

ARTICLES FOR 10-20-16 ROUNDUP

Prescription Drug Abuse Symposium kicks off downtown

By Kylie Conway

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) – The 7th annual Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force Symposium begins Thursday at the Indiana Convention Center.

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller will kick off the two-day event with opening remarks Thursday morning. Zoeller is also the founder of the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force.

The symposium will focus on new challenges in the fight against prescription drug abuse. Specifically, it will address the high number of overdoses which the task force says is unprecedented.

This year's theme is "Rebuilding the Hoosier Heartland." Under that umbrella the symposium's focus will be to arm communities with how to curtail abuse and get people the help they need.

The keynote speaker will be Sam Quinones, a journalist who also authored the book "Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic."

The symposium will have breakout sessions designed to address specific issues like "opioids and adolescents" and "strategies for success."

According to the event page, this is the largest statewide collaboration of professionals impacted by drug abuse. Representatives from local, state and federal agencies as well as educators, clinicians and advocates will be attending.

AG Balderas Announces Arrest in Attorney General Human Trafficking Operation

Albuquerque, NM – Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that the Office of the Attorney General Human Trafficking Task Force recently conducted an undercover sting operation resulting in the arrest of Tyrone Davis.

"Human trafficking is nothing short of modern-day slavery and it remains a top priority of this administration to continue to protect New Mexico's most vulnerable populations from this abhorrent depravity," said Attorney General Hector Balderas.

On October 12th, 2016, Office of the Attorney General special agents conducted an operation in which they were contacting females advertising in the escort section of Backpage.com. One female was contacted via text and agreed to meet at an undisclosed location. Upon arrival, she negotiated with the undercover agent to have sexual intercourse in exchange for cash, and was then taken into custody. Agents outside the location made contact with Tyrone Davis, who had transported the female to the meeting site. Davis admitted to posting ads for the woman on Backpage.com and

also replying to text messages on her behalf to set up meeting times and locations. He was then arrested for promoting prostitution and transported to the Metropolitan Detention Center for booking.

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Launches New Tool to Help Consumers Report Violations of California Online Privacy Protection Act (CalOPPA)

SAN FRANCISCO -- Today, Attorney General Kamala D. Harris announced the release of an online form to help consumers report websites, mobile applications, and other online services that are in violation of the California Online Privacy Protection Act (CalOPPA). A website or app operator may violate CalOPPA by failing to post privacy policies or posting incomplete or inadequate policies. This new form is one of several initiatives Attorney General Harris is undertaking to protect Californians' privacy, especially in light of technological advances and the growth of the "internet of things." The form is available at <https://oag.ca.gov/reportprivacy>.

"In the information age, companies doing business in California must take every step possible to be transparent with consumers and protect their privacy," said Attorney General Harris. "As the devices we use each day become increasingly connected and more Americans live their lives online, it's critical that we implement robust safeguards on what information is shared online and how. By harnessing the power of technology and public-private partnerships, California can continue to lead the nation on privacy protections and adapt as innovations emerge."

In 2011, the Future of Privacy Forum (FPF) conducted a study which found that many mobile apps were missing privacy policies, prompting the Attorney General to secure a first-of-its-kind agreement with the leading mobile application platforms, including Apple, Google Play and Amazon, to improve compliance; this agreement was later expanded to include Facebook. As a part of her continued commitment to privacy, Attorney General Harris directed her office to conduct a five-year review on mobile app compliance with CalOPPA and commissioned the FPF to conduct a new study of the top 100 mobile apps. In addition, the Attorney General's office is collaborating with computer scientists at Carnegie Mellon University to review apps in the Google Play store for compliance with the law and consulting with privacy experts, designers, and researchers to assess the effectiveness of CalOPPA and the "Do Not Track" legislation, which was sponsored by Attorney General Harris.

A new FPF study, released in August 2016, found that the number of apps with privacy policies has risen substantially since the 2012 Mobile App Agreement—up from 30% to 80%; but the study also highlighted a notable and persistent gap, particularly in health and fitness apps, which often collect sensitive personal information but are less likely than other apps to have a privacy policy. The CMU research revealed that some mobile apps employ data practices that are not properly disclosed in their privacy policies, especially as they pertain to information sharing with third parties. This research indicates that while much progress has been made, more needs to be done to ensure companies are protecting consumers' privacy and employing transparent practices.

In response to the analysis of CalOPPA compliance, Attorney General Harris is today launching an online tool allows consumers to "crowdsource" privacy policy violations, exponentially increasing the California Department of Justice's ability to identify and notify those in violation

of CalOPPA. To use the tool, consumers who have identified an operator that may not be in compliance can simply visit <https://oag.ca.gov/reportprivacy> to report the finding.

The CalOPPA form is part of a multi-pronged approach to improve online privacy. The Attorney General's office is also partnering with the Usable Privacy Policy Project at Carnegie Mellon University to develop a tool that will identify mobile apps that may be in violation of CalOPPA. The tool is designed to look for discrepancies between disclosures in a given privacy policy and the mobile app's actual data collection and sharing practices (for example, a company might share personal information with third parties but doesn't disclose that in its privacy policies). This tool will help proactively identify and focus attention on policies that may require enforcement.

With the passage of CalOPPA in 2003, California became the first state in the nation to require commercial websites and online services to post privacy policies and the initiatives Attorney General Harris is leading will help strengthen California's online privacy laws. Any operator in the world that collects personally identifiable information such as name, address, email address, phone number, or Social Security number from California consumers is required to comply. The privacy policy must include the categories of information collected, the types of the third parties with whom the operator may share that information, instructions regarding how the consumer can review and request changes to his or her information, and the effective date of the private policy. Assembly Bill 370, which Attorney General Harris sponsored, expanded this law in 2013 requiring privacy policies to include information on how the operator responds to 'Do Not Track' signals or similar mechanisms, as well as requiring privacy policies to state whether third parties can collect personally identifiable information about the site's users.

Attorney General Harris has a long track record of encouraging innovative and growth while protecting consumers' privacy online. Earlier this week, she announced a new initiative—the California Cyber Crime Center—to help law enforcement fight crime in the digital era. The center includes the California Department of Justice's Privacy Enforcement and Protection Unit, which Attorney General Harris created in 2012. The Unit is responsible for enforcing state and federal privacy laws, providing Californians with information and strategies on how to protect their privacy, and encouraging businesses to follow best protection practices. Throughout her administration, the Attorney General has prosecuted and reached settlements with major corporations including Anthem Blue Cross, Citibank, Kaiser, Comcast, Houzz and Wells Fargo Bank for violating California's privacy protection standards. Attorney General Harris has also released numerous consumer alerts to help Californians, including alerts on how to adjust the location settings on your mobile phone and protect against identity theft, as well as consumer information sheets on a broad range of privacy issues.

Attorney General Harris is also strongly committed to data security, safeguarding consumers' sensitive online information. In February, Attorney General Harris released a data breach report detailing the nature of reported breaches in the last four years, accompanied by recommendations for business and lawmakers including pointing to standards regarding "reasonable security" for protecting personally identifiable information. The office recently conducted a set of workshops for small businesses in conjunction with security experts from the Center for Internet Security.

Success Spoils a U.S. Program to Round Up Wild Horses

By DAVE PHILIPPS

To reduce the devastation to grasslands and to cut down on storage costs, the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board voted to euthanize some of the 77,000 wild horses in 10 Western states. The vote inspired outrage from animal rights activists.

OSAGE COUNTY, Okla. — As the sun set on the honey-colored prairie here, a herd of wild horses grazed belly deep in Indiangrass and big bluestem. On the next ridge, a dozen more horses nibbled in the pasture, and beyond them even more, dotting the hills almost as far as the eye could see.

The head of the Bureau of Land Management's wild horse program, Dean Bolstad, tipped up his cowboy hat and looked out at the animals from a hilltop. "I love seeing this," he said, "but it's also an absolute anchor around our neck."

The horses were grazing on a ranch the agency rents, one of 60 private ranches, corrals and feedlots where it stores the 46,000 wild horses it has removed from the West's public lands. The cost: \$49 million a year.

Trying to make that rent has pushed the wild horse program into crisis. The expense eats up 66 percent of the federal budget for managing wild horses, and it is expected to total more than \$1 billion over the life of the herds. The program cannot afford to continue old management practices that created the problem in the first place, or afford to come up with solutions that might fix it.

In short, the agency cannot break its cycle of storing horses because it is too busy storing horses.

"We're in a real pickle," Mr. Bolstad said. "We have huge challenges ahead of us, and we don't have the resources to respond."

Robert Hughes maintains just over 4,000 horses on thousands of acres of his Oklahoma ranch. "I basically run an old folks home for horses," he said. Credit Hilary Swift for The New York Times
Spending a billion dollars on pastures is a symptom of a broader problem. The agency says there are far too many wild horses roaming the West, and it must limit them to stave off damage to fragile ecosystems. But it never found a strategy that does not put more horses on storage ranches.

Some critics say management must become broader and include other options, like fertility control drugs for horses in the wild. Others say policies that eliminated predators like wolves, which once helped keep the horse population in check, need to be reconsidered. Still others say it is time to kill horses to free up resources. Animal-rights groups, meanwhile, oppose any killing of horses.

The bureau has struggled to limit wild horse populations since Congress passed a law in 1971 protecting the wild horses and burros that roam patches of public land in 10 Western states, and whose numbers increase naturally every year. The agency says the land can support only about 27,000 animals, but these days, there are about 77,000.

Repeated government audits going back 26 years have warned the bureau to find alternatives to storing horses before the cost crippled the program, but it never has. For decades the bureau used helicopter roundups to thin herds, but it can now barely afford that because it spends so much on storing horses.

In recent years, the bureau tried fertility control drugs — administered through an annual shot delivered by dart gun — that would reduce the need for roundups. Now money for that has been spent on storing horses, too.

The Bureau of Land Management spends \$49 million a year renting private land for wild horses.

“The entire budget is tied up in feeding horses; we need to do something drastic, now,” said Ben Masters, a filmmaker who adopted seven wild horses and made a movie about riding them to Canada from Mexico. He now sits on the program’s nine-member advisory board.

In a phone interview from a wild horse area near Eureka, Nev., Mr. Masters described seeing thousands of acres damaged by overgrazing. “It’s totally degraded, and we need to save it, both for the horses and for the other wildlife.”

In September, the board voted 8 to 1 to kill the horses in storage. Mr. Masters said voting for the measure broke his heart. “It kills me. I’d love for there to be another way out, but I just don’t see it.”

After the vote, though, the bureau was flooded with outraged calls and emails, and officials quickly assured the public they had no plans to kill any horses. They have just signed contracts with ranches that can store 6,000 more horses.

Ginger Kathrens, a longtime wild horse advocate who sits on the bureau’s advisory board, cast the lone vote against killing the horses in storage, saying she favored increasing adoptions and finding places to put horses back out on the range. “There are lots of things the B.L.M. could do besides selling horses to kill buyers,” she said.

Renting private land like Hughes Ranch in Oklahoma eats up 66 percent of the federal budget for managing wild horses, and it is expected to total more than \$1 billion over the life of the herds. Credit Hilary Swift for The New York Times

Federal law allows the agency to kill excess horses to maintain what it calls “a thriving natural ecological balance.” But regulators never took the step, in part fearing public reaction, and in part because Congress in recent years has added riders to various bills banning the killing of healthy wild horses.

Instead, the agency has encouraged people to adopt wild horses. But the number of people offering homes has rarely equaled the number of horses gathered in roundups.

The rest go to places like the Hughes Ranch, here in Oklahoma, where for about \$2 per horse per day, Robert Hughes, a cattle rancher, maintains just over 4,000 horses on thousands of acres of prime grassland.

“I basically run an old folks home for horses,” he said with a chuckle as he looked out at the grazing herds. “They’re in good groceries right here, I can tell you that.”

Asked whether the agency should continue to store horses or euthanize them, he shook his head: “Hey, look, man, I’m in the grass-farming business.”

After a vote last month to kill the horses in storage, the Bureau of Land Management was flooded with outraged calls and emails. It later assured the public it had no plans to kill any horses. Credit

He said he did not have anything to do with policy. “If this deal ended, we’d get back into livestock in a big way.”

The agency now finds itself buffeted on all sides by lawsuits. Ranchers who share the range are demanding that horse numbers be brought down to prescribed levels. Animal rights groups are demanding an end to roundups and darting.

By next year, the agency expects an increase of 15,000 horses.

In September, the advisory board toured a wild horse herd area in Nevada that had not been grazed by cattle in eight years. Sue McDonnell, a board member who teaches equine behavior at the University of Pennsylvania, said she opposed euthanasia until she saw the battered grasses and invasive weeds.

“It was awful,” she said in an interview. “A lot of that land is under severe stress. If we don’t act now, there will be parts that will be lost effectively forever. The horses will die, other wildlife will die, and that will be that.”

While few people disagree that regions of the West are overgrazed, critics of the agency say it is wrong to blame wild horses, which are outnumbered by cattle 10 to one on bureau lands.

Killing horses in storage would only enable unsustainable practices that favor ranchers, they say.

“The population problem is just a symptom of a failed public lands wildlife policy,” said Michael Harris, a lawyer for Friends of Animals. To find a lasting solution, he said, the federal government must address decades of management policies that have eradicated wolves and mountain lions, which prey on horses, from public lands, creating a landscape where horses reproduce rapidly.

“We’re not going to solve this problem unless we have a policy that makes room for wildlife on the land — all wildlife, not just horses,” he said.

State Receives Notification of First Lands Into Trust Application

(Anchorage, AK) – The State of Alaska received its first notice from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) of an application to take certain tribal lands into trust in Alaska. The State has 30 days to comment on the application.

The application filed by the Craig Tribal Association requests that a one acre lot within the City of Craig be placed into trust by BIA. According to the notice received by the State, the lot contains the tribe's administration building, which includes tribal offices, a tribal hall, a local head start program, and commercial space, and a parking area for employees and guests. There are no plans to change the current uses of the property.

Over the next two weeks, the State will be gathering information regarding the application in order to analyze the impact of the property being put into trust status. In particular, BIA is requesting comments on “the impact of the removal of the subject property from the tax rolls, and.... jurisdictional problems and potential conflicts of land use which may arise.”

The State encourages any Alaskan that has information that should be incorporated into the State’s comments to send the information to Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth at attorney.general@alaska.gov. Comments must be received by October 24, 2016 in order for the State to have sufficient time to consider them before submitting final comments to the BIA. Comments can also be submitted directly to the BIA, Alaska Region at 3601 C Street, Suite 1100, Anchorage, Alaska 99503.

The State must submit its comments to BIA by November 9, 2016.

South Dakota Resolves Goat Island Dispute

PIERRE, S.D. – The state of South Dakota has entered into a settlement agreement with the state of Nebraska and federal authorities to resolve a lengthy dispute over Goat Island, a 500-acre strip of land in the Missouri River.

The ownership of Goat Island, located on the South Dakota-Nebraska border adjacent to Clay County, South Dakota, has been in dispute since 1999. Imprecise mapping and the Missouri River’s changing boundaries have previously made its ownership unclear.

Under the new agreement, the National Park Service will manage the island as part of the Missouri National Recreation River.

“Goat Island has been a ‘no man’s land’ on the Missouri River for too long, and people could not take advantage of the ample hunting, fishing, hiking and biking opportunities available there,” said Gov. Dennis Daugaard. “Taking care of this island is long overdue.”

“For too many years, the federal government, South Dakota and Nebraska, have been engaged in disagreement on jurisdiction over Goat Island. It is time to set aside these differences in the interests of our citizens, and work together to provide certainty for the future management and enjoyment of this island,” added Marty Jackley, South Dakota Attorney General.

The National Park Service has had a number of conversations with the states of South Dakota and Nebraska about future management and plans to enhance the island’s recreation opportunities, protect its primitive resources and lead a cleanup effort.

The Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service intend to coordinate closely with the states of South Dakota and Nebraska regarding the development of desired future conditions and management of the island, including hunting opportunities.

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Releases Firearms Sales Data On OpenJustice, Unprecedented Criminal Justice Open Data Initiative

Data Show Massive Growth in Gun Sales Since 2008, Increasing Geographic Concentration

SACRAMENTO - Attorney General Kamala D. Harris today announced the unprecedented release of firearms sales data in California on OpenJustice, the first-of-its-kind open data initiative she launched last September. The new firearms data section of OpenJustice shows how firearms sales have changed over the last two decades and includes a county-by-county breakdown. It also sheds light on what types of guns are purchased in California and how guns change hands. The data, along with analysis and charts, is available at <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/firearms/>.

“The dramatic spike in gun sales over the last ten years reflects the continued need for smart and sensible gun safety laws,” said Attorney General Harris. “Today’s release is a continuation of my commitment to transparency and the implementation of informed data-driven public policy. This unprecedented release of firearms sales data will allow us to better understand trends and to keep our communities safe.”

The data show that gun transactions grew significantly – over 250% – from 2008 to 2013, then leveled out in 2014 and 2015. In addition, the total number of guns in the state is quickly rising: total gun transactions includes both new guns sold as well as the transfer of used guns (e.g., sales between private parties); data for 2014 and 2015 show that about 75% of handguns sold were new, whereas in 2007, new handguns accounted for just over 60% of all sales.

The sales of firearms are increasingly concentrated, both geographically and in terms of firearms dealers. Gun purchases have been increasing in every county, with a few counties—Sacramento, San Bernardino, Ventura, Riverside, Kern, and Orange counties—having particularly high growth rates. A small number of dealerships (5%) account for over half of total sales. From 1996 to 2007, the number of gun dealerships dropped by almost two-thirds while gun sales stayed relatively flat. The dramatic growth in gun transactions from 2008 to 2015 was not accompanied by similar growth in the number of licensed gun dealerships, which only increased by 40%.

While the so-called “gun show loophole” has received national attention, as buyers in other states are largely able to avoid background checks when purchasing a firearm at a gun show, California law requires background checks for sales at gun shows. Nationally, it is estimated that 20-40% of gun sales occur at these types of shows while in California, fewer than 2% of gun transactions take place at gun shows.

Attorney General Kamala Harris announced the launch of OpenJustice in September 2015, making available unprecedented criminal justice data in an easy-to-use format, with a Dashboard that spotlights key criminal justice indicators with user-friendly visualization tools and an Open Data

Portal that publishes raw data from the California Department of Justice's statewide repository of criminal justice datasets. The Department plans to release additional firearms data before the end of this year.

Attorney General Harris's commitment to reforming our criminal justice system and reducing disparities extends beyond the release of this unprecedented open data initiative. Attorney General Harris has also convened a 21st Century Policing Working Group with law enforcement leaders from across the state, created the first-ever course for law enforcement infusing procedural justice tenets with information about confronting and overcoming implicit bias, a training which is now certified by the Commission on Peace Officers and Standards Training (POST), and directing a 90-day review of the California Department of Justice's policies and practices around implicit bias, which led to a body-worn camera pilot program for DOJ special agents.

Attorney General Harris has also prioritized implementing effective gun safety measures in California. She and the Attorneys General of 12 other states and the District of Columbia sent a letter to the leaders of both houses of Congress in May 2016, urging them to immediately direct funding to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to research causes and prevention of gun-related injuries and deaths. She also backed Senate Bill 1006, authored by Senator Lois Wolk, to urge the University of California Regents to establish a California Firearm Violence Research Center. This center was established in June 2016 as part of the 2016-2017 state budget, and will be housed at the University of California, Davis.

Since November 2013, Attorney General Harris has brought the number of individuals in the Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS) database to a historic low of under 11,000, the lowest level it has been since 2008. If not for the work of Attorney General Harris and the California Department of Justice Bureau of Firearms' Special Agents, the number of individuals in the system would be at 38,000. Attorney General Harris has effectively brought the number of prohibited individuals down by 29,000 prohibited individuals and increased the number of investigations per month by nearly 400 percent.

To view all the data released today, visit OpenJustice (<https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/firearms/>).

Study suggests tentative link between teen pot use and IQ

By COLTON LOCHHEAD
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

A study published in a Scandinavian medical journal suggests there could be a link between heavy marijuana usage in teens and lower IQ scores.

The researchers called the findings "tentative" because of a small sample size and said they would need to be "verified with a larger study with more participants."

The study, published last week in the peer-reviewed journal *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, was done by a team of researchers in London, Ontario. It comes a month before voters in Nevada and four other states decide whether to legalize the recreational use of marijuana in the Nov. 8 election.

Researchers from Lawson Health Research Institute and Western University, both in London, Ontario, examined a group of 74 teenagers younger than 17, aiming to determine whether marijuana use helped with depression symptoms.

Teens were split into four groups: frequent marijuana users suffering from depression, frequent marijuana users without depression, those with depression who were not marijuana users and teens who said they were not depressed and did not use marijuana.

The groups were put through psychiatric, cognitive and IQ testing and brain scanning. The study found that marijuana didn't improve depression symptoms.

The study also found that early marijuana use was associated with lower IQ.

Marijuana opponents in Nevada say the study shows why Question 2, which would legalize recreational marijuana for adults 21 and over, is bad for the state.

"This study is yet more evidence that marijuana use badly affects educational outcomes and hurts our kids' chances of success," said Pat Hickey, spokesman for Protecting Nevada's Children, the political action committee that is opposing the Nevada marijuana legalization effort.

Marijuana supporters say making those assumptions from such a small study is "fishing for a misleading result."

"Just like you can find studies that disprove climate change, you can find studies that prove any point you want to make. But the general consensus is that marijuana use does not appear to lower IQ," said Joe Brezny, spokesman for Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, the political action committee sponsoring the legalization effort.

Brezny pointed to a much larger study done in 2014 by the University College of London. That study examined the IQ of 2,612 8-year-olds in the United Kingdom and then again at 15. It found "no relationship between cannabis use and lower IQ at age 15," when other factors like alcohol use, cigarette use and other circumstances were factored in.

The 2014 study found a link between alcohol use and lower IQ.

Brezny noted that Question 2 would legalize marijuana only for adults 21 and over and said a big goal of the effort is to keep marijuana out of teenagers' hands.

"We all want to prevent teen marijuana use. And marijuana prohibition is the worst possible system for that. Not only do street dealers make it easily available, but they also offer teens more dangerous drugs," he said. "We need to get marijuana off the streets and into regulated stores that check IDs."

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