MULE CREEK POST

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Breast Cancer Awareness Month

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
From mid-September to mid-October, Americans celebrate their Hispanic roots
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YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THESE...
View the photo gallery of some notable indigenous people.
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To Our Readers

By D. Razor Babb, Feature Reporter

WELCOME TO YOUR October *Mule Creek Post*. October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month, and Earl Breckenridge discusses available programs and how to get involved (pg. 4). One Mule Creek resident fills in the gaps in recovery (pg. 7), and Anthony Chavez honors the pioneers of Native American civil rights (pg. 7).

Mule Creek writers get published (pg. 18), and we learn about some of the difficulties of reporting from inside and continue our look at how prisons suppress prison journalism (pg. 22).

We look forward to submissions from readers new and old — guidelines are on pg. 3.

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Guide Dogs of America/Tender Loving Canines trainers visit Facility E's program. From Left, Standing: [illegible] (President), [illegible] (Assistant Director of Programs), [illegible] (Manager of Service Dog Programs), Debra Grossman (Director of Legal Affairs & Grants), [illegible] Sonia Parisi (Service Dog Trainer) & Tuesday. Kneeling: Joshua Thomas & [illegible], Jamie Hunt (Director of Programs), [illegible] Byron Fairbanks & Ziggy. [illegible]

Guide Dogs of America Visits MCSP

By Christopher Bryson, Post Reporter

ON MAY 25, 2023, Guide Dogs of America (GDA) President Russ Gittlen stepped through the gates at Mule Creek State Prison with a message for the incarcerated service dog trainers on Facility E. Accompanying Gittlen were Guide Dogs of America's board member Lee Pearson, director of legal affairs Debra Grossman, director of programs Jamie Hunt, assistant director of programs Cheryl Herman, manager of service dog programs Nicole Maples, and lead service dog instructor Sonia Parisi.

"I came out to say thank you," Gittlen told the participants of the Canine Development Program.

"I hope you guys feel proud of yourselves," added Hunt. "This program has grown since the last time I was here."

GDA's partnership with Tender Loving Canines Assistance Dogs oversees the development and placement of service dogs trained by prisoners to assist wounded veterans and children with autism, and to work in facility settings such as courthouses, hospitals, and probation offices.

"You're part of the GDA/TLCAD family," said Gittlen as he described the dogs going out to be of service to the community after training at the prison.

Gittlen's passion was evident as he spoke with the trainers, knowing the names of individual service dog graduates, as well as where they were eventually placed.

"When I hear the recipient's stories, it's pretty emotional," said Gittlen. He related service dog placement with the family of an autistic child. "All they wanted was for their child to be able to go out to dinner with them. Families tell me how when their kids go into the red zone of symptoms, it can take weeks to get them out. But with a service dog, it can take only minutes. You make that happen."

"It's been awesome to see what these dogs go on to do," said long-time program participant Joshua Thomas as he shared his experience as an incarcerated trainer with Gittlen. "I know what a difference it makes. Being a part of this process has brought me from where I was in life to where I am today."

The fact that the Canine Development Program transforms the lives of the recipients of service dogs, as well as their

(continued on pg. 3)