

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. Low-income 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

alternative solutions 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.

EVENTS

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**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 depot-theater.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

Dodge City, highlighting iconic sites listed on the national registers.  
**Thursday, May 8 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.**  
Landmark Arts Project exhibit and award ceremony for student art featuring Boot Hill imagery, sponsored by the Ford County Historical Society.

**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

**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 radio-active falsetto and visceral, hypnotizing stage presence of the Albuquerque-based solo artist  
**Friday, May 30 at 8 p.m.** HyWay 14 live. A one-of-a-kind blend of country, rock and grunge

**United Wireless Arena**  
**May 11 at 8 p.m.** is Los Tigres del Norte  
**May 25 at 5 p.m.** Storm vs. Washington Wolfpack  
**Saturday, June 28 at 7 p.m.** An Evening 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!

**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!

**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+

Ford County Sheriff's Office

POPLOG

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.

SUDOKU

					6			2
		2				1		
					9		3	8
3	2	9					8	
	6							9
					7			
	1		9		2			
8		5	7	4				
						4	5	

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

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!

1	9	4	8	3	6	7	2	5
6	2	4	1	5	7	8	3	9
3	7	8	2	9	6	1	4	5
4	2	7	3	9	6	8	5	1
9	1	3	5	2	8	4	7	6
5	8	6	7	4	1	2	3	9
8	3	5	6	7	9	2	4	1
7	6	1	4	3	5	8	2	9
2	5	9	4	8	6	1	3	7

ANSWER:



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