

Standard online reader survey



Q: Have you already decided who you are going to vote for in this year's elections for Warren County government?

- **YES, for all offices** **38%**
- **For some offices, not all** **37%**
- **NO, I am undecided** **25%**

GUEST EDITORIAL

Treatment needed more than get-tough policies

The Trump administration's latest proposal for tackling the opioid crisis is not devoid of good ideas. It's certainly got more meat on its bones than the president's declaration of the crisis as a public health emergency last fall.

There was talk, although still not enough specifics, of increasing treatment options for addicts, and of new limits on prescriptions of oxycodone, hydrocodone and other opioids.

But Trump spent the days leading up to his announcement touting the idea of the death penalty for opioid dealers, and his Monday speech focused (as much as it focused on anything) on similar "tough on crime" policies.

The problem is, those policies don't get good results. America — well, much of it — has learned from previous drug epidemics that such tough-talk tactics aren't the solution. By all means, prosecute drug dealers and interrupt their trade routes. But if too much emphasis is on chucking people in jail, let alone executing them, America will just raise another generation of damaged, hopeless families.

Many law enforcement officers and politicians in this area openly acknowledged this a few years ago — a welcome departure from the years when they were afraid of being painted as "weak on crime."

**Charleston Gazette
West Virginia**

Now, at least at the federal level, that mindset has returned.

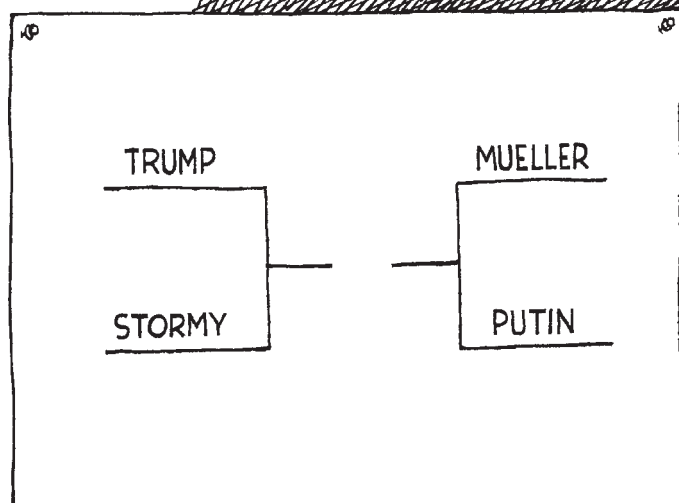
Cutting prescriptions for painkillers sounds good, and lawmakers in some states have already taken steps in that direction. That's useful, but even though prescription painkillers kicked off this epidemic, heroin and fentanyl have eclipsed them in recent years, partially because those addicted to pills had to find other ways to feed their addiction once the pills became harder to get.

The plan for increasing treatment for opioid addicts is still more undefined — as is how any treatment increase would be paid for.

A budget passed by Congress calls for \$6 billion in spending on the opioid crisis over the next two years, but public health officials say that's a drop in the bucket. Trump's budget proposal calls for an additional \$7 billion, which would be two or three drops in the bucket.

There are no easy answers for this huge and disastrous conundrum. But as long as the federal government focuses on punishment, rather than treatment and recovery, the problem will only get bigger.

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Immigrants and mass shootings

We're hauling in nearly 2 million manifestly unvetted Third World immigrants every year, leading to a slew of FBI "Watch Lists" with a million names apiece. In 2015, Director James Comey said there were ISIS investigations in all 50 states — even Idaho and Alaska!

Maybe the FBI would do better if we weren't dumping millions of psychotic and terrorist foreigners on the country. But imagine if we could cut our mass shootings in half?

There have been about 34 mass shootings since 2000. Forty-seven percent — 16 — were committed by first- and second-generation immigrants, i.e. people who never would have been here but for Teddy Kennedy's 1965 immigration act.

And the immigrant mass shootings have been some of the most spectacular ones, such as Fort Hood and San Bernardino. Two of the deadliest mass shootings in U.S. history, at Virginia Tech in 2007 and at the Pulse Nightclub in 2016, were committed by immigrants.

Here's the list of immigrant mass shootings, defined as a shooting at the same general time and location, not during the commission of another crime, that leaves at least four dead.

- 1) Omar Mateen killed 49 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando.
- 2) Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik opened fire at a community center Christmas party in San Bernardino, Calif., killing 14.
- 3) Christopher Harper-Mercer killed 9 people at Umpqua Community College.
- 4) Mohammad Youssef Abdulazez killed five people in attacks on two military installations in Chattanooga.
- 5) Elliot Rodger killed six around the University of California, Santa

Barbara.

6) John Zawahri opened fire at his California home and later at Santa Monica College, killing five.

7) Pedro Vargas fatally shot six in his apartment complex in Florida.

8) Aaron Alexis killed 12 inside the Washington Navy Yard.

9) One L. Goh killed 7 at Oikos University in Oakland, Calif.

10) Eduardo Sencion shot up an IHOP in Nevada, killing four.

11) Nidal Malik Hasan killed 13 at Fort Hood, Texas.

12) Jiverly Wong killed 13 at the Binghamton, N.Y., American Civic Association.

13) Sulejman Talovic fatally shot five at Trolley Square Mall.

14) Seung-Hui Cho slaughtered 32 at Virginia Tech.

15) Chai Soua Vang killed six hunters in northern Wisconsin.

16) Salvador Tapia shot up the Windy City Core Supply warehouse in Chicago, killing six.

First- and second-generation immigrants have committed more than 40 percent of all mass shootings since 2000. I know we've been admitting immigrants at a breakneck pace, but I don't think immigrants make up nearly half the population yet.

Once we exclude the immigrant mass shooters, a clearer pattern emerges. The typical American perpetrator is a young man with paranoid schizophrenia probably exacerbated by pot, a deadly combo platter.

An immigration moratorium and widespread deportations would not only cut mass shootings in half, but it would also free up the FBI's time to focus on these delusional young men with the terrifying stare, who hear voices no one else hears.

Young men like Nikolas Cruz.

COLUMNIST

**ANN
COULTER**



Taking a cruise has its luxuries

My friends Ellen and Gary just got back from a cruise to the Caribbean. They were tanned and relaxed.

"You know you are in paradise the moment you step off the boat," Gary told me. "As you get to the end of the gangplank, friendly native islanders in costumes start dancing to the music of a steel drum orchestra, right there on the pier."

"It's really too bad none of the other islanders made the effort to dress up for us. After all, we're supporting the local economy. I think we bought a baseball cap and a T-shirt on every island we visited, but they all pretty much wore normal clothes."

Ellen said, "And don't forget the flip-flops. I bought a pair that had rhinestones all over the straps."

"But weren't all those islands hit by a hurricane last year?" I asked. "I hear some of them are still in tatters."

Ellen and Gary shook their heads. "Not where we were, they weren't in tatters. But we were only on the islands for a couple of hours. We couldn't see everything."

"What was the food like in the Caribbean?" I asked.

"How would we know?" said Gary. "You can't eat anything ashore; you don't know where it's been. It could make you really sick. No, we ate all our food on the boat. It's really delicious. It's all free!"

Ellen pushed back. "It's not 'free,' it's 'included.' After all, we did pay for it." "So other than buying baseball caps, what did you do on the islands?" I asked.

They both kind of looked puzzled.

"What else is there to do?" said Gary. "We're not really 'beach people.' We'd get off the boat, shop for a while and then get back on board. Then we'd watch a little TV in our cabin and go to lunch. We had the same waiter every day. He was from the Philippines and his name was Ricardo."

"But I can eat and watch TV at home. I don't really need to go on a cruise to do that," I said.

"But on a cruise, they make the bed for you," Ellen said.

"It's like living in a luxury hotel. And they have Bellinis." "Didn't he make clothes for Nancy Reagan? You got to meet him?"

"No, it's a drink, dummy. It's champagne with some kind of fruit juice in it. You can have one with breakfast for only \$3."

"So the cruise got you to start drinking at breakfast? How sophisticated," I teased, knowing Ellen and Gary rarely drink at home.

"Oh, let your hair down. We were there to relax. Besides, it's mostly fruit juice. What could be better for you?"

Jogging, swimming a few laps, not having alcohol for breakfast — all those came to mind, but I didn't say anything.

"We've already booked another Caribbean cruise for next winter."

"But you've already been there," I said.

"Oh no," Gary said, "This one will go to completely different islands."

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THE SCOOP

**JAMES
CLARK**



Signs, signs, everywhere signs

It's hard to get five people to agree on where to eat lunch, much less anything else. But I think I've found a topic on which most everyone can agree in perfect harmony.

Campaign signs. If you've left the house at any point during the past month, you've noticed the glut of political signs littering the county. Every person I've talked to about these signs doesn't like them because they're a continuous eyesore.

Most candidates like the signs even less because they are a tremendous expense and responsibility. The small signs which are in so many yards cost in the \$6 to \$7 range. The larger signs start around \$30 and can climb to over \$100 for the very big, two-sided signs.

Outside of the expense, the signs are a hassle for candidates to set up and take down. They get stolen and they get vandalized.

Candidates don't like the signs, but put them up because there's a sense of obligation. An integral part of our elections, strangely, have become the sign wars.

The perception, right or wrong, is that whoever has the most signs is trying the hardest. There is the notion that whoever has the most signs wants to win the most. So candidates feel forced to buy more signs, to buy elephant-sized signs, in an effort to broadcast their commitment to the voters.

Another drawback is the time these signs are out. Some campaign signs went up in February. The General Election is not until August, giving these signs a political shelf life of a full six months. Ugh.

But alas, I'm not here to point out a problem without providing a solution. It's been mentioned that some other communities have enacted political sign restrictions and I've heard of one that sounds completely appropriate.

It would prevent candidates from placing political signs until 60 days before the election in which they appear on the ballot. This restriction is a thing of beauty and seems to benefit everyone involved.

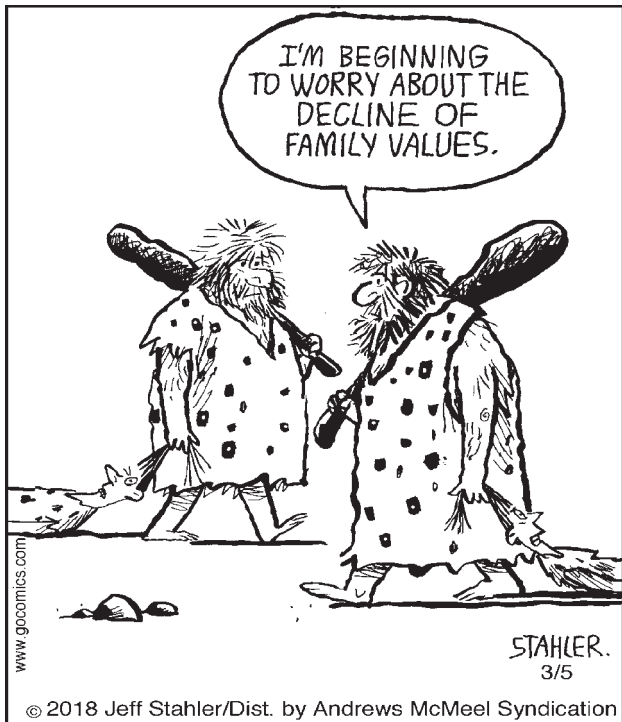
The community wins because that's less time for the signs to be scattered around town. The candidates win because they have a much shorter time to have to worry about their signs and their overall condition.

Perhaps best of all, the electorate wins because it will be easier to determine whose name will be on the ballot. As it stands now here in McMinnville, there are hundreds, probably thousands, of signs around town for people whose name will not be on the ballot for the primaries May 1.

This leads to voter confusion because the voter knows their candidate is running for office. The voter has seen signs for their candidate around town. But then at the polls, their candidate is nowhere to be found on the ballot.

If our community adopts a 60-day rule when it comes to political signs, it would provide relief for everyone involved. Signs should be prohibited until 60 days before that candidate appears on the ballot.

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