Siuslaw News
P.O. Box 10
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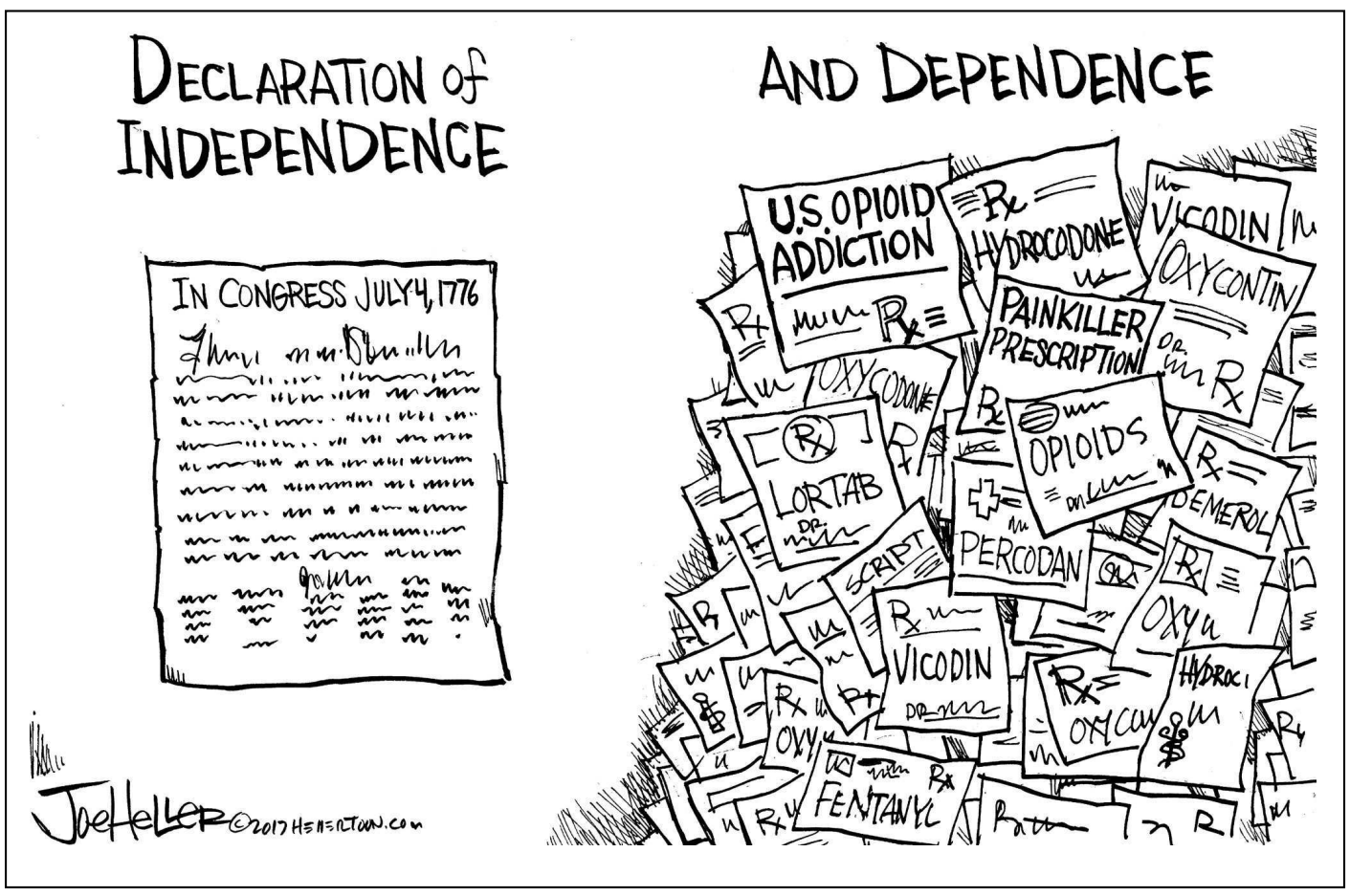
Opinion

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.



Opiate potency increasing — so are deaths

Siuslaw News
Guest Viewpoint

By Ray Clauson
Community Information, Narconon

Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. In 2014, it surpassed both car accidents and gun violence in number of deaths.

Those with loved ones who are using opiates or heroin need to be aware that opiates are the main contributors to this problem. With drug dealers across the United States mixing new and powerful synthetic drugs into street opiates such as heroin, the chance of accidental overdose has exponentially increased.

The drugs fentanyl, U-47700 and furanyl can be 50 to 100 times more powerful than heroin, making the risk of a fatal overdose much higher. Drug dealers have been using these drugs to increase the potency of their heroin at a lower cost.

These new drugs are increasing the risk to any who abuse drugs as drug dealers press drugs into pills and selling them under the guise of being something else. Today, those who abuse drugs truly are at risk as there is no telling what drugs they are taking.

Now, more than ever, it is essential to help those you know who are addicted to alcohol or drugs. Trying to help someone with an addiction can be more than frustrating. And although you just want to help, many times they fight against you as if you were the enemy.

Don't be surprised if your loved even accuses you of contributing to their addiction. Hear them out and take their words into consideration, but at the end of the day realize getting them sober and continuing to live is the most important thing.

These drugs have made it potentially life threatening to be an abuser of any type of drugs.

Get yourself educated. If one of your loved ones is struggling with addiction, get them into treatment.

Don't wait until it is too late.

There are many different approaches to the challenge of how to help a substance abuser.

For free information or to learn the steps of how to get someone into treatment for heroin addiction, you can visit www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/blog/are-you-an-addict.html or call 1-800-431-1754 to get help for your loved ones.

LETTERS

False facts

Our childish president loves to tweet. He continues his ongoing tweet battle with CNN about "false news." It seems that CNN has published — or had reporters question — all of his tweets which cite false facts.

Now, the President is unable to handle the press and its questioning his "facts."

How would he be able to cope if something really happened? What if someone asked him about CNBW? Without any knowledge, would he attack the CNBW as a liberal news organization not knowing it means Chemical Nuclear Biological Warfare?

He Scares me.

— Win Jolley
Florence

Hoping for a hate-free city

I believe that every Florence resident should be treated with compassion and respect regardless of national origin or citizenship status.

President Trump advocated violent treatment of people picked up by police and called for funding of another 10,000 ICE agents in a recent speech in Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

Rose Riley, ICE spokeswoman in Seattle, noted that the vetting process in seeking out unauthorized immigrants is now less selective than in previous years, back when the focus was on serious criminals.

But now, Riley said, "There is no category of an individual who is exempt from ICE enforcement. Under the executive orders given by President Trump, ICE officers do not hesitate to ask anyone associated with someone who they arrest about their status. It's not dependent on their criminality." (Oregonians for Immigration Reform)

The Lane County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved new Lane County Manual language regarding immigration. It states that it is the expectation that all Lane County employees (not just law enforcement) adhere to ORS 181A.820, which prohibits local entities from using "agency money, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws."

It was noted by the commissioners that they believed that the limited resources of Lane County are better spent providing direct services to the community rather than acting as immigration enforcement officers, which is the responsibility of federal law enforcement. (Lane County Key Communicator Network)

Lane County Commissioner Jay Bozievich commented before the unanimous vote that, "We are a local government providing local services. If a citizen is afraid to come to us, that really affects our ability to protect people." (Oregonians for Immigration Reform)

Three Republican state legislators are leading an initiative petition to repeal ORS 181. But research shows that immigrants who fear deportation avoid public places and interaction with police officers. This erosion of trust makes the entire community vulnerable because people are fearful of reporting crimes, coming out as witnesses, or reporting domestic violence abuses. (Center for American Progress).

A Center for American Progress report in 2016 found that removing 7 million unauthorized immigrants will result in a loss of $900 billion federal government revenue over a decade and individual states will forgo $11.74 billion each year in state and local taxes that unauthorized immigrants already pay into the system through taxes.

I feel it is imperative both morally and ethically that we in Florence stand with our immigrant brothers and sisters and call for a hate-free community.

— Judy Preisler
Florence

Badly needed dialogue

In regard to Dave Peck's letter to the editor "County Employees Can't Report Federal Crimes?" (July 12) — Yes, they can, and the statement that off-duty county employees could be terminated for reporting immigration law violations is not correct, according to Lane County Public Information Officer Devon Ashbridge.

She says the order adopted by Lane County Commissioners on July 11 reaffirms continued compliance with a 30-year-old state policy that prohibits local law enforcement from locating or arresting people whose only legal violation is being in the U.S. without immigration papers.

The order also expands the policy to include all Lane County services and departments. The order was adopted unanimously with the cooperation and support of the District Attorney, Sheriffs' Department and other county agencies and does not violate current state or federal law.

The immigration controversy has incited emotionally-charged, opposing points of view. Speculation that stokes anger and resentment unnecessarily takes us further away from badly-needed dialog that might lead to a resolution.

How can the two sides have a conversation about this?

— Rollin Olson
Florence

Don't put student athletes at risk

In responding to the viewpoint expressed in sports page columnist Lloyd Little's "Time Out" in the July 29 issue of Siuslaw News, I wish to state a different opinion.

Students participating in athletic contests are far too young to be able to assess the potential after effects of an injury incurred during play.

Rather than allowing them to make an uninformed "personal choice" that might have very serious physical and mental consequences in later life, I propose that their educational mentors (the school system) enforce rules prohibiting vanity driven re-engagement.

— Bill Durst
Florence

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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Siuslaw News welcomes letters to the editor as part of a community discussion of issues on the local, state and national level.

Emailed letters are preferred. Handwritten or typed letters must be signed. All letters need to include full name, address and phone number; only name and city will be printed. Letters should be limited to about 300 words. Letters are subject to editing for length, grammar and clarity. Publication of any letter is not guaranteed and depends on space available and the volume of letters received.

Libelous, argumentative and anonymous letters or poetry, or letters from outside our readership area will not be published.

Political/Election Letters:

Election-related letters must address pertinent or timely issues of interest to our readers at-large.

Letters must 1) Not be a part of letter-writing campaigns on behalf of (or by) candidates; 2) Ensure any information about a candidate is accurate, fair and not from second-hand knowledge or hearsay; and 3) explain the reasons to support candidates based on personal experience and perspective rather than partisanship and campaign-style rhetoric.

Candidates themselves may not use the letters to the editor column to outline their views and platforms or to ask for votes; this constitutes paid political advertising.

As with all letters and advertising content, the newspaper, at the sole discretion of the publisher, general manager and editor, reserves the right to reject any letter that doesn't follow the above criteria.

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TTY/TDD Comments: 202-456-6213
www.whitehouse.gov

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