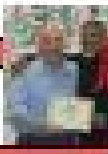
MULE CREEK POST

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ARC GRADUATES FIRST COHORT
"Instead of building walls, you guys are tearing them down." —CCHCS S. Jacques
Page 1-3



YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THESE...
View the photo gallery of some amazing Asian and Pacific Islanders
Page 9&17

To Our Readers

By D. Rumor Robb, Feature Reporter

WELCOME TO THE May *Mule Creek Post*. We celebrate ARC graduation (pgs. 1 & 2); Mother's Day (pg. 19); Mule Creek's Nathan Blalock and "Why We Write" (pg. 7). We discover "Strangers" with Ricky Ortega (pg. 8); and investigate family separation due to incarceration (pg. 9).

See "Haunted by Trauma" (pg. 10); "Who is Violent?" (pg. 13); and "The Learning Room" (pg. 25). The "Eagle and Home" leads E. Orlando Wells to his heritage (pg. 26); and then "World Record Moose" (pg. 30).

We greet new readers and send our appreciation and humble gratitude to the *Post*'s contributors and supporters.

In This Issue:

Graduate Attending CDCR Hobby 2
The Wordsmith: Digestion 4
Welcome Returns 5
Foundation in Humanities 5
Building Whats Your Problem 5
Grammar Guide 6
Earth Mother's Secrets: Enneagram 6
Care Packs on Site 6
New Rule a Cushion 6
Mule Creek Wide Published 7
Why We Write 7
The Classics: A Gentleman in Moscow 7
The Long Walk Home 8
Family Separation Due to Incarceration 9
Women's Week Celebration 9
Summoned by the World 10
Inevitably Trauma 10
Is a Man Stupid: Comedy's America 11
A Culture of Fear: Pt 1 12
Whats Violent? 13
Inside Pt 69 Audited, Takes Action 14
Panic Wire Fence, Panic Wire Solar 15
Power of Being Asian American 16
Helping Others 16
I Am Not a Woman 17
To Serve Life Takes Transition 18
Mother's Day: Apology to Mother 19
Introspection: Psych Visits Part Six 20
Cross & Crescent Paintings: Elements 21
¿Quién Es Violento? 22
Tablet 101: Pt 2: Apps 23
Tablet 101: Pt 3: Shortcuts 23
The Alchemist 24
The Learning Room: Walk Street 25
The Eagle and Home 26
Build Your Credit Investment Scams 27
Entrepreneur's Workshop 27
Creativity & Kids Poem: Art and Poetry 28
NEW Team PURPLE CRAB Day 5 29
World Record Moose: The Aftermath 30



ARC graduates celebrate with joy.

ARC Graduates First Cohort at Mule Creek State Prison

By Al Bing, Copy Editor

THE ANTI-RECIDIVISM Coalition (ARC) held graduation ceremonies for the first cohorts at Mule Creek State Prison in February. On Feb. 27, 2023, approximately 127 men from facilities D and E attended the event held in the visiting room on Facility E.

This all began in July 2022, when ARC instituted its three 12-week courses at the Mule Creek Infill Complex. Participants enrolled in one or more classes, which were conducted every Thursday in the facility chapels. Certificates were awarded for completion of the following subjects: 1) Criminals & Congressmen Anonymous; 2) Emotional Intelligence; and 3) Avatar (Board of Parole Hearings preparation).

Representing ARC were Executive Director Samuel Lewis and Regional Manager of the Hope and Redemption Team (HART) Joseph Ornelas; HART life coaches Sean Gage, Majuba McDuffy, and Gary Burt; and special ARC guest Ricardo Landon. It's important to note that all HART life coaches have done time in prison. This fact establishes their credibility and creates a unique connection to each participant.

Candace Lewis — the heart of the HART team — was not present due to the birth of her child. She was deeply missed, yet all shared in the joy of her new arrival. Congratulations, Candace.

Attending representatives of Mule Creek State Prison included Community Resource Manager Jason Ross; educational instructors M. Chang and G. Karr; and licensed clinical social worker S. Jacques. Media specialists H. Kim and M. Johnson were there to photograph the event.

Sean Gage opened with introductions and heartfelt thanks to Mule Creek's administration and staff. "A special thanks and applause to family members," said Gage. To the graduates he said, "Make this place too small because you've become too big." This was a reference to ARC's mantra: Advocate your values, then strive to make them your realities. Become too big.

"Thanks to all, admin and families, and the inmates who are putting in the work," said Gary Burt.

"I love what I do as my job," said Majuba McDuffy, who comes back inside

(continued on pg. 2)