



To: Board of Supervisors
From: Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator
Date: February 25, 2016
Subject: Significant Issues Update

1) County Administrator's Update on Contracts

The County Administrator signed the following contracts of significance since the last Significant Issues update:

- Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, a contract amendment with The Solano Coalition for Better Health, to help facilitate the completion of a Community Health Needs Assessment, \$14,300, in addition to the \$35,562 original contract amount, totaling \$49,862, from August 15, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
- Department Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, a contract Area Agency on Aging Serving Napa and Solano Counties, to provide training and support to staff for the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), \$48,840, from January 1, 2016 to September 29, 2016.

2) Status Update: Solano County Water Reduction Projects and Water Reduction Savings

On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared the drought a State of Emergency and requested voluntary reduction of 20 percent in statewide water consumption. Through Executive Orders, the Governor directed the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt mandatory emergency regulations for water conservation to achieve a 25 percent statewide water reduction and extended the emergency declaration through October 31, 2016 if drought conditions persist.

On August 11, 2015, the Board received a presentation on the County's continuing water conservation efforts and approved \$500,000 to implement 16 recommended water reduction projects. The recommended projects included 12 landscape projects for irrigation system improvements and building-related projects for plumbing fixture upgrades at 4 locations.

Solano County's ongoing commitment to reducing water consumption at County facilities remains strong. The most recent water audit, which includes the March through October 2015 growing season, shows water savings of 8,922,000 gallons from 2014 compared to 2015 at County facilities; a 44 percent reduction, significantly exceeding the State's mandated 25 percent. Staff continues to monitor and evaluate methods to achieve additional reductions in water consumption.

Work is progressing for the 16 water reduction projects, which are projected to culminate in June 2016.

The project status updates are as follows:

- Installation of smart controller equipment at 4 County Campuses (Fairfield, Vallejo, Vacaville and Rio Vista) and Veterans Buildings: Includes installation of internet infrastructure connected to smart controllers. **Projects 30% complete; awaiting backlogged equipment delivery.**
- Installation of automated weather monitoring stations at the Vacaville and Claybank campuses: **Projects 50% complete; awaiting backlogged equipment delivery.**
- Replacement of 35 year old irrigation system at former Annex lawn in downtown Fairfield: **Design complete; construction will begin in spring after rainy season subsides.**
- Nut Tree Airport landscaping: Water audit has been incorporated into County's reporting system; Airport staff purchased a Smart Controller with a weather monitoring station to timely and efficiently water there landscaped areas. **Project 60% complete.**
- Lake Solano and Sandy Beach Parks: Both are serviced by non-metered wells; coordinating with Resource Management to purchase smart controllers/weather monitoring stations. **Project 60% complete; awaiting backlogged equipment delivery.**
- County Administration Center Plaza and Events Center turf replacement: Bids to replace 36 grass areas with artificial turf escalated above market standards and were double the estimated cost despite competitive bid process. Staff is now considering other water reduction strategies for those areas. **Project 25% complete.**
- Parking lot landscape areas at 4 campuses (Fairfield, Vallejo, Vacaville, Rio Vista); Installed water efficient spray heads and efficient drip irrigation systems. **Project 40% complete; construction activities to resume following rainy season.**
- Replace inefficient plumbing fixtures at 4 locations (Fairfield, Vallejo, Vacaville, Rio Vista): Design complete; fixture selection underway. **Project 50% complete; fixture purchasing to commence in February 2016.**

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3) Auditor-Controller Whistleblower Program Status Update

The Auditor-Controller's Internal Audit Division operates the County's Whistleblower Program. The Program includes a special hotline number (866) 384-TIPS and a website for submission of reports. The reports received were reviewed by the Internal Audit Division in cooperation with Appointed and Elected Department Heads and the County Administrator as deemed appropriate.

From July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, the Auditor-Controller's Office received 60 contacts through the Whistleblower Program. Thirty two were reports of perceived incidence of fraud, waste and abuse, or violations of County policy or law. Twenty eight were determined not to be County Whistleblower matters because the complaint failed to provide sufficient information, or the statements made were not matters within the scope of the County's whistleblower program. In addition, there are six complaints from our last report, of which four were closed and two remain open with investigations in progress, bringing the caseload to 38.

Reports of valid whistleblower matters were received in the following categories:

- 10 Violations of Law and/or County policy
- 5 Welfare fraud
- 2 Timesheet fraud
- 3 Management conduct
- 2 Environmental nuisance
- 16 Other

Of the 38 complaints:

- 6 were substantiated and found to have merit
- 6 were found to not have merit
- 8 remain open with investigation in progress
 - 3 Reported Violations of Law and/or County policy
 - 1 Management Conduct
 - 4 Other
- 8 were closed due to insufficient information
- 10 were referred to appropriate outside agencies and were closed

Details about the complaints found to have merit are as follow:

<i>Complaint Allegation</i>	<i>Resolution</i>
A County employee brought his/her child to work during office hours.	The complaint was investigated by the department. The employee was counseled and advised of County policy.
A County employee was sleeping or lying down in his car during work hours.	The complaint was investigated by the department. The employee was on probation and was released from County employment.
One of the volunteers of the Solano County Historical Records Commission (SCHRC) removed some historical maps displayed at SCHRC's office without authorization.	The complaint was investigated by General Services. The maps were retrieved from the volunteer and returned to the County.
Five complaints of alleged welfare fraud were referred to H&SS Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) for investigation.	The complaints were investigated by SIB. Three complaints were found to have merit while two complaints were found to not have merit.

The Whistleblower Program continues to demonstrate success in the identification of County-related matters in potential fraud, waste, and abuse. The Program continues to improve controls and promotes accountability and oversight throughout the County by providing a process for employees and other County citizens to report perceived incidence of fraud, waste, and abuse.

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4) Update on the Five Keys Charter School

On August 25, 2015, the Sheriff's Office provided an informational presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the MOU the Sheriff's Office had developed with the Five Keys Charter School. Five Keys would become the educational provider for the jail because the Solano County Office of Education had ended their contract with the Sheriff's Office on June 30, 2015. This report is an update regarding the progress of the Charter School in the Solano County jails.

Five Keys is a full-service high school that has provided classroom based learning, independent study, English as a Second Language (ESL) and special education since beginning service delivery in September of 2015. Currently, the charter school is serving 29 classroom based learners and 89 independent study students at the Claybank Detention Facility; 8 independent study students at the Stanton Correctional Facility, and 13 students at Probation's Center for Positive Change. Thus, they are serving 139 individuals at this time. During the months of February and March, Five Keys will be enrolling students at the Justice Center Detention Facility, the largest of the three county jails.

Most notable, regarding the progress of the Five Keys Charter School, is the high school graduation ceremony that was held on Friday February 5, 2016, at the Claybank Detention Facility. This high school graduation was the first to be held in the history of the Solano County Sheriff's Office. Prior to this time, the jail had never had an inmate receive a GED or a high school diploma.

On Friday February 5, 2016, four inmates received high school diplomas in the presence of family members, Sheriff's Office staff, Five Keys staff, and staff from other jail programs. It should also be noted that two additional individuals who were released prior to the graduation ceremony also earned high school diplomas through Five Keys. Thus, six individuals in total have earned high school diplomas, in jail, since Five Keys began delivering educational services in September of 2015.

Please see the attached articles from the Daily Republic and the Vallejo Times Herald regarding the graduation ceremony. *(See PDF scans at end of document)*

Contact: Tom Ferrara, Sheriff - Coroner, Solano County Sheriff's Office
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DAILY REPUBLIC

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2016

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Inmates Eric Christian Jr., left, and Tre Shaun Lofton, center, applaud during a GED graduation ceremony at the Claybank Detention Facility, Friday. Four males and one female received their diplomas.

MAKING HISTORY SOLANO COUNTY JAIL HOSTS FIRST HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

AMY MAGNINIS-HONEY
DAILY REPUBLIC

congratulated them on their hard work. The concrete walls, a few uniformed officers and a group of about 50 guests served as reminders the graduates were not walking across a football field with a stadium full of family and friends. Under the morning ceremony to a snip of gowns, orange and white stripes "Pomp and Circumstance." A sign could be seen below the beam.

That didn't matter to Laurett McDonald, who was there to watch her oldest grandson, Tre Shaun Lofton, receive his high school diploma. The same for Mark Smith, who wore a big smile as his daughter, Megan Smith, realized a present.

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Jail: Students began studies in September

From Page One

longtime dream. "It doesn't matter if it's from jail or a full school," he said. "A graduation is a graduation."

Megan Smith and Lofton are two of six inmates to make history in Solano County as members of the first high school graduating class inside a Solano County jail. The program is in place at the Claybank and neighboring Gary Stanton facilities. The downtown jail is next.

All of the graduates, two have already been released, began their studies in September when 5 Keys Charter Schools and Programs came to Solano County.

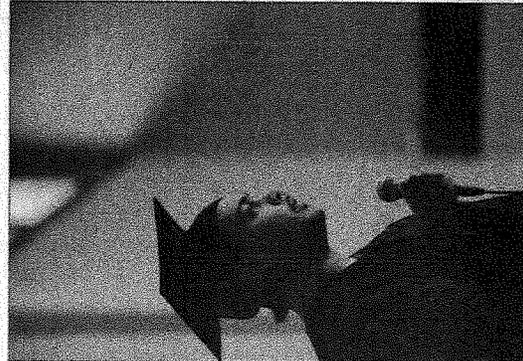
Solano County inmates previously had access to a GED Prep Program, said Renee Smith, program and services manager for the Solano County Sheriff's Office. It was done with assistance from the Solano County Office of Education, which opted out.

Smith knew of the San Francisco-based 5 Keys and suggested the charter school to Solano County Sheriff Tom Ferrara, who thought the offer was too good to be true. All the jail needed was to provide the space for classrooms.

"This is what we needed to do," Ferrara said after the graduation ceremony. "With prison realignment, the jail has more long-term inmates and a bigger window to get services inside to help inmates prepare for life on the outside."

"Our goal is to turn out graduates who hopefully have a job before they leave custody," Ferrara said.

Giving them the skills to make it on the outside saves the county money, too, Ferrara said, adding that it's \$155 per person, per



Inmate Eric Christian Jr. speaks at a GED graduation ceremony at the Claybank Detention Facility, Friday. The graduates received their diplomas for study with the San Francisco-based 5 Keys Charter program.

day, in custody. Each graduate spoke. One at the ceremony asked not to be named or photographed by the media.

Lofton talked about being judged by others when they don't really know his past. "They need to get to know me before they make the claims," he said.

Earning his high school diploma sets a good example for his younger siblings, he said. "I come from an area where a lot of people don't graduate," he said. "Some don't even go to school."

McDonald has dreams of him going to college. She arrived about an hour before the ceremony, saying she'd been up since

"I worked as hard as I could," Megan Smith said. She loves to point out she is the first female graduate from the Solano County jail

and hopes to serve as an inspiration for other women to try.

"I get to say, I've got a diploma," said Eric Christian Jr. "When I look for a job, hopefully it will make it a little easier."

He needed 25 credits, his mother Monica Brown said, adding that it would have taken him much longer in night school to meet that number.

"This (the diploma) will go on his grandmother's wall with the other grandchildren's," Brown said.

Darcy Young, one of the 5 Keys teachers at the Claybank Jail, said she felt almost as proud as the graduates.

"It's so touching," she said. "They understand the value of a high school education. They chose this."

Deed Barbour, who oversees the program in Solano County, hopes to have a community graduation in the summer. There are more than 100 inmates at the Claybank and Gary Stanton facilities enrolled in 5 Keys.

The keynote speaker was Patty Ayala of the Women's Re-entry Achievement Program. She shared her story of addiction and incarceration.

"Start doing the things you love and make your heart beat," she said, adding she was living proof of life after incarceration.

She's currently pursuing a master's degree. The program is designed to reduce the number of repeat offenders. The recidivism rate for 5 Keys students is lower compared to California's overall rate, according to program officials.

Reach Amy Maginnis-Honey at 427-6957 or amaginnis@dailypress.com. Follow her on Twitter at www.twitter.com/amaginnisdr.

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SOLANO

County jail holds first-ever high school graduation

By Sally Schilling

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About 60 people sat before a podium in a large, mostly bare room waiting for a high school graduation ceremony to start. The graduates' family members and teachers sat proudly in the audience.

Everyone was asked to rise and stand as the graduates entered the room. As "Pomp and Circumstance," the traditional graduation song played over an intercom system, four graduates entered wearing a black caps and gowns over their orange-and-white-striped jail suits.

Thursday's event at Claybank Jail was the first-ever high school graduation ceremony held inside a Solano County Jail. The inmates are some of the first graduates of Five Keys Charter School in Solano County, which started operating inside Clay Bank in September.

Lauretta McDonald attended the ceremony for her grandson, 19-year-old Tre'Shaun Loftin. His football coaches were shocked when they learned that he was going to jail, she said.

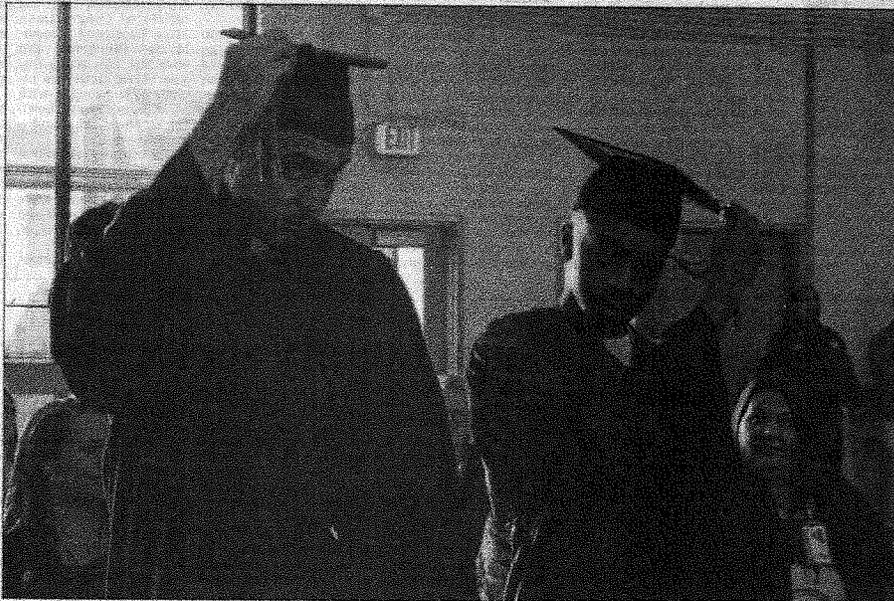
"He's very smart," she said. He was getting a 4.0 in school, but then he started hanging out with the wrong crowd, she said. "Sometimes the streets beat you," she said, adding that he was just shy of his 18th birthday when he was arrested.

Loftin has been in custody for about a year now and his trial is still pending, she said.

She watched as her grandson walked up to the podium to give a speech. Loftin was surprised at how many people were attending his graduation. He told the audience that he feels he often solely judged for being incarcerated, but that there is a lot more to him than that.

Loftin also talked about his goals going forward. He looks forward to making his family proud and being a good role model to his siblings.

"I've been a follower and now it's my time to be a leader," he said.



Eric Christian Jr., 24 (left) and Tre'Shaun Loftin, 19 (right) move their tassels during the first-ever high school graduation ceremony held inside a Solano County Jail. Christian finished up his remaining 25 credits and graduated from Five Keys Charter School, which is now operating in Solano County Jail. Christian was eager to learn and was very studious, one teacher said.

SALLY SCHILLING — THE REPORTER

McDonald was handed Loftin's diploma after the ceremony was over. She said she is excited to bring it out and show it to family and friends. "I'm glad he made history today," she said.

While some students are happy to just be done with school and have their diploma, others like Loftin demonstrated high academic potential, said Dr. Desi Barbour, assistant director of Education for Five Keys in Solano County. "That man has Ivy-League talent," Barbour said. "I want to see him move beyond this."

A lot of times, a person's potential is never realized because they aren't ever put in the right environment, he said. At Five Keys, Barbour strives to create an environ-

ment where men and women can envision new goals for themselves.

The Five Keys Charter program has students in both the Claybank and Stanton jails and is expanding to the downtown jail soon, Barbour said. Students can do classroom learning, independent study or both, he said. They currently have about 32 classroom students and 82 independent study students.

The charges these inmates are facing range from traffic violations to murder, Barbour said. But to him and the school's six teachers, they're just students, he said.

Five Keys is a charter school that is funded based on attendance, just like other schools, he said. The

program started in the San Francisco jail system and Solano County is the third jail to adopt Five Keys.

"We are very lucky to have them in our jail," said Renee Smith, programs and services manager for the Solano County Jail system.

Jails used to be primarily for people who were in short-term custody for DUIs and other offenses, but when prison realignment happened after Assembly Bill 109 was passed, people began serving longer terms in county jail, she said.

Smith wanted to bring in more educational programs.

"We need to do something to help you change your life," she said.

She learned about Five Keys and brought the charter school to Solano County Jail.

Solano County Sheriff Tom Ferrara attended and spoke at the graduation. He remembers being a captain in charge of the jail system and the struggle they had in getting a basic GED class in the jail.

"We were having a really hard time doing it," he said. He can't believe that today the jail has people receiving their high school diplo-

"I've been a follower and now it's my time to be a leader."

— Tre'Shaun Loftin

mas. Ferrara is aiming to build on the success of Five Keys by adding other job skill programs, such as bus driver training and a culinary school, he said.

For now, he's happy to say he can peek into jail cells and see inmates doing their homework.

"I love it," Ferrara said.