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OPINION

SATURDAY

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The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

LETTERS

Coming to America

When President Barack Obama unveiled his plan for executive amnesty, I was dismayed at his disregard for our laws. His amnesty plan goes much further than just allowing a few million people from our neighbors to stay here and become U.S. citizens.

More than 5 million immigrants have obtained work permits from the federal government since 2009 as told by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). Also 982,000 of those permits went to illegals and other foreign nationals who did not meet legal standards for employment.

Under congressional law, 1.1 million legal immigrants and 700,000 guest workers are permitted to enter the U.S. annually. The 5 million work permits uncovered by CIS are above the legal numbers.

Our president, whether intentionally or due to his lack of competency, has turned our country into a haven for unrestricted immigration.

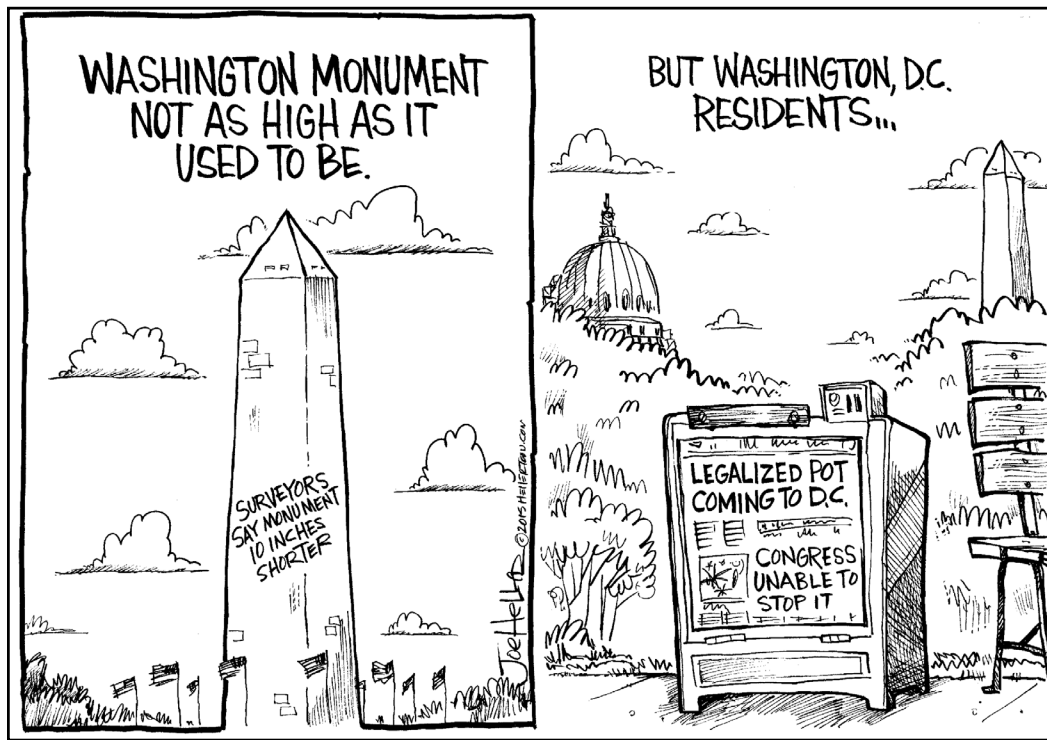
According to the American Family Association, since 2008, the president has added 18 million foreign workers to the American Labor Force. Believe it or not, some Americans are being fired and replaced with Obama's foreign workers.

At last week's Congressional hearings, Homeland Security Secretary stated, "Illegal immigrants are being issued Social Security Cards, Work Permits, and child Income Credits from the IRS for as much as \$24,000 per family." Also, these welcomed new citizens will be able to obtain a driver's license and voter registration with their new documentation.

Reading an article in the Washington Times, President of Mexico, Enrique Nieto, stated his government would supply the documents necessary for millions of illegal Mexican immigrants to prove they've been living in the United States. What's in this for Mexico? For one, it would be a good way to reduce their prison population.

The Syrian civil war has created a humanitarian crisis, with 3.2 million Syrians having fled their country and seeking refuge in camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

The State Department said in December it was processing more than 9,000 applications referred from the United Nations, with tens of



thousands more Syrians waiting in the U.N. pipeline. Will they also be "Coming to America"?

Homeland Security needs a lot of our tax dollars to process this large influx of new U.S. citizens. We already know the routine if our

president does not get his way. Our borders will be even more open, and the GOP will be blamed for not having compassion for women and children.

Jimmie L. Moe
Florence

YESTERDAY'S NEWS

MOMENTS IN TIME The History Channel

- On Feb. 25, 1828, John Adams, son of President John Quincy Adams, marries his first cousin and inadvertently follows a pattern of keeping marriages within the family. John Adams' grandfather, President John Adams, had married his third cousin. John's daughter also married a family member — her second cousin.

- On Feb. 24, 1938, Variety reports that the film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has bought the rights to adapt L. Frank Baum's children's novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" for the screen, and that MGM has cast 16-year-old Judy Garland in the film's central role, Dorothy.

- On Feb. 27, 1942, the U.S. Navy's first aircraft carrier, the Langley, is sunk by Japanese warplanes, and all of its 32 aircraft are lost. The Langley had parted company from its convoy when nine Japanese twin-engine bombers attacked. Of the 300 crewmen, only 16 were lost.

- On Feb. 28, 1953, Cambridge University scientists James D. Watson and Frances H.C. Crick announce that they have determined the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule containing human genes. Watson later claimed that Crick announced the discovery by walking into the nearby Eagle Pub and blurring out, "We have discovered the secret of life."

- On Feb. 26, 1968, allied troops who recaptured the city of Hue from the North Vietnamese during the Tet Offensive find the first mass graves in the former imperial capital. It was discovered that communist troops who had held the city for 25 days had massacred between 2,800 and 5,700 civilians.

- On March 1, 1971, musician James Taylor makes the cover of Time magazine. The article contrasted Taylor's gentle rock sound to the "walloping folk rock of Bob Dylan," the "thunderous eloquence of the Beatles" and the "leer of the Rolling Stones."

- On Feb. 23, 1980, speed skater Eric Heiden wins the 10,000-meter race at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York, setting a world record with his time. Before Heiden, no other athlete in Olympic history had ever won five individual gold medals.

Herbs

from 1A

Female cannabis has the flowers that people refer to as marijuana.

"Now we're talking about all this legalization, but how did we even get 'un-legalized' in the first place?" he asked.

"This is a very political issue, and I don't want to get into the politics of cannabis, but it is good to note that before Prohibition started, cannabis was a very common ingredient in many herbal formulas in the world."

In McBride's research, he discovered that the U.S. banned cannabis because of the male plant, hemp, not the female plant, which has the medicinal and psychological effects.

"Hemp was the only fiber and textile used across the world at that time. All the sails on all the ships before 1900 were made of hemp. ... Cotton was very minimally used. Cotton has very low yields and is inefficient to grow and harvest," he said.

It took the inventor of the cotton

gin, which allowed for faster harvesting, using political clout to ban the versatile hemp so that cotton could compete in the market.

"It had nothing to do with the flowers at all," McBride said. "Because the flowers are so strong and psychoactive, it was easy for the powers that be to use those things against the plant to convince people that that was why it was bad. Ultimately, it was a political and economic agenda."

The prohibition on cannabis is ending now.

People with acute anxiety, severe pain, epilepsy, even Alzheimer's, have begun using cannabis medicinally.

Whitney, who spoke for the Herb Enthusiasts once before, said, "There aren't a lot of studies in general. That's one of the main points that I want to make today. There are not a lot of studies showing marijuana use and what it does to the body. ... I think that will change eventually down the road and more studies can be done."

McBride said, "There's no herb that's ever a silver bullet to any-

thing. You can't take cannabis and assume it's going to heal all your problems. ... Any health regime you do has to be part of a lifestyle choice. It has to be part of a comprehensive plan."

He recommended yoga, Pilates and going to a chiropractor to help alleviate pain.

"If you really want to rebuild and heal, you can't expect every herb to do that for you. Only you can do that for yourself. Herbs will help you along the way and teach you what you need to do for yourself. You must look within yourself to truly grow in the long-term," said McBride.

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