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10/26/13

Received & Inspected

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NOV 04 2013

Claude R. Snyder Sr.
#431725

F.C.C. Commission FCC Mail Room

I called my son today 10/26/13 at about
12:07 - P.M. E.T.

Global tell I was told was
suppose to have cut there Rates.

As of today they have not.

My son lives in Elkton, Md.

and has a Newark, De.

Phone number 302-

the hook up and first minute is \$3.74
Each minute after is 56¢.

Nothing has changed as of yet.

Would like to know more about
this. if this Union News Letter
is true or not.

Thank you for your time and help.
in this matter.

Claude R. Snyder Sr.

Claude R. Snyder Sr.
#431725

M.C.C. X. 21-A/08

P.O. Box 2000

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37887

more uniform and, in many cases, allowed felons to get out of prison after serving just a fraction of their sentenced time. The commission dissolved in 1995 and, since then, the penalties for crimes have steadily crept upward. Parole has been eliminated for sex crimes and many of the most violent offenses.

"We know incarceration is the most expensive sentencing method and Tennessee, like most states, realizes we cannot continue to build our way out of the population growth in prisons and jails," Schofield said.

"As we become smarter on crime, we have to ensure that we continue to incarcerate people who pose the greatest threat to us. On the other hand, we need to look at alternatives and diversionary programs for the non-violent offenders who would be better suited for programs like drug courts (see "Drug Court at MCCX" ahead), day reporting centers or probation detention centers."

Every 20 or 30 years, the state criminal justice system goes through a major change and needs a "fix-it," said David Raybin, a Nashville criminal defense attorney who helped reform Tennessee's criminal justice system in the 1980s. "What's happening now, you are having the beginnings of a necessity for a revision again," he said. "The patient is now breaking out in a serious rash. You now need medical attention."

CCA Creating More Revenue

Nashville-based LocalShares Inc. announced that the nation's first city-centric investment fund – made up entirely of Nashville-based public companies, among them Corrections Corporation of America – began trading on the New York Stock Exchange on August 1.

The fund is listed with the ticker symbol "NASH" and the initial price was \$25 per share. (See related article "Cell-block Kings," *Mountain Review*, July 2013, Volume 24, Number 3.)

– *The Tennessean*

Reducing Federal Prison Population

A new, bipartisan task force aimed at reducing the federal criminal code is a positive step toward breaking the country's addiction to incarceration, said the American Civil Liberties Union. The House Committee on the Judiciary Over-Criminalization Task Force of 2013, which is made up of five Republicans and five Democrats, will comb through the code and identify unnecessary and ineffective criminal statutes.

"Sending people to prison should be the option of last resort, not the first," said Jennifer Bellamy, ACLU legislative counsel. At a time of historically low rates of crime, the federal prison system is operating at almost 40% over capacity. A recent report by the Congressional Research Service found that the federal prison population has grown by almost 790% since 1980.

Also, Attorney General Eric Holder called for the shift in federal criminal justice policy in a speech before the American Bar Association, saying, "Too many Americans go to too many prisons for far too long and for no good law enforcement reason." His announcement was prompted in large part by the burgeoning costs of a prison system that has grown to nearly 220,000 prisoners from 25,000 in 1980.

Holder said some changes could be implemented without congressional action, including broader discretion for prosecutors to pursue drug traffickers over simple drug abusers. Holder said he would implement broader application of early prison release to include not only terminally ill offenders but also elderly prisoners who had served substantial portions of their sentences and no longer posed a threat to society.

– *Corrections Forum* and *USA Today*

Drug Court at MCCX

Last August 1, Tennessee opened the first statewide residential

treatment center in the nation for people with mental problems and drug addictions sentenced to prison.

The Recovery Court program is a joint venture of the Tennessee Department of Correction and the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The primary goal is to reduce the rate of recidivism – people returning to crime after being released from prison. The Recovery Drug program will be operated by the Davidson County Drug Court Support Foundation, a private foundation.

The recovery center houses 100 beds at MCCX, and program directors hope it frees up 100 spots for violent criminals in Tennessee prisons. The estimated cost to house prisoners is \$65 per day, said Ken Yager, state senator for Morgan County's district. But the cost per day at the new recovery center will be about \$35.

The 2013-14 fiscal year budget allocated \$1.56 million for nine new facilities, including the Morgan County facility. The other eight have not yet been announced. There are 10 additional courts in Tennessee, which are not state-funded. They are either privately or locally funded.

– *Chattanooga Times Free Press* and *The Tennessean*

New Housing Facility for Female Prisoners

The \$30 million, 512-bed expansion of the Bledsoe Correctional Facility in Pikeville will handle male prisoners (medium security), as well as housing for female prisoners in separate security facilities within the complex.

– *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

Annual Cost of Crime To Be \$3.2 Trillion

"The Cost of Crime," a new study by David A. Anderson, Centre College's Paul G. Blazer Professor of Economics, quantifies the burden of crime by estimating the annual cost of

crime in the United States. The study appears in *Foundations and Trends in Microeconomics*, Vol. 7: No 3.

Many studies measure crime by looking at raw numbers of thefts, murders and other criminal activities. Anderson warns that these numbers can be misleading, especially when the number of crimes goes in one direction while the severity of crimes goes in the other. For example, Anderson notes that "a recent decrease in the number of thefts was accompanied by such a large increase in the average amount stolen that total victim losses actually increased." Anderson says that scale issues make cost a better gauge of crime's burden than counts of crimes.

"When we consider the time and money spent locking things up, installing security systems, purchasing protective firearms, and providing medical care for victims, the full cost of crime is revealed to be much larger. ... The annual cost of crime in the United States for one year is now about \$3.2 trillion dollars, which is roughly the combined cost of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq from 2001 to 2011," Anderson says. "We spend \$2.7 trillion a year on health care. The burden of crime exceeds that by half a trillion dollars."

– *Corrections Forum*

The Ultimate Restitution

A lack of national protocol for the willing prisoner to donate living vital organs and tissues is the norm. People die daily awaiting transplants, while some 2.3 million incarcerated persons are systematically denied the opportunity to make the ultimate restitution.

The citizens behind the website Facebook.com/organsfrominmates are committed to creating legislation for those whose bravery and dignity continue to inspire. These prisoners represent a viable option to contribute to those in desperate need. Family and friends may sign the online petition.

– *Coalition for Prisoners' Rights*

News Editorial: Global Tel*Link Taken to the FCC

When Bob Peterson's friend at the Tennessee Prison for Women in Nashville wants to call him at his home in Michigan, it costs her \$3.62 just to connect and then \$0.62 for every minute they spend talking. They rack up more than \$22 for a single 30-minute call, he said. At those rates, he added, some families can afford to talk to imprisoned relatives only once or twice a year. "Personally, I think they are overcharging," said Peterson, who calls himself a reluctant customer.

In August the FCC decided in favor of setting price caps nationwide for interstate telephone services. It will be assumed to be "just and reasonable" if debit or prepaid calls don't exceed \$0.12 per minute, while collect calls will be presumed reasonable at \$0.14 per minute.

Telephone companies will be allowed to petition for an exception to those caps, but an absolute cap of \$0.21 per minute will apply for debit and prepaid calls, while an absolute cap of \$0.25 per minute will apply for collect calls. Prisoners can file challenges and seek refunds for rates exceeding \$0.12 per minute and \$0.14 per minute, according to the FCC.

The order also bars prison telephone companies from charging prisoners for commissions paid to state and local prisons. Those fees or commissions now amount to \$2.5 million annually for the state prison system, or 50.1% of the total revenue GTL collects from thousands of Ten-

nessee customers. Under the order, telephone companies would be effectively barred from charging prisoners or their families for those fees paid to corrections departments.

Mignon Clyburn, FCC chairwoman and the chief proponent of the new caps, said that under the order, a 15-minute call that now costs \$17 will cost only \$3.75. The order does not apply to intrastate calls, but the FCC has asked for public comment on revising rates for these calls as well. You and your family can send letters to:

Federal Communications Com.
Public Comments
445 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

The FCC said the previous rates reflected agreements in which states looked for the biggest commission rather than the best deal for consumers, and that the burden was largely borne by prisoners' families. Last fall, U.S. Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA) and Bobby Rush (D-IL) asked the FCC to take action on the issue of high prison phone rates, pointing to research that shows how regular family contact reduces recidivism.

Prison telephone provider Global Tel*Link was lobbying the FCC to not regulate its rates. Veritas Capital and Goldman Sachs recently sold the company for \$1 billion to American Securities LLC, a private equity firm. For the latest developments go to the Campaign for Prison Phone Justice website at www.PhoneJustice.org.

Editor's Chronicle of Global Tel*Link Disservice 2009

- ☞ International phone number added to my phone list.
- ☞ GTL's prices: connection \$5.00; minute \$1.65; total 30-minute call: \$54.50. (Same international 30-min. call using a phone card bought at a store on the outside: \$1.)
- ☞ My friend on the street sent money to GTL.
- ☞ GTL was unable to connect the phone call.
- ☞ I confirmed the international phone number was on my phone list.
- ☞ My friend on the street confirmed with GTL that they had the money, etc.
- ☞ It got frustrating, and I temporarily gave up trying.

2010

- ☞ GTL was still unable to connect the phone call.
- ☞ I sent a letter to GTL and **never** heard back from them – even to this date!
- ☞ I gave up trying for a while – again.

2011

- ☞ GTL was still unable to connect the phone call.
- ☞ My friend on the street, trying to fix things from the outside, gave up after his long conversations with GTL's Customer Service produced no solution at all.
- ☞ I... well, you already know!

2012

- ☞ No progress: GTL was still unable to connect the phone call.
- ☞ My friend on the street called GTL, this time to find out international call prices. GTL's operator didn't know them and gave my friend a 3rd-party phone number for him to find them out. (Great customer service, right?)
- ☞ My friend called 3rd party (at the phone number provided by GTL) whose operator told him that "his company doesn't do business with GTL."
- ☞ My friend called GTL back and told the operator what 3rd party said. GTL's operator was clueless about what to do.

2013

- ☞ I gave up trying for good.
- ☞ My friend didn't want to waste his time anymore.
- ☞ GTL still has the money and probably has been earning interest on it for the last 4 years, that is if they haven't pocketed it by now.

Reducing State Prison Population

Commissioner Derrick Schofield said that a Pew Center opinion survey found that Americans believe too many people are in prison and the nation spends too much on imprisonment. Respondents to the survey also over-

whelmingly support a variety of policy changes that shift nonviolent offenders from prison to more effective, less expensive alternatives. States that have reduced their prison populations without releasing prisoners were able to do so by investing in community alternatives.

According to Schofield, the

time has come for Tennessee to create solid community alternatives that are based on best practices and national trends. "We know we cannot continue to lock up every person who breaks the law, but we can take actions that hold them accountable and have been shown to make a difference," he said.

The last major overhaul of Tennessee's criminal justice system came from the Criminal Sentencing Reform Act of 1989. After years of overcrowding and lawsuits, the state, based on Tennessee Sentencing Commission recommendations, changed the way criminals would be sentenced. It made punishments