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Clinton, Carter Blast 'War on Drugs' in Documentary

NEWSMAX: Former Presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter say in a new documentary that America's "War on Drugs" has been a failure...

"Taboo" chronicles 40 years of the nation's battle against drugs, according to U.S. News & World Report. Narrated by Morgan

LancasterOnLine

"US NEWS

*"Police: Suspect in NYC subway push implicates self
"Group gathers mistletoe for holidays on river trip
"FBI releases details in serial killer death
"4 arrested in deaths in unlicensed boarding home
"Grizzly managers look toward bear hunts in Rockies
"Police seek sick girl taken from Phoenix hospital"*

Freeman, it praises Clinton and others who "have had the guts to change their minds."...

EDITOR: *Lest anyone read too much into Carter and Clinton being Democrats, our experience in the drug policy reform and harm reduction movements was that it is evenly divided between liberals and conservatives.*

WATCHDOG: Wednesday's "USA NEWS" articles are typical of the articles LancasterOnLine is running. If they continue to ignore the major stories of the day, not only are we likely not to have the *Intelligencer Journal / New Era* and the *Sunday News* in another decade, but LancasterOnLine will have been supplanted by one or more other web sites carrying local news.

What are these dummies thinking?

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL / NEW ERA

Article "City faces tax hike" states:

"Faced with additional costs for police and firefighter salaries and pensions, Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray on Tuesday proposed a budget with a 1 mill increase in real estate taxes. The increase would about \$75 to the tax bill of the average city home, valued at \$75,000."

WATCHDOG: According to the State Board of Equalization, the ratio of Assessment to Market Value for Lancaster in 2012 is 76%. Thus a house with a market value of \$75,000 would be assessed for \$57,000 and the added one mill cost to the home owner would be \$57 rather than \$75.

A Hospital War Reflects a Bind for Doctors in the U.S.

NEW YORK TIMES: ...A little over half of the 1,400 doctors in southwestern Idaho are employed by St. Luke's or its smaller competitor, St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center.

Many of the independent doctors complain that both hospitals, but especially St. Luke's, have too much power over every aspect of the medical pipeline, dictating which tests and procedures to perform, how much to charge and which patients to admit. ..

Across the country, doctors who sold their practices and signed on as employees have

similar criticisms. In lawsuits and interviews, they describe growing pressure to meet the financial goals of their new employers — often by performing unnecessary tests and procedures or by admitting patients who do not need a hospital stay...

EDITOR: *Lancaster General Health, a "Public Charity" now controls perhaps half of the major practices here in the county and continues to acquire more. Does this reach for monopolistic control serve the community?*

LETTER: Unethical practices of Health Management Associates

"Everyone locally should read this piece, because it sheds overdue light on the unethical practices of Health Management Associates, the for-profit mega-chain that owns two hospitals in our community..."

"Curious why NewsLanc's editor didn't note this in his comments. Surely they don't

get a pass simply because HMA is for-profit? Ask what truly motivates our for-profit hospitals (and the local physicians who invest in them)."

EDITOR: Didn't make the connection. Mea culpa.

Many jobless in U.S. don't collect unemployment

USA TODAY: About 2 million jobless Americans fear they'll lose their extended unemployment benefits, which are slated to end next month unless Congress votes to renew them.

Their concerns make a new finding all the more puzzling: Many people eligible for unemployment don't even bother to collect it.

The above items have been excerpted from www.NewsLanc.com .

Visit the website daily for news, commentary, letters, and other features. Suggestions and letters can be sent anonymously through the home page.