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Peninsula in Brief PENINSULA BRIEFING

SAN MATEO COUNTY

Inmate facing charges of assault on jail guards

A 20-year-old inmate at a San Mateo County jail allegedly attacked and injured two correctional officers Thursday morning during a recreation period. And the county's civil grand jury released a report saying the county's prisons are severely overcrowded, a situation that could lead to increased assaults on staff and other inmates.

Jaime Rafael, in custody on assault and drug charges since his arrest by San Bruno police Tuesday, reportedly struck one of the correctional officers several times in the head and body. The guard suffered a cut on his head and an arm sprain and was treated at a hospital. Another correctional officer who went to the guard's aid suffered a dislocated shoulder while restraining the inmate. Rafael sustained cuts and bruises, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said. A hearing on the charges of felony assault of an officer is scheduled today.

In a 14-page report the grand jury found that the Women's Correctional Center was 66 percent over its recommended capacity, with a total of 123 inmates. The McGuire Correctional Facility, which houses male inmates, was 47 percent over targeted capacity, with 1,010 inmates. Staffing also was a problem at both facilities, the report said.

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said Thursday that it had already begun an experimental program to work with the courts to relieve overcrowding by allowing certain low-risk prisoners to leave the jails if they are monitored electronically. But the grand jury recommended that more should be done, including building a minimum-security facility for women.

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-- Jessica Portner

ATHERTON

20-year educator chosen as principal

Norman Estrada has been named principal of Menlo-Atherton High.

A 20-year educator, Estrada serves as an assistant principal at Canyon High School in the northern part of Los Angeles County.

Estrada, 54, will replace Eric Hartwig, whom the Sequoia Union High School District has tapped to start a new three-year school.

Fluency in Spanish is one of the strengths Estrada brings to Menlo-Atherton, where 40 percent of the 2,090 students are Latino and 24 percent of students communicate better in Spanish than in English.

-- Nicole C. Wong

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Gay Pride Month declared for June

Mountain View's city council unanimously passed a resolution Tuesday night that makes June Gay Pride Month.

Councilwoman Rosemary Stasek proposed the resolution, which will be presented Tuesday to members of the group Outlet, which serves gay youth.

Stasek said the idea had nothing to do with what happened last month in neighboring Los Altos. Los Altos council members at first rejected a local student group's request to declare Monday as Gay Pride Day in the city, instead opting for what some council members considered a more inclusive Tolerance Day. But the council reversed itself after an outcry from gay rights activists.

-- Julie Patel



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