MULE CREEK POST

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UNLOCKING HISTORY
The prison system's mission has grown from punishment to rehabilitation
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GOVERNOR BROWN'S COMMUTATIONS
The outgoing governor focuses on LWOP inmates in his commutations
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Issue 12 Calendar — Christmas 2018 — Population: 3,373

To Our Readers

By E. Kevin Kelly
Editor-in-Chief

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We made it all the way to 2019, no small feat, and we look forward to another exciting and successful year.

With that in mind, we have dedicated this January issue to success and its pursuit. Whether in educational achievement, group participation, personal self-help, relationships, familial harmony, financial or career aspirations, spirituality, self-awareness, or self-transformation, success is a cross-letter word we can all support.

Dr. Jane Foster's anthology series begins this month, Lead Reporter P. Lee introduces us to the Prison program, which has benefits beyond those walls; Bob Fox Hiller "Financial Corner" tips us on stocks to watch for the coming year; and Copy Editor Al Rio interviews Michael Bird to inform us how we can deal with past trauma and go on to lead productive lives.

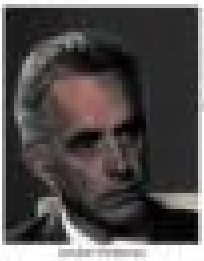
We'll bring you the Mule Creek Post "12 Steps to Success Formula," inspired by author Jordan Peterson's 12 Rules For Life bestseller, and show you how to get your own book going in "The 411 You Need."

In addition to all that and in response to overwhelming requests, we discover the origin of the word pardo in "The Wordsmith" (finally).

However any of us may define success in our lives, we look forward to the new year with optimism and hope that good things will come. We want all of our readers much success, and encourage you all to pursue your goals and aspirations with all the determination and fervent talent we know you're capable of. Happy 2019!

Twelve Rules for Life

By Nick Stow
inCIP Contributor



IN AN EXPANSIVE article in Toronto magazine (Mar. 2018), psychologist, author, and internet sensation Jordan Peterson decries the "You're okay the way you are" myth, and tells his readers and listeners, "That's not the right story. The right story is 'You're way less than you could be.'"

He challenges his followers to "take on the heaviest burden that you can bear," to pursue a "voluntary confrontation with the tragedy and malevolence of being," to seek a encounter life spent "at the boundary between chaos and order."

Peterson is filled with frustration that so many need to manage crises someone comes up and exclaims, "Wow, this is really working for me!", because it's simply common wisdom that before need to teach their sons and daughters, things like "stand up straight with your shoulders back, 'train yourself like someone you are responsible for helping, for your house to perfect order before you criticize the world. Pursue what is meaningful (not what is expedient). Tell the truth—or, at least, don't lie.

His *12 Rules for Life* is a best-selling sensation (life in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand, and the long chapters on each of the 12 "rules" are weighted with personal anecdotes, practical advice, and an "idiosyncratic mix of secular humbleism, biblical references, Jungian archetypes, history and science."

JORDAN B. PETERSON

12 RULES FOR LIFE

Peterson is a practicing psychologist and teacher at the University of Toronto, but now that his book is a hit he has taken a sabbatical to spread the word as a bearer of timeless truths, such as: Free speech is an essential value. Protect equality inevitable conflicts with individual freedom. Defer gratification. Face up to the trials of life with equanimity. Take responsibility for your own destiny and Pet a cat when you encounter one on the street.

An intellectual and introverts stubborn overachiever, Peterson's first book, *Maps of Meaning*, took 14 years to write and was adapted into a 13-part series for Canadian television. After being interviewed on Joe Rogan's hugely popular podcast *The Joe Rogan Experience* (with an audience in the tens of millions), Peterson became an instant celebrity, and came was accepting donations in excess of $65,000 per month on the crowd-funding platform Patreon. He is currently raising funding patrons to help bring "procedural online humanities education to as many people as possible."

Many of Peterson's followers say that he gives them a sense of purpose in a world that increasingly defines duty "rational predispositions of risk, adventure, physical challenge, and embodied competition, as maladaptive." They say they needed to hear from a credible source that "though we are fated to die and suffer, and fail, and do harm to ourselves and others, ..., a pathway to a noble life is within reach."

Peterson's wild popularity isn't without controversy, and debates has sparked between academics, students, and factions of liberals and conservatives, some proclaiming him to be a proponent of "postmodern neo-liberalism." But Peterson insists: "There is a way for you to regroup and to rethink yourself and be productive and live a good life. And get your act together and live your life!"

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Prison program participants Kevin Kelly, Jose Ruiz, Jesse Hall, Bobby Lee Hughes

Prisoners Overcoming Obstacles and Creating Hope

By P. Lee
Lead Reporter

THE POOCH PROGRAM has finally arrived on Facility B of Mule Creek State Prison. It started on Facility A two years ago, and then expanded to Facility C. The program is coordinated by Nicole Hughes, and it works with inmates to train service dogs for the Wounded Warrior Project and Children with Autism.

Ron Kern and Lucas Guillen are experienced inmate trainers who came up from Facility C. These men facilitate the "puppies" (inmate trainers) on Facility B. There are five puppies working toward training certification, which is needed before they can work with the puppies. To achieve certification they must complete handling and written tests. "Working with the dogs has taught me patience," stated Kern. "It has helped me to find purpose in doing something positive."

Frank and Shelton are the two golden Labrador puppies recently arrived to Facility B. The brothers were just 12 weeks old when they got here. Liberty, an 11-month-old black Labrador, just arrived in mid-December. Additionally, there are two adult service dogs on Facility B who are already in the midst of training. They also are golden Labradors. It takes about 18 to 24 months for each dog to complete training, that will complete his training in March, and Parker by the end of 2019. After completion, they will await a compatibility match with a new owner. All matches are made through 11A (Canine Caring Canines), a nonprofit organization.

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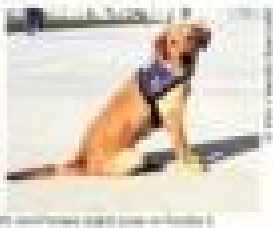

Prison participants Antonio Soto (second from right) pose with Puppies B

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