

Opinions

Guest Editorial — Marijuana— Awareness is prevention

By John Hescock
**Lewis County Alcohol and
Drug Enforcement Officer**

As a law enforcement officer, I can say the best way to help prevent marijuana use in youth today is by being aware of what's going on. When parents take an active part in their children's lives it strengthens family ties and builds communication. When parents and their children communicate they learn what's going on with each other, and problems can be minimized.

As a parent, part of the communication with your children should include knowing where they are, what they are doing, and who they are with. Engage your children in conversation; learn who their friends are and what interests they have. Your children learn from you, so be a positive role model. Your children may have some of the same interest you have, use this to keep them active and away from drugs.

We as parents should also educate our children about marijuana and other drugs and the negative effects they have on us, not only in health matters but socially.

Current medical studies have shown a decrease in brain function due to marijuana usage. As parents you need to break the attitude that marijuana is not harmful to the people smoking it. Marijuana usage can limit job opportunities and is illegal in the State of Idaho.

The youth in the area believe marijuana is not harmful, but they can be arrested for D.U.I. for being under the influence of marijuana.

Possession of any amount of marijuana or its paraphernalia is illegal and will be on their record if convicted of possession or D.U.I.

Those charges can haunt a person for many, many years down the road and limit what they do in life after high school. Socially it has very negative effects on a person's life. We the parents need to be aware of this and help our children understand it too. The choices they make today will impact their future, whether they believe it or not.

To parents marijuana is a growing problem in Northern Idaho. More students are reporting marijuana usage than alcohol. Our last information on this shows a small increase in marijuana usage every year over the last few years. The reason for the increase in marijuana usage is because it's not as detectable as alcohol in the schools.

Our youth know law enforcement have testing equipment to determine the amount of alcohol in their systems. We do not have equipment for marijuana. Law enforcement and the school district are proactively trying to deter the use of marijuana and alcohol by students through education of the harms of drugs and alcohol use, law enforcement presence at the schools and increased random drug dog usage at the schools.

With the end of school approaching, parents need to take a more active role in their children's lives. There are going to be numerous activity opportunities offered to the local youth throughout the summer months through Kamiah Community Partners Coalition and other community partners. I ask parents to participate in the events. They will be fun but with a little educational information to help children make better decisions. The information given to the children is information you as parents can re-enforce at home to help build a safer drug free community. The activities are always chaperoned and are always drug and alcohol free.

As a parent if you have information or suggestions that will help our local youth contact Sharlene Johnson at the Kamiah Welcome Center, 935-2290.



The Clearwater Progress
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PH: (208) 935-0838
FAX (208) 935-0973
John Bennett (208) 983-3096
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Letters to the Editor

Census harassment not welcome here

Cooperation by Idaho County Commissioners with the U.S. Census are asking residents to fill in the mailed report and avoid a knock at the door. (Progress March 4 issue.) In some cases the reports are being hand delivered to residents not mailed. I have many witnesses to this scenario.

The so-called census started last year with workers traveling all over the county trespassing on private property. The workers were GPSing entrance doors to private homes, outbuildings, individual RV sites, and even renaming private driveways with permanent road names. This was witnessed at Long Camp RV Park on numerous occasions.

The sheriff was called more than once and on one occasion the worker was asked to leave and do their work from the state highway. One of the deputies found a census worker roaming on his property when he came home from work. Carlos Martinez, a deputy, called the supervisor's office in Boise to ask about the worker's duties and legal authorization. The supervisor told him that the census workers hours are over at 5 p.m. They were calling our office at 7:45 p.m. Boise time was 8:45 p.m. No census workers will be allowed in our campground harassing vacationing campers at any time!

Christopher Hertel
Kamiah

Are we able to govern ourselves?

The last tea party was very good and covered the precinct committee seat, votes March 8-19. We met and listened to Brendon Hill who is going for the seat this election.

Revolution starts here. We learned Rex Rammell is running as 33rd Governor on March 18. State sovereignty is the only thing that can bring us our freedom of our Constitution, rights and liberty.

Lets penetrate the precinct movement where we can all become involved in its dedicated to the long haul movement.

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," one man bursted out. Another said, "Under the law of God is the preservation of our existence."

We must educate ourselves and our neighbors about our liberty. A call to virtue. Are we able to govern ourselves?

The power of the tea party is to define ourselves as a constitutional defense.

Pete Ketchum believes there are three simultaneous courses of action or strategies that the conservative tea party movement can take to preclude the socialistic progressives from ever regaining control over America.

One: Continue with the public rallies, meetings, etc.

Two: Concentrate efforts almost exclu-

sively on the 10th Amendment state sovereignty issue.

Three: Capture control of the Republican Party from a local precinct to the national Republican Committee.

An intelligent participant said, "Because of America's biblical illiteracy and due to lack of spiritual discernment we are in trouble. It's the innocence of the population and their trust in the people we place in the position that is failing us now..."

But I say we still have the power and voice to win back our country to its founding fathers' roots.

Pete ends the meeting by asking for help. I hope I'm helping.

Laura Catalino
Kooskia

PS: The tea party will resume on the last Friday of every month at the Senior Citizen Center in Grangeville.

Save your money for another state

After attending a recent Idaho Department of Fish and Game meeting on March 3 in Orofino, I was confused by who the IDFG depends upon for their income.

The recent meetings were advertised so that "interested individuals can discuss the proposals," and their purpose was to "stimulate informal discussion about wildlife issues in the Clearwater region."

I asked one question to a biologist representing the IDFG by the name of John Nelson. The question was about the length of the extended whitetail season. Shortly into the discussion he became very defensive and short with me. I calmly told him that myself and others in the area would eventually give our money to other states that have better managed game populations. Mr. John Nelson answered directly to me by saying, "Go ahead We Don't Want Your Money." This caught me off guard for a moment, but I could see immediately that he didn't care. I told him that as a local small business owner myself, if I were to tell my customers that, I wouldn't expect to be in business for myself much longer. He replied, "We Don't Want Your Money."

I left there immediately feeling like I had been used every year that I bought license and tags to support a management that clearly thought my money wasn't good enough and they didn't need it. I am sure many of you out there reading this can relate to my feelings. Give the IDFG their wish. When you can afford one of those special hunts or can just plain go without giving money to a failing wildlife management, please give your money to another state wildlife management that wants it. Enjoy your trip knowing that their state department welcomes you and your money.

Shea Stewart
Kamiah

March diabetes meeting scheduled

The March diabetes support group meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 17 at the Kamiah Bible Church from 1-3 p.m. The presenter at this month's meeting is Bill Morphy who will display and discuss the new care line for Accu-check glucometers. Becky Ewing, RN, certified diabetes educator and group facilitator will also discuss nutritional supple-

ments and new diabetes medications.

The support group is open to anyone impacted by

diabetes. For more information contact the Kamiah Medical Clinic at 935-2585.

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Dinners

Thursday, Friday
& Saturday
4-8 pm

Prime Rib ~ MahiMahi
Thai BBQ Pork Chops ~ Chicken Dijon
Steaks ~ Italian Pasta Dishes

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