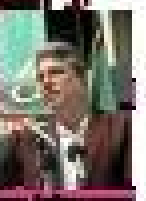
MULE CREEK POST

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Breast Cancer Awareness Month





HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

From mid-September to mid-October, Americans celebrate their Hispanic roots.

Page 17

YOU'VE GOT TO SEE THERE...

View the photo gallery of some notable indigenous people.

Page 12-13

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To Our Readers

By D. Rumor Robb, 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 tilts in the gaps in recovery (pg. 7), and Anthony Graves honors the pioneers of Native American civil rights (pg. 7).

Mule Creek writers get published (pg. 19), and we learn about some of the difficulties of reporting from inside and continue our look at how prisons suppress prison journalism (pg. 23).

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

In This Issue:

Crosswalk Unlocking CDCR Hobby 3
Domestic Violence Awareness 4
The Bookmobile: new words, literature 5
Big Red's Summer Guide 6
Unleashed Program, Vital Role in Custody 6
Indigenous Peoples' Day: Filling the Gaps 7
Forgotten Victims, The Long Path Home 8
Earth Matters: Seeds, Satellite, Prison Policy, Inflation 9
Supporting Programming Setbacks 10
Equity & Inclusion 11
Life Hacks, Straight Through Tarmac 12
Mapping, Displaying Data Creatively 13
Intercultural Day of Understanding 14
Perseverance Banned Books Week 15
Discovering Fatherhood in the U.S. 16
A Breast Cancer Awareness Story 16
CDCR's Mass Incarceration Still Ego Lips 16
Sculptural Expression: El Deco 17
Poetry & Game Book Club, New Instructor 17
Mule Creek Writers Published 19
Opinion: Distraction, Deception 19
Psych Ward: The Alzheimer's 20
El Principio Powerful Call Pills 21
Promising Educational Directions 22
Prison Publishing by Prisoners' Rights 23
National Hispanic Heritage Month 23
Help Fix a Bright Red Student Task Group 23
Know Your Neighbor: Mike Castro 24
Why Read the Classics?: Viewing Problem 25
Business & Finances 27
Creative Arts Program 28
World Teacher Day: CDCR Way To 29
Issue 101: Book Sports & Recreation 30
Practice Speaker: The Walking Dance 31
Opinion: Not Necessarily Justice 32
All About It: Who Was Saint Francis? 33
Tales from the Creek: Riding the Rivers 33



Guide Dogs of America/Tender Loving Canines trainers and Facility E program. From Left: Standing - Sam Lee, Tamar Arevian, Dana B. Beaver, Jerry King, Jacob Robles, Walter Cowan, Robert Yon, Ramona Poole & Opal, Scott Rubin, Rosa Gillen (President), Nancy Carroll, Sam Gonzalez, Lionel Orlan & Indio, Daryl Wade, Cheryl Herman (Associate Director of Programs), Ted Henderson, Robert Mansfield & Rufus, Nicole Kaplan (Manager of Service Dog Programs), Debra Grossman (Director of Legal Affairs & Grants), Marlene Tejeda & Lego, Carlos Aguilera & Kenna, Matthew Ball, Dana Perez (Service Dog Trainer) & Tuesday, Standing - Joshua Thomas & Chris, Dennis Franklin & Preston, James Hunt (Director of Programs), Frank Jones & Izzy, Alexis Castro, Allen Carter & Banner, Ron Prescott & Lacey, Jason Beck & Nicki, Daniel - Clarence Sargent & Indio, Frank Rojas & Raider, Mario Lawson & Apple, Matthew Warner, Steve Bell & Bell, Ryan Fairbanks & Ziggy. *(A Mule Creek Guardian)*

Guide Dogs of America Visits MCSP

By Christopher Bynes, Post Reporter

ON MAY 25, 2023, Guide Dogs of America (GDA) President Ross 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 Farid.

"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/TLC/so 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 page 3)