



ISSUE NO. 17
MARCH 2019

THE DRUM

IN THIS ISSUE

AMERICAN BAIL SYSTEM	PG. 1
CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT	PG. 2
APP OF THE MONTH	PG. 3
READ/WATCH/LISTEN	PG. 4
TAX SEASON	PG. 5
CROSSWORD	PG. 6

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRIGHT NIGHTS COMMUNITY FORUM: UNDERSTANDING DEPRESSION

March 18, 2019

6:30P.M. - 8:30P.M.

Berman Center for Performing Arts
6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield Township,
Michigan 48322

Forum includes a discussion session between the audience and panel, who are representatives from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), who will address audience questions and offer personal narratives of successful approaches for depression management.

FREE

24TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF ART BY MICHIGAN PRISONERS

March 20 - April 13 2019

Duderstadt Center Gallery

University of Michigan North Campus, 2281
Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

One of the largest exhibitions of art by incarcerated artists in the country. Each year, faculty, staff and students select work for the exhibition while providing feedback and critique that strengthens artists' work and builds community around making art inside prisons.

FREE

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP

March 26 2019, April 9th, April 23rd (Every month on
2nd and 4th Tuesday)

10:00A.M. - 11:30A.M.

Matrix Human Services - The Matrix Center

13560 East McNichols Detroit, Michigan 48205

Receive guidance on building financial plans, new ways to save money, assistance with understanding credit (including credit reports and credit scores), learn ways to purchase homes and cars, and assistance understanding relationships with financial institutions.

FREE

THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN BAIL SYSTEM

BY SARAH LEDER

After a wave of bail reform efforts, the Federal Bail Reform Act of 1966 encouraged states to trust defendants to appear on their court date or to enact conditional releases where individuals would need to meet certain non-financial criteria (ex. stay-away orders) prior to their court date. However, the second wave of bail reform (from 1960-1980) was more concerned with detention, and in 1984, Congress approved "preventative detention based on public safety concerns in addition to concerns that the person would fail to appear at trial."¹ Despite attempts to limit 'preventative detention' to the most risky of individuals, many state courts ignore this and judges set high money bonds in order to keep those individuals in jail until the time of their hearing. Presently, bond prices are set without consideration of an individual's ability to pay and largely based on the level of the offense with which they are charged.

We are in the midst of a third wave bail reform effort. In August 2018, California became the first state to completely abandon the use of cash bail through a law that goes into effect in October 2019. Though this effort was initially praised by activist groups, some ultimately urged the California governor not to sign the bill. The replacement for cash bail is a series of 'risk assessment' tools, which use an algorithm to decide if a individual should be released pending trial.² These risk assessment tools would assign every individual a 'risk score' that determines an individual's likelihood of being re-arrested or failing to appear in court if out; judges would be able to make their own decision about whether that individual should be released prior to their trial.³

Supporters of the California bill argue that this is the first step in the right direction: "At least now the system won't be based solely on money."⁴ Furthermore, it is important to note that judges already have the power to jail individuals using bail. Advocates who do not support California's adoption of this law worry that risk assessment tools will continue to penalize the poor and those from communities of color. In 2011, one researcher found that the use of risk assessment tools in Kentucky led to an "increased rate of white defendants being released, but no change for black defendants."⁵

1 www.acluohio.org/archives/blog-posts/a-brief-history-of-cash-bail

2 www.npr.org/2018/08/28/642795284/california-becomes-first-state-to-end-cash-bail

3 www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/sep/07/imprisoned-by-algorithms-the-dark-side-of-california-ending-cash-bail

4 www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/08/29/california-abolish-cash-bail-reformers-unhappy-219618

5 www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/sep/07/imprisoned-by-algorithms-the-dark-side-of-california-ending-cash-bail

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

RETURNING CITIZEN METRO JOB FAIR

March 29 2019 - RSVP ASAP by calling (313) 557-4848
9:00A.M. - 3:00P.M.
Goodwill Industries, North End Career Center
2777 East Grand Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48211

CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

March 22 2019, April 12th, April 26th
(Every month on 2nd and 4th Friday)
10:00A.M. - 11:30A.M.
Matrix Human Services - The Matrix Center
13560 East McNichols, Detroit, Michigan 48205
Receive interview techniques, resume writing assistance, job searching techniques, dress-to-success tips, employability skills training, assistance with filling out applications (hard copy and online). Call SADO's Project Reentry for a referral: 313-256-9833

CENTER FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Center for Employment Opportunities provides immediate, effective, and comprehensive employment services exclusively to individuals who have recently returned home from incarceration.
7310 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
Call 313-752-0680 to inquire

MICHIGAN SHARE NETWORK, CHURCH OF MESSIAH

The Share Network provides resources for employment, offering assistance with resumes, job applications, attire and access to employment.
Contact Wally Gilbert for information.
(248) 796-1921
wallyg@blvdharambee.org

FOR ASSISTANCE APPLYING TO JOBS OR TO BE CONNECTED TO EVENTS AND RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE REACH OUT TO PROJECT REENTRY.

CITIZEN SPOTLIGHT BRIAN IVORY CAME HOME MAY 2018 HOMETOWN

Detroit, Michigan

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

Watching and playing sports. I also like eating, cooking food and spending time with my brother.

SUCCESS SINCE RELEASE

Helping my family and taking GED classes.

STRUGGLES SINCE RELEASE

None



MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

I can relate and I know what you are going through.

FIND HOPE!

Hope Community Church Support Meeting

Next Meeting: Friday, April 5th
6:00-8:00pm
Hope Community Church
14456 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48215

Hope Community Church hosts support meetings on the first Friday of every month. Meetings are a healing space for individuals, family members, and friends with loved ones who are or have been incarcerated in the past. If interested, all you have to do is show up.

A Special Thanks to Kim Woodson for Facilitating the Self-Care Roundtable at SADO



"It felt great to be able to share with my brothers what self-care looks like for returning citizens. It so essential for everyone to take care of yourself first in order to be there for others. Being true to your emotions and making sure your body is in good shape are just two ways to take care of yourself"

-Kim

IN THE NEWS

Welcome home, Sheldry Topp. Mr. Topp was given a life without parole sentence at the age of 17. After serving more than 56 years behind bars, he was resentenced and exited prison on March 1st. On that day, CNN reported, Mr. Topp headed out for a steak dinner with his brother. Project Reentry welcomes Mr. Topp home and wishes him more good meals with family and friends.

PCAP PLUS

Wednesday, March 20 – Wednesday, April 3.

24th Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners.

Gallery hours: Sunday - Monday 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.,
Tuesday, April 3, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Opening reception: March 20, sales begin at 6 p.m.,
program at 7 p.m.

Where: Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48109. Information at 734-647-6771 and
www.prisonarts.org/exhibits. To support the exhibition,
go to <http://myumich/6kVMk>.



PCAP, the Prison Creative Arts Project, is currently hosting weekly workshops every Monday on computer literacy and technology. If interested, call Aaron at (734) 646-1587.

MINT

WHAT IS MINT?

BY HARLEY PAULSEN

When you are on top of your money, life is good. Mint helps you effortlessly manage your finances in one place.

Download this app and you can see everything from your balances, bills, credit score, and more. Mint also helps you create budgets, give tips on new ways to save and helps you understand where all your money is going.

Get started now, it's free! And Easy!

READ/WATCH/LISTEN LIST BY CAITLIN STADLER

READ THE SURPRISINGLY NOMADIC LIVES OF PRISONERS BY BRYON CASE

Published by The Marshall Project, Mr. Case writes about his experience of being constantly moved around to different cells and prisons during his incarceration. Read here: <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/02/14/the-surprisingly-nomadic-lives-of-prisoners>

WATCH THE CASE AGAINST ADNAN SYED

This four-part documentary series explores the case surrounding the conviction of Adnan Syed — a case brought to attention by the Serial podcast. Starts March 10th. Watch on HBO Go or YouTube.

LISTEN FIRST DAY BACK

This podcast chronicles the personal stories of people trying to get their life back after a life-changing event. Season 2 follows Lucie, who is returning to society after spending eight years in prison following the accidental death of her husband. Listen on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, or the website www.firstdaybackpodcast.com

MEET THE TEAM

ELIZABETH NESBITT



HOMETOWN

Grand Ledge, MI

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

My favorite things to do are spend time with my family, cook and bake, play with my cats, and watch bad horror movies!

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

I feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with you all. Thank you to those of you I have already met for being so welcoming, and I hope to meet more of you very soon!

SHEPHERD'S PIE

BY TAYLOR BONNER

Cook time: 30 minutes

Prep time: 15 minutes

Servings: 4

INGREDIENTS

1 pound ground beef (or turkey)
1 medium onion, chopped (about 1/2 cup)
1 can Campbell's® Condensed Cream of Mushroom Soup or Campbell's® Condensed 98% Fat Free Cream of Mushroom Soup
1 tablespoon of ketchup
1 package (about 10 ounces) frozen peas and carrots or your favorite frozen vegetable combination (about 1 1/2 cups)
2 cups prepared instant mashed potatoes (or mash your own potatoes!)

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 400°F. While the oven is heating, season the beef. Cook the beef and onion in a 10-inch ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat until the beef is well browned, stirring often to separate meat. Pour off any fat. Stir the soup, ketchup and peas and carrots into the skillet. Spoon the mashed potatoes over the beef mixture. Bake for 15 minutes or until the potatoes are lightly browned.

SAVE THE DATE



Wednesday, May 29, 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Making Family Inclusion A Priority. Citizens for Prison Reform's 8th Annual Legislative Education Day.

Presentations by legislators and persons representing organizations devoted to improving the criminal justice system and conditions for prisoners and their families, and opportunities for meetings with legislators. The program begins with a press conference on the Capitol lawn at 9:30, followed by registration at 10. Former state representative Joe Haveman, will give the keynote address at 10:30, followed by other speakers and a lunch with legislators. Attendees will have an opportunity to speak with their representatives from 1pm to 4pm in the afternoon. For more information visit

www.micpr.org.

A CONVERSATION WITH FRANK RODRIGUEZ

BY ALLISON GORINE

Frank spent over 17 years in prison. After his release in 2011, he earned his associate's degree at Lansing Community College, with a major in Paralegal Studies and a minor in Business. He has since worked as a paralegal at SADO and is a member of the advisory board for an outreach program called Advocacy, Re-entry, Resources, and Outreach (ARRO) that connects ex-offenders and their friends and families to quality resources to ensure successful community reintegration. I asked Frank what helped him accomplish his goals and what he would tell other people returning from incarceration. Below is what he said:

1. Take time to figure out who you are. Put yourself first and take time for yourself.
2. "baby steps" is most important. Set small and attainable goals. Returning from prison is a process. It may take achieving many small goals before getting to the place you ultimately want to be.
3. School is extremely valuable: Pick a trade or a degree that will put you on a path towards a long-term career. There may be jobs out there or temporary work but obtaining a degree is a great way to gain financial and employment security for your future.

"I was intimidated about going to school at first, but once I got there it seemed that all the students were at the same place I was, just learning and trying to figure it out. Also a lot of students helped me navigate through school."
4. Get a library card and use the resources at your local library.
5. Set up a bank account and start building credit.
6. Network with people in your community who can help you achieve your goals.
7. Avoid unhealthy relationships: remember, you are on parole and your associations can get you incarcerated.
8. "Don't wish for it, work for it." This quote continues to motivate me to achieve my goals one step at a time.

TIS THE SEASON: TAX SEASON

BY ELIZABETH NESBITT

Free Tax Preparation

Taxes are due April 15! Need some help?

Search for services near you:

1. Type in irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep on your web browser.
2. Enter your zip code in the box and the radius you are able to travel, then select "Find."
3. If there are any services within your area, a list will show up below.
4. For more information, you can select "Get Directions and Service Details" below the location that works best for you.
5. Be sure to call the number listed to make an appointment.

For Metro Detroit Services Call (586)-463-2537

with any questions and to schedule an appointment at one of these locations:

* Macomb County Family Resource Center
196 N Rose St.

Mount Clemens, MI, 48043

Tuesday & Wednesday 9am-8pm

Saturdays 9am-2pm (First 60 Walk Ins)

* Max Thompson Family Resource Center
11370 Hupp

Warren, MI, 48089

Thursday & Friday 9am-4pm

* Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154
18025 E 15 Mile

Clinton Twp, MI, 48035

Monday 10am-4pm (Walk-ins)

Be sure to bring the appropriate documents

- * Identification
- * Income Documentation
- * Proof of Expenses
- * Direct Deposit Information
- * Past Years Completed Tax Returns

Want to try on your own?

TurboTax and H&R Block both offer free online tax preparation services. You can create an account and the site will guide you through each step of your taxes.

General questions about taxes?

Visit www.michiganlegalhelp.org

or

www.usa.gov/help-with-taxes

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH



U-SNAP-BAC

14901 E Warren Ave.

Detroit, MI 48224

U-SNAP-BAC offers multiple free workshops every month on home buyer education, building credit, budgeting, and financial capability.

Call (313) 640-1100 or visit their webpage at usnapbac.org to inquire about upcoming workshops



COST FREE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Matrix Community Financial Center

What: Financial Empowerment Workshops
Learn how to build a financial plan, save money, build and understand credit, purchase a car or house, and more.

When: Every month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 10am

Where: 13560 E. McNichols, Detroit 48205

TALK TO A REAL PERSON

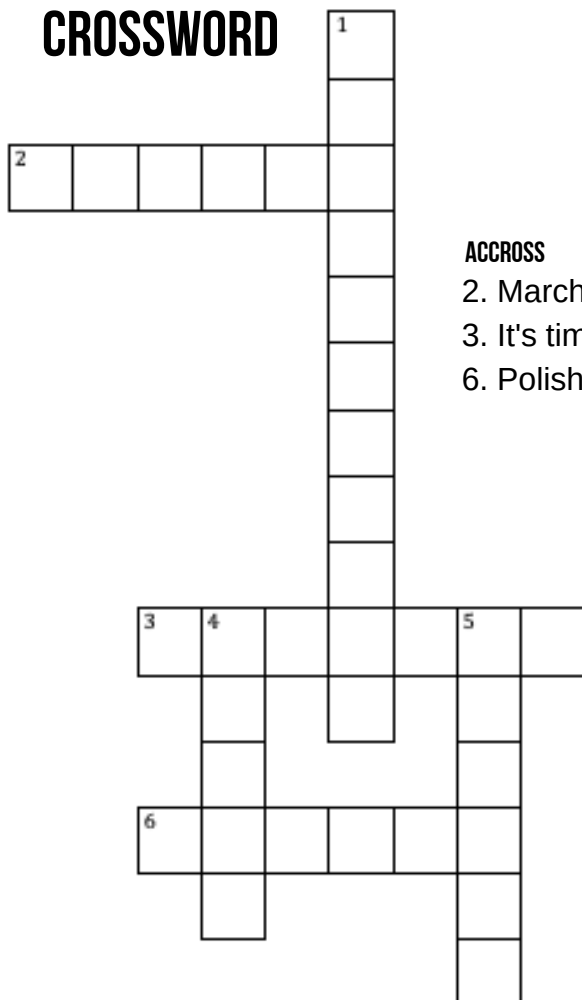
Available **only** on Saturday or Sunday by phone: Call Kevin Gorine with general finance questions. Qualifiable questions include, starting a bank account, building your credit, and how to invest on your own.

Kevin's credentials: Bachelor's in Finance from Grand Valley State University, Allison's brother, and willing to assist the community.

Phone: 734-474-8132



MARCH CROSSWORD



ACROSS

2. March is National ____ Workers Month
3. It's time to fill out brackets for March ____.
6. Polish pastry popular on Fat Tuesday

DOWN

1. National Park established March 1st 1872
4. Spring ____, Fall back
5. March 20th is the first day of this season

To see past versions of The Drum,
visit www.sado.org/go/drum
Follow SADO on Facebook, Instagram,
and Twitter!

HAVE QUESTIONS OR SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE?
CALL (313) 256-9833

AND ASK FOR A PROJECT REENTRY TEAM MEMBER
OR EMAIL US AT
REENTRY@SADO.ORG
OR SEND A LETTER TO
PROJECT REENTRY

STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER OFFICE
645 GRISWOLD, SUITE 3300
DETROIT, MI 48226