

FDA Approves Once-A-Month Injectable Drug to Fight Opiate Addiction

DRUG WAR CHRONICLE: The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it had approved a once-a-month injectable drug for use in treating opiate addiction. The drug, marketed as Vivitrol, is a form of naloxone, an opioid atagonist that blocks the action of opioids on brain cells and is currently used in responding to overdoses.

Unlike methadone and buprenorphine, which are commonly used in opiate substitution treatments, Vivitrol is not addictive and does not maintain

opiate dependency. Additionally, unlike those two substitutes, Vivitrol does not need to be taken daily, but is instead administered monthly via intramuscular injection...

The approval of Vivitrol for opiate addiction is “an important turning point in our approach to treatment,” said Dr. Nora Volkow, head of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, in a statement greeting the FDA announcement.

Inquirer: “Hershey deal merits investigation.” How about LGH cronyism?

An editorial in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* calls for an investigation by Tom Corbett, Attorney General:

“Revelations regarding the questionable expenditure of millions of charitable dollars by the trustees at the Hershey School deserve a thorough investigation by the state.

The Inquirer reported that the board paid an inflated price of \$12 million for a golf course, and then spent another \$5 million building a clubhouse. The purchase price was two to three times Hershey’s own appraisal of the golf course...

Coincidentally or not, the purchase bailed out 40 to 50 local businessmen and doctors who had made a bad investment in the money-losing golf course. Along came the school to bail out the executive duffers. One of those investors happened to be

Richard H. Lanny, at the time chief executive of Hershey Co. Lanny was also on the board of the Hershey Trust, which oversees the school.”

WATCHDOG: From the point of view of the Hershey orphans and the poor and needy of Lancaster (not to mention the rest that have to pay inflated health care premiums), **how much different is the golf course bail out from gifting \$1.2 million to Lancaster General Hospital’s President and CEO, Tom Beeman?**

If the Attorney General won’t investigate the give away and the opaque use of public funds at LGH, is the time coming to engage counsel specializing in foundation law and consultants knowledgeable concerning hospital management to investigate what is actually going on at LGH?

Hispanics Outlive Whites, Blacks in U. S. A.

NEWSMAX: U.S. Hispanics outlive whites by more than two years and blacks by more than seven, according to the government's first calculation of Hispanic life expectancy. [**Continued on back**]

The startling report released Wednesday is the strongest evidence yet of the "Hispanic paradox" — long life expectancy for a population that has a large share of poor, undereducated members. A

SUNDAY NEWS: In "You're making too much money", columnist Gil Smart defends minimum wage on the moral ground of "...how will they pay their bills" and without minimum wage: "Consumer spending constitutes 70 percent of GDP [Gross Domestic Product]. Consumers won't be spending so much if their paychecks are slashed."

leading theory is that Hispanics who manage to immigrate to the U.S. are among the healthiest from their countries.

A Hispanic born in 2006 could expect to live about 80 years and seven months, the government estimates. Life expectancy for a white is about 78, and for a black, just shy of 73 years...

WATCHDOG: The basic economic justification for unions and minimum wage is that the individual worker does not have adequate bargaining power. If capitalists don't want a minimum wage, let them have a 'Check Off' system instead, whereby a majority of employees just sign up for union representation and no election is held to determine whether workers are to be represented by union. (We don't favor 'Check Off', but we do favor minimum wage!)

WAITING FOR AN ANSWER

October 15, 2010

To: John P. Lines, Director of Public Relations and Communications, Lancaster General Hospital

From: Robert E. Field, *NewsLanc*

Please note the following Letter to the Editor:

"I saw the article about Tom [Beeman] this morning and the paid leave of absence for his voluntary leave. The question to be put is what is LGH's policy when people are called up in the reserves etc. and have to leave their jobs (involuntarily) for military service. Does LGH pay

them during their absence (I doubt it – it merely preserves their jobs as required by law).

"If it does not pay them then, it would seem to be discriminatory at a minimum."

Does Lancaster General Hospital henceforth provide full pay for a year to other employees who enter the Armed Services?

If not, what is the reason for the exception in the case of Tom Beeman?

RESPONSE: NONE SO FAR

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