EDITORIAL Why safe injection sites save lives

Tabitha Tasset Special to the Globe

In spite of major federal efforts like the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), thousands of Americans continue to die from opioid-related deaths each year. The implementation of CARA helped expand access to treatment, provided education on the administration of naloxone, and increased recovery resources. However, harm reduction remains an overlooked aspect of our overall fight against addiction.

A policy analysis of CARA's impact highlights a critical gap: while overdose reversal medications

like naloxone save lives, there is an urgent and deepening need for community-based harm reduction methods. Lowincome and marginalized communities often lack access to essential resources and continue to face significant barriers in receiving the help they need and deserve. With stigma surrounding addiction still prevalent, many individuals find it difficult to reach out for support – and this costs lives. Safe injection sites, where individuals can use substances under medical supervision, have been shown to drastically reduce overdoses, prevent disease transmission, and connect people

to life-saving recovery services.

Safe injection sites are not about encouraging drug use - they are about providing a space where individuals can be safe, reduce their risk of death and injury, and gain access to resources that can help them move toward sobriety on their own terms. These sites help address major public health concerns, such as the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C. Each site would provide clean syringes, alcohol wipes, and other safe-use supplies, along with safe disposal areas for used syringes. They would be supervised by medical staff trained to administer overdose

reversal medications. In addition, they should offer peer support, counseling services, and referrals to health services, including addiction treatment programs, detox centers, and mental health care.

Harm reduction is about meeting people where they are, not forcing them into treatment they are not ready for. It is about giving individuals the safety and support they need to stay alive long enough to make the decision to seek help. It is about protecting our communities – including those suffering from addiction – from preventable diseases and unnecessary death. Traditional approaches that force

individuals into treatment without acknowledging the complexities of addiction – such as social isolation, trauma, poverty, and stigma – often fail. Harm reduction offers those struggling with substance use the best possible chance at survival and recovery.

If we want to continue building on CARA's momentum, it is imperative that we address the gaps many would rather ignore. Prioritizing the funding and legal support for safe injection sites across the nation offers a lifeline to individuals who need it most. Harm reduction is not about giving up - it is about providing

solutions alternative and understanding that addiction and recovery are not black and white. Every overdose prevented at a safe injection site is a life saved.

Expanding access to safe injection sites across every state is not only possible, but responsible. It is our duty - to our neighbors, our loved ones, and our communities – to provide every individual with the opportunity to live a safe, healthy life free from judgment.

*Tabitha Tasset is a student at Fort Hays State University majoring in Social Work. She grew up in Dodge City, KS. You can reach her by e-mail at tr. tasset@gmail.com.

United Wireless Arena May 11 at 8 p.m. is Los

Storm vs. Washington

Tigres del Norte

May 25 at 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 28

at 7 p.m. An Evening

Wolfpack

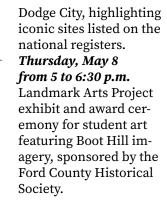
EVENTS

from page A1

The Depot Theater (Don Steele Theater) Monday, May 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. Depot Theater Guild 5x5 fundraiser June 13 to 28 SpongeBob:the Musical! Call the box office to

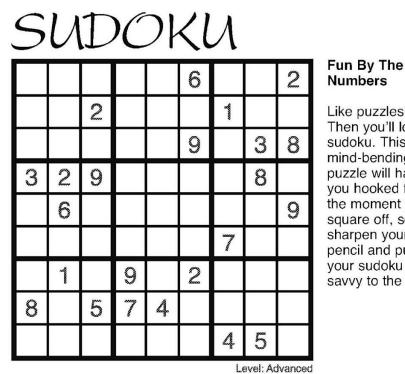
order tickets. 620-225-1001 or go online depottheater.com

Boot Hill Museum Wednesday, May 7 from 4 to 5 p.m. Coffee with the Curator Keith Wondra, who will take you on a fascinating journey through the historical landmarks of





Guadalupe G. Garcia, Jr., 53, DUI. Marisol Aguilar, 38, domestic battery; criminal threat. Kadon R. Rickard, 20, failure to appear. Bernadette M. Daniel, 47, failure to appear.



Fun By The

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bendina puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put savvy to the test!

Legends Park May 9 to 11

Mother's Day Showdown Softball Tournament May 16 to 18 Miss Kitty Classic Softball Tournament May 23 to 25 Memorial Day Blast Baseball Tournament June 6 to 8 Kansas State Baseball Warm-up Baseball Tournament June 13 to 15 Father's Day Bonanza Softball Tournament June 27 to 29 Battle 4 the West **Baseball Tournament** July 4 to 6 Stars and Strikes Softball Tournament

Village Square Mall Saturday, May 10 from 1 to 8 p.m. Queen's Day! Celebrate Mom during this heartwarming event featuring brunches, live entertainments and more!

DODGE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Saturday, May 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friends of the Library book sale

Boot Hill Distillery Saturday, May 10 at 8 p.m.

Ryan Brooks live Friday, May 16 at 8 p.m. William Dot live Friday, May 23 at 8 **p.m.** Nomad storyteller Aurora LaRay shares her adventures on the road with furry friends Paco, Rain and Atlas Saturday, May 24 at 8 p.m. Dandelioness live! Enjoy the radioactive falsetto and visceral, hypnotizing stage presence of the Albuqueque-based solo artist Friday, May 30

at 8 p.m. HyWay 14 live. A one-of-a-king blend of country, rock and grunge

The Doctor's Office Saturday, May 10 at 8 p.m.

The Merkins Reunion Show with special guests Harbingers, Starslinger and Black Cat J! 21+

with Larry the Cable Guy Friday, July 25 I Want My 80s Tour featuring Rick Springfield, John Waite, Wang Chung and Paul Young **Dodge City Brewing** Friday, May 16

at 6:30 p.m. Brain Buster Trivia! Prizes for top 3 will be given

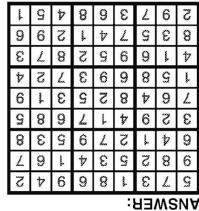
Downtown Dodge City Friday, May 30 at 4 **p.m.** Final Friday! Enjoy inspiring art, refreshments, sales and more as historic downtown Dodge City comes alive.

Santa Fe Depot Friday, May 30 at 6 p.m. Josh Roesener Exhibition!

1001 N. 2nd Ave. 620-225-0248 library@dcpl.info www.dcpl.info

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!







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Monday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive. Register on www.redcrossblood.org to make an important. Blood is urgently needed.

Thursday, May 15 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friends of the Library Book Sale!

HOURS 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday Closed Sunday



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