MULE CREEK POST





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Showing comic book characters is a positive encouragement for writing letters to inmates
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Mule Creek offers student body members to receive construction and woodworking skills
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To Our Readers

by K. Rose Kelly
Editor-in-Chief

HAPPY HALLOWEEN, AND welcome to your October Mule Creek Post. This is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and as "Tales from the Yard" on page 7 columnist Mark Phipps pays homage to his own Dogs who left Yards in the middle classes in early 2011.

Jak Kain reports on the latest closed council session, finding a new, and unwelcome officer show that applied for rescinding our first uniform patches in print.

Visit to graduate our featured cat paper I and 11, as they were on to keeping outside classes. We welcome to new GRADUATE DOG Program Director Ron Castillo, and our new trainer, Patrick Covello. We anticipate a rewarding and fruitful future as they look for both of them.

Jesse Carson and Eduardo Rueda report on the Day of the Dead and Indian Times across the Facility D cross from celebrants and their "Cinco Cinco." Coach Schell tells us about the future of recreation, and new rules C "Cell" Rotary shows how the Victim Awareness Offender's Program has transformed its life.

Augusta special MPF Edition was well received, and we look forward to interesting and informative material and ideas our readers and contributors come up with for future editions.



Inmate Jose Ruiz and Correctional Officer Ron Castillo, Jr. with Ruiz's graduation dog, Mercedes, at Mule Creek State Prison.

July POOCH Graduations at Mule Creek

By K. Kain
Staff Reporter

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2011, seven dogs graduated from the Prisoner Overcoming Obstacles and Creating Hope (POOCH) program at Mule Creek State Prison. The dogs, Tom from Facility C and Sam from Facility D, will be placed in assignments through various agencies.

Inmate Pinales, and Rueda were the three on Facility D. Ron Kraus, one of the dog trainers on Facility D, shared fond memories of the training periods.

"Tom is a goofball, affectionate and sweet," Kraus commented. After C ½ years of training, Tom will spend a summer as part of the Wounded Warrior Project.

"Rueda is spontaneous, high energy, and super loving," said Kraus. In March, Rueda left Mule Creek to enter into the breeding program with Linda Peak of America in collaboration with Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD) in San Diego. Dogs selected for the program need be strong and have a healthy body structure and calm temperament. They are brought to the program once basic assessments for the dog program. Pinales was selected due to her grooming and watchful attitude. She had puppies July 17 and is residing at home.

"Rueda is intelligent, loving, [and] an overall great dog," stated Kraus. Trained on Facility C, Pinales the four, working with a family and only returned to Facility D for the graduation ceremony. The yellow Labrador has been matched to an autistic child after two years in training.

In order to work with an autistic child, Pinales learned several new commands in "human time" as opposed to "dog time." Pinales learned to walk with a secondary leash, which allows the autistic child to feel like he is walking the dog, even though the dog is being led by the primary leash held by the patient. Pinales learned how to "settle" so that the child, especially autistic children, stopped walking when the dog or being overcome by the autistic child, such as by walking into traffic. Last, Pinales learned to "speak," where the dog lays across the child's feet to provide comfort and calming. Rueda was trained to sense these over and automatically alerted to the child's needs.

The two graduates from Facility C were Jose, Gonzales, Inmate and Duke, Jose Pardo's brother, has been in the program for 10 months and will also work with an autistic child. Gonzales, a golden retriever, will serve as a comfort dog in a courthouse. Comfort dogs provide emotional support to traumatized victims when they testify in court. Inmate J. Mark Gilmore, and Duke, a yellow Labrador, graduated but current placement.

This was the second graduating class that took it on Mule Creek. Last year, Ramon Jackson, Amadeo and Howard were the first to complete training. Rueda is currently working in

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The Story of Cancer



by Barbara Akin
Staff Columnist

CHRISTMAS INTO OCTOBER and November, which are Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, respectively, for us the holidays for changes in personal appearance. During this female many officers present money to whispering their actual budgets for gear, since in actual reality during the holiday any member of an endless may choose to forego shaving to celebrate the "Movember" all of us have been touched by

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Inmate Gilmore and dog Duke graduate from the POOCH program with Linda Peak, president of Prisoner Overcoming Obstacles and Creating Hope, and Mule Creek Warden Ron Davis.

Mule Creek State Prison Remembers 9/11

by K. Rose Kelly
Editor-in-Chief

TO HONOR VICTIMS of the 9/11 attack, Mule Creek State Prison administrators and staff assembled on the Central Plaza, Wednesday, September 7. Following color-guard presentation of the flag and a stirring performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Correctional Officer S. Sargent, acting Warden Patrick Covello addressed the gathering with a heartfelt tribute of remembrance to victims and survivors.

Covello made special mention of Correctional Officer Michael Reynolds, a Marine who made the ultimate sacrifice during his second tour of duty in Iraq, whose memorial plaque is prominently displayed in the prison's entrance gates. He noted that Officer Reynolds was the lieutenant during six-week BEST training at Camp Pen Lee, Virginia, and recalled that Reynolds was a source of support and motivation in completing his training there.

September 11, 2011 marks 3,000 innocent people lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard United Flight 93. Port Authority police officers, firefighters and other first responders were lost from the New York Fire and Police Departments, and the Port Authority police.

On that solemn anniversary, everyone present was reverently served their respects, during Chief Deputy Warden Bryan Holmes' closing rendition of "Taps" on the trumpet.

