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POPULATION 3,845

California Prisons Adopt Elderly Parole Rules

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Many elderly and frail prisoners who meet the new California parole criteria are ready for release.

"The program's details were released publicly for

the first time at a meeting of the Board of Parole Hearings. They were ordered by a panel of federal judges earlier this year, as part of required steps the state must take to reduce prison crowding to acceptable levels," Paige St. John of *The LA Times* recently wrote.

Inmates age 60 years or older, who have spent at least 25 years in prison, are eligible for release if they are not sentenced to death or serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole. "Those hearings are to begin in October," according to a board executive.

Additionally, inmates with health conditions requiring skilled nursing care are eligible for re-



Photo By Sam Hearnes

Patrick Kelly

See *Elderly* on Pg. 5



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Participants gather for the opening event

S.Q. Avon Walk Raises Funds for Breast Cancer

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Dozens of Bay Area people came into San Quentin on July 18 and 19 to walk laps

in support of the annual Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

The two-day event drew about 150 inmates and 50 free people each day. The first lap was walked in silence as in-

mates mingled with local volunteers, representatives from Avon and prison staffers.

Six years ago, the inmate or-

See *San Quent.* on Page 10

Law Firm Opposes Restrictions on Reading Choices

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

A law firm is opposing newly proposed regulations by the California Department of Correc-

tions and Rehabilitation (CDCR) that have the potential to censor inmate reading material.

Leila Knox, an attorney with the law firm Bryan Cave, LLP, sent an e-mail to the CDCR's

Regulation and Policy Management Branch "On behalf of the San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper."

Knox wrote in response to a CDCR proposal to change regu-

lations to ban what it considers "obscene material."

"The Proposed Regulations include ostensibly minor revisions that could be used to work a fundamental change that

would severely burden the First Amendment rights of both inmates in CDCR facilities and innocent third parties who wish to

See *CDCR* on Page 8

Alliance for CHANGE Helps 16 Graduates Transform Their Lives

Sixteen San Quentin inmates have earned Certificates of Accomplishment from the Alliance for CHANGE social justice program. They were presented in front of co-leaders, facilitators, mentors, out-

side volunteers and guests.

It was the seventh class to complete the 16-week grueling and intense social justice program facilitated by professors from the University of San Francisco and San Francisco

State University.

During the July 9 ceremonies held in the Arc Building, Dr. Kim Richman and Dr. Karen Lovaas sat in the audience as

See *Alliance* on Page 15



Photo courtesy of Oakland School District

Students and teachers inside an Oakland High School classroom

Washington Aids Oakland School Programs

By Nelson T. Butler
Journalism Guild Writer

David Johns, executive director of the President's Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans, recently visited Oakland High School to talk with teachers and students and learn lessons from the programs the city has implemented to help black and Hispanic

young people.

Earlier this year President Obama began a \$200 million initiative, which includes a task force to identify how the federal government can support and promote programs designed to improve educational outcomes for young black and Hispanic men.

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Photo by Sam Hearnes

Alliance for CHANGE graduates receive their certificates

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BEHIND THE SCENES

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Rochelle Edwards Transitions Out of VOEG's Leadership Role

By Julian Glenn Padgett
Staff Writer

For a decade Rochelle Edwards has counseled San Quentin inmates through her program Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG). Now preparing to move on, Edwards shared with us what she has learned about healing, redemption, insight and forgiveness.

Edwards started VOEG in 2004 with one group and has since established 28 groups across the state.

"Over the years working with prisoners who've been through the program and survivors, together we've continued to improve on the VOEG curriculum, to make it what it is today," said Edwards.

"Forgiveness is important for everyone, regardless of the degree of the transgression. And it's most important for the forgiver, the person doing the forgiving."

She thinks that in a healthy society we need to figure out how to integrate members who have caused harm and been harmed, instead of furthering alienation between them. She says this is what continues the cycle of offense and alienation.

"Over and over again I've had the experience of people sharing events or stories from their lives that they've never talked about before," she said. "Oftentimes, these stories or events were very traumatic and as a young child they didn't have the tools or right meaning to process them."

"These men knew they wouldn't have the chance to meet their victim, so I created the VOEG curriculum for people who wanted to do accountability work and connect the dots of their lives — to have them begin to question how they ended up in prison, and give them the opportunity to meet with survivors of similar crimes."

"I feel like this work chose me, and I've had some great experiences, but now my life is ready for a new transition," said Edwards.

Her transition includes leaving VOEG in the capable hands of Sonya Shah.

In 2009, Shah began volunteering for the Insight Prison Project (IPP), which acts as an umbrella organization for several rehabilitative programs.

"Jamie Karroll [of IPP] had asked me to be on the survivor panel for a pilot VOEG program in Alameda County's Juvenile Hall," said Shah. "I noticed that it was a very healing experience to both talk with the youth about my past traumas and have them share theirs."

Shah, who is the Justice Program Director for IPP, completed her VOEG training in 2010 and has been coming into San Quentin



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Rochelle Edwards congratulating Billy Allen at the VOEG Next Step graduation

ever since.

"I was immediately drawn to the VOEG process, specifically how our past experiences, our childhood, our socio-cultural influences shape who we are, and how trauma so easily manifests into harming behavior, both harming to oneself and to others," Shah said.

"We have groups that are in Spanish for youth and for women. So our curriculum has to adapt to the unique needs of each community."

Shah said the work that Edwards has created with the men of San Quentin is nothing short of phenomenal.

"You can see the work the men have done on themselves through how they actively listen, like every word is important. And they respond in a manner that demonstrates you are being heard. That's progress on a large scale," said Shah.

Edwards considers VOEG one of the best ways to explore personal trauma and the ensuing release of such trauma through behavior that is not positive for society. It is a way to explore the relationships we have, the one with ourselves and the one with people around us and our community.

"There has to be a way for people in prison to be connected and stay connected to the community, and the best way to do that is to have people come into the prison and build both professional relationships and skilled development through those in-

teractions and offerings," Edwards said.

"The VOEG process is quite mutual," she continued. "We're all learning from each other, the men I have worked with are my teachers, my children are my biggest teachers. And all my relationships are opportunities to learn."

She thinks that her sense of wanting to be of service to incarcerated people comes from working on a farm as a youngster.

"A lot of the people I cleaned stalls with on the farm were individuals who had been to prison. I didn't know it as a kid, but that was a form of restoration; so helping the incarcerated just feels right," said Edwards. "Restorative justice restores our moral compass, our morality, our sense of self, who we were intended to be before our lives were interrupted."

Edwards said the VOEG groups emphasize creating a safe container, a safe place for small groups of men and women to come together and begin to unpack their past, to take off their masks.

"They are witnessed in their truth and learn new tools that were missing at the time of their crime," Edwards said. "We, as facilitators, enter into a conscious relationship with the members of our group, recognizing that our interactions have the potential to be reparative."

Edwards said her transition should allow her more time to focus her efforts toward developing The Victim Offender Dialogue Program throughout California.

She will continue running a VOEG group. "I'm just scaling back and developing other interests," said Edwards.

Through her years with the program, Edwards says she has learned one important thing:

"Through VOEG I've learned that men and women in prison are more than the worst day of their lives — and they can heal and take their rightful place in society."



File photo

Sonya Shah

'Is the Era of the Death Penalty Ending?'

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Is the era of the death penalty ending? "We're seeing the first signs that it could happen," William Saletan of *Slate* reports.

In a 1994 Gallup poll and a National Opinion Research Center Social Survey, 80 percent of those polled supported the death penalty.

A GSS sample taken in 2012 shows "support fell to 65 percent, the lowest number since the question was introduced in its current form four decades ago." The following year, another Gallup Poll found support dropped to 60 percent for the first time in 40 years.

One Pew survey discloses that support for executing murderers dropped to 55 percent, down three points from its previous low in 2013.

Saletan cited a *CBS News* survey that found "the support level fell to 59 percent (four points down from the previous low)."

"The percentage of respondents who opposed the death penalty rose to 33 percent (six points about the previous high)," according to Saletan.

CBS News also reported that for the first time in 26 years,

support fell into the 50s or the opposition number has climbed into the 30s.

In a *Washington Post/ABC News* poll released in May 2014, given a choice between two punishments for murder, only 42 percent chose the death penalty compared to 52 percent who preferred life imprisonment without parole. "That's an eight-point drop in support for capital punishment since the previous *Post/ABC* poll in 2006," Saletan said.

Since 1960, homicide and other violent crimes have caused the rise and fall of the death penalty. Saletan thinks when the crime rates fall, "capital punishment could sink with them. If crime increases, support for the death penalty could rise with it."

In a two-year Gallup survey (1985-1986), Respondents agreed by roughly two-to-one ratios (61 percent to 32 percent) that the death penalty lowers the murder rate. These percentages moved 10 points by 1991.

This two-to-one margin was completely reversed by the 2000s. "More than 60 percent rejected the deterrence claim. That's a 30-point swing in 20 years," Saletan said. From the early 1980s to the 2000s,

the percentage of respondents who believed that executions deterred murder fell nearly 20 points.

Saletan said, "This is an empirical belief, not a moral one. There is an academic debate over whether executions affect the murder rate. The question is difficult to resolve in part because the number of executions is too small to provide a clear answer."

"If crime increases, support for the death penalty could rise with it"

Preference for life without the possibility of parole increased among Gallup poll respondents between 1985 and 2010. Even those states that have the death penalty legislation preferred this punishment. Nevertheless, "In Gallup's trend data, the change in death penalty support (20 points) exceeds the change in response to the life-without-parole question (16 points)," said Saletan. "When the (Washington

Post/ABC poll presented a scenario in which lethal injection was outlawed or otherwise unavailable, 10 percent of respondents shifted from supporting death penalty to saying it should end," he adds.

In an *NBC News* poll conducted in April 2014, 61 percent of those polled chose an alternative method of execution — more than the 59 percent who originally said they favored capital punishment.

"In seven polls taken from 2001 to 2007, on average, 66 percent of respondents said the death penalty was acceptable; 27 percent said it was wrong," Saletan reported.

In another set of polls taken from 2008 to 2014, "the acceptable average fell to 62 percent." Those who thought the death penalty was wrong increased to 30 percent.

Over a period of time, people become more averse to violence, according to evidence presented in Saletan's report. "But it's hard to connect that grand arc with public opinion trends on the death penalty," said Saletan.

One reason for the biggest shift in the percentage of those respondents opposed to the death penalty came in surveys

conducted in 1991 and 2003. They "cited the risk of erroneous convictions," Saletan wrote.

Those "numbers more than doubled from 11 percent to 25 percent of the anti-death penalty subsample. This finding is backed by the Death Penalty Information Center's 2007 survey, which identified people who had shifted from supporting to opposing capital punishment," he added.

Of the several factors that influenced their decision to oppose the death penalty, "62 percent cited evidence that innocent people are sometimes sentenced to death," Saletan said.

NBC News' 2014 poll found 35 percent of respondents said that the reason to oppose the death penalty is that it "carries the risk of killing someone who was wrongly convicted."

"The second most popular reason given for supporting the death penalty (and the best reason to support it, according to respondents who themselves oppose capital punishment) was that modern science, like DNA testing, reduces the possibility someone has been wrongly convicted," according to that same *NBC News* 2014 poll.

Studies Show Declining Executions Since 2011

'This represents the 12th consecutive year in which the number of inmates under sentence of death decreased'

Executions in the United States are on a decline. At the end of 2012, 35 states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons held 3,033 inmates on death row, down by 32 from the previous year.

"This represents the 12th consecutive year in which the number of inmates under sentence of death decreased," according to a 2014 report by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

REPORT CONFIRMS

The report confirms only 56 inmates under federal jurisdiction were held with death sentences at year end 2012.

The state of Florida sentenced 20, followed by California with 13, Texas had nine and Pennsylvania received only six on death row. These four states accounted for 61 percent of those sentenced to death in 2012.

"California, Florida, Texas and Pennsylvania held more than half of all inmates on death row on Dec. 31, 2012," the DOJ reported.

In 2012, the Federal Bureau of Prison and 19 states reported that 79 inmates were received under sentence of death, a 5 percent decrease from the 83 in 2011. "The number of inmates received in 2012 was the smallest number of admissions to death row since 1973, when 44 persons were admitted," reported the DOJ.

In the report, 13 jurisdictions had fewer inmates, and 18 states had the same number. Florida showed the larg-

est increase (up 10 inmates). "Oklahoma and Texas (down eight each), followed by Mississippi (down seven), North Carolina (down six) and Arizona (down five) had the largest decreases."

"Twenty states and the Federal Bureau of Prisons removed 111 inmates from under sentence of death: 43 were executed, 17 died by means other than execution and 51 were removed because of commutations of courts overturning sentences or convictions," the report said. In 2012, a quarter of all prisoners taken off death row came from Texas (17) and Florida (10).

In 2012, 43 executions were carried out in nine states. Those prisoners executed had been on death row an average of 15 years and 10 months; this was eight months less than those executed in 2011.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, capital murder cases steadily increased until the number peaked at 3,601 in 2000. Since the court approved capital punishment, "35 states and the federal government [have] executed 1,320 inmates," according to the DOJ report.

Between 1977 and 2012, 8,032 inmates were sentenced to death. Despite these sentences, the report shows, "16 percent had been executed, 6 percent died by causes other than execution and 40 percent received other dispositions." From 1930 through the end of 2012, 5,179 inmates were ex-

ecuted under civil authority.

As of Dec. 31, 2012, 36 states and the federal government authorized the death penalty; however, one state repealed its death penalty statute, while another state had a portion of its statute declared unconstitutional and a third state revised its capital punishment law.

"Ninety-eight percent of inmates under sentence of death were male, and 2 percent were female"

Even though "New Mexico repealed its death penalty in 2009, the repeal was not retroactive, and offenders charged with a capital offense committed prior to the repeal may be eligible for a death sentence," reported the DOJ. At the end of 2012, the state held two men under previously imposed death sentences, while it sought the death penalty for one person.

"In 2012, the Connecticut legislature repealed the death penalty effective for only those capital offenses committed on or after April 25, 2012. Since the repeal was prospective, 10 men remained under sentence of death as of Dec. 31, 2012," reported the DOJ.

On Dec. 31, 2012, lethal injections were authorized as the method of execution in all 36 states that had capital punishment. Fifteen jurisdictions sanctioned an alternative method of execution, eight states authorized electrocution, three states authorized gas, three states authorized hanging and two states authorized the use of a firing squad.

"Delaware authorized hangings, Oklahoma authorized electrocution or firing squad, Utah authorized firing squad and Wyoming authorized lethal gas" as alternative methods, if lethal injection is ruled out, according to the report.

In a state that authorizes multiple methods of execution, the condemned prisoner generally selects the method of execution. The DOJ reports, "Five of the 15 states (Arizona, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee and Utah) stipulated which method must be used depending on either the date of the offense or sentencing" and in New Hampshire hanging is authorized only if the lethal injection cannot be used.

In a landmark case, the Arkansas Supreme Court's decision in *Hobbs v. Jones* (2012 Ark.293) compelled the court to reevaluate its Method of Execution Act of 2009 (Ark. Code Ann. Sections 5-4-617 (Supp. 2011)).

In the *Jones* decision, the court ruled that these procedures violated the separation of powers doctrine in Article 4 of the Arkansas Constitu-

tion because the legislature "granted the executive branch sole discretion in selecting the method of administering the drugs for lethal injections," the report said.

REVISED STATUTORY

In 2012, Delaware revised statutory provisions relating to capital punishment. According to the DOJ report, "The legislature added home invasion as a class B felony offense to its penal codes. Effective on June 1, the state amended the aggravating factors for which death penalty may be imposed to include murder committed in the course of a home invasion."

Lethal injections are the only method used to execute federal prisoners. For offenses prosecuted under the federal violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, the method used is that of the state in which the conviction took place.

At the end of 2012, of all the inmates sentenced to death, 56 percent were white and 42 percent were black. Hispanics, which numbered 384, accounted for 14 percent of the prisoners with known ethnicity. "Ninety-eight percent of inmates under sentence of death were male, and 2 percent were female. The race and sex of inmates under sentence of death has remained relatively unchanged since 2000," the report concluded.

—By Charles David Henry

Federal Court Refuses to Order Disclosure of Lethal Drug Source

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

A federal appeals court has refused to order Missouri to reveal the source of drugs to be used in lethal injections.

In a 7-3 decision, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis said Death Row

inmates' lawyers neglected to show more humane executions are available.

The Post Dispatch reported that the majority decision said, "If the inmates' lawyers can't point to a more humane execution than lethal injection, such as hanging or firing squad, they are not entitled to discov-

er more about the pharmacy hired by Missouri to make the drugs for the injections."

Missouri's Department of Correction argued naming the source would make carrying out executions more difficult.

The *Dispatch* reported, "Lawyers for a group of inmates have argued that Mis-

souri's reliance on compounding pharmacies in Oklahoma to produce pentobarbital for lethal injections could violate their rights to be free from cruel and unusual punishment."

"A three-member panel of the 8th Circuit had previously upheld a lower court's deci-

sion to provide inmates' lawyers with the identification of the Oklahoma compounding pharmacy," the *Dispatch* reported. The full 8th Circuit reversed that decision.

The three judges who opposed the decision said, "Requiring condemned inmates to suggest alternative ways to die would be absurd."

Deborah Denno, a Fordham law professor and death penalty expert, said the ruling put the lawyers for condemned Missouri inmates in a Catch-22.

More Data Needed to Assess Realignment Impacts

By Kevin D. Sawyer
Journalism Guild Chairman

On the eve of realignment's third anniversary, the law (AB 109) has no requirement to support local officials with the collection of data or an assessment of what correctional methods are most effective.

A report on realignment published by Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) said that a data-driven approach for corrections officials that would demonstrate what works have been overlooked.

"A central principle of AB 109 is that counties should have a strong hand in designing their

own approach to managing offenders who are now under their purview," PPIC said.

But AB 109 legislation did not dedicate funds for counties to evaluate the rising effects of realignment after its implementation. In addition, there is no designation of funding for counties to "assess the success rates of their local correctional strategies."

"...The long-term stability and sustainability of California's criminal justice system depends not on the success of a few counties, but on the broad statewide adoption of successful correctional strategies that promote public safety and re-

duce reliance on California's overextended prison system," PPIC said.

"A large and increasing portion of the felony population will never reach state prison"

"Based on our work with the 11 counties, we establish data collection priorities that will enable counties to implement

evidence-based practices," PPIC noted.

PPIC illustrated how collecting and using data can assist counties to "identify effective and efficient programs" and how to "hold service providers more accountable," among other benefits.

According to PPIC, a limited number of strategies have been researched and their application in California's jail populations "remains untested."

PPIC said, "If the state as a whole is going to move in this direction, then each county must not only be technologically capable of carrying out its own data-driven strategies but must

also be able to contribute to the state's understanding of what works."

PPIC reported that some problems pre-date the reforms under realignment, and the lack of funding has made "the shortcomings of existing data collection efforts even more pronounced."

"We envision a system with a level of standardization that allows the state to capitalize on the experiences of various counties," PPIC said.

Among the relevant data that needs to be gathered are offender "risks and needs assessments" on each individual. This information, the report said, will help local corrections officials "gauge whether an individual will reoffend."

"A large and increasing portion of the felony population will never reach state prison. Those populations are 'off the radar' of state tracking systems and their information is not available to be shared for either law enforcement or research purposes," PPIC reported.

PPIC's report concluded by making several recommendations for improving the quality of data used, and to make it available while ensuring the data captured is pertinent, connected across various systems and uses a standard to define key measures. It also recommends upgrading the technological systems now in use to make it easier to extract, collect and share data.

PPIC cited a *Huffington Post* article that characterized AB 109 as "the biggest penal experiment in modern history."

5.85 Million Americans Disenfranchised Due to Prior Felony Convictions

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

When it comes to the U.S. laws governing the right to vote, a staggering 5.85 million Americans are prevented from voting due to prior felony convictions, *The Sentencing Project* reports.

RETRIBUTIVE

The current U.S. justice system is a retributive model. In other words, when a crime has been committed it is against the state though it happened to a citizen.

The argument some ex-felons are making is that after finishing their sentences, they should not be punished further when returning to society. If their

debt has been paid through incarceration, then most of their rights should also be restored.

Adding to the problem of disenfranchisement is the disproportionality in which people of color are affected. One in every 13 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised. That is four times more than non-African Americans are. Though disenfranchisement numbers vary across racial groups, the inability to participate in the voting process has a huge negative impact on the communities where people of color are the dominate population.

The numbers presented represent the best assessment of the state of felon disenfranchisement as of December

2010, the most recent year for which complete data is available, according to sociologists Christopher Uggen of the University of Minnesota and Jeff Manza of New York University.

DATA

The data covering disenfranchisement shows an estimated 1.17 million people disenfranchised in 1976, 3.34 million in 1996, and more than 5.85 million in 2010, according to the report. Every state has its own exclusive voting laws.

Many states have addressed this issue by implementing state felony disenfranchisement reform. The state of Maryland, which once had a very strict lifetime ban on voting for ex-

felons, has now repealed that ban. Other states have also revised their voting protocols for ex-felons, allowing these men and women to regain some of their civil rights.

Typically, some mechanisms are put into place to revise disenfranchisement laws. However, narrowing down these mechanisms is very difficult to do, as it is hard to obtain consistent data pertaining to revision.

However, Maine and Vermont are now the only two states allowing its prisoners to vote. They are in line with our neighbors to the north. Canada allows all of its inmate population the right to vote, giving them a voice in all government elections and bills.

Oakland Schools Gain Support From Obama's Administration

Continue from Page 1

The Oakland High and Oakland School District's programs grabbed the attention of the president's national initiative, My Brother's Keeper. Johns came to Oakland to identify some of the programs that have been effective and shown a record of success, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported.

According to the Obama administration, black and Hispanic men are six times more likely to be murdered than white men. By the fourth grade, most African-American and Hispanic boys are reading below standard proficiency levels. The *San Francisco Chronicle* pointed out that over the last decade in Oakland, the number of young black men prepared to attend college after high school was nearly the same

as the number killed.

Four years ago, in an effort to address the problems of young black men failing in high school, getting caught up in the criminal justice system and failing to continue their education on to college, Oakland opened the African-American Male Achievement Office in the school district.

In 2011, Manhood Development classes, designed for and by black males, enrolled their first students. Other programs were started throughout the city to address issues most significant to the success or failure of young men of color — including community violence, mental health services, role model and mentorship programs, plus personal and academic support. The aim was to help these young men continue on to college.

Julian Taylor, who participated in the meeting with Johns, was one of the first students enrolled in the Manhood Development class. He is now a junior and taking Advanced Placement courses.

"I've grown as a person since being in it. It gives me a lot of support," Taylor said of the program.

Out of 22 students who began the program with Taylor, only eight remain. The others have either moved out of the district or left school. One student landed in the juvenile justice system.

Oakland High Principal Matin Abdel-qawi told *Chronicle* reporter Jill Tucker that there are no easy answers.

"For a lot of reasons [black males] don't do well in these four walls," Abdel-qawi said. He pointed out that the lives of



Photo courtesy of Oakland School District

Students and teachers show solidarity

his students are complicated, with very specific needs, and it can be hard to resist the lure of the streets. Abdel-qawi said he would like to see an academy with a range of courses for African-American young men.

"We can cater a program solely for African-American males with them in mind," he said. "They could become assets to the community rather than leeches on it or someone who takes away from our society."

Monterey County OKs \$88.9 Million

The County Should Focus On Alternatives to Incarceration

By Emile DeWeaver
Staff Writer

Monterey County has approved an \$88.9 million plan to add 576 beds to its county jail, the *Monterey Herald* reports. It is the largest public work project in the county's recent history, according to Monterey County's Public Works Assistant Director Paul Greenway.

Opponents include the American Civil Liberties Union and community activists who characterize the expansion as an investment in more incarceration over programs aimed at rehabilitation and crime prevention.

ALTERNATIVES

The county should focus on alternatives to incarceration such as reduced bail, said Jane Parker, a member of the county Board of Supervisors. She noted an earlier plan would have added only

288 jail beds. She favored a smaller, less expensive jail to generate savings to spend on proven crime-prevention programs.

Parker also noted that most county inmates were awaiting trial.

MORE BEDS

Greenway said that 576 more beds were needed to meet the population overflow as well the population growth projected over the next 20 years.

Sheriff's Office officials agreed with Greenway about the need for expansion. The expansion will increase the county's ability to implement classes and programs for inmates in the future, they say, whereas currently "classroom space is practically nonexistent."

It would be good to know what the new additions are going to look like in terms of rehabilitative program space, said Supervisor Fernando Ar-

menta.

Armenta's question was partially answered on Jan. 7, when county supervisors approved an agreement with Soledad's Correctional Training Facility (CTF). This agreement creates a transitional program for inmates who are within two months of a release date.

Now, "instead of winding up in the streets with nothing

and no idea of how to get services," explained correctional counselor Jeff Frye, inmates will "go through transitional training beforehand." Historically, these county inmates "fell off the grid" when the county was less involved, but now they will have programs to make them more successful, the *Monterey Herald* reported.

Frye said, "It helps us to reduce recidivism rates."

The program will teach 60 inmates at a time during five-week courses. Inmates will learn under the administration of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to fill out job applications, write resumes, interview successfully and understand their finances.

New Criminal Justice Strategy Aims To Reduce Costs and Recidivism

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

Seventeen states are using a new criminal justice strategy that relies on evidence-based methods to bring down prison costs while reducing recidivism rates, according to the *Urban Institute*. Projected savings vary across states, ranging from \$7.7 million over five years to \$875 million over an 11-year period.

"Policies enacted by Justice Reinvestment Initiative states are predicted to either reduce the overall prison population or slow its growth. States projecting a reduction in total incarcerated population expect the decrease to range from 0.6 to 19 percent," according to the report. "States that do not project a decrease in population expect to slow incarcerated population growth by 5 to 21 percentage points."

The federal government funds the strategy through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI).

The strategy called Justice Reinvestment gets input from a variety of public safety stakeholders and keeps records of what works and what does not in criminal justice policy.

Risks and needs assessments are used by 16 of the 17 states to justify prison costs.

"These assessments informed decisions about detention, incarceration and release conditions as well as the allocation of supervision and treatment resources," according to the report.

Accountability measures were adopted in 15 states. "These included ensuring the use of EBPs (evidence-based practices) requiring that departures from sentencing guidelines be justified and developing new data reporting requirements to facilitate the evaluation of justice system operations," the report

finds.

Nearly all of the states adopted "intermediate and graduated sanctions" to implement swift and certain responses, such as shorter jail stays for parole and probation technical violators.

Some states have developed response "matrices" that included both punitive and incentive-based responses designed to promote offender accountability and positive behavior change.

"These assessments informed decisions about detention, incarceration and release conditions as well as the allocation of supervision and treatment resources"

Community-based treatment programs were developed or expanded in 11 states with JRI funding. In addition, these states expanded the availability of programming by funding key services such as substance-abuse treatment. Several states encouraged the use of these programs by requiring that reentry plans be developed for each existing prisoner.

Eleven states implemented sentencing changes and "departure mechanisms." These systems revise mandatory minimums, provide safety valves and expand non-incarceration options.

Some of these changes include procedures to revise

mandatory minimum sentences and increase the use of drug courts in order to reduce offenders being sent to prison.

Six states receiving JRI funding "created or expanded problem-solving courts," and use mandatory supervision guidelines to ensure that certain existing prisoners receive post-release supervision.

Problem-solving courts used various methods to provide treatment for offenders with specific needs. "Often, problem-solving courts in JRI states focus on those with substance abuse and mental health disorders," according to the report.

Seven states target high-risk offenders and impose mandatory supervision after release. The report found that mandatory supervision increases the offender's ability to stay out of prison.

The report explains that only "six JRI states streamlined the parole processes, and five expanded eligibility for parole" to facilitate the release of eligible offenders to parole supervision and shorten lengths of stay, while ensuring that appropriate supervision conditions are met toward public safety.

The report recognized some states wanted to construct new prisons, but decided to invest in alternatives to incarceration instead. By eliminating the need to construct a facility, the states saved money that can be allocated toward exploring what safety measures work and what does not work.

States using Justice Reinvestment strategies funded by JRI are Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota and West Virginia.

Plans to Reduce Prison Population Increases Number in County Jails

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

California's state prisons continue to struggle to meet a court-imposed inmate population cap at the same time that Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to ease overcrowding has caused an increase in county jail populations.

This is happening despite the fact that arrests are down, reports the *Stockton Record*.

Brown's realignment plan was designed to reduce the state prison population and has shifted the responsibility for certain low-level felony offenders to county jail systems.

One of the stress factors placed on local jails is the need for higher security.

As the low-level convicted felon population increases in jails, so does the need for more secure perimeters. San Joaquin County Sheriff Steve Moore is currently seeking funds to replace the jail's aging Honor Farm security measures.

San Joaquin's County supervisors have approved a proposal seeking \$40 million to address the issue.

Traditionally, jails were designed to house offenders while they awaited court hearings or served sentences that were a year or less.

In San Joaquin County, felony offenders serving sentences averaging about three years in length are contributing to the rise in jail population. AB109 is largely responsible for those convicted of felonies spending more time in jail, the *Stockton Record* reports. In the past, lower-level offenders convicted of felo-

nies would be sent to prison to serve their time. However, in 2011, AB109 eliminated returning some parolees to prison and shifted the burden onto county jails.

The *Stockton Record* report noted that the San Joaquin County jail population has increased to a daily average of nearly 400 inmates.

An additional factor, those convicted of misdemeanors were more likely to receive an early release into the community as a result of the court-mandated population cap.

According to the *Record*, the San Joaquin County sheriff is concerned that these felony offenders pose a risk to public safety. They are housed in a facility that was not designed to contain violent or serious offenders, so the sheriff worries about the possibility of escape. Last year, 10 inmates walked away from the Honor Farm.

Critics of upgrading the Honor Farm facility prefer that more be spent on preparing prisoners for reentry into society.

The *Stockton Record* concluded that AB109-sentenced prisoners and those serving prison parole violations need facilities that include more secure perimeters.

Elderly CDCR Prisoners Ready for Early Release

Continued from Page 1

removal to various health care or nursing facilities. "If they recover, they face a return trip to prison," St. John reported.

One board attorney told St. John, "Hearings under the

new rules, which reflect an expansion of existing medical parole, are to begin by July 1."

The state's expanded health program will place approximately 100 inmates into health care facilities, the Finance Department estimated.

Eighty-five prisoners who met the state's elderly criteria are estimated to be released this year, St. John reported.

"In both cases, parole officials stressed that commissioners are to consider public safety risks before agreeing to release a prisoner," St.

John said.

The Life Support Alliance, a group that supports parole for inmates serving life sentences, was delighted by the recent publication. Supporter Gail Brown said "older inmates age out of violent behavior."

CDCR Press Secretary Visits San Quentin News

By Arnulfo T. Garcia
Editor-in-Chief

In June, the *San Quentin News* editorial board welcomed three officials from the Sacramento headquarters of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: CDCR Press Secretary Jeffrey Callison, Deputy Press Secretary Terry Thornton and Public Information Officer Kristina Khokhobashvili. They came to introduce themselves to the staff.

Callison, who formerly worked for National Public Radio, opened the meeting by saying, "I know you guys were apprehensive when someone told you that Sacramento is coming down to check out the paper; thinking, 'We're from the government. We want to help.'"

His joke relaxed the editorial board.

Prior to the meeting, editorial board members had discussed fears of being shut down or controlled by officials, or being

EDITORIAL

guided into being a mouthpiece for the administration. We were wrong. *San Quentin News* is an inmate run newspaper, subject to review by the warden's office for safety and security concerns.

The relationship with communication officials in Sacramento has brought a new level of professionalism to our publication. Now *San Quentin News* has direct access to the press office at CDCR headquarters, where knowledgeable personnel will take the time to answer questions on any topic a *San Quentin News* reporter wants to ask. The editorial board believes that this is unprecedented for an inmate run newspaper—having such a level of access to government officials about what is happening inside its prisons.

Even though Sacramento has installed another layer of review of the newspaper prior to going

to press, the extra scrutiny offers more accuracy and objectivity of what is printed.

"OPEC respects the *San Quentin News* journalists for making their newspaper as accurate and objective as possible," Khokhobashvili said.

Under the supervision of Lt. Samuel Robinson, Public Information Officer at San Quentin, *San Quentin News* has won widespread recognition as a legitimate and independent news organization.

Our inmate staff felt honored to be respected as professionals by the *Daily Californian* at UC Berkeley, *Marin Independent Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Fresno Bee*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Miami Herald*, *Seattle Times*, *The Nation* magazine and many newspapers that reprinted the stories about the *San Quentin News*.

On the website Inside CDCR, the Office of Public and Employee Communications posted an



Photo by Lt. Sam Robinson

Kristina Khokhobashvili, Terry Thornton and Jeffrey Callison

article about *San Quentin News* headlined "Extra! Extra! *San Quentin's inmate journalists share their talents.*" Referring to the quality of the newspaper, the article said, "The paper was honored earlier this year by a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for "accomplishing extraordinary journalism under extraordinary circumstances."

Due to this recognition by the Society of Professional Journalists, the inmate reporters have

been encouraged to form a new chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists within San Quentin.

The inmates who produce *San Quentin News* have always been concerned with the integrity of the information published in it. The goal of the *San Quentin News* editorial board is to be responsible, professional and objective. Good communication with officials in Sacramento furthers that goal.

Movie Producer Scott Budnick Attends Ironwood State Prison for TEDx Event

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

There's a lot going on in the desert, and it's not a mirage, reported Scott Budnick of his May visit to Ironwood State Prison. In *The Huffington Post* he described the low, flat concrete buildings with tall steel fences and razor-sharp barbed wire rising out of the blazing-hot landscape.

Ironwood State Prison is a maximum-security facility located in the desert, not far from the border between California and Arizona.

Upon entering the gates of the prison, Budnick immediately noticed that the facility, only designed to house 2,200 inmates, quietly functions with 2,938 inmates.

"But inside these concrete buildings, something extraordinary is happening," Budnick wrote. Ironwood State Prison has the largest prison education program in California where an astonishing 1,200 plus students have earned college degrees. Some men learn to transcribe college texts into Braille, while

others are trained in additional valuable trade skills.

The administration, staff and inmate population have created a new culture, Budnick reported, centered on education. Young inmates avoid the typical drugs, violence and negativity associated with prison life. The environment at this facility has transformed lives and developed responsible character among the ranks, according to Budnick.

"This culture change has manifested itself in a new sense of pride by both students and staff," wrote Budnick.

Most men are doing hard time, Budnick reported, but not necessarily for hard crime.

"Many are affected by California's three strikes law under which even low-level felonies, such as writing a bad check, can garner a strike on the way to serving 25-to-life sentences. Men, even young men, rattled off how long they had been in: 19 years, 25 years, 33 years. And they weren't even close to getting out," he said.

Budnick saw hope and compassion emerging as men



Photo courtesy of CDCR Press

Sir Richard Branson and Scott Budnick

gained a deeper understanding of themselves and their crimes. "In some cases, they are coming to terms with the fact that their actions mean they may never step outside these walls again. They may die at Ironwood. And yet they are finding ways to be productive," he adds.

The prison has become a haven of hope for 18 year old sentenced to adult prison for the first time. "Here they become students and enter the college program mentored by the lifers,

who have learned their lessons the hard way and don't want this next generation to follow in their footsteps," Budnick said.

Because the facility has elevated the importance of correctional education, a representative of TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design), an entity that presents informational talks by the best and brightest from various fields to wide audiences, "believes this was an idea worth spreading."

In May, Ironwood State Prison hosted the first TEDx talk inside the walls of a California prison. Sir Richard Branson, founder of the Virgin Group, and a contingency of special guests transformed the prison gym into a sound stage with lights, cameras and microphones.

More than 300 people includ-

ing prisoners, visitors and staff were there, reported Budnick, entertained by inmates, who coordinated, hosted and spoke on the theme of "Infinite Possibilities."

"The event highlighted the fact that correctional education programs have been shown to save dollars and greatly decrease recidivism rates, which means they increase public safety," according to Budnick.

In California, while 95 percent of those sent to prison are released, two-thirds end up incarcerated again, reported Budnick.

Inmates at Ironwood advocated that education gives those who are released the best possible shot at a second chance. Budnick reported that he has seen this in his work with the InsideOUT Writers program, through which incarcerated young people learn to use creative writing as a catalyst for personal transformation.

This event gave men a sense of self and purpose, according to Budnick.

"They showed that change is possible. Some had made reckless mistakes and others had made horrific choices that landed them at Ironwood. But they are showing the power of the human spirit while serving their time and working toward redemption. At TEDx, they shared their personal journeys and their faith in the future," Budnick said.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Prisoner's Newspaper Frustration

'I want to re-order, but I won't until this is cleared up!'

San Quentin News,

This will be a quick note! I really can't read the newspaper right now. I just wanted to get the newspaper so others could read. Right before I was [transferred] to this prison I sent you six stamps. While I did get two papers from High Desert, I haven't got anything else since then. Please just let me know what is going on money-wise. I did get a paper the other day, but

that is the first paper I got that was sent here. Since October 2013 the only couple of papers I got were rerouted from "High Desert State Prison." Please straighten this out for me. I want to re-order, but I won't until this is cleared up!

Thank you, Billy D.

Editor's Response:

We (San Quentin News staff) apologize for any delay and in-

convenience. We understand that with each transfer the mailing process of every prison mail differs. However, we are doing our part to get you your newspaper in a timely manner. In regard to your issue, we request \$1.61 in stamps to cover the postage cost of mailing the paper. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

—Design Editor,
Phoenix You

Editor's Note

The articles and opinions published in the *San Quentin News* are the responsibility of the inmate staff of the newspaper and their advisers. These articles and opinions reflect the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the inmate population, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or the administration of San Quentin State Prison.

Study: False Convictions Among Death Sentences Projected at 4.1 Percent

By Lee Jaspur
Journalism Guild Writer

According to a collaborative research project initiated by the University of Michigan Law School and published earlier this year in PNAS, 4.1 percent of all death sentences in the U.S. are the result of false convictions.

The researchers, Samuel R. Gross, Barbara O' Brien of the University of Michigan, Chen Hu of American College and Edward H. Kennedy of University of Pennsylvania, consider their estimate a conservative one.

REPORT

The report examined data on all defendants sentenced to death between the years 1973-2004. Of those 7,482 defendants, 943 were executed, 298 died while on death row and 3,449 remained on death row. A total of 117 death row defendants were exonerated, while 2,675 defendants were removed from death row but not exonerated.

The report said that the high rate of exonerations appears to be driven by the threat of execution. "Everyone from defense lawyers to innocence projects to governors and state and federal judges is likely to be particularly careful to avoid the execution of innocent defendants." However, once defendants are removed from death row and resented to life imprisonment, the likelihood of exoneration drops sharply because the intensive search for possible errors is largely abandoned once the threat of execution is removed.

The researchers used multiple methods of analysis to reach a final conclusion that if all death-sentenced defendants were to remain under sentence of death indefinitely, at least 4.1 percent would be exonerated.

The report is careful to point out that their estimate of false convictions in death penalty cases cannot be applied to all criminal convictions. The rate of erroneous convictions overall is often described as a "dark figure"; it is an important measure of the performance of the criminal justice system that is "not merely unknown, but unknowable."

However, some heavy thinkers try to figure it out. These researchers noted that "in 2007, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in a concurring opinion in the Supreme Court that American criminal convictions have an "error rate of [0.027 percent – or, to put it another way, a success rate of 99.973 percent."

"This would be comforting, if true," said the report. "In fact, the claim is silly. Scalia's ratio is derived by taking the number of known exonerations at the time, which were limited almost entirely to a small subset of murder and

rape cases, using it as a measure of all false convictions (known and unknown), and dividing it by the number of all felony convictions for all crimes, from drug possession and burglary to car theft and income tax evasion."

To accurately estimate the number of all false convictions, a researcher would need "a well-defined group of criminal convictions within which we identify all mistaken convictions, or at least most. It is hard to imagine how that could be done for criminal convictions generally, but it might be possible for capital murder," the report said.

"Death sentences represent less than one-tenth of 1 percent of prison sentences in the United States," according to the report. "But they accounted for about 12 percent of known exonerations of innocent defendants from 1989 through early 2012."

Such exonerations are achieved because more attention and resources are devoted to death penalty cases than to other criminal prosecutions, both before and after conviction.

"The vast majority of criminal convictions are not candidates for exoneration because no one makes any effort to reconsider the guilt of the defendants. Approximately 95 percent of felony convictions in the United States are based on negotiated pleas of guilty (plea bargains) that are entered in routine proceedings at which no evidence is presented. Few are ever subject to any review whatsoever," the report said. "Most convicted defendants are never represented by an attorney after conviction, and the appeals that do take place are usually perfunctory and unrelated to guilt or innocence."

DEATH SENTENCE

Death sentences are different. They result from a trial by jury and can be reviewed on appeal, often repeatedly. Most inmates on death row continue to have lawyers for the duration of their stay. Such attention and resources mean that "false convictions are far more likely to be detected among those cases ... than in any other category of criminal convictions."

The report stresses that the proportion of death-sentenced inmates who are exonerated understates the rate of false convictions among death sentences because the intensive search for possible errors is largely abandoned once the threat of execution is removed.

It is important to note that 35.8 percent of the death-sentenced defendants from 1973 to 2004 were removed from death row but remained in prison after their capital sentences or the underlying convictions were reversed or modified.

The point was made that "except for those who are exonerated – and a very small group who are resented to lesser penalties and eventually released – all prisoners who are sentenced to death do ultimately die in prison."

RESEARCHERS

As to the question, "how many innocent defendants have been put to death?" the researchers believe the number is comparatively low. "Our data and the experience of practitioners in the field both indicate that the criminal justice system goes to far greater lengths to avoid executing innocent defendants than to prevent them from remaining in prison indefinitely."

nately."

The report continued, "However, no process of removing potentially innocent defendants from the execution queue can be foolproof. With an error rate at trial over 4 percent, it is all but certain that several of the 1,320 defendants executed since 1977 were innocent."

The researchers added "the disturbing news that most innocent defendants who have been sentenced to death have not been exonerated, and many – including the great majority of those who have been resented to life in prison – probably never will be."

The report went on: "This is only part of a disturbing

picture. Fewer than half of all defendants who are convicted of capital murder are ever sentenced to death in the first place."

JURORS

Interviews with jurors indicate that "lingering doubts about the defendant's guilt" make them likely to choose a sentence of life in prison rather than death.

"The net result" said the researchers, "is that the great majority of innocent defendants who are convicted of capital murder in the United States are neither executed nor exonerated. They are sentenced, or resented to prison for life, and then forgotten."

Execution by Alternative Means

'This isn't an attempt to time-warp back into the 1850s or the wild, wild west or anything like that'

By Ted Swain
Staff Writer

Hangings, firing squads and gas chambers are being considered as means of execution by some states because of the unavailability of lethal injection drugs.

The drugs are in short supply and death penalty states are looking to make sure they can still execute people effectively, *The Associated Press* reports.

Controversy is widespread because of scenes like the January execution of Oklahoma inmate Michael Wilson. The issue has prompted legal actions and some drug companies' refusals to sell the lethal drugs to prisons.

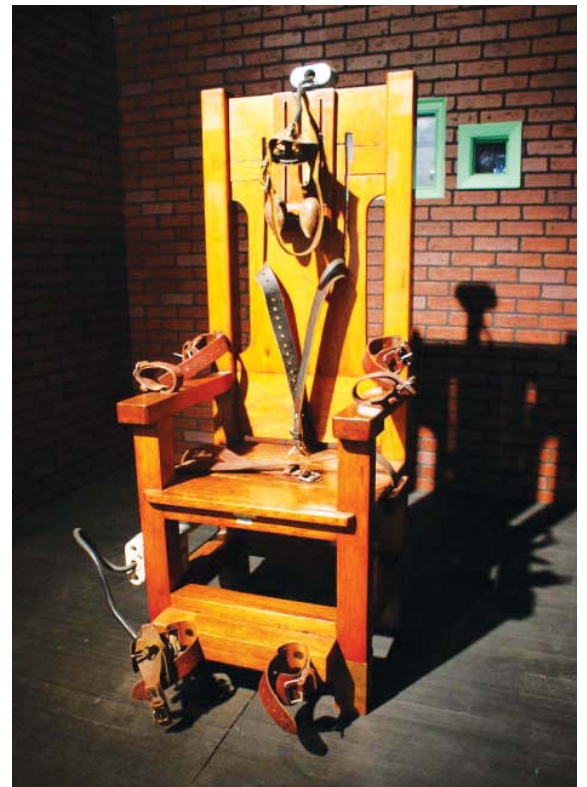
"I feel my whole body burning," were Wilson's final words. Capital punishment opponents claim those words clearly indicate the process is not the clinical, painless operation portrayed by some state officials. Some elected officials say recent legal challenges and shortage of drugs make lethal injection too vulnerable to complications.

"This isn't an attempt to time-warp back into the 1850s or the wild, wild west or anything like that," commented Missouri State Representative Rick Brattin. He said he just sees a potential future problem and wants to be prepared.

Virtually all death penalty states switched to lethal drugs because of the negative perception of hanging, electrocution, gas and firing squads. However, despite the desire to make it more palatable, the horrors of execution seem inescapable. Another example: the recent Ohio execution of Dennis McGuire took 26 minutes to complete, with him repeatedly gasping for air.

The European Union threatened to impose export limits on propofol if it is to be used in executions.

The EU is anti-death pen-



File photo

Electric chair

alty, and sentiment against export of drugs used in lethal injection runs high, the AP reported. The drug propofol was suspect in the death of pop star Michael Jackson.

Many legislators are tapping into a popular feeling that "those who do terrible things deserve terrible things to happen to them," Michael Campbell, assistant professor of criminal justice at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, told *The Associated Press*. However, Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, D.C., says, "These ideas would jeopardize the death penalty, because, I think, the public reaction would be revol-

Electrocution is an alternative to lethal injection for condemned prisoners in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Wyoming lawmakers recently offered a bill allowing execution by firing squad. Delaware, New Hampshire and Washington state still allow inmates to choose hanging. Arizona, Missouri and Wyoming also allow gas-chamber executions.

Since 1976, the *Marin Independent Journal* said there have been three firing squad executions in the U.S., all of them in Utah.

Some states are also beginning to use other drugs and will not disclose where they come from.

Hip-Hop Artists Locked Out For Second Time at S.Q.'s Day of Peace Event

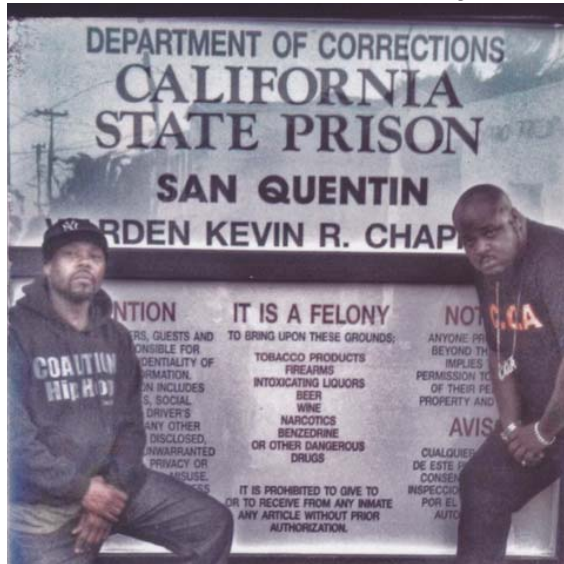
By Chris Schuhmacher
Contributing Writer

For some guys, coming to prison was a fast process. Do the crime ... then do the time. However, for a group of up-and-coming hip-hop artists from the East Coast known as the Coalition, getting inside San Quentin has been extremely difficult.

For two years in a row, the Coalition has accepted an invitation to play at the annual Day of Peace event. However, each time they were shut out due to an institutional lockdown.

"My guys were really looking forward to performing at San Quentin, but it's looking like this thing just wasn't meant to be," said Coalition manager Jason Fink.

The group was originally slated to play at the May 11, 2013, Day of Peace, but had to cancel their plane tickets after San Quentin went on a 10-day quarantine due to norovirus. The Day of Peace was held later that summer, but there wasn't



Adam and Congo poses in front of East gate

enough time for the Coalition to reschedule their trip.

The Coalition got together in 2009 in their hometown of

New Haven, Connecticut. The group includes seven MCs — Sheik Abdul, Big House, Trag-i MC, Fireman, Yung Reese,

Pa aka Adam X and Congo — who showcase very different and dynamic styles reminiscent of early hip-hop.

"Coalition is the soundtrack to the street ... the struggle where single mothers juggle two and three jobs trying to make ends ... submerged in the water, but you have to swim ... the mind frame must change, so let it begin," are lyrics from Coalition's song "Struggle for Real."

As the titles of their albums, *Still Struggling* and *Struggle for Real*, reflect, the Coalition has not yet made it to the big time. However, they are building a strong grassroots following with shows at New Haven on the Green's May Day Festival and performances at the legendary Toad's Place.

As the 2014 Day of Peace, scheduled for May 10 rolled around, the Coalition accepted the invitation to travel across country to perform. They booked their flights and made it all the way to the gates of San Quentin before learning that the institution was on lock-

down once again. This time, the cause was an interracial scuffle involving C-status inmates in North Block.

"I was more nervous about being on a plane for the first time than I was performing at San Quentin. I couldn't believe we got shut out again," said Adam X. "I was hoping to meet some of the fellas, because I know we've all had our challenges to overcome."

The Day of Peace has been rescheduled for August 2, but the Coalition will be back on the East Coast preparing for their "Making Moves" tour featuring Mega Hood, BX, High Heel Rush, Garden State Pusher and poetry by Anne Lyrix. For more information, see www.wethecoalition.com and www.facebook.com/makingmoves-tour.

The Coalition will personally respond to all letters and autograph and photo requests from San Quentin and CDCR inmates. Send requests to Coalition Hip-Hop, P.O. Box 185324, Hamden, CT, 06518.

Reports Show Restorative Justice Programs Prove Effective

By Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla
Journalism Guild Writer

Repeat offender numbers in Australia are down as much as 55 percent, thanks to restorative justice proceedings, according to a recent ABC News report. Restorative justice entails mediated sessions between offenders and victims and/or friends and families of victims, to generate empathy and process the trauma of the crime.

"When a real victim of serious crime is in the room, it can have a big effect on re-offending. Now we have results from studies of the highest quality around the world to show that it works," said Professor John Braithwaite of Australia National University. He was instrumental in introducing restorative justice to the courts in the 1990s and was involved in the groundbreaking restorative justice findings.

In the United States, the re-

storative justice movement is on the rise. For instance, in San Quentin State Prison, Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG) prepares offenders to meet community members who stand-in as victims of crime. The interactions give offenders the opportunity to address issues surrounding their criminal convictions. This process of self-inquiry occurs through a series of exercises ranging from crime impact statements to childhood trauma.

VOEG participants report these meetings have been powerful. The platform provides room for catharsis and healing, for offenders and victims alike.

"VOEG helped me to connect my childhood traumas to nefarious behavior throughout my life," said VOEG graduate Cedric Walker, an ex-gang member serving a life sentence for murder.

"The program gave me a platform to address issues and

questions I had about abandonment. The victims panel (in which surrogate victims meet offenders to share in a dialogue about their crime/event), had a profound effect on me," Walker added.

"I was able to understand firsthand the pain the victims felt, and I am now able to empathize with them. Meeting with the surrogate victim, I was able to find remorse and accountability for my actions. I now dedicate most of my life to public service by trying to detour young at-risk children from gang activity and violence."

The restorative justice approach seems poised to radically change the way offenders process crime, Braithwaite said, "Because crime hurts, justice should heal."

VOEG offers an opportunity for the victim and the offender to come face-to-face and confront the effects the crime had on both parties. The victims



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Cedric Walker inside the chapel supporting Nick Lopez at the GRIP graduation

have the opportunity to tell the offenders just how their life has been impacted due to their improprieties. The process also allows the offender an opportu-

nity to make amends by showing remorse for the victims, as well as uncover the issues that may have led to the criminal act/behavior in the first place.

CDCR Proposed Rules Restricting Reading Material

Continued from Page 1

communicate with them," Knox wrote.

Knox argued that the proposed regulations "reach far beyond and threaten to ban political speech and/or speech that is critical of the California prison system."

In its Initial Statement of Reasons for the proposed regulations, the CDCR said it is attempting to prohibit publications that "indicate an association with groups that are oppositional to authority and society."

According to the regulations, the CDCR will create a "Centralized List of Disapproved

Publications" in the prison system. An example of a banned publication would be anything the CDCR deems "recruitment material for a Security Threat Group (STG)." Under these regulations, banned reading material would be considered contraband.

Current regulations prevent the CDCR from disallowing inmates' incoming mail if the Department "disagree[s] with the sender's or receiver's morals, values, attitudes, veracity or choice of words."

In a 1999 case, Crofton v. Roe, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit struck down a regulation that disallowed an inmate from receiving a gift book.

Citing the fact that courts have relied on the First and 14th Amendment rights of publishers "to communicate with inmates" on numerous occasions, Knox pointed to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1974 ruling in Procunier v. Martinez which states in part:

"Whatever the status of a prisoner's claim to uncensored correspondence with an outsider, it is plain that the latter's interest is grounded in the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech."

Knox said the regulations are likely to fail because "they are both vague and overbroad" as an indicator of an inmate's association with members or as-

sociates of STGs.

According to Knox's research, "a law is unconstitutionally vague if it prohibits protected conduct ... or if it allows for punishment of speech that is merely unpopular."

The e-mail concluded with Knox's assessment of the CDCR's previously validating inmates as STG members due to their choice of reading material that included possession of anything written by prisoner and political activist George Jackson.

"Prison walls do not form a barrier separating prison inmates from the protections of the Constitution," Knox wrote, citing other U.S. Supreme Court

case precedents.

Knox said *Bay View* newspaper "provides thought-provoking stories and commentary, with a focus on the black community."

The *Bay View* was founded in 1976. According to its website, it is "the second most visited black newspaper on the web." It has won two awards for Excellence in Journalism and Freedom of Information from the Society of Professional Journalists, three Best of the Bay awards from the *Bay Guardian*, one National Black Newspaper of the Year from the National Black Chamber of Commerce, and a Best Community Newspaper from the Media Alliance.

Alcatraz Presents a Theatrical Play: *'In the Kitchen With a Knife'*

By Leslie Lakes
Contributing Writer

It was the first time I had ever been to Alcatraz and I was so excited, especially because this was to be no ordinary tourist trip by ferry across the choppy waters to the infamous "Rock."

I was traveling with a group of people who had purchased tickets from the William James Association to attend a special performance of the play *"In the Kitchen With A Knife."* The play is one of many different theatrical and literary creative writing projects put on by The Poetic Justice Project. According to its mission statement, "Poetic Justice Project advances social justice by engaging formerly incarcerated youth and adults in arts education, mentoring and the creation of original theater examining crime, punishment and redemption."

"In the Kitchen With A Knife" is an interactive murder-mystery and the action takes place in a prison setting. What better place to perform it than the infamous Alcatraz itself?

Playwrights Deborah Tobola and Dylan O'Harra, a mother-and-son team, wrote the play. The director was Leslie Carson, a retired drama teacher who volunteers to teach theater at a women's prison and a girls' juvenile facility.

"In the Kitchen With A Knife" has a cast of 13. Sound designer Tim Seawall created sound effects that made the experience of being inside a prison incredibly realistic. Live acoustic music (guitar and makeshift percussion on the outside of a box), as well as singing by vocalists MarciJean Fambrini and Maux Samuel, enhanced the play and drew a positive response from the audience.

The play began with four inmates filing on stage. All of them work in the prison



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Captain Rojas (Guillermo Willie) and Alejandro Alcantra

kitchen. An inmate called Telly threatens to give the other three "cause for grief" if they do not comply with his de-

stuffed in a kitchen laundry cart. The sirens blow and an immediate lockdown is enforced. Capt. Rojas (Guillermo Willie) and Lt. Vincent (David Louk) call out all three inmates individually for interrogation.

While this is going on, the warden (Dion Schwulst), apparently more concerned about bad press than anything else, pressures Capt. Rojas to determine which of the three accused inmates committed the crime. To complicate the issue, the DNA of all three inmates is on the knife that allegedly killed Telly.

After all three inmates are interrogated, they return to their individual cells. The audience then hears their respective soliloquies that give insight into their personal backgrounds, thoughts, beliefs, hopes, dreams and possible motivation(s) for killing Telly.

In a clever dramatic device, each inmate encounters his respective "conscience" (in this case a character named "Dodger," performed by actor Caroline Taylor-Hitch, garbed in sweats and a dark hoodie.)

The scene then moves back to the prison kitchen where the accused inmates, Conrad Fielding (Roger Brown), Alejandro Alcantra (Jorge Manly Gil) and Hubert "Huey" Strickland (Leonard Flippen IV), engage in conversation. Alejandro is busy peeling potatoes and using a chef's knife as he prepares a meal. "Huey," a former thief, practices his gambling dice throws.



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Lt. Vincent (David Louk) and "Huey" (Leonard Flippen)

mands. In the next scene, the body of Telly is found murdered and

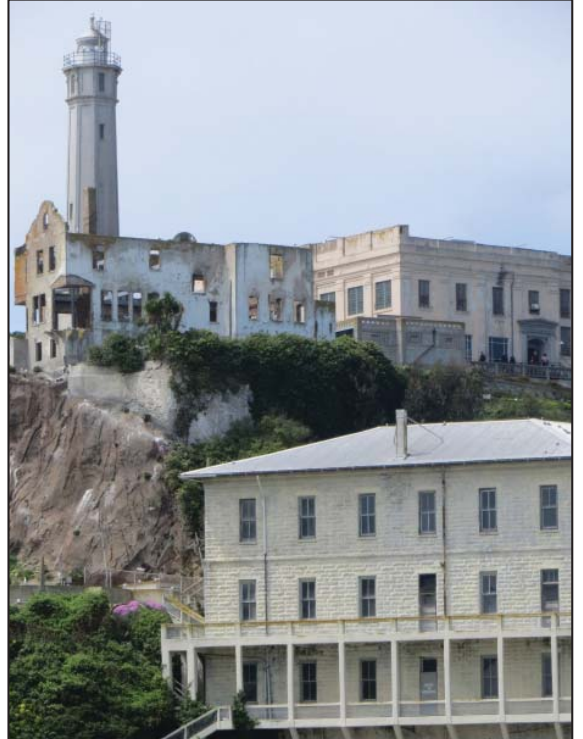


Photo by Leslie Lakes

Side view of Alcatraz

Conrad is an older inmate, a veteran who suffers from angst and emotional guilt about having abandoned soldiers under his direct supervision. He rationalizes his past experiences and actions in order to hold it all together.

Near the end of the play, a brief intermission allows the audience to cast a ballot indicating which inmate they believe killed Telly. Depending on how the audience votes, there are three possible endings to the play.

At the conclusion of the play, during curtain call, came the surprising announcement that every single one of the actors had previously been incarcerated — whether for a day, a month, a year, or even decades.

Then the audience was asked several questions:

1) What is the most important thing you learned from the actors and their performance?

I do not know what others wrote, but for me, I learned, or realized all over, that some very gifted, talented, creative, artistic and intelligent people are incarcerated in prisons throughout the U.S. Also, however we may interpret circumstantial evidence, things are not always what they seem.

2) In what way has your attitude about prison and/or prisoners changed, if at all, based on this performance?

Again, for me, this is a question that pretty much preaches to the choir. My attitudes and beliefs have not changed, but have only been confirmed.

3) Would you recommend this play to family or friends?

My response: a resounding "YES!"



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Actors perform live music for the audience



Photo by Leslie Lakes

Alejandro Alcantra (Jorge Manly Gil) and Officer Dover (Renee Lopez)

San Quentin Welcomes Avon's Annual Breast Cancer Walk



Carlos Ramirez, Manuel Murillo, volunteer Maria, Kris Himmelberger, Eusebio Gonzalez and Jose Flores enjoying the day

Continued from Page 1

ganizers created San Quentin CARES to show that inmates doing time still have the capacity to raise money for organizations in need. "We are honored to be able to help with this cause," said inmate Troy Williams. "It makes the men in blue feel like they're still a part of the community."

According to Chief Medical Officer Elaine Tootell, the event raised about \$5,300 from people outside and nearly \$2,000 from the inmates. "I know that \$2,000 is a lot of

money for inmates. I was impressed that you gave so much, when you have so little," Tootell told the walkers.

"To put on an event like this, you have to have a lot of patience in order to get through the obstacles," inmate Stephen Pascasio said. "We couldn't have done it without the administration helping us. Also the men in blue worked hard doing all the leg work. Inmates Michael Nelson, Sam Johnson, Billy Allen, Clinton Martin and the guys put in a lot of time to this worthy cause. A lot of the guys here are walking for their mothers, daughters, sisters and loved ones who've

been affected by breast cancer. It's amazing to me, seeing the guys work together."

Jill Friedman has been volunteering inside San Quentin for 15 years. She said about six and a half years ago she started volunteering with the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

"I was honored that I was asked to help with the Avon walk," Friedman said. "I want more people on the outside to know what's happening in here. One of the things about us as human beings is that all of us have more in common than what we have different."

Inmate organizer Clinton Martin, 41, said this was his



Participants walk laps to support the event

fourth walk. "I think for me what stands out is that this year was more organized. It went off without a hitch. This is the first one with no [security] alarms. It was good to see the level of respect from the San Quentin community.

Martin added, "I lost my grandmother, great-aunt and aunt to breast cancer. That was my driving force for wanting to belong to this committee. It is an honor to cherish their lives by walking and by organizing this event. Today is about giving back to my community and trying with every fiber in my being to make amends to the harm that I've caused. I firmly believe that I'll be putting pennies in the jar for the rest of my life."

Volunteer Rachel Bailey said that her grandmother passed away from cancer three years ago. "My grandmother came in for a San Quentin walk. For the last three months of her life, she just talked about how much you guys affected her," Bailey said.

While the event was underway, a basketball game was being played between an outside Christian team and one of the

inmate teams. All the players joined the walkers.

"For halftime, we decided to walk one lap for breast cancer



Julio "Huggie" Davis talks about breast cancer and how it affected his family



Volunteers pose for the camera in front of East Gate



Frankie Smith addresses the crowd about his battle with cancer

awareness," said inmate Derek Loud. "Then we'll finish the game."

Why Inmates Say They Donate and Walk:

Julio "Huggie" Davis, 49: I'm doing this for my mother. She passed from breast cancer

in 2008. When I first caught this life sentence, I told my mother about it. The last time I saw her was before I left the county jail. Then I was transferred to High Desert State Prison where we stayed on lockdown. I was able to make it to San Quentin in 2006. But my mother had cancer and was too sick to come see me. I always had these dreams about my mother. I would try to get home to her through my dreams. Every night I'd have these dreams, but I couldn't actually get there. But the day I got the call that my mother passed, I finally got home in my dream. I got there to hug my mother.

Ricky "Malik" Harris, 42: I'd like to recognize a very close family friend, Alex Perkins, who succumbed to cancer, and my father who is battling lung cancer. I just wanted to honor them.

Johnny Willis, 42: I donated because my mother, Wanda Willis, died of cancer, and my wife, Maynette Willis, is a cancer survivor.

Anthony Thomas, 40: I'm on



John Levin, Rudy Camozzi and Scott Fredette supporting the Breast Cancer Walk

my 13th lap. Before the end of the walk, I want to put in 200. I'm walking to show faith and to give others insight to why we need to cure breast cancer.

Nicola Bucci, 41: My grandmother survived cancer in 1952. She was born 1910 and died 2008.

Inmate Berry, 34: I'm walking for my fiancée, Felie.

Martin Walters, 46: I'm walking for my sister, Michelle, who survived breast cancer, and my mom, who is a survivor of cancer also.

Robert Morales, 44: My mother passed away from lung cancer. So, in remembrance of my mother and people who suffer from it, I support them.

Alberto Mendez, 59: I have a mom and I have daughters. Plus, I consider the most amazing human being is the woman. I support the cause. One day we will find a cure for this horrible disease.

Frankie Smith, 58, said that he was diagnosed twice with cancer in 2006 and 2011. "I support the Avon walk so that people become aware that screening is important. Cancer is not a death sentence. I'm a living witness to the fact it can be beaten."

Danny Chaviarria, 58: I have a wife, daughters and granddaughters out there. I support them. It's the right thing to do. James Parker, 52: I'm walking for my mother, my aunt, my mother-in-law and my ex-wife. My mom, aunt, moth-



Benjamin "Benji" Obsuna donates his hair to breast cancer



Stephen Pascasio, Jill Friedman, Dr. E. Tootell and Sam Johnson inside the ARC building

Arts & Entertainment

Sudoku Corner

5		3	7				9	
	7		9		4			5
					5			8
1			3		9		8	
	5				7	1		
			1			9		3
9		7		1			5	
		5			8		7	
	1		5			8		9

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

Snippets

Hail Mary is the first words of the Latin version of a prayer to the Virgin Mary used in the Roman Catholic Church.

After Mary, the Queen of Scots, was beheaded, her pet companion, a skye terrier, was found underneath her gown.

In a 1947, Larry Doby became the first African-American player in the American League with the Cleveland Indians.

Like it or not, King Edwards II of England hated soccer so much that he issued a proclamation in 1314 imprisoning anyone caught playing the sport.

Many may not know that slam-dunk in basketball was illegal in 1967. In 1976 dunking became officially legal.

Armed force free Iceland, declared itself a nuclear-free zone in 1985.

Reaching more than 3,500,000 square miles is the Sahara Desert. It's the second largest desert in the world.

Young Pocahontas was around ten or eleven years old when she saved John Smith from being executed.

Last Issue's Sudoku Solution

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

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

From Around the World is a new section in San Quentin News. We invite people from around the world to send us a picture of you reading the newspaper. We hope you would include a well-known landmark in the background of your photo. We also invite you to give your take on the newspaper. So far, readers from Amsterdam, Germany, Africa and Dominican Republic have answered the call. Let's hear from the rest of the world.

The San Quentin News making its appearance in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic



Photo courtesy of Mary and Colleen

Top: Jeff and an unknown person
Bottom: Moises, San Quentin volunteer Kathleen Jackson, Jorge and Mary enjoying the day under the sun

An Unexpected Family

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

A lone woman's eccentric relationship with a "non-speaking" boy and his stepfather is the intimate setting that immerses readers in an artistic dialect connecting an ancestral past to a pursuit of self-discovery.

The storyline of *The Bone People* by Keri Hulme pushes forward ever so leisurely while its melancholy undercurrent deceives readers into thinking we know what's happening. Nevertheless, once the peculiar language sinks in, its unforeseeable arcs start to make sense.

Hulme uses unexpectedness as a literary device. "Between waking and being awake there is a moment full of doubt and dream, when you struggle to remember what the place and when the time and whether you really are," she writes. This

BOOK REVIEW

confused state of mind reflects how the main characters interact with each other.

The Bone People is full of instances when traditional perspectives are missing. Father and son, Joe and Simon, aren't typical. When Joe beats Simon it is shocking, but that doesn't strip Joe of humanity. Nor is the hermit, Kerewin, your typical lady across the street. Even though the characters often make us uncomfortable, we can identify with them as they quietly give way to bits of loveliness in the dark corners of their lives.

Simon contemplates life with Joe and Kerewin childishly — with simple language. His straightforwardness, at best, helps readers understand how to come to terms with pain and suffering coupled with love and compassion:

And home is Joe, Joe of the hard hands but sweet love. Joe who can comfort. Joe who takes care. The strong man, the man who cries with him, and home has become Kerewin, Kerewin the distant who is so close. The woman who is wise, who doesn't tell him lies. The strong woman, the woman of the sea and fire.

Hulme has created an effortless yet intricate mindset through Kerewin's reclusive nature. At the same time, readers are treated to Kerewin's insight and life choices as she explains the relationship between the boy and his stepfather:

Well, there's them ... and I think it was a mistake. I brought them ... but how can I send them away now? But my family is gone. I am alone ... It's the bloody horrible way

you've remembered everything bad about everybody, and kept it and festered it all your life ... Twenty-five years. That's a long time. A quarter of a century. A generation. They were the only people who knew me, knew anything of me, and they kept on loving me until I broke it ... do they love me now?

Kerewin's loneliness is prevalent through out *The Bone People*, but as the pages turn, her outlander character never loses an anticipation or expectation of hope.

Hulme's mystical writing style grabs readers and brings a sense of bewilderment. An example is the following passage about the bond between the trio:

The gas heater hisses. The kitchen is warm, but the air is thick; smells of burnt fat, and underlying stink of coal gas. Yet, with people in it, the kitchen is a friendly and comfortable room, she decides, and remembers her first impression of it. Spartan it may be, but at the moment, the very bareness emphasizes the com-

panionship between her and the man, and the boy.

Hulme brings it all together with an understanding that the human spirit has an infinite capacity for the re-start, or the second chance. Rehabilitation, change and transformation are Kerewin's final truth:

If I was an honest uncompromising soul, if I wasn't riddled by this disease called hope, I'd climb into the middle of my pyre and light a phoenix fire from there. On the other hand, my cardinal virtue is hope. Forlorn hope, hope in extremity. Not Christian hope, but an innate rebellion against the inevitable dooms of suffering, death, and despair. A senseless hope. If I hadn't my hope, I might have lasted 10 seconds there ... the air is all gone from round it ... splendid dragon ... the glory of the salamander.

The Bone People combines its plot with a constant feeling of hope along with deep-rooted convictions. Witnessing these emotions through the eyes of strong characters makes it an entertaining read.

People Who Cross Borders

By Watani Stiner
Staff Writer

There's a great deal of concern, confusion and controversy over the issue of immigration — whether legal or otherwise. The recent influx of more than 50,000 undocumented children has left Democrats and Republicans at odds over what to do about the situation. Some define it as a refugee crisis while others claim it a failure of current immigration policy.

Clearly, a deep sense of fear, ignorance and uncertainty is fueling the national debate. Whether these immigrants are coming into the United States from the border regions of Mexico or migrating from South and Central America, there's a struggle between law and compassion. Let us first ask ourselves: What possible reason would someone have for leaving his or her beloved

An 'OG's' Perspective

homeland for a distant and strange land?

Allow me, a prisoner, to weigh in on this issue of immigration from my personal experience. In 1974, I escaped from San Quentin State Prison and fled the country to Guyana in South America. Almost immediately upon my arrival in the Guyana capital of Georgetown, I joined the bustling refugee community.

In 1976, Guyana began to experience a severe economic decline. Corruption, high unemployment and shortages of basic goods led to political unrest. Sugar workers, who comprised mainly the East India segment of Guyanese society, went out on strike for more than four months; consumer goods virtually disappeared from store shelves. Guyana

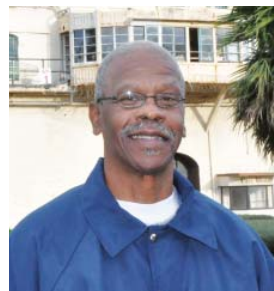


Photo by Raphaelae Casale

Watani Stiner

became the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere after Haiti. I lived there for another four years before the political and economic situation in that country deteriorated, forcing me to cross the border to neighboring Suriname.

After my arrival in Suriname,

I met a woman, and we settled down to raise seven children. As the Surinamese economy continued to worsen, cholera and tuberculosis epidemics swept through the country. The school system, without money for books or teachers, ground to a halt. I tried various ways to provide for my family as the country's violence escalated and the economy deteriorated. By 1993, my family was living in a small "bush house" without electricity or running water, growing vegetables for market and selling herbal medicine and coffee.

I began to worry about the health and future of my children. I pondered about ways of getting my children to the United States. But as a fugitive, I could not simply move with my family out of the country, and I did not want to leave them behind. Would my freedom be worth the welfare of my children?

The situation in Suriname was becoming more and more desperate by the day. After

convincing my wife that my surrender would ensure a better life for our children, which I could only achieve by turning myself in, I decided to enter the U.S. Embassy in Paramaribo. Desperate and afraid, I had to get my children out of the country.

Eventually they were allowed entry into the U.S. While some of my children did well here, others struggled. You never know what the outcome will be of the choices that you make, but for me the hope for a better future was far better than no hope at all.

I am back in prison, and only because I love my children more than I hate my incarceration.

The parents of those young people making the incredibly dangerous trip to seek asylum in the United States have one thing in mind, one thing that drives all of us parents — the survival and safety of our children. No human thought or emotion is more powerful than that.

Overcoming Injustice Through the Eyes of a Butler

MOVIE REVIEW

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

The Butler is a gripping history lesson, loosely based on a story that parallels a black man's effort to survive racial injustice by becoming a White House butler while his son took more direct action in the civil rights movement.

The film provides a look into valid arguments of so-called "sellouts" and "Uncle Toms" and how they contributed to the civil rights movement.

Lee Daniels directed this movie written by Danny Strong, who added several details to the script.

Forrest Whitaker plays Cecil Gaines, the butler. His will to fight racism directly was destroyed on a cotton plantation when his father (David Banner) was shot dead right in front of

him for speaking up about his wife, (Mariah Carey without makeup) being raped by the Georgia plantation owner (Alex Pettyfer.) Thereafter, as an act of implied kindness, the head woman of the house (Vanessa Redgrave) took the 10-year-old Cecil from the cotton fields and made him into a "house nigger."

In real life, Cecil worked on a plantation in Virginia and there is no confirmation of his father being murdered, according to a *TheDailyBeast.com* article called *The Butler Fact Check*.

Once Cecil is old enough, he leaves and become a butler to survive. He later marries Gloria, played by Oprah Winfrey, and works his way up to being a servant for the White House. He overhears many presidents, from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan, making policy and at times was asked his opinion.

His oldest son, Lewis, (David Oyelowo) resents his father's subservient position and takes

up the cause, first under Martin Luther King Jr. as a Freedom Rider, then as a Black Panther, after King's murder.

Cecil and Lewis became at odds over the split in ideology. Cecil certainly didn't pay for Lewis to go to Fisk College to get himself arrested and beaten up over and over again. Lewis isn't proud of having a father who waits on the oppressors.

When Lewis brings his beautiful Black Panther Party girlfriend home for dinner, Cecil and Lewis' beef comes to a head over a comment Lewis makes about Sidney Poitier being the white man's fantasy of what they want blacks to be like. Cecil flips and throws Lewis out of the house. Gloria is in the middle but lets Lewis know, "Everything you are, everything you have is because of that butler."

Lewis' little brother, Charlie, wants to "fight for his country" instead of "fighting it" and goes off to Vietnam, where he

is killed.

Lewis eventually walks away from the Black Panther Party because he wasn't willing to use "darkness to extinguish darkness." He gets his master's degree in political science and runs for Congress.

In real life, Cecil only had one son and that was Charles, who really did serve in Vietnam, but is still alive, according to *The Butler Fact Check*.

The film suggests that black domestics helped the civil rights movement through defying racial stereotypes by showing hardworking and trustworthy black men. According to King in the movie, butlers "slowly tear down racism by their strong character and dignity. They think they are subservient, but are really subversive and don't even know it."

Cecil's victory comes from being a good provider for his family, but the cost was losing both his sons, leaving his wife home alone a lot and tucking his pride

He rethinks his position after a visit to the plantation where he was raised, and when Ronald Reagan supported Apartheid in South Africa. He then retires and joins Lewis' efforts.

Personally, I respect Cecil's desire to go-along-to-get-along for the well-being of his family and their future. I just hoped he would have respected his son's desire to take immediate action a lot sooner, especially since as a kid, Cecil witnessed his father murdered and his mother go crazy because of it.

Also appearing in the film is Terrance Howard as the low-life cheater who lived next door to Cecil, and Cuba Gooding Jr., who plays Carter, another White House butler who became like an uncle to Cecil's boys. Other stars appearing in the film include Robin Williams, Lenny Kravitz, Jane Fonda, Alan Rickman and John Cusack. All the performances were good, with Oyelowo standing out among the worthy cast.

Progress Made in the 2014 California Health Care System

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Although there have been significant improvements in the delivery of medical care to California prisoners, "It is clear that much work remains to be done to resolve issues identified," reported the court-appointed receiver who runs California's prison health care system.

The receiver identified the following areas in need of improvement:

Implementation of new programs to improve cleanliness and hygiene at all facilities;

Implementation of a population care management system which will, among other things, address difficulties in continuity of care when inmates move between yards and institutions;

Implementation of an Electronic Health Records System (EHRS) to improve scheduling and medication management, among other things;

Implementation of a new layer of regional oversight and assistance.

The Receiver's Twenty-Sixth Tri-Annual Report identified "two very high profile" cases

between health care and custody staff to illustrate some of the problems:

"The Sept. 7, 2013, death of an inmate housed in the Correctional Treatment Center at Mule Creek State Prison and the Oct. 15, 2013, death of an inmate at Pleasant Valley State Prison both underscore the interdependence between clinical and custody staff who should be working collaboratively in the preservation of life. In each of these situations, it has been suggested that health care staff were precluded by custody staff from providing the care they were hired to provide."

According to the court-appointed receiver, many of the past problems continue to improve related to custody and health care operations at California Health Care Facility (CHCF). Nevertheless, the receiver expressed "concerns about whether these improvements are sustainable in the long-term."

The receiver reported problems implementing the EHRS have caused several months to be lost in adding new medical and mental health beds to the state prison system. Nevertheless, the receiver reported that

CHCF should be fully activated by early 2015.

When the receiver analyzed medical facility construction statewide that would address treatment and clinic space, all of the facilities visited had serious upgrade issues. The exception was San Quentin State Prison, which had upgrades constructed under the receiver's ship, according to the report.

The receiver found that California prisons remain significantly overcrowded, and at the end of the reporting period of April 30, 2014, the department's total custody population stood at 134,888, of which 116,246 were in the state's 34 prisons. There was also an increase of 639 patient-inmates since the last reporting period of Sept. 1 through Dec 1, 2013.

On Feb. 10, the court issued an order granting the state an extension until Feb. 28, 2016, to meet a population cap of 137.5 percent of designed capacity. The order required the state to meet the following interim benchmarks:

143 percent of design bed capacity by June 30, 2014, later extended to August 31, 2014. The court had recently informed CDCR that unoccu-

pled beds at CHCF could not count as part of the department's overall design capacity so long as CHCF was closed to new medical admissions. As a result, CDCR fell just short of meeting the June 30 benchmark of a prison population at 143 percent of design capacity. When the court issued its order, it also allowed CDCR's request for a two-month extension.

141.5 percent of design bed capacity by Feb. 28, 2015;

137.5 percent of design bed capacity by Feb. 28, 2016.

The order required the state to immediately implement the following components:

Cap out-of-state placements at 8,900;

Increase credit-earning for non-violent second strike offenders and minimum-custody patient-inmates;

Implement new parole determination process for non-violent second strikers who have served half of their sentence;

Parole certain inmates serving indeterminate terms who have been granted future parole dates by the Board of Parole Hearings;

Expansion of existing medical parole process;

Implementation of a new parole process for patient-inmates 60 years of age or older who have served at least 25 years in state prison;

Activation of new re-entry hubs at a total of 13 prisons to be operational by February 2015;

Expansion of pilot re-entry programs with additional counties/local communities; and expansion of alternative custody program for female inmates,

Submit monthly status reports on its progress to implement the provisions listed above. The court also said that it would appoint a "compliance officer" empowered to order necessary releases. (In a subsequent order, the court appointed the Honorable Elwood Liu as the compliance officer.)

With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (federal) Covered California (state), prison health care service providers anticipated challenges in recruiting and retaining staff.

Nursing vacancies are posted on multiple websites, including school career websites, www.ChangingPrisonHealthCare.org, www.Indeed.com and www.VetJobs.com.

Life Insurance Rarely Available For Prison Inmates

'With felons, you run up against that unknown moral factor'

By Rahsaan Thomas
Sports Editor

Life insurers rarely cover inmates in prison, so they are unlikely to leave anything behind but their dead bodies.

"We do not offer life insurance coverage to any incarcerated individual," said Janet Gillespie of Prudential individual life insurance, according to a June 9 *Fox Business* website article *Does Life Insurance Cover Prison Inmates?* by Jay MacDonald. "Our underwriter feels this is industry wide."

Issuing a policy to someone in prison is "just not the kind of risk that the industry would take," said Jack Dewald, president of Agency Services Inc., in Memphis, Tenn., according to the *Fox* article.

Problems insurers cite is that

there is no easy way to conduct a health exam on a prisoner, inmate access to financial assets is typically restricted and imprisonment casts broad uncertainty over the motives of both the insured and their beneficiaries. Additionally, there are the inherent dangers that come with being in prison, the uncertain mental health of the population and the "moral hazard" of insuring someone who has run afoul of the law, according to the article.

Inmates in California could overcome some of the obstacles. Inmates can get check-ups at their facilities. Copies of their medical records can be released by signing a form, according to California Code of Regulations, Title 15 3261.2 *Authorized Release of Information*.

In addition, inmates can earn an income sufficient to pay premiums from prison. Wages range from \$12-\$56 a month for average prison jobs and as much as \$153 a month if working for the Prison Industry Authority. "We can make up to 95 cents per hour for an average 34-hour work week," said Antonio Manning, a PIA worker. Joint Venture and even selling handicraft could also provide sufficient income for prisoners to pay premiums (CCR Title 15, 3104(a) *Inmate Handicraft sales*).

Also, inmate accounts can function like bank accounts. Inmates can sign trust withdrawals to have checks sent where they want. Additionally, once the inmate registers his or her Social Security number, the State Treasury

pays out interest on the funds in his or her account, according to CCR Title 15, 3099 *Inmate Trust Accounts*.

"We can make up to 95 cents per hour for an average 34-hour work week"

Insurance companies say they are willing to insure daredevils, but not inmates because, "The high-risk element is something we can get our head around because it's not a moral issue; the guy wants to live and he wants the stunt to go well. With felons, you run up against that unknown moral

factor," said Ted Tafaro, CEO of Exceptional Risk Advisors, a Mahwah, N.J., specialty insurer and Lloyd's of London underwriter, according to the article.

There are a few exceptions. Those who entered prison with preexisting individual policies in place are guaranteed coverage if they pay their premiums and don't die while committing an intentional criminal act, expressed Dewald in the article.

Group life coverage through an employer is typically lost unless converted to an individual policy before entering prison, according to the article.

A modest death benefit is available in some states from ProCon Membership Community in West Palm Beach, Fla., for a monthly fee of \$9.99 to \$12.99, says the article.

Generation We Empowers Youth to Become 'The Next Generation of Leaders'

Eric Greenberg's story is one that Americans love to hear — an entrepreneur's journey from modest beginnings to extreme success, shattered by breathtaking loss and ending in an 11th hour comeback with a book that tells the tale.

Greenberg is the author *Generation We: How Millennial Youth Are Taking over America and Changing Our World Forever*. The book tells about how young people can empower themselves and others through entrepreneurial ventures, civic involvement and taking an active role in transforming the way we educate the next generation of leaders.

Greenberg has spent his entire career in Silicon Valley tech. In 2006, he suffered a \$15 million loss in an entrepreneurial venture and hit rock bottom. After traveling the world, losing a substantial amount of weight, and taking stock of his experiences, Greenberg wrote down all he'd learned in *Generation We*, and published the book in 2008.

Greenberg recently ventured inside San Quentin State Prison to tell his story to participants in The Last Mile (TLM), a self-help program that teaches inmates about bringing socially responsible ideas into the business world. In the Q-&A session after Greenberg's presentation, the

inmates asked questions about how they can use entrepreneurship and social innovation as avenues to self-empowerment.

Greenberg also spoke about what prompted him to write the book: "The young people in the world are not engaged enough. I wrote this book to motivate them." Unsurprisingly, Greenberg believes people must take the initiative to help themselves; however, he also believes the first step is removing roadblocks to educational opportunities.

Greenberg spoke about his ups and downs in the business world. Reflecting on his comeback from the \$15 million loss, he said, "The only reason people choose

negativity is doubt. I never gave up on myself. I worked on myself for seven years. There is no successful entrepreneur who's angry. The key thing to work on is getting rid of doubt and anger. Learn how to love yourself. Everyone can do something to make their lives better."

Greenberg's also talked about seeing the ugliness and the darker side of human behavior — from famine to genocide — during his world travel. This gave him the insight to make meaning out of his own darkest moments. "You had to look at it in the eye. You can't fight darkness if you shutter from it. How can I talk about it if I didn't see it?"

Ultimately, Greenberg concluded that hope and belief in oneself are the keys so self-empowerment.

"Now matter what, you're still human beings, and everybody has a redeeming value," Greenberg said. "I urge you all to be the change you want to see. The Last Mile is a program that will help you get there. The day we lose our optimism is the day we lose."

A full book review of *Generation We: How Millennial Youth Are Taking over America and Changing Our World Forever* will be published in a future edition of *San Quentin News*.

—Juan Haines

Prisoners and Marin Shakespeare Collaborate In Modern Version of 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Dozens of Bay Area community members came inside San Quentin State Prison on June 25, mingling with nearly 100 convicted criminals to watch a Shakespearean play performed by inmate/actors, working with interns from The Marin Shakespeare Company.

"When the interns first got here, they watched us with nervousness. But, by the end of it, they come here to be with us," said inmate/actor Rodney "RC" Capell.

The play, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, used rock and classic rock, easy listening and rap music to help drive the plot direction.

The use of modern-day outfits along with 17th century garb, plus a man in drag, slightly altered the comedy's visual effect, but not the storyline about a two-timing husband that contained plenty of sexual innuendo in 17th century England.

Directors Lesley Currier and Suraya Keating were very creative by using song lyrics to invoke a particular mood in a scene. When a love scene used "*Baby I need your loving. Got to get all your loving.*" the audience caught on and gave a round of applause. The song lyrics, "*shot through*

the heart, you give love a bad name.," were used to depict a heartbreaking scene.

The audience was kept engaged by the comedic performances by Julian Glenn "Luke" Padgett as Master Ford, Nythell "Nate" Collins as the host of the Garter Inn and James Mays Sr. as Sir John Falstaff.

Joey Mason showed bravado as he donned a dress and played a woman, Mistress Quickly. Referring to the life lesson he learned from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Mason said, "Courage is giving of yourself wholeheartedly, to be fearless in the process of healing and forgiveness."

The play performed inside the prison's Garden Chapel was outstanding, considering the actors had to pull off this Shakespearean feat without its characters touching or kissing their female counterparts. Moreover, the brawls were pulled off cleverly — not a blow landed.

Currier and Keating brought the spirit of the drama close to the audience by having the actors enter the stage via the chapel's center aisle. In other scenes, the actors interacted directly with the audience — a lot of which made *The Merry Wives of Windsor* more engaging.

Even though the 17th century language was somewhat cumbersome, the actors projected themselves well, making up for the linguistic difficulties. Overall, the audience appreciated the comedic effort, as laughter constantly filled the air.

"When we can laugh at a part of ourselves that has previously caused us suffering, we are perhaps one step closer to healing that part," the director's notes read. "Regardless of whether or not you relate to any one specific character, we hope this show encourages you to laugh out loud — frequently — and reflect on where in your own life you may benefit from bringing the gift of lightness."

The finale used Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror," with Keating dancing in the aisles.

Afterward, the inmates were asked how acting together has affected their relationships.

"What it has taught me is



Photo by Sam Hearnes

James Mays Sr. as John Falstaff tries to sneak out of Master Ford's house disguised as a woman

that these people are like my family and I have to push through. Sometimes we have bad days. But we have to deal with it to get to the things important in our lives," Rodney "RC" Capell said.

"We meet as a group," Antwan Williams added. "There's so much that we do that we have to lean on each other. We catch each other when we're about to fall. It's an amazing feeling."

Padgett explained his process for getting into character this way: "It's different every time; this time it was something that I felt as I rehearsed on the yard, in the cell, at work. It was a hiccup. And then it kept evolving. I felt it in my heart, and then the character takes on, and then I just become."

"We chose this play because it allowed the men to take on vibrant characters," Keating said. "We did a lot of work on what makes things funny. We worked on trust, especially for Eddie, this has been a stretch."

"I want to thank everyone for being supportive. It was a challenge for me," Eddie Rajapathis replied.

The female parts were played by Lynn, as Mistress Page, Rebecca as Mistress Page's daughter and Marianne as Mistress Ford.

San Quentin Prison Report used three cameras to film the

play: Ruben Ramirez, front stationary, E. "Phil" Phillips, right stationary and Brian Asey, mobile hand-held.

The Marin Shakespeare Company used a single camera, center stage.



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Joey Mason playing a woman mistress



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Rodney "RC" Capell as Rugby and Carlos Meza as Dr. Caius prepares to leave for a dinner party

Alliance for CHANGE Honors 16 Participants for Their Accomplishments

Continued from Page 1

they watched another group of San Quentin inmates walk to the podium, receive their certificates and share a personal comment about other class participants. For Dr. Lovaas, "It's a labor of love."

It was from these personal comments that the audience came to appreciate the hard work and personal development of these individuals. They undertook and completed a very challenging social justice curriculum taught by the Alliance for Change's Education Department.

Their personal relationships were shared by short stories on



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Micheal Lain

how men of different ethnicities and backgrounds experienced something special in the class together. Charlie Spence, co-education leader, said, "Diversification is the platform of the Alliance for Change."

"Our emphasis is to empower the participant to engage with others and his community. We believe a diverse background bonds relationships," the co-leader said.

Another co-education leader spoke about one participant who was having difficulty with the study materials. He told the audience, "I am proud of them because they were the first group of guys who worked together outside of the

class. This attitude resonated throughout this class," Chris Deragon said.

To show appreciation for their commitment, dedication and hard work, the Alliance for Change leadership selected four individuals for special awards. They were:

Special Award recipients — Sonny Nguyen and Jose Vieyra

High Honor Award recipient — Cedrick Walter

Accommodation High Excellent recipient — Michael Lane

In her closing remarks to the class, Richman told them to, "Go into the world and do well."

—By Charles David Henry



Photo by Sam Hearnes

Jose Vieyra

U.S. Department of Justice Reveals Decline In Domestic Violence From 1994-2011

By Charles David Henry
Staff Writer

There has been a sharp decline in violence between intimate partners, according to a federal analysis.

"From 1994 to 2011, the rate of serious intimate partner violence declined 72 percent for females and 64 percent for males," said the November 2013 report from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Statistics from a National Crime Victimization study were compiled on persons age 12 or older from a national sample of U.S. households.

According to the study, "Serious violence against fe-

males accounted for a similar percentage of intimate partner violence (35 percent) and non-intimate violence (34 percent)."

PHYSICAL ATTACK

In addition, an estimated two-thirds of female and male intimate partners' victimizations involved a physical attack between 2002 and 2011. The remaining third involved an attempted attack or verbal threat of harm.

During the 10-year period, eight percent of female intimate partner victimizations involved some form of sexual violence during the incident.

The study shows about four

percent of females and eight percent of males were "shot at, stabbed or hit with a weapon" between 2002 and 2011.

"During the most recent 10-year period (2002-11), aggravated assault accounted for the largest percentage of serious intimate partner violence experienced by females (16 percent), while rape or sexual assault (10 percent) and robbery (nine percent) contributed a similar percentage," the study said.

The study also found "Serious violent crime accounted for 39 percent of intimate partner violence committed against males. As for females, aggravated assault (22 per-

cent) accounted for the largest percentage of serious intimate partner violence against males. However, 16 percent of intimate violence against males was comprised of robbery, while rape or sexual assault accounted for the smallest percentage of intimate partner violence experienced by males (about 1 percent)."

STATISTICS

Statistics in the study confirm 27 percent of male's intimate partner victimization act of violence involved the use of a weapon compared to 18 percent for females.

In that same 10-year period, an object held in the hand of or thrown by an intimate partner accounted for five percent of female victimized and 19 percent of the males.

The study shows 50 percent of the females victimized by an intimate partner suffered some type of injury throughout this 10-year period, compared to 44 percent for males.

"From 2002 to 2011, a greater percentage of female (13 percent) than male (five percent) intimate partner victimizations resulted in a serious injury such as internal injury, unconsciousness or broken bones," the study revealed.

It was also reported, "An average of 18 percent of females and 11 percent of males were medically treated for injury sustained during intimate partner violent victimization during 2002-2011."

"Of the 3,032 homicide incidents involving females in 2010 39 percent were committed by an intimate, 37 percent were committed by a non-intimate and 24 percent by an unknown offender."

The majority of homicides recorded by the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report involved male victims. A larger percentage of females than males were murdered by an intimate partner when the offender relationship was known.

In 2010, a reported 10,878 homicides involved males. Statistics show three percent of those murders were committed by an intimate partner, 48 percent by a non-intimate.

Figures in the study show an unknown assailant committed 50 percent of those homicides.

A larger percentage of females were physically attacked when victimized by an intimate partner (67 percent) than by a non-intimate offender (40 percent).

Asked On The Line

Prisoners Respond to Officer Who Saved Inmate's Life

By Angelo Falcone
Journalism Guild Writer

The month of August has interesting celebrations. According to the World Almanac, August is Black Business Month, Happiness Happens Month, National Immunization Awareness Month and National Toddler Month.

These special designations call to mind the men and women who are true heroes in the community. They take care of business. In their pursuit of happiness, those who are parents make sure their toddlers are immunized. Then there are those who go beyond duty to do what is right.

Earlier this year a corrections officer saved an inmate's life on the lower yard. After approaching the inmate, who had collapsed, he called for medical assistance over his radio, as is likely the protocol. Thereafter, he made the courageous decision to check on the fallen man's pulse and found none. He could have waited for the medics to arrive; instead, he chose to administer CPR. He consequently saved the man's life.

Asked On the Line conducted random informal interviews with men on the mainline and asked, "How do you feel about the incident where the C.O. saved an inmate's life on the lower yard? How do you feel about the officer's actions? If that fallen man had been you, how would you feel?"

Many of the men thought that the officer should be commended for his courageous decision.

Kevin Valvardi said, "I was very glad to hear the news about that. I read about it, too. I hadn't heard of anything like that in over 17 years. The last time I heard something like that was in Calipatria sometime in 1997."

Raymond Bodine said, "I

think it's great. I would like to thank the officer. What he did was commendable."

Scott Balestrieri said, "I think that is wonderful. Something like that happened to me, too. Officer Jones saved me in the plaza area. That was highly professional, outstanding, and remarkable. Thank you Officer Jones."

Adriel Ortiz said, "I feel pretty good about it actually. At first, I didn't know him, but when I saw him working on the inmate, I was surprised. I was down there and saw the whole thing. As far as that officer, my attitude has changed. I have much more respect for him now."

"That kind of act of kindness in a place where there is so much hostility, coldness and stress"

Orlando Harris said, "He did his job, and he did it well. That is commendable. I think the fact that he was able to show some compassion and humanity, despite him being in green and an inmate in blue, he saved a human being."

Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla said, "I was there. I was at the equipment box ready to play baseball. I told the officer to 'look over there' where a guy collapsed and fell backward. Actually, I felt good about the situation. The officer walked over and called on his mic and called Med 1 and then he started CPR. He worked hard and vigorously to bring this guy back. It looked like he worked on the guy for like 20 minutes.

He didn't stop working on the man. He was pushing and pushing and the officer was drenched in sweat. I knew who the inmate was from a veteran's group. At first, I didn't think he was coming back, but the officer brought him back. It was a crazy afternoon."

Jesus Flores said, "I couldn't believe it, an officer was saving an inmates' life. I was too far away on the yard to see who went down, but I did see an officer trying to revive him. That officer is a hero."

Larry Gomez said, "I think it was a profound thing to see. That kind of act of kindness in a place where there is so much hostility, coldness and stress. I know the officers work a lot, and inmates are stressed out about being here and yet one man saved another man's life. We get caught up in our situation. There are greater things in life. People can become insensitive, but even in here, we can become sensitive people. That officer didn't have to save him, but he did."

Tommy Ross said, "Well, I witnessed it. I actually thought he was gone. The officer was persistent in pumping the man's chest until the medical team arrived. He's a by-the-book officer, and to see him revive a man with no hesitation made me see him in a whole new light. I remember that when we saw that the man was alive and was moving, we clapped for the officer. He didn't have to do it. If that inmate had been me, I would have been grateful. It was a good thing. No class distinction got in the way."

Jose Diaz said, "Para mi fue una buena obra. Salvo la vida de un ser humano. Yo lo miro a ese oficial como una Buena persona. Estoy agradecido por el." [For me it was a good work. I see the officer as a good person. I am grateful for him.]

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- Limit your articles to no more than 350 words.
- Know that articles will be edited for content and length.
- The newspaper is not a medium to file grievances. (For that, use the prison appeals process.) We encourage submitting articles that are newsworthy and encompass issues that will have an impact on the prison populace.
- Please do not use offensive language in your submissions.
- Poems and art work (cartoons and drawings) are welcomed.
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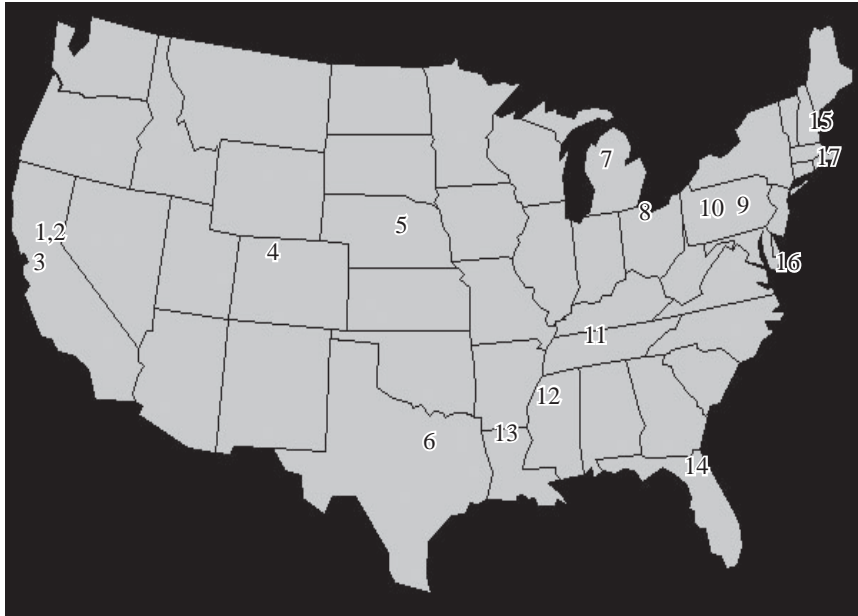
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News Briefs



1. Sacramento — California prison officials plan to build a mental health unit for condemned inmates at San Quentin State Prison. This is in response to a federal court order that mentally ill inmates on Death Row lack proper treatment, according to court documents, *The Associated Press* reports.

2. Sacramento — Arts programs will be boosted by \$2.5 million in 14 state prisons, the California Arts Council and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation told *The Associated Press*. Among the programs there will be several that help inmates express themselves through acting.

3. San Francisco — San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi says he will lower phone charges for detainees in the city's jail. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reports that a 15-minute call within the county costs \$4.45 and a call elsewhere in California \$13.35.

4. Denver—Colorado will no longer place mentally ill inmates in solitary confinement, *The Associated Press* reports. A new law prohibits (with some exceptions) prison officials from placing inmates with serious mental illness in long-term solitary confinement.

5. Lincoln—Nebraska inmates are saving the state \$28,000 a year by growing their own produce, *The Associated Press* reports. They cultivate tomato, pepper, onion, radish, sweet corn and potato plants in their 20-acre vegetable garden. Corrections officials say they might expand the program to other state prisons.

6. Dallas — Johnnie Lindsey, 61, spent 26 years in prison for a rape he did not commit. He was exonerated in 2008. Lindsey was awarded \$2.2 million for his wrongful conviction, according to *The Dallas Morning News*.

7. Michigan — A report by The Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency revealed that 60 percent of 17-year-olds charged as adults had nonviolent offenses and 58 percent had no prior juvenile record. The report arrives in the midst of a public debate about how much the

state spends on corrections and whether the state's get-tough approach to juvenile crime is working, reports *The Detroit News*.

8. Ohio —The number of identified gang-involved inmates in Ohio is declining. As of January, 8,171 inmates were identified as members of a prison gang or "security threat group," according to a Correctional Institution Inspection Committee report. This is down about 13 percent since 2012. Prison officials attributed this drop-off to "more stringent profiling criteria and diligence of staff at all levels," Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction spokesman Scott Flowers told *The News Messenger*.

Erie, Pa. —It will cost the Pennsylvania department of Corrections \$250,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by the daughter of an inmate killed by his cellmate in 2012, according to *The Erie Times-News*. Carla Davis-Vining said corrections officials made a grievous error by placing the cellmate with paranoid schizophrenia in the same cell with her father.

9. Harrisburg, Pa. —The state

has instituted a hiring freeze at Pennsylvania's prisons to save money, and the corrections officers' union said that such a step increases the safety risks for a skeleton prison workforce if it drags on for much longer. The hiring freeze is solely to save money, and it is the first step in dealing with tight finances resulting from the state's growing budget shortfall, *The Associated Press* reports.

10. Chattanooga, Tenn. — A new Tennessee law helps jobs applicants with a criminal past to gain employment. The Tennessee Negligent Hiring and Retention law allows employers to hire an ex-offender who has received a "certificate of employability" after paying his or her debt to society. In return, employers would be protected from liability suits if the ex-offender with a violent past assaults a fellow co-worker.

11. Montgomery, Ala. — Two advocacy groups have filed a lawsuit against the Alabama prison system, claiming the state is failing to provide basic medical and mental health care to inmates. The lawsuit alleges

that medical and mental health conditions have gone untreated. One inmate had a foot amputated because of untreated gangrene and another died from prostate cancer despite tests identifying rising cancer-marker levels, according to the lawsuit.

12. Louisiana — Gov. Bobby Jindal is reportedly considering a veto of legislation to reduce the state's nation-leading incarceration rate. Some say it goes the furthest of any bill passed by the Louisiana Legislature during its recent session. The legislation reduces the minimum amount of time violent offenders must serve — from 85 to 75 percent of their sentence — before becoming parole eligible. The legislation also requires only a majority vote from the parole board, rather than a unanimous one, reports *nola.com*.

13. Tallahassee, Fla. — Florida state officials have agreed to sell off four closed prisons as part of a series of land deals that will bring in more than \$27 million to the state's environmental land-buying program. Gov. Rick Scott and three members of the state Cabinet unanimously ap-

proved the sale of more than 1,500 acres spread throughout Central and South Florida. The four prisons were shuttered during a round of prison consolidations and budget cuts that happened shortly after Scott came into office, *The Associated Press* reports.

14. Boston — The highest court in Massachusetts has ruled that lifetime community parole supervision for sex offenders is unconstitutional, finding that only judges can impose additional jail time on offenders who have completed their original sentence. Currently, the state Parole Board can sentence sex offenders to additional terms of incarceration if they violate the terms of what is called community parole supervision for life. The Supreme Judicial Court said that the current law violates the state Constitution, *The Associated Press* reports.

15. Washington, D.C. — In an effort to provide employment, training and support services to successfully re-integrate formerly incarcerated adults and youth involved in the juvenile justice system into their communities, the U.S. Department of Labor announced the award of \$74 million in grants to 37 community service organizations. Grantees are expected to provide a range of services that includes case management, mentoring, education and training that leads to industry-recognized credentials, a U.S. Department of Labor press release states.

16. New York — Settlement for five men wrongly convicted in the Central Park jogger case is "prudent" 25 years later. The five settled for a reported \$40 million. The city's comptroller signed off on a settlement with the so-called Central Park Five, who were wrongly jailed for a sensational 1989 crime that led to what critics called a racially charged rush to judgment. All five of the men, who were teenagers when they were arrested, were exonerated in the rape and assault of a woman. They all served lengthy prison terms after being convicted in jury trials of charges ranging from sexual abuse to attempted murder, reports the *Los Angeles Times*.

New Japanese Prison Is a Model for U.S. Institutions

'It helps inmates take responsibility for their actions and encourages giving back to society'

By Wesley Eisiminger
Journalism Guild Writer

Japan has opened a new model prison designed to enhance rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.

The Shimane Asahi prison is an important case study for the United States because it represents an additional and less frequently considered path, according to researcher Paul Leighton.

This creation is an experimental space for a new model of incarceration, Leighton wrote in the Justice Policy Journal. He is a professor in

the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology at Eastern Michigan University.

Leighton visited the new prison called the Shimane Asahi Rehabilitation Center in Japan.

EXPERIMENT

His report provides a background on the prison and Japan's experiment with privatizing "social infrastructure."

The United States was once a destination country for anyone interested in penal innovation, Leighton said. Now it is a country with the largest

per capita incarcerated population, he added.

The philosophy behind Shimane Asahi is based on three pillars. The first is public-private cooperation. This is expected to bring cost savings and innovation. The second is preventing recidivism with various educational, vocational and rehabilitative activities. For example, it has a program to train guide dogs for the blind. The third is a facility that is "co-built" with the local community and places a great importance on "building together" with the local region.

The report says the three pil-

lars create a therapeutic community that connects people and teaches "humanity." It helps inmates take responsibility for their actions and encourages giving back to society, while making them aware of values and patterns that lead to crime and fostering change.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

The facility uses new technology for tracking, scanners and automated food delivery. It also uses "sniffer" or "puffer" machines like those airports use to detect explosives but modified to search

for drugs. A full-body scanner allows staff to screen for contraband without touching the inmates and avoids strip searches or invasive body cavity searches.

They also tag inmates clothing so a "location info system" reveals where an inmate is at all times. It's intended to eliminate the need for guards to escort prisoners.

Leighton concludes the Japanese facility should not be blindly copied, but it should bring attention to problems with warehouse prisons and should inspire American plans for the future.

East All-Stars Power Past West, 108-107

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

This wasn't your typical All-Star event where everyone takes it easy; both teams in the Intramural Basketball All-Star game were out to win. The East closed out the contest, 108-107, after the West's Harry "ATL" Smith sank a three-pointer a moment too late.

"I wanted to win," said Michael Franklin of the West.

"The game could have gone either way," said East coach Orlando Harris.

"We the best of the best out here," said Oris "Pep" Williams.

The East team included Maurice Hanks, Williams, Alias Jones, DuPriest Brown, Allan McIntosh, Antonio

SPORTS

"Boobie" Cavitt, Jay Brown, Jamal Green, Brian Asey, Lomack, Aubra-Lamont McNelly and Darryl Ferris.

The West consisted of H. Smith, Marcus Cosby, Franklin, Donte Smith, Junior Roberts, Michael Tercero, Charles Sylvester, Terrell Sterling, Erick Nelson, Ed Quinn and Kenneth Dozier. Aaron Taylor coached the West.

The game went back and fourth in the fourth quarter with missed free throws and fouls costing each team. H. Smith tied the game at 97 all by making one from the line. Hanks was fouled going the other way, but missed both

free throws. His teammate Jones got the rebound and gave Hanks the ball, but Nelson fouled Hanks, who missed both free throws again.

Hanks made up for going 0-4 in a row from the line by hitting a three-pointer, putting his team up 100-97.

Dozier tried to tie the score with a three that was off the mark, but Franklin rebounded the ball and put it in -100-99. Cavitt and Reese scored for the East with back-to-back baskets, increasing to 104-99.

Then H. Smith responded with a strong move to the rack, making the score 104-

101.

A few plays later, Cavitt was bringing the ball down court when Franklin dugged him in the backcourt. Franklin dribbled to the hole and went up for a layup when Cavitt pulled him down to stop the easy basket. The refs called it a flagrant two foul and gave the East two free throws and the ball. Franklin hit both.

H. Smith was fouled going to the rack. He made the basket, but it didn't count. Smith tied the score from the line, but failed to take the lead — 105-105.

H. Smith fouled McIntosh, who only hit one free throw with 13 seconds left.

With five seconds left, H. Smith drew the defense, then kicked the ball out to Cosby at the free throw line, who hit the short jumper — West 107-106.

With two seconds left, the East went to sharpshooter Williams, who was celebrating his 53rd birthday that July 5. Williams went up for the three, but was fouled by Nelson.

"If he didn't foul me that was going in; all bottoms," said Williams post game.

Williams made two of three

free throws, putting the East up 108-107.

"We did good. We made a foul that wasn't supposed to be made. It sent Pep to the line, and he's Mr. Clutch — he made the free-throws for his team," said Franklin.

The West got the rebound and called time out with two seconds left. The ball was in-bounded to H. Smith, who dribbled the ball twice, went up and hit the three-pointer that would have won the game if it were in time.

Hanks led his team as MVP with 30 points, 12 boards, two assists and a block. Williams had 23 with 12 rebounds, an assist and a steal. McIntosh added 19 with six boards, three assists and two steals.

For the West, the first half was the Mike and Mike show. Franklin led all scorers with 35 points, 17 rebounds, an assist and two steals. He was Co-MVP with Hanks. Tercero posted 10 points, eight rebounds, an assist and two steals, but he fouled out early in the fourth quarter. H. Smith added 11 with 12 boards, seven assists and a steal.

"I really wasn't expecting to make the All-Star team, but I really did," said Tercero.

Gold Medalist Eddie Hart Returns to San Quentin

By **Harun Taylor**
Sports Writer

"We have a responsibility to give back in any way that we can," 1972 Olympian Eddie Hart told a group of San Quentin runners. He also gave running tips and shared his experience during his return visit to The Q.

"No matter the situation, you can overcome it. Moreover, to help others with that experience, you should want to help," Hart added.

Hart started the All-in-One Foundation 11 years ago. It focuses on neighborhood kids and at-risk youth, teaching them job skills and training, as well as taking them on field trips.

Hart fielded numerous questions from the group, covering subjects from running techniques to performance-enhancing drugs, to suggestions on how to return to your community and start nonprofit groups like his All-in-One Foundation.

Christopher Markham, San Quentin All-Madden Flag Football team assistant coach, asked Hart to share insights on creating youth athletic groups.

"You want to connect with an organization and even think about starting a nonprofit because it's going to be about the dollars. You want to look at doing fund-raisers, seeking grants, as well as donations."

Hart added, "I like your question because you have — not just a duty — an obligation. You have an experience that you can share. That experience is important and valuable to children, especially where we come from."

Thousand Mile coach Kevin Rumon added, "You should surround yourself with people that can help with skill sets when it comes to fundraising and donations. Get good, quality help."

As for his foundation's success, Hart smiled and said, "Eighty-seven percent of my athletes have gone from a two-year to a four-year school. All

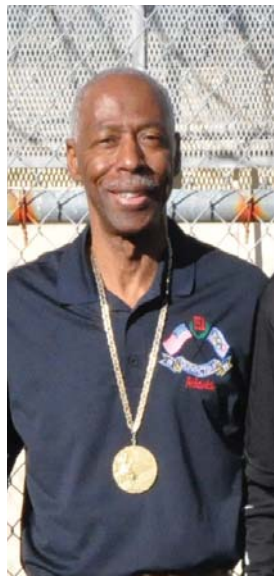


Photo by Sam Hearn

Eddie Hart

my kids get an offer of either financial assistance to a full ride. There is nothing more rewarding than helping kids — nothing," he said.

"No matter the situation, you can overcome it. Moreover, to help others with that experience, you should want to help"

Hart earned a physical education degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He also studied kinesiology, biomechanics and exercise physiology.

Hart demonstrated physical movements relating to sprinting versus long distance running and advised the 1000 Miler Club members on long-term health issues.

"The human body was made to move in a certain way," said Hart, speaking on the technique of running. "It's locomotion. To move forward, you have to have force moving in the opposite direction."

"Heel first is wrong when it comes to running. The ankle is designed as a shock absorber. In long distance running, you want to land toe first, a little more on the ball of the foot, yet leaning forward," Hart demonstrated for the group at the July 11 event.

Regarding performance-enhancing drugs, Hart stated, "Drugs were never really an issue in the '70s; technique was the prime focus. Aminos aren't like performance-enhancing drugs. Aminos are protein. Egg whites are the best protein. Second to egg whites is non-fat milk."

As for the state of track and field in America, Hart said, "Track and field is not that big of a deal in the United States. Even golf beats out track and field in the U.S.," he added.

"When I was 13, I wanted to be an Olympian. To do that, I had to have good grades. So, to follow my dream also helped me focus on getting a good education. I went to Cal Berkeley due to having good grades."

In the 1972 Berlin Olympics, Hart made international news when he missed his qualifying race for the 110-meter race, something that he began training for at age 13.

A mix-up in the scheduling cost him his opportunity to represent the U.S. in that race; however, Hart didn't have time to grieve. He won a gold medal in the 4x100 relay race.

"Missing that race was the number one news story in the world. It was also the biggest struggle and obstacle I had faced in my life. It was the most pain I had ever dealt with. It felt like a parent losing a child that they had raised for 10 years," Hart stated. "As a result, I grew from that experience. I learned to deal with adversity."

Hardtimers Defeat Christian Sports Ministry, 12-7

Christian Sports Ministry softball team lost 12-7 to the San Quentin Hardtimers, but its religious message was a winner.

"It is a treat for us to be able to fellowship in this way," said Rigo Lopez, who gave an inspirational post-game talk and led both teams and the umpires in prayer. He used scent to make his point, "Sniff the guy next to you, and tell him he stinks. I stank up third base with all those errors. Does your aroma match your walk with Christ?"

Lopez kept his team in the game, hitting doubles in the first and fourth inning and a two-run homer that landed on the ARC building's roof and tied the score at 7-7 in the sixth.

The Hardtimers took off in the seventh, but CSM didn't bring in any more runs. Hardtimer pitcher Isiah Daniels hit a single, and then stole second on an error. Ke Lam hit a pop fly that was snagged in the outfield, but it allowed Daniels to take third.

Daniels' teammates told him to slide, even though he didn't need to.

"My teammates were yelling 'slide'. I fell. I looked like a throw pillow coming in there," joked Daniels.

Juan Sandoval walked, putting men on first and third. John Windham blasted a double into the outfield that gave the Hardtimers the lead at 8-7. An over-throw allowed Windham and Sandoval to take home, making the score 10-7. The inning ended without any more runs

scored.

"I ran out of my shoe going for home," remarked Windham.

In the eighth, Hardtimer Michael "Hawkeye" Fleming got on first on a bobbled catch error. Antonio Cavitt advanced him with a single. Cory Woods loaded the bases when he hit a single into the gap.

Daniels hit a long fly that was caught but allowed Fleming to come in, increasing the lead to 11-7. Eric Post hit a one RBI single that gave the Hardtimers the final score of 12-7.

Win or lose, "either way we are having fun," said Lopez.

The game had a scary moment in the fifth inning. CSM sponsor Don Smith, who was playing catcher, was hit in the head with the ball when he stretched to catch a throw from third to tag out a runner.

"I tried to bring the ball down to make the tag before it was fully in my glove. We could have won the game if we had a better catcher," joked Smith.

"He's the most humble man I know," said Lopez.

"The world needs more people like Don," said S.Q. Warriors coach Daniel Wright, who watched the game.

The star of the game was Daniels. "He struck out six people, three while they were looking. That never happens in slow pitch," said Hardtimers coach Bob about the June 22 game.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

Kirk Lacob Aids Visitors in Two Basketball Wins

By **Rahsaan Thomas**
Sports Editor

Pro basketball executive Kirk Lacob showed his skills on the San Quentin court, helping Christian Ministry to victories over the S.Q. Warriors and Kings. The Green Team defeated the Warriors, 86-82, and the Kings, 63-56.

Lacob is Golden State's assistant general manager and son of the team's owner. He returned to San Quentin to play in a Christian Sports Ministries double-header June 21.

It was Lacob's first time in with the Green Team this year. "It's good to be back," said Lacob, who loves playing basketball in San Quentin. Last year he came the day before Father's Day with his brothers and their father, Joe Lacob. They won the game for their dad.

"Ben Draa brought me in, and I've kept coming back. It's fun playing basketball with family and guys who love basketball. I can't think of anything better to do," said Lacob.

In the Kings game, the Green Team overcame a 16-9 deficit in the first quarter to take the lead in the second and never looked back.

Ross Pusey's hot shooting and Lacob's gritty play led them to victory. Pusey got hot from three-point land, making six of eight. He finished with 24 points, six steals, four rebounds and two assists. Pusey played for San Jose City College under Speed City coach Percy Carr.

Lacob played tough, getting up from the ground seven times in both games. "I dived on some of those. Yo, it hurt; the ground is hard," joked Lacob. He was his team's second leading scorer with 14 points, four steals, three assists and one rebound.



Kirk Lacob going up for a rebound, Harry Smith trying to take it

"That's just a regular prison foul. Clotheslines are legal in prison," joked S.Q. play-by-play announcer Aaron Taylor as Lacob was fouled going for a layup.

"It was my coaching strategy that won the game; don't put me in," clowned Green Team coach/player Draa, who limited his own minutes. They beat the Kings without the Claremont-McKenna Connection: Chris Blees, an All-American in his college days; Patrick Lacey; and Matt Richardson. They only played in the Warriors game.

In the game against the S.Q. Warriors, the Green Team came back from being down 51-31 at the half that ended with a buzzer-beater from three-point land hit by Warrior Harry "ATL" Smith. The Warriors came out with great energy and got off to an early jump. The 5-foot-11 S.Q. Warrior DuPriest Brown ignited the crowd and his team

by grabbing a rebound from above the rim then jamming it down.

"He posterized 'Low Post' Lacey," said Taylor.

Then the Green Team changed its defensive scheme. "Pack in



Ross Pusey, Ben Ilegbodou and Lacob in huddle

the zone. They have no shooters," said Pusey in a huddle.

Blees led the Green Team's comeback. He finished with 30 points and 10 rebounds, an assist and two steals. Lacob added

seven points.

However, it was Richardson who stole the game from the Warriors. With the Green Team up 83-82 on a reverse layup hit by Ben Ilegbodou, the Warriors were inbounding the ball when Richardson stole it with 1:31 left on the clock.

With the score stuck on 83-82, the Green Team with the ball and 24 seconds left, the Warriors intentionally fouled Ilegbodou. He missed both free throws.

Brown missed a layup at the rim with seven seconds left, and Blees snatched the rebound. Blees was fouled intentionally to stop the clock and hit one of two attempts, making the score 84-82.

Warrior Allan McIntosh made a lazy inbound pass that Richardson stole and immediately passed to Antoine "Mad Max" Maddox, who slam-dunked the ball. That torpedoed the Warriors' chances of coming back. Richardson finished with 11 points, three rebounds, five

assists and five steals. Maddox added 15 points, five rebounds, an assist, a steal and a block.

"I look at the eyes. Then I give them enough space to think they have something. Then I pounce," said Richardson about his ability to make timely steals.

"We lost the game on turnovers and no defense. We're going to have to learn to play defense both halves," said Warriors coach Daniel Wright.

"It was a coaching victory. I let them coach themselves the first half. Second half, I coached," joked Epling.

Despite losing, three Warriors had double-doubles. Smith scored 26 with 13 boards, McIntosh added 17 and 10 and Ammons had 13 and 10.

A couple of San Quentin residents heckled Lacob during his return to San Quentin about firing Mark Jackson.

"You messed up and fired Mark Jackson. Now all Golden State fans across the world are going to be sad because of you," heckled inmate Ceasar "C-Money" McDowell, who is a huge S.Q. Warriors fan.

Kirk Lacob handled the comment well. "You guys told me to fire him," he joked, referring to when Lacob brought Jackson into San Quentin, among others, to play basketball and give encouraging words. The S.Q. Warriors fans teased Jackson then. The G.S. Warriors organization defeated the S.Q. Warriors 134-119 in the Sept. 20 game.

Pusey gave his testimony during halftime in both games. He spoke of growing up poor and finally giving God a chance.

"I'd rather play here than get wins for some coach. This is the game that matters — sowing seeds for God's kingdom and showing brotherly love," said Pusey after the game.

Visiting Suns Top S.Q. Giants, Lose to A's

The visiting Suns baseball team drove from Santa Monica to play a double-header against San Quentin's Giants and A's. They defeated the Giants, 4-3, and lost to the A's, 9-7.

"We are big fans of the program. This is my seventh year coming up," said Bob Sharka, coach and organizer of the Suns.

"He is the biggest supporter in the history of the program," said San Quentin baseball sponsor Elliot Smith.

"Bob is awesome. He always donates a bunch of equipment to us," said John "Yah-ya" Parratt.

The Suns outdid the A's, 10-9, but the A's scored more runs using small ball — stealing bases and advancing runners with bunts.

"Their fundamentals are very good," said Suns second baseman Sanjay Nagarkar. He hit two doubles but was stranded both times.

"We're leaving a lot of men on base," said Vin Disanti, the Suns' right fielder.

The Suns chased the A's for most of the game. In the bottom of the fifth, the A's led 4-1 and improved to 6-1 when Ruben Harper hit a grounder to mid-field that Nagarkar snagged, but fell when he tried to throw. That

allowed Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla to take home and Cleo Cloman to advance. Cloman stole home on the next play.

Anthony Denard followed with a double, then stole third; however, the inning ended when John Windham struck out.

After Thompson-Bonilla pitched five innings without his broken glasses, Cloman replaced him on the mound.

"His glasses snapped in warm-up. He pitched without them," said A's Coach Kevin O'Connell.

The Suns came back in the top of the seventh. With the bases loaded, Sun Will "Bubba" Brown banged a grand slam over the razor-wire fence that gave his team a 7-6 lead.

Then Brown replaced his brother Andy at the mound and things went all bad. "We took the lead, then I came in to pitch and gave up three runs," admitted Brown.

Denard put the A's back on top with a double that brought in Harper, Bilal Coleman and Robert Townes, making the score 9-7. The Suns failed to score in the last inning, giving Thompson-Bonilla the win and Cloman the save.

"It felt good to actually help my team in that situation be-



A's Isaiah Thompson-Bonilla at bat against the Suns

cause all the other times I didn't come through for them," said Denard.

The second game came down to pitching and involved a controversial call at the plate. Each pitcher only gave up three hits. "It was a straight-out pitcher's duel," said Giants first baseman Michael Panella.

In the seventh inning, Giants catcher Mike Tyler tried to keep Sun Dan Greenberg from advancing by throwing toward second, but the ball ended up in the outfield. Greenberg stole second, rounded third and head-

ed for home. Tyler made the catch, blocked home plate and made the tag. Greenberg was called out. However, the umpires huddled and decided he was safe because it's illegal to block home plate. The run was counted, giving the Suns a 4-2 lead.

"It was a fouled-up call," said inmate Trevor Bird.

The Suns were short two players for the second game, so they picked up S.Q. Giants sponsor/coach Mike Deeble and Greenberg from the Oaks squad.

"It's awesome playing against

my team. I hope they lose, because I want to win. I'm a competitor. The better the competition, the better they will get," said Deeble.

Giant Jeff "Dewey" Dumont held the Suns scoreless until the fifth inning, when his arm got away from him. He walked two Suns in a row, then hit one with a pitch, loading the bases. Then he hit Deeble with a pitch, pushing in a run. Ray Mars knocked the ball to the infield for a fielder's choice throw out at second, but allowed a run to come in, giving the Suns a 3-1 lead. Dumont got out of the inning when Sun Zach Mann grounded to third and was thrown out at first.

The Giants coaches left Dumont on the mound, and he settled down. He went on to strike out six batters. The Suns scored their fourth run on an error and the disputed home-plate call.

The Giants mounted a comeback try in the top of the eighth. It started with a single by Dumont, who stole second. Then Panella belted a 4-3 ground out to advance Dumont to third. Another hit by Tyler brought in Dumont, making the score 4-3. No other Giants scored, leaving the Suns on top of the June 21 game.

—By **Rahsaan Thomas**

COUPLES WED IN SAN QUENTIN

By Juan Haines
Managing Editor

Flag Day brought happiness to seven couples in San Quentin State Prison, including one bride who traveled more than 6,000 miles to take her wedding vows.

"After a long search, I found my soulmate," said Sylvie Jackson, who flew from Germany to marry Bailey Jackson, 43. Jackson has been on San Quentin's Death Row since 2005. "I feel like I just got released from Death Row," he said. "I feel free."

A correctional officer, Sgt. Lewis, performed the seven weddings. Warden's Executive Assistant Christine Remillard assisted Sgt. Lewis. "A lot of people wanted to get married today," said Remillard. "If we did them all, it would have taken too long. So, we had to schedule the rest of them for August."

San Quentin's visiting room also serves as the wedding chapel for inmates and their brides. Inmate John Vernacchio said he's taken pictures at more than three dozen weddings in the year and a half that he's been the visiting room cameraman.

"On days when there are



Hampton took their vows, acknowledging that marriage "is not looking for perfection in each other. It is cultivating flexibility, patience, understanding and a sense of humor." As part of his pledge, Michael Hampton said, "You're the best thing that's happened in my life."

"Marriage is a once-in-a-lifetime special and unique opportunity to share your love and life with the most special person you'll ever meet during your time on this planet,"

Christopher Bell Jr. and Teonna Bell

weddings, I'm really busy because I also have to take pictures for the regular visitors, too," Vernacchio said. After taking the

wedding photos, he and the couple look at the pictures through the camera's viewfinder, and the new wife picks out the ones she likes.

As part of their vows, Sgt. Lewis invited Troy and Alfiya Williams to proclaim, "This ring I give unto to you as a token of my love," while their friends and family witnessed their joining. "This is such a beautiful day. I'm happy for Troy and Alfiya," said best man, Curtis "Wall Street" Carroll.

Aaron Brock and Pauline Barbour pledged their love with an understanding that "it is not only marrying the right partner, it is marrying and *being* the right partner," according to the vows read by Sgt. Lewis.

Patrick Wright and Clarinda Sanders took their vows as about a half dozen friends and family stood by.

When Andrew Bernard Moss and Marisa Belleci were wed, as part of their marriage

vows they placed a ring on their mate's finger, saying, "This ring being a complete and unbroken circle."

"Marriage is a once-in-a-lifetime special and unique opportunity to share your love and life with the most special person you'll ever meet during your time on this planet," Moss said. "We are blessed to share ours with one another."

Michael and Jacqueline

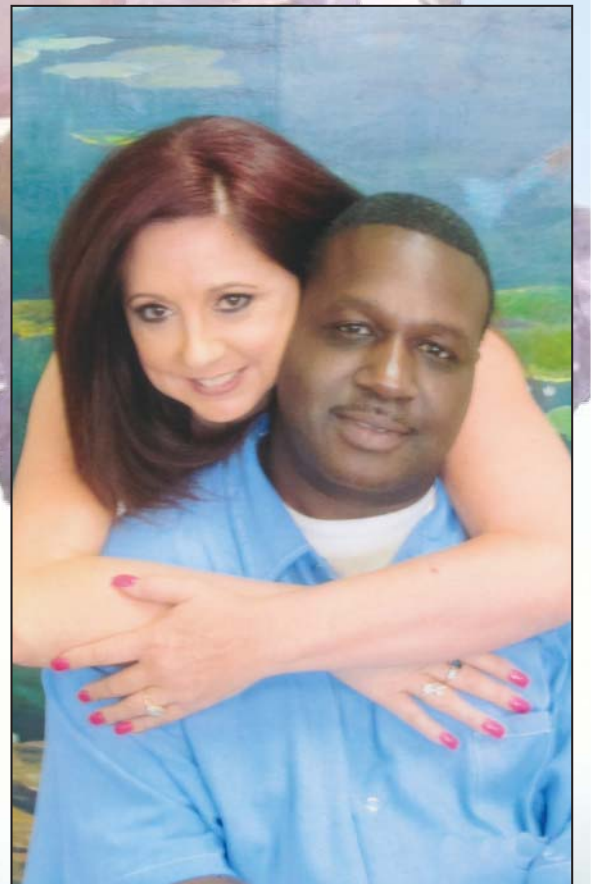
The largest wedding was the last one. More than a dozen witnesses came to see Christopher Bell Jr. and Teonna Brown tie the knot. Jozieh Bell, 5, was the ring bearer.

"The wedding was just a formality," said Teonna. "We've always been one."

Christopher Bell added, "She's my soulmate. I couldn't think of a better way to express that. She was designed by God for me."



Michael and Jacqueline Hampton



Andrew Bernard Moss and Marisa Moss

Website Offers Help to Families of those Incarcerated

A new and free search engine, www.PrisonPath.com, provides information for the public. The site helps users in clarifying confusion and fear of the unknown when a loved one is charged and arrested, or sentenced to imprisonment in the United States. PrisonPath provides information including the ability to find a person incarcerated, visitation rules, contact numbers, and more about every American prisons or jails. It also allows families and friends of inmates to communicate with each other on a specific page.