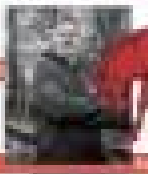
MULE CREEK POST

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SHANE GRANNIER: "ARTIST OF HOPE"
California native inspires nation with images of beauty from tragedy
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FEBRUARY IS LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH
A look at the facility libraries at Mule Creek and Valley State Prisons
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To Our Readers

By E. Rose Avitia
Editor-in-Chief

WELCOME TO YOUR February Mule Creek Post. This month we look forward to meeting Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) President James Elliott at the February 21 education summit and roundtable event, sponsored by the Feather River College chapter, Alpha Pi Zeta, and the Social Justice Practice Innovations Club. The PTK Regional Coordinator, Dr. Jean Patton, professor Anna Thompson, Warden P. Covello and many notable academics and Mule Creek administrators and dignitaries will attend to celebrate and highlight the importance of education in the rehabilitative process.

In this issue, Feature Reporter Bob Day shares the compelling and inspiring story of Brian Resnick, whose faith led to a miraculous overcoming and remission from cancer. We'll Take Out on the origins of Valentine's Day, and how Mule Creekers are managing love and marriage, with reporters A. Rios and T. Lee, and Sean Toal explores some interesting historical facts to celebrate during Black History Month.

Duke Read investigates Governor Newsom's hope to close a California prison, and Rob Hunt outlines new laws in effect for 2015. In "Letter to Corrections" Kathy McHugh lifts spirits reaching out the readers, and Nathan Watkins explores gaming in "Tidbits on Gaming."

We'll look at novel writing and look at journalism in the Writing Pros, and share more information on starting various newspapers.

It's a jam-packed issue, something to accompany your Chef's Table Chat prize recipe from Bar-B Views in Mule Creek's Kitchen. We hope you enjoy.



California Governor Gavin Newsom signing legislation

Governor Wants to Close One Prison

By E. Read
Feature Reporter

"I WOULD LIKE to see in my lifetime and hopefully my tenure, that we shut down a state prison," said California Governor Gavin Newsom to the Fresno Bee editorial board in November. The statement came as part of a broader conversation on criminal justice reform. Matthew Cate, former secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), revealed that while issuing a prison to California for Newsom's tenure, it might be possible over two terms. "By the end of his second [term] I think it could be done, and I think it is something he could rightfully be proud of."

A driving force behind Newsom's goal is that closing a prison would save the state a lot of money. According to the Sacramento Bee, California's correctional system had a 2014-2015 budget of $13.8 billion. By comparison, the state spent $5.4 billion on the University of California and California State University system for the same period.

Although the state has reduced the prison population by 30,000 over the past decade, chairman of the assembly budget committee Assemblyman Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) says that the prison budget has increased. In the 2009-2014 budget, the CDCR allocated $9.2 billion with about 63,000 staff members. The current $13.8 billion covers 77,700 department staff positions.

According to The Associated Press, a new commissioned study by a private consulting firm found that 13 of California's prisons are in need of repair or replacement. For instance, the estimated cost to repair the California Medical Facility in Vacaville (built in 1955) is $761 million. The study indicates that overdue maintenance is estimated at more than $1 billion.

Moving away from punishment towards strengthening prevention programs, enhancing rehabilitation, and providing reentry assistance is

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Did You Know?

A Look at African-Americans' Inventive Contributions

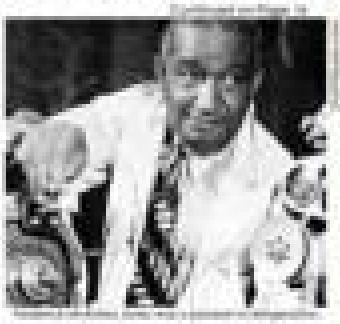
By Isaac 'Hawk' Neal
Feature Reporter

EVERY YEAR IN February, Americans celebrate and commemorate Black History Month. It's a time to learn about notable Americans of African descent who endured and fought to end slavery, or championed the causes of civil rights and equal rights. Did you know Black History Month is about more than that? Did you know many African-Americans made significant contributions to the way of life that all Americans enjoy today?

In the late 1930s, Frederick McKinley Jones invented what he called "the portable cold machine" — actually a refrigerator for military field kitchens — and refrigeration technologies that were applied to railroad cars and trucks. Previous refrigeration models were too big, so Jones reduced the size and started his own company, the Thermo Control Company, with Joseph Numero. Their company manufactured automatic air coolers for trains, ships, and airplanes in order to keep food from. Jones even developed ways to keep the air surrounding food at a constant temperature so that fruits wouldn't dry out or get bad before they hit the supermarkets. Just think of all the fruits that we see grow in tropical locations, mangos, and papayas, among others, and we get to enjoy them because of Jones' inventions.

Another great African-American inventor was Garrett Augustus Morgan (1877-1963), who

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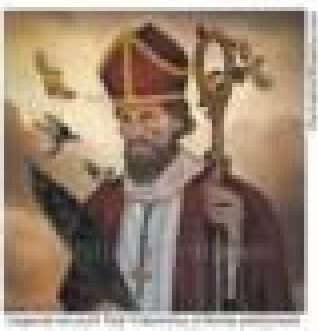
Celebrating Valentine's Day:

History, Traditions, Poetry, and Facts

By A. Rios
Copy Editor

VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATED as a romantic holiday have not always been around and possibly two early saints named Valentinus of the called Saint Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is an celebrated annually on February 14, and is recognized as a republican cultural, religious, and commercial celebrations of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world.

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Legend has it that Saint Valentine was a priest who defied Emperor Claudius II's decree banning marriage for young men, believing that single men made better soldiers. He signed many couples' marriage certificates, and when he was discovered, he was jailed and beaten for helping lovers.

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