony



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Draymond Green and Kevin Durant on SQ Lower Yard

Ammons shot free throws with a look of determination on his face.

"I want to win," said Ammons. "When Bob Myers and KD walk in here, I want to show them I can play at their level. That's my goal."

"On the streets making the NBA was a dream of mine," added Ammons, who was sentenced to 102 years to life for a murder committed when he was a juvenile. "I'm fulfilling my dream in an alternative way."

Just before tip off, the crowd gathered around center court and SQ Warrior Coach Daniel "Bear" Wright said, "Thank you for coming up in here where we are incarcerated and giving

us this beautiful day."

Myers responded, "Basketball makes things like this possible. Basketball gave a White guy (from the suburbs) a chance to get to know you. We love coming in here."

Kirk, holding a box, spoke next, "I want to thank Bill (Epling), Don (Smith) and Ben (Draa) for helping make this happen. Now you (SQ) guys are wearing our old jerseys with the losing logo from when we didn't make the playoffs. We decided to donate new jerseys; if you win, you can keep them," he joked before opening the box and revealing blue Warrior practice jerseys.

Casey Hill, coach of the Santa Cruz Warriors, who won the D-League Championship in 2015,

The starting five for GS didn't

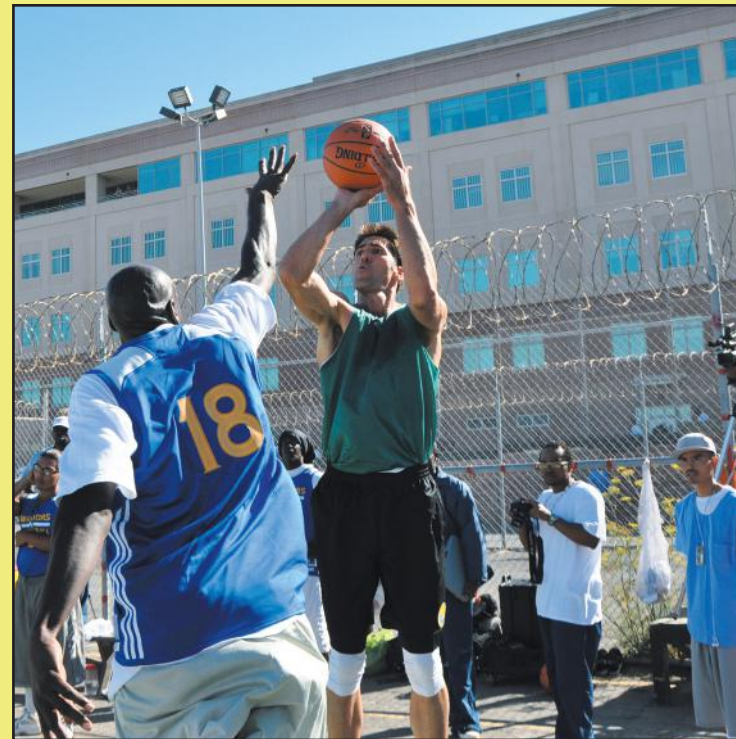


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Bob Myers shooting over Allan McIntosh

include Willie Green, who played in the NBA for about 10 years, mostly with the Philadelphia 76ers.

They started Myers, Nick Uren, Chris Demarco, Kirk and Kent Lacob.

"I didn't make that decision," said Durant.

SQ gained a 10-6 lead with Myers scoring all six GS points next. Then Willie entered the game. After missing his first two shots, he nailed a trey in the face of SQ Allan McIntosh, making the score 10-12 SQ. After a McIntosh miss, Demarco tied the game with a layup.

Casey Hill, coach of the Santa Cruz Warriors, who won the D-League Championship in 2015,

came off the bench and shot a trey that missed the rim but was caught in mid-air and finished by Myers.

"That looked like an alley-oop," said SQ play-by-play announcer Aaron "Harun" Taylor. SQ Tevin Fournette tied the score 14-14 with a short-range jumper.

The first quarter ended with a Willie layup putting GS ahead 18-14.

In the second quarter, SQ was within two at 25-23 when Kirk dropped a three-pointer, making the score 28-23, with four minutes left in the half. The second quarter ended with GS up 34-30.

At half time, SQ resident co-



Photo by Harold Meeks

Kirk Lacob donating new jerseys to SQ Warriors



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Kevin Durant greeting fans on the Lower Yard



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Harry "ATL" Smith going up in traffic

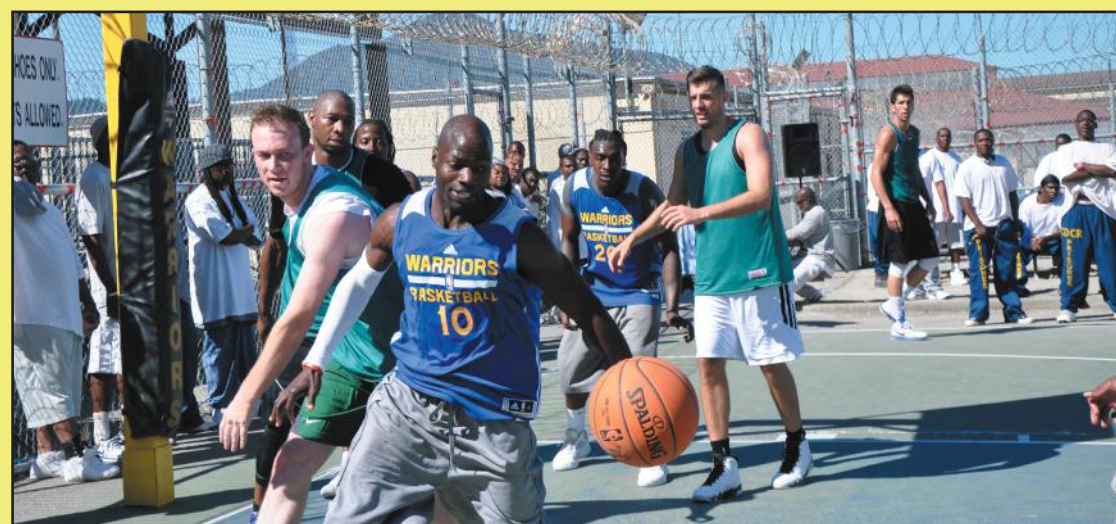


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

San Quentin Warrior Montrell Vines chasing down a loose ball



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

NBA vet Willie Green, double teamed by SQ Warriors Allan McIntosh (18) and Anthony Ammons (9)

median Eric Lamont Durr bantered with Draymond.

"I'm broke. I'm broke, so could you slap me? I want to go to canteen," he joked.

Draymond laughed along with the crowd.

Co-announcer Damon Cooke invited Draymond to take the self-help group Guiding Rage Into Power.

Draymond said, "I don't need that. Sometimes they mistake my competitiveness with attitude. If they call competitiveness attitude, they gonna have to keep complaining cause I ain't gonna change."

In the second half, McIntosh

hit a jumper while being defended by Willie provoking a comical response from Taylor: "Willie Green just got exfoliated."

San Quentin stayed in Golden State's rearview mirror.

McIntosh finished with 12 points on 4-18 shooting, well below his season average of 18 and last year average against GS of 24.

Fournette led SQ with 16 points on 7-11 shooting from the field and 4-11 from the line. Harry "ATL" Smith dropped 11 points with 14 rebounds and Ammons had 10 with 12 rebounds.

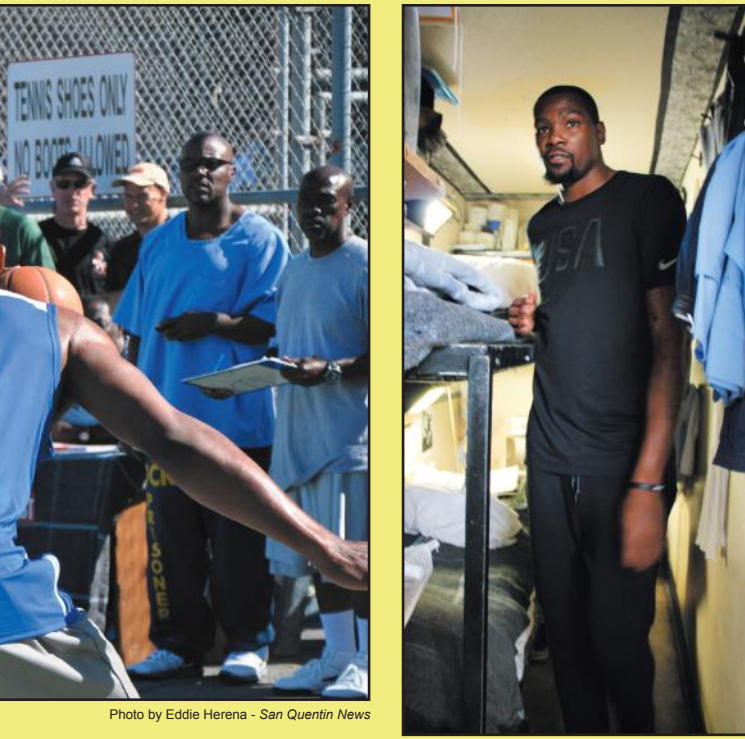


Photo by Harold Meeks

Green and Durant experiencing life inside a cell

"Tevin (Fournette) carried the team today," said SQ point guard Rafael Cuevas.

Myers led all scorers with 25 points on 10-17 shooting with 12 rebounds. Willie added 18 with 5 rebounds and 4 assists. Demarco scored 17.

Despite San Quentin's lost, many consider all the annual games wins. "Today was a success even though we lost because we got to meet and greet superstars of the NBA," said McIntosh.

Kirk said, "The Warriors win no matter which one."

Wright said, "This is unbelievable - to be in prison and

be able to associate with top people in the NBA. It's unbelievable."

"Playing against a 10-year NBA vet is something new. I never had coaches, I taught myself how to play ball," said Fournette. "I am grateful and blessed to come across this experience. It makes you feel like you are still human, that society hasn't forgotten about you. Plus Draymond, KD and Willie told me I had a good game."

Willie added, "For me, today is more about the experience and chopping it up."

"This is an amazing thing that they (GS) do," said Hill. "It

makes me proud to be part of this organization."

Kent said, "Obviously we want to win, but the most important thing is being with you guys. I love seeing these guys progress as men. The atmosphere you guys create makes us feel so welcome."

Later Durant and Draymond toured the cellblocks with Public Information Officer Lt. Sam Robinson.

Before leaving, Durant said, "Everybody was so cool, generous, showed a lot of love. I didn't feel like I was walking into San Quentin."

ESPN filmed the event.



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Tevin Fournette dribbling toward GS GM Bob Myers



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

San Quentin Warriors receiving strategy from their coach



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Golden State Warriors Kevin Durant, General Manager Bob Myers and Draymond Green with San Quentin Warrior Coach Daniel "Bear" Wright (center-right)



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

19 year old San Quentin resident Montrell McDuffie with Golden State Warrior Draymond Green

Arts & Entertainment

The 5 stages of chicken Night...

Denial "What do you mean there is no chicken tonight?" It says so on the menu.	Anger "This ain't real chicken breast. Wheres the chicken? This thing never even had feathers on it!"	Bargaining "I know you got real chicken back there. What you want for it some soups or rice?"	Depression "This chicken leaves a funny after taste! I just need some time alone."	Acceptance Here is my trust with drawal for \$28 ⁰⁰ , for 8 pcs. of <u>real</u> chicken!
Cell	Chow Line	Chow hall	Dinning table	Food Sale

Concept by J. Chiu Illustration by Fred Tinsley

Snippets

Garlic was believed to be so powerful that ancient Greeks and Romans ritually consumed garlic before going to war.

In 1848, the first U.S. women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls, NY. After two days of discussion and debate, 68 women and 32 men signed a Declaration of Sentiments which outlined grievances and set to the agenda for the women's rights movement.

Bolshevik is Russian for majority. The Bolshevik Party, founded in 1903 by Vladimir Lenin, was an organized mass revolutionary party comprised of the Russian working class, which sought to overthrow the Czar.

Balkan Wars refer to the two wars that occurred in southeastern Europe in 1912 and 1913.

Each year, Americans throw out enough plastic film to shrink-wrap the entire state of Texas.

Red raspberries are believed to have originated in Turkey and spread throughout Mediterranean Europe.



Warrior drawing done by a San Quentin inmate

Sudoku Corner

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

Attention All Artists:
We are taking submissions of artwork to be placed in the San Quentin News. This includes, drawings, paintings, sketches, etc. Reminder we will not take any artwork with explicit content. Please bring your artwork down to San Quentin News in Education on the Lower Yard. If you cannot come, send your artwork via U Save 'EM with your information. If you're sending your work from another institution, please mail it to:

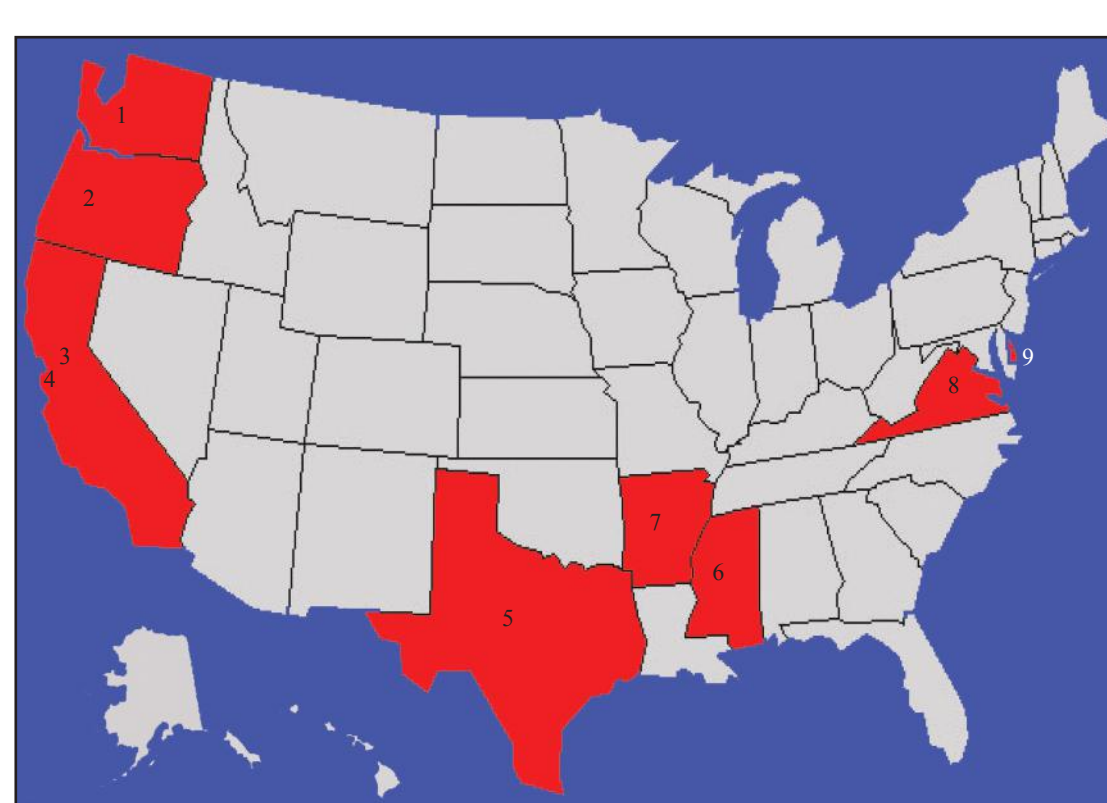
**San Quentin News
1 Main Street
San Quentin, CA 94964**

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

Last Issue's Sudoku Solutions

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

News Briefs



1. Seattle, Wash. — City officials are planning two facilities — one in Seattle, another in the suburbs — where heroin addicts can legally take injections while supervised by medical personnel who can administer aid or call 911 if needed, reports *The Los Angeles Times*. It would be the first facility of its kind in the nation. Supporters say the plan would save lives while critics say the plan would enable drug users.

2. Prineville, Ore. — Crook County Sheriff John Gautney told *The Associated Press* that the 16-bunk county jail is an embarrassment to his community. The jail has a persistent humid smell, no natural light and the fluorescent bulbs give the green walls "a sickly hue", the AP reports. The county is looking to raise \$10 million to build a new jail, but the measure has to be approved by voters. Experts say the nationwide problem with aging jails, along with the increasing numbers of people being sent to jail, is not going to improve anytime soon as taxpayers are reluctant to spend public money on such projects.

3. Sacramento — As the number of available inmates to fight major wildfires is declining, California is looking for recruits to its state Conservation Corps. Last year, prisoners accounted for about 20 percent of California fire crews on several major blazes, *The Associated Press* reports.

4. San Francisco — In 1967 John Irwin, who had served five years for armed robbery, started Project Rebound to help former

inmates graduate from San Francisco State University. Now, a grant from the Berkeley-based nonprofit Opportunity Institute could bring a similar program to California State University at Fullerton as early as next spring. In March, the Opportunity Institute awarded the California State University system a \$500,000 grant to fund the expansion of Project Rebound into seven other CSU schools, the *OC Register* reports.

5. Texas — According to a report issued by the Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP) in 2011,

the mailroom officer at each Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) prison checks all incoming books against a master list of books that are deemed acceptable. If the publication is on the list, the prisoner receives it. If it's not on the list, the mailroom officer, who may or may not have a high school diploma, decides if the book has objectionable content. If a prisoner appeals a decision made in the mailroom, the appeal goes to TDCJ's headquarters in Huntsville, Texas. Books that are critical of the prison system tend to

fare poorly, TCRP reports.

6. Missouri — In 2012, the state created "earned compliance credits" that allow probation or parole to shorten by 30 days for every full calendar month that an individual complies with the conditions of his or her sentence. Credits are available only to those who were convicted of lower-level felonies and have been under community supervision for at least two years. *The Pew Charitable Trusts* evaluated the policy and found that in the first three years, more than 36,000

probationers and parolees reduced their supervision terms by an average of 14 months. As a result, the state's supervised population fell 18 percent, driving down caseloads for probation and parole officers. The law had no evident negative impact on public safety: Those who earned credits were convicted of new crimes at the same rate as those discharged from supervision before the policy went into effect.

7. Arkansas — In August 2014, a report showed that while the nation's juvenile incarceration rate was falling, Arkansas' was rising. In 2015, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* published a series of investigative reports showing that juveniles were incarcerated for "skipping school, running away from home, disobeying their parents, drinking alcohol or breaking other rules aimed only at children."

8. Virginia — Advocates and state leaders are making progress on changes to the state's juvenile justice system, which includes preliminary work to create community-based alternatives that offer support for children and families.

9. Washington, DC — President Obama continues to commute prison sentences for federal drug offenders. He is releasing some of the same people who were incarcerated during former President Bill Clinton's presidency, 20 years ago, *The Washington Times* reports. Obama commuted sentences for 325 inmates in August, bringing to 673 the total for his presidency.

WORDCROSS PUZZLE by Jonathan Chiu

- Across
- Movies often made about this planet
 - Chan of October's Kid CAT
 - To dig beneath an enemy's position
 - Fatty acid used to make soaps and ointments
 - Escape with cleverness
 - Former republican hopeful Marco
 - River in Central Africa
 - Women's OTC headache drug
 - Clusters of flowers with nearly equal length
 - Matrix actor Reeves
 - Carpenter's tool for shaving wood
 - Precedes game, room or walk
 - Shot from a hidden position
 - Addams' Family actress Christina
 - People of wealth and high social status (Brit. Slang)
 - A line of prose
 - SQN October profile
 - Restroom essential
 - Moon's mate
 - Bad-tempered
 - Method use for spy message
 - Alan of MASH
 - Port of Columbus' first voyage departure
 - Kaepernick's national anthem stance
 - Wall bracket for candles
 - Contemptible, despicable (Slang)
 - People needed at an accident (Abbrev.)
 - FX TV show *The _____*
 - Oct. story about SQN worker Aly
 - Something you have or a Taylor Swift song
 - Unwell
 - Synthetic fiber from cellulose acetate or solution
 - You set this with people
 - University of Maine locale
 - Combining form of eye
 - Supermodel _____ Campbell
 - Prisoners or Japan's staple
 - Valley in Argolis, Greece
 - Ocean movements
 - Tournament fence in the Middle Ages
 - Behave in a stealthy way
 - Quick, active, clever
 - An animal that comes before Lodge
 - You make this meet
 - Maleficent actress Fanning
- Down
- SQN Oct. type of election
 - Type of lotion and singer _____ Blacc
 - Fr. historian and essayist Joseph Ernest
 - Event for book authors
 - Herb that can be smoked or made into a rope or bag
 - Not good
 - Way to detect airplanes
 - Aphrodite's young lover
 - Type of wrestling in Japan
 - Disco pop group
 - Structure you stand on looking out to the ocean
 - Auctioneer's yell
 - Supermarket savers
 - To vote in
 - Richmond bakery helping the formerly incarcerated
 - Ebony (Old Poet)
 - To quote
 - It can be a front- or a back-hand
 - Yokel, or someone living in the backwoods
 - To punish by depriving of something
 - His trail is on Walkenhorst's tablet
 - Hostage locale during Carter administration
 - Assign one's share
 - Person avoiding all others
 - Body swelling with fluid
 - Short for T-shirt
 - Impudent talk
 - Meditative physical exercise
 - Cities Santa of SoCal and W. El Salvador
 - CDCR's inmate regulating software
 - Yellow fruits resembling lemon but larger

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12					
13				14				15		16		17				
18								19				20				
21								22				23				
	24			25		26				27						
			28		29		30				31					
	32	33				34	35			36		37	38	39		
40				41				42		43						
44		45				46				47		48				
49				50	51			52			53	54		55		
56										57			58			
				59				60	61		62					
					63					64		65		66	67	
68	69	70	71					72			73	74		75		76
77								78						79		
80								81						82		
83										84					85	

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS

MIST	COMBO	FANS
OVER	FRIER	EVAC
RENO	SPLAT	RITTA
TREJO	HETT	ODDER
ASPART	MER	
SWANSON	YEAREND	
NEWSOM	DROVER	
ALA	AVE	
KLIEGL	TRADES	
ESTONIA	FEEDERS	
	BANDOLEER	
CHOIR	MBA	FETCH
HERO	LITAMS	NORA
OPEN	ORMER	AVON
WALT	BEAST	LEWD

the Irtysh River
71. Brooklyn basketball team
73. Chem. syb. HB
74. Precedes land, park, and ridge
76. An island

Artistic Rebirth wows audience with memorable performances

Continued from Page 1

Co-hosting the event were comedian W. Kamau Bell and Rahsaan Thomas, staff writer for the *San Quentin News*.

"I came here to film an episode for my show on CNN, 'The United Shades of America,' several months ago and I became totally confused why these men are still in prison," Bell said. "Take for instance my co-host, Rahsaan Thomas, who's a great dude, good writer and thoughtful. We need more people like him in the outside world."

Emile DeWeaver gave a personal testimony entitled "Re-naissance."

"I believe in the power of art to the world because it changed mine. When I was a kid, my criminal behavior stemmed from me not understanding my emotional needs. Writing cleared the fog and connected me to the person I wanted to be, and that connection effected re-birth." DeWeaver said.

Showcasing the eclectic talents available, performer George "Mesro" Cole found inspiration in a chemistry test while attending Patten University in San Quentin.

"There was an extra credit question on my exam that said, 'Come up with a chemistry joke,'" Mesro said. "I desperately needed the five extra credits, and didn't know what to do, but since I've been writing poems since I was 9, I figure I can write a sonnet about chemistry."

"I turned in my paper and didn't expect much until my instructor asked me to read it to the class," Mesro said. "My classmates were blown away and could relate to what I wrote about finding personal identity; all the while using chemistry words."

The sonnet is titled "Human



Photo by Harold Meeks

Artistic Ensemble cast performing "Can't Have Nothing"

Element."

Excerpts:

I wanted to shine like Magnesium

But my enthalpy was too low

So I tried to convert to helium

But my hydrogen was too slow

Visitor Naima Shalhoub's performance of "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" drew a standing ovation after leading an enraptured audience through thunderous handclaps and a sing-along to the chorus of "Hold on...hold on."

"Keep Your Eyes on the Prize' is a song born out of the civil rights movement," Shalhoub said. "In the context of prison, it is a spiritual song on freedom, not just external but internal freedom."

Antwan "Banks" Williams used facial expressions and graceful movements to convey inner turmoil in a dance with Anouthinh Pangthong.

"I came from South Central L.A, where the culture didn't value my art. In my brokenness, I held on to a being that wasn't me," Williams said.

"Doing what I want to do with art comes with a lot of shame in

prison," Williams said. "In San Quentin, I am embraced, I started to dress how I like, painted, and danced when my soul needed to be set free."

Outside guest Emily Fayet remarked, "Watching Antwan really touched me. We're the same age, and I could imagine putting myself in his place, which allows me to have more gratitude with my life through his story."

Performer Amy Ho said, "Art transports us to a place that is magical, a place that doesn't exist anymore. Art allows us to escape these walls, essentially."

Adnan Kahn read from his composition "Wooden Sword":

"The night I was arrested, I was processed in the county jail and was given a 'fish kit' that contained a miniature bar of soap, comb, toothpaste, and toothbrush, and oddly enough; a golf pencil.

"Standing in my cell, I felt so alone. I needed someone to talk to, but no one was there to listen. But there was two pieces of paper, so I began writing. I wrote about my pain, thoughts, and feelings; I wrote until my pencil went away. It was the first

time I did that. When I finished, I was emotionally exhausted."

"Fourteen years later, I still have those pages — colored paper, college-ruled, note pads, lunch bags — with therapeutic writing."

Calling attention to the plight of women, Gino Sevacos and his band performed a song entitled "One Billion Strong."

It was inspired by Eve Ensler, who began the One Billion Rising movement, which highlights "the devastating impact that violence and sexual abuse have on women and girls," Sevacos said.

"One of the most haunting memories I have come from watching my father beat my mother in a drunken rage when I was 4 years old. It left a gaping wound that this song helped to heal," Sevacos added.

Ralph "RB" Brown, 40, who suffers from night terrors, performed a spoken word entitled "Confession of a Lost Soul."

"One night, I was choking out my wife in my sleep," Brown said. "That's when my wife gave me a journal from Tupac called 'Concrete Roads,' which inspired me to write out my

thoughts. Since then, writing and performing has become a way for me to cleanse my soul, to do away with bad demons I have been dealing with."

"It's healing to share with people my experiences and what I went through," Brown added.

The Artistic Ensemble performed a piece entitled "Can't Have Nothing".

"It is about what people can't have in our society — the gender, educational, and housing inequality, as well as prison mass incarceration that exists in our society," said Chris Marshall, Artistic Ensemble cast member.

Excerpt:

Can't ask for help / can't get the benefit of the doubt / can't be called by the name I want to be called / can't sit in church / can't have a nice day / can't have a proper memorial / can't have a proper burial...

Guest Carrie Hott said, "'Can't Have Nothing' was really poetic. I felt that there was a lot of poetry that I couldn't articulate that was spoken."

Another guest, Una Kinsella, said, "Some of the performances brought tears to my eyes, I'm leaving with a deep level of respect and admiration. The level of beauty, grace and humanity blew me away."

Closing the night out to fading notes and somber tones of "I traded my youth for these prison blues...I'm looking through these prison bars, trying to carry on..."

Richie Dean Morris sang "Trying to Carry On".

"What does my art mean to me? Simply put my music and performance is my medicine, my creative process. My writing has been a bridge to humanity," said Morris.

Eighteen of the night's performers are serving life terms.

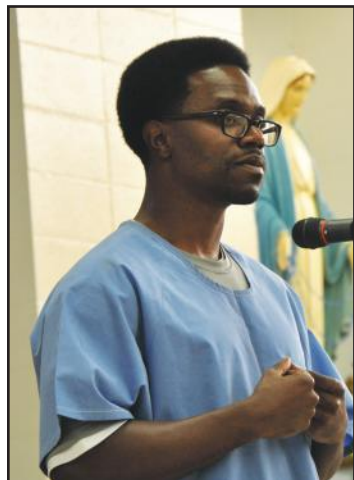


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Emile DeWeaver talking about the power of art



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Adnan Khan describing the contents of a fish kit



Photo by Harold Meeks

Amy Ho sharing her story about memories

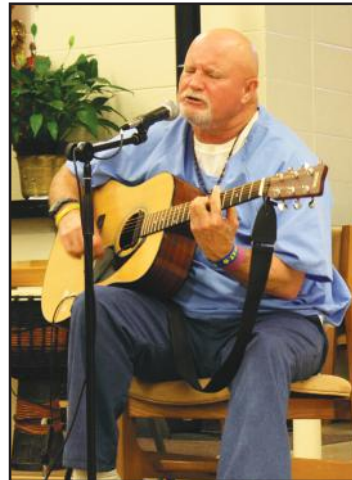


Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Richie Morris performs "Trying To Carry On"



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Naima Shalhoub singing "Eyes on the Prize"



Photo by Harold Meeks

R.A. Brown performs his spoken word piece

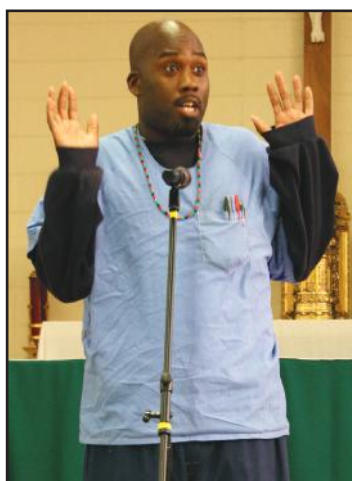


Photo by Harold Meeks

George Cole talks about his PUP experience



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Gino Sevacos sings One Billion Strong



Photo by Eddie Herena - San Quentin News

Pedro Espinal with Guadalupe Leon talks about making jewelry