

Forum forthcoming

Re "Fear of the unknown" (Editorial, Aug. 8):

On Aug. 7, I attended the Local Government Committee meeting, where one of the key agenda items was a Public Health presentation on syringe access programs.

As a social worker who has always applied a prevention and harm reduction lens, I have long supported the benefits a program like this would bring to our region. A presentation of the facts from some of our county's Public Health professionals was an informative and welcome dialogue in the midst of mixed information. The committee had the chance to ask questions and clarify concerns our community has broached.

It was clear how significantly this information could benefit the broader community, so I made an immediate request to agendize the presentation from Public Health at an upcoming

City Council meeting. I'm hopeful that a public forum to explore the research related to these programs and build a better understanding of their local application is on the horizon. Stay tuned.

Alex Brown
Chico

Editor's note: Ms. Brown is the vice mayor of Chico.

Ignoring the science

I have been waiting for information on the city of Chico Cannabis Committee meetings. The city's website posted some of the agendas, but no minutes of the past meetings. After nine meetings, the agendas lacked information of whether the health issues of cannabis were discussed.

The majority of people smoking pot today were not alive when the debate started over the highly addictive drug nicotine, which is found in cigarettes. Cigarette companies denied for

decades the effect that nicotine had on the brain and body of smokers. Nicotine is a chemical that is dangerous because it causes addiction to cigarettes. Doctors and scientists are now discovering that tetrahydrocannabinol, known as THC, which is an ingredient in cannabis, is now found to be addictive.

In the early 1990s, marijuana contained just under 4 percent THC. Today marijuana can contain upward of 30 percent potency of THC. A study by the National Institute of Drug Abuse found "substantial evidence from animal research and a growing number of studies in humans indicate that marijuana exposure during development can cause long-term or possibly permanent adverse changes in the brain."

Advocates for cannabis distributors are ignoring the adverse health effects of THC.

Steve Simpson
Chico

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THIS MODERN WORLD

BY TOM TOMORROW



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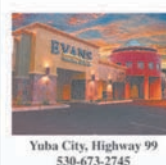
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