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Advocates push California for single-occupancy cells

Officials say it's time to rethink shared quarters in prisons



An inmate walks along a tier at San Quentin prison. Some California policymakers and prison officials say that offering more single-occupancy cells might serve the best interests of prison residents and public safety. **ERIC RISBERG — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Lawsuit: Student wrongly benched

Branson athlete not allowed to play after school transfer

By **Cameron Macdonald**
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The parent of a student in Marin County has sued an organization that regulates high school sports in California, alleging it improperly blocked her from competing.

Bart Schachter said his daughter transferred to the Branson School in Ross after she experienced antisemitic harassment at a private school in San Francisco. The sophomore joined the tennis and track teams over the summer.

Soon after her transfer, a commissioner from the California Interscholastic Federation ruled she was ineligible to compete for half a season on both of her teams, the lawsuit says.

"This case isn't just about one transfer student — it's about thousands of kids in California who might be experiencing severe or pervasive harassment but are afraid to lose their ability to play varsity sports," said Schachter's attorney, Jay Jambeck.

Schachter filed the lawsuit in Marin County Superior Court. A case management conference is set for Monday with Judge Andrew Sweet.

The federation, which represents about 1,000 high schools, typically requires transfer students to sit out half a season before

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Netanyahu insists there can be no Palestinian state

By **Melanie Lidman**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed Sunday to oppose any attempt to establish a Palestinian state, a day before the U.N. Security Council planned to vote on a U.S.-drafted resolution on Gaza that leaves the door open to Palestinian independence.

Netanyahu has long asserted that creating a Palestinian state would reward Hamas and eventually lead to an even larger Hamas-run state on Israel's borders. But as the U.S. attempts to push forward with its Gaza ceasefire proposal, he faces heavy international pressure to show flexibility.

The Security Council is expected to vote on a U.S. proposal for a U.N. mandate that would establish an international stabilization force in Gaza despite opposition from Russia, China and some Arab countries.

Hamas and Palestinian factions warned Sunday against the U.S. proposal, calling it an attempt to impose an international mandate on Gaza that is biased toward Israel and deprives

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By **Joe Garcia**
CALMATTERS

If you're serving hard time inside a California prison, you'll often find yourself stuck in a cramped cell with a complete stranger. You hang a bedsheet to manufacture the semblance of privacy between bed and toilet. Any little thing can erupt into a source of tension and angst — body odor, snoring, lights on or off.

Each moment becomes a test to avoid confrontation or brawling. With no immediate help from officers, the fear and anxiety festers inside you. And day by day, your mental health deteriorates.

"You don't necessarily know what the capacity of this person is, or like what their crime is," said Steven Warren, a prisoner at San Quentin. "You're not told any of that when you're put in a cell with them."

"I don't know if this person has the propensity to murder me in my sleep or commit a



Gerald Massey, a prisoner participating in a college education program, studies in his cell at Folsom State Prison in Folsom, on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. Old prisons, such as San Quentin and Folsom, were originally designed to house one person per cell. **JAE C. HONG — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

violent act against me just because they're feeling some type of way."

Some California policymakers and prison officials believe it's time to rethink these potentially harmful housing situations. They contend that offering more single-occupancy cells might serve the best interests of

prison residents and public safety.

That's possible because California's incarcerated population continues to decline — from its peak of over 173,000 people in 2006 to just under 90,000 today. A handful of prisons have closed, while changes in resentencing and parole eligibility have

helped release thousands of people.

Under former Gov. Jerry Brown and now Gov. Gavin Newsom, rehabilitation and reentry opportunities remain a growing focal point, too. San Quentin prison stands at the forefront of the discussion, with an "earned living" housing unit comprised exclusively of single-person cells and plans to similarly repurpose the vacated death row buildings. A spokesperson for the prison said it is "working toward" making single-person cells available to all inmates by spring 2026.

A bill advanced in the California Legislature this year that aims to establish single-cell units at more prisons. The measure did not make it to Newsom, but it's expected to return in 2026.

"We want people to have the opportunity to return back to our community, and we want them to do that in the healthiest manner," said San

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Mass arrests in Charlotte immigration operation

By **Sophia Tareen, Brian Witte**
and **Maryclaire Dale**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A top Border Patrol commander touted dozens of arrests in North Carolina's largest city on Sunday as Charlotte residents reported encounters with federal immigration agents near churches, apartment complexes and

stores.

The Trump administration has made the Democratic city of about 950,000 people its latest target for an immigration enforcement surge it says will combat crime, despite fierce objections from local leaders and downtrending crime rates.

Gregory Bovino, who led hundreds of U.S. Customs and Border Protection

agents in a similar effort in Chicago, took to X to document a few of the more than 80 arrests he said agents had made. He also posted a highly-edited video of uniformed CBP officers handcuffing people.

"From border towns to the Queen City, our agents go where the mission

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