



To Our Readers

By **D. Renee Kelly**, Feature Reporter

WELCOME TO YOUR August BPH edition of the Mule Creek Post. In this issue we examine aspects of Board preparation, including an informative column by Board attorney Naya Enig on building relationships (pp. 13 and 22). Mark Daigre looks at how the Board sees inmates (pp. 15-16) and discusses escape (pg. 18), and we discover the origin of the psychoball (pg. 17).

Circumventing restitution is a felony and can have disastrous effects at the Board (pg. 19), and find out about the do's and don'ts of filing a petition to advance your hearing (pg. 14). We hope this helps at your next hearing.

We welcome new readers at Tehachapi, Chino, and Corona, and thank you all for your submissions and support. Good luck at the Board!



California State University, Bakersfield graduates gathered in Mule Creek residents in May. From left: Alex Santos, Angel Cortes, Tony Johnson, Jacob Roldan, Jerry King, Javier Casas, Mike Gomez, Luke Smith, Brandon Troncoso, Frederick Diaz. (D. Renee Kelly, Bakersfield)

Mule Creek Hosts States First CSUS Baccalaureate Graduation 2023

By **Barl A. Brookmeyer**, Feature Reporter

"IF YOU'RE FREE in your mind, walls can't really contain that," said Dr. Mary Maguire, dean of the College of Health & Human Services at CSU Sacramento on May 24. Mule Creek State Prison was hosting the state's first baccalaureate graduation ceremony in honor of 16 graduating students: Alexander A. Razaiz, Jesse J. Carson, Frederick D. Dew, Angie D. Gordon, Tony W. Johnson, Jerry L. King, Michael L. Owens, Jacob G. Roldan, Luke A. Scott, and Evaristo Trosano. "And so today," declared Maguire, "this is really a celebration of the liberation of your mind, because you have done that. You have engaged in that process in a very real, genuine way... spread the love."

Earlier that morning, the 16 graduates arrived in the Post-Secondary & Continuing Education (PSC) classroom to receive final instructions from PSC instructor Mr. K. Gofwin. As the students put on ceremonial gowns, anticipatory and ebullient chatter filled the room. The pride and camaraderie, noteworthy among students of such diverse backgrounds and journeys, was evident in each smile and silent nod of recognition and mutual support. "I always see this day coming," said King. When the time came, they left the classroom, each in reflection of the upcoming event.

The procession entered the Communal Hall (the facility visiting room), in cap and gown, to "Pomp and Circumstance" and an audience of proud and cheering attendees who nearly filled the space to capacity. For family and friends unable to attend, the ceremony was live-streamed by the prison. In attendance were representatives from the Anti-Reidivision Coalition, prison administrators and educators, leaders of the Office of Correctional Education, reporters from the local KCRB news, and CSUS instructors and deans.

PSC instructor and master of ceremonies Brett Stamer introduced Mule Creek resident Dawson King, who opened the event with a performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner," followed by Dew singing "America the Beautiful." Musical accompaniment was provided by another resident, Tony Silva.

"The Transforming Outcomes Project at Sacramento State University has created a partnership with Mule Creek," began Warden Patrick Covello after welcoming all in attendance, "creating an atmosphere dedicated towards higher

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