



SMITHVILLE
REVIEW

Established 1892
Publication No. 499280

106 South First Street, Smithville, TN 37166
Phone: (615) 597-5485
Fax: (615) 597-5489
Email: news@smithvillereview.com
Website: www.smithvillereview.com

Angie Meadows
General Manager/Advertising Director
Steve Warner
News/Sports
Dale Stubblefield
Circulation Manager

Published every Wednesday in the year at
Smithville, DeKalb County, TN Entered at the
post office in Smithville as periodical mail.
POSTMASTER: notify publisher on Form
3579, of undeliverable copies, Smithville
Review, P.O. Box 247, Smithville, TN 37166.

Print Subscription Rates:
(DeKalb and adjoining counties)
\$45 annually · \$27 six months ·
Senior Citizen \$39.75 annually ·
\$25 six months
Elsewhere: \$55 annually ·
\$38.50 six months ·
\$50.50 Senior Citizen annually ·
\$34.50 six months

Online Only Edition:
\$30 annually · \$17 six months

Copyright Standard
Publishing Company
All Rights Reserved
2001

Legalizing marijuana should be considered

I guess I don't need to point out the weather outside is frightful. Actually, besides the low temperatures we're getting off lucky without the humidity and snow to go with it.

While the weather temperatures are cold, the argument about the legalization of marijuana is still hot and ongoing with California the latest to join the list of states where you can legally buy pot.

Personally, I'm for legalizing marijuana for many reasons.

Although not the most important on my list, we have legalized liquor all over. I'm not saying liquor is a good thing, but it's a bit hypocritical to legally allow someone to consume an alcoholic beverage but get all upset about a person using marijuana recreationally.

Let me point out there's a difference between addiction and recreational use of both marijuana and alcohol.

Statistics show in the United States, nearly 14 million adults, or every one in 13 adults, abuse alcohol or have an alcoholism problem. In addition, several million more partake in risky alcohol consumption that could potentially lead to abuse, and over three million American teenagers aged 14 to 17 have an alcohol problem.

The difference being if you're addicted to alcohol you can legally get your fix, whereas marijuana requires you to be in a better location. Meaning you have to be in one of the states that's legalized its sale.

As you may know, I think people should take personal responsibility for their actions. If someone gets drunk, drives and kills someone then that person is responsible, not the fact that it

was legal for you to buy those drinks that got you drunk.

Do we want the Federal Government dictating morality to us? They have a hard time providing medical plans and passing budgets.

I guess I tend to lean Libertarian when it comes to these types of things.

I would tend to think it should be the other way around with marijuana being legal and alcohol being outlawed, but we know how that worked out the last time. It made a lot of gangsters rich including some former presidents.

Currently, outlaws are still getting rich just off different products and marijuana where it is illegal. We could be using the tax money to help our public



COMMON SENSE
by STEVE WARNER

servants enforce the laws about drinking and driving better, give money to the border patrol and all kinds of beneficial programs including help for those who cross the line into addiction which we already do now, it would just be better funded and education is the best weapon.

For goodness sakes, we've been fighting the war on drugs since I was in high school and I'm reaching retirement age. We bailed out on Vietnam a lot quicker than the War on Drugs.

Marijuana also has some benefit when it comes to treating PTSD and other medical uses that alcohol doesn't have but we legalize one and not the other...come on people wake up.

If marijuana was a gateway drug, everyone who grew up in the '60s and '70s would be addicts by now.

Contact Steve Warner at
news@smithvillereview.com

A new beginning

The old year of 2017 has come and gone, perhaps gladly for some, and sadly for others. As many look back at the old year, they are glad for the opportunity of a new beginning, a new chapter in their lives. Sometimes people get stuck in the past, and sometimes people wish they could go back to the "good old days". But going back to the past may not be as glorious as we might think, because there are probably plenty of things from the past that we would like to forget. How many people would like to go back to the days of no cell phones, no Internet, no running water, no indoor plumbing, no interstate highway system, or no cars?

In the ninth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, we read about Jesus meeting a man who said he wanted to follow Jesus wherever He went. Jesus gave him a reply he probably was not expecting, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man has no place to lay his head". Jesus was talking about Himself, and He was making the point that He had no place to call His own.

Jesus then invited another man to follow Him, but the man replied that he needed to go home first and bury his father. Jesus told the man that what he really needed to do was to preach the kingdom of God. Many Bible scholars believe that the man's father was not anywhere close to needing to be buried, but that this was just an excuse for not

following Jesus.

Another man said he would follow Jesus, but he needed to go home first and tell his family farewell. Again, this was probably just an excuse, and the man may very well have allowed his family to talk him out of following Jesus. We can only guess at the truth of the matter, but Jesus knew exactly what was in the heart of this man as well as the others.

Jesus then made a statement that says a lot about what was really going on with all three of the individuals in the account of Luke 9. He said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Jesus knew very well that all three of these men would not have been faithful in following Him, but would have eventually given up for one reason or another.

Anyone who has ever tried to plow a field, especially with a tractor, knows that it is not a good idea to keep looking back to see if the furrow that you are plowing is straight. Continuing to look back instead of looking ahead is a good way to plow a crooked furrow. Likewise, once we start out following the Lord, we must keep our eyes on Jesus, and not be always looking back to our old way of life.

Larry R. Steffe is pastor of the Center Hill Brethren In Christ Church on Miller Road in Smithville. Everyone is welcome to attend. For information, you may email lrsteffeetn@yahoo.com.



GUEST EDITORIAL
by Larry R. Steffe

LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR POLICY

The **Smithville Review** encourages readers to express their views on subjects of interest. Letters to the Editor may be edited for length, libel and clarity. Readers should limit remarks to 300 words or less and should have a daytime phone number for verification. Letters without full address and signature will not be published. Mail to: Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 247, Smithville, TN 37166 OR email to: news@smithvillereview.com

WHERE TO
BUY THE REVIEW

Sav-A-Lot
Hardee's
Food Lion
DeKalb Community Hospital
Green Hill Market
On The Way Market
Jewell's Market
Wholesale Tobacco
Dutton's Market
K&M Jewelry
Center Hill Restaurant
Mystik Market
Delores' Market
Dollar General - Smithville,
Dowelltown, Alexandria
F.Z. Webb & Sons Pharmacy
Walmart
Johnny's Drugs
Kilgore's Restaurant
Larry's Discount
Rite Aid
Kwick-N-Ezy
Mapco Express
Village Chevron
Los Lobos Restaurant
D&D Market
Dairy Queen
Prichard Foods
Stop & Buy Citgo
C&C Market
DeKalb Market
Short Mtn Market
Smithville Review Office

Opioid epidemic will be a priority for lawmakers

One thousand, six hundred and thirty one. That is how many Tennesseans died from a drug overdose in 2016. Of overdose deaths in 2016, 72.7 percent had an opioid present in their system when they died. These numbers make very clear the scourge that is the opioid epidemic in Tennessee.

In January 2017, I announced the formation of a task force on opioid and prescription drug abuse. I tasked the group with identifying the best strategies for tackling the opioid epidemic, and prioritizing what could be done by the legislature.

The task force had a series of meetings where they heard from Tennesseans who had been impacted by this crisis in numerous ways: addicts, family members of addicts, law enforcement, judges, district attorneys, doctors, and countless people who serve in a variety of roles in the medical community.

The result was a deeper understanding the impact this epidemic is having on our state and the steps we could take to address it.

The exhaustive list of recommendations includes things that should certainly be a multi-year effort, but for the immediate future, I prioritized three things to tackle in the 2018 legislative session: 1) Expanding access to treatment programs; 2) Allowing patients to limit the number of pills prescribed to them; and 3) Investing resources into law enforcement efforts to combat the problem.

First, treatment must be a part

of the solution. We will be seeking additional funding in this year's budget that will be made available to the courts to offer treatment assistance to offenders needing it.

Second, we will be filing legislation that allows patients to limit the amount of pills in a prescription dispensed directly to them. We will propose that patients can simply request a limited number of pills out of the prescription, to keep unused pills off the street.

Finally, we need to invest more resources into law enforcement efforts to combat this problem. This means additional Tennessee Bureau of Investigation agents who can target drug dealers and distribution chains that keep these drugs on the street. The latest threat is fentanyl, which is a type of opioid.

While these are the initiatives I will be prioritizing and spearheading, other members are bringing forth proposals to address this epidemic that I will be supporting and working with our colleagues to pass. We must all work together and be united in our opposition to this public health crisis if we are to make any progress. The health, safety, and well-being of Tennessee depends on it.

Beth Harwell serves as Speaker of the House, a position to which she was first unanimously elected in 2011. She is the first female Speaker of the House in Tennessee, and in the Southeast. Harwell represents part of Davidson County in the Tennessee General Assembly.



GUEST EDITORIAL
by Speaker of the House Beth Harwell