MULE CREEK POST

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How Asian & Pacific Islander populations in corrections develop inclusive communities

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Mule Creek Prison | Ione, CA | www.cdcr.ca.gov/mule_creek/

To Our Readers

By S. Rose Hobb
Editor-in-Chief

JUST BEFORE THE TWO DAYS of Summer arrived at Mule Creek State Prison, staff and visitors raised money for the ARC of Amador and Calaveras Counties in a 5K Mud Run. There were six participants, turned, raising $4,000 in league with the ARC of Amador-Calaveras.

Also in April, Prisoners Overcoming Obstacles Creating Hope (POOCH) participants gathered to say goodbye to retiring director of service dogs program V. Cardoso. Several of the programs' K-9 members graduated recently, and posed for pictures with their handlers.

The Incarcerated Journalism Training program kicked off in the first semester run is that by inmate Correctional Counselor I. Johnson, the class's sponsor, says that signups for the next round of the 10-week course are filling up fast. Students learn the basics of journalism and are already submitting stories for the newspaper. Peer lead reporter Franklin Lee is serving as lead reporter, photographer and facilitator. Recruiting sessions of the classes will be provided to prospective reporters on the other yards at Mule Creek, with the intent of expanding the operation to other prisons (pg. 6).

The Creative Arts Program (CAP) is getting off to a promising start on Facility C. CAP chief Shelly Williams is working on several projects to feature local artists, musicians and performers. Look for details in the upcoming Creative Arts Features of the Mule Creek Post.

Next month is our annual special SPS edition. Attorney Mary King will be presenting her latest briefs and valuable insights on Second Imprisonment, and Life Support Alliance provides the latest parole statistics.

After four months of operating with a skeleton crew, we're relieved to get the whole team back together after the January-to-late-April quarantine. Hopes are to be able to have restricted access to operations on Facility B soon, however. Thanks, Sergeant, in continuing to provide paper copies of the *Post* prior to the lifted restrictions. Thank you for your ingenious support to allow a continuation of the Mule Creek Post.

Incarcerated Journalists Co-op Gains Momentum

By S. Rose Hobb
Editor-in-Chief

IN AN EFFORT to unite the voices of incarcerated journalists throughout California and around the world, a cooperative of individuals and organizations are joining forces.

Jesse Vasquez, executive director of Friends of San Quentin News, Lt. Sam Bellomo, San Quentin's public information officer, the staff of the San Quentin News, and UC Berkeley professor professor William Drummond are pulling the word out about the establishment. Benefits of prison journalism to begin with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Mule Creek Post, and others.

Bellomo traveled to Norway recently to meet with an international public relations of inmates and professors. Vasquez just received an award from Mt. Tamalpais College for his tireless work promoting education and prison journalism, and is on his way to New York, Columbia, and Harvard to lecture, promote his cause, and build on the networks.

Drummond is a former LA Times reporter, San Quentin News advisor, and author of "Prison Food: The Story of the San Quentin News." The Mule Creek Post has been a beginning from the San Quentin News origin story, and Jesse Vasquez's book during our journey.

Vasquez, Bellomo, and Drummond have been invited as a guest lecturer for Incarcerated Journalist Training classes, which began at Mule Creek in April.

"That's the kind of thing that inspires other prisons to initiate their own programs," Vasquez states. "All of us working together are of far greater influence than each of us working on our own." Vasquez is hosting an "Inside Scoop" fundraiser in September to raise the platform of prison journalists and is approaching the 90 available viewing slots Vasquez has been

Inmate Cooper Smith flexes a bar while working out on Facility C. Mule Creek's newest yard opened in March. (Photo by Jay Gilmore)

Social Change Starts With a Mindset Change

By Isaac Ward-Lee
Post Columnist

AS A RECENTLY convicted, I've learned that internal change is the primary ingredient for personal and organizational success. The most significant element of change is the way people see and regard their relationships and obligations to others.

Companies and people who learn to consistently develop a mindset that best applies personal and organizational growth through successful opportunities have the greatest potential for personal prosperity and success. The applies equally to incarcerated dealings with families and loved ones, business cable start-ups, and the biggest corporate chains.

The following is an example of mindset change in action.

For over 30 years, the owners of Southwest Breakfast and Seaside Bistro in Kansas City and the nearby parking lot of a local liquor store had served as the go-to dining site for the laborers on the city's West Side. This site was in the predominant Hispanic area, which had numerous businesses that catered to the local Hispanic population. For over the numbers of cars looking for work were unimaginable. Those looking for laborers and those looking for labor spots of less found what they wanted there. But the numbers of men congregating in the area skyrocketed over a five-year period, and the jobseekers far exceeded the demand for work.

This swelling group generally consisted of two kinds of men: (1) documented and undocumented men willing to work and (2) documented

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Pooch Graduates Six New Service Dogs

By Christopher Ayres
Post Reporter

MULLEIGH STATE Prison's Prisoners Overcoming Obstacles & Creating Hope (POOCH) program recently graduated five service dogs through Guide Dogs of America/Tender Loving Canines Assistance Dogs. CARDOSO and the three Master POOCH trainers to the big graduation.

During more than two years of the canines in assistance, each one was only able to place service dogs locally upon completion of their training by personal request, according to program supervisor Travis Hanks. However, things have changed for the better. "We described placement plans for the six graduating dogs."

For one of Mule Creek's graduates, will be given a courthouse placement. Becoming a facility dog to combat victims of crime in Alabama and assist them through the painful and stressful

Mr. Cardoso, one of the POOCH trainers, lifts up one of the graduating dogs. (Photo by Christopher Ayres)

testing experience of a criminal trial. Another will be traveling to Virginia to be placed in the home of a boy with autism. Other is headed to a Texas-area Midwestern line with autism. Most will be welcomed by a woman in Illinois, a military veteran whose disability hopes to gain the son of a local Mule Creek's first graduates a

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