



Overdose reports assured anonymity by General Hospital

Most deaths from drug overdoses are readily preventable if an ambulance is immediately summoned or the person rushed to a hospital emergency room.

This often doesn't happen, because young people (and also adults) witnessing the event are afraid to become involved lest they expose themselves to criticism and possible prosecution.

Hospitals in cooperation with law enforcement authorities in many parts of the country have adopted what is called a "Good Samaritan" policy, whereby the identities of those calling an ambulance or dropping off a patient remain anonymous.

In response to its inquiry, *NewsLanc* received the following assurance from a spokesperson for Lancaster General Hospital:

"... Lancaster General does not ask anyone who brings an overdose patient to the Emergency Department to identify themselves, as we want to encourage people to continue to bring people in for treatment who may be at risk of harm."

An overdose can be reversed in less than a minute with emergency care. Without that care, the person is likely to die.

Moreover, the tragedy won't just be limited to the deceased and his or her loved ones. Everyone present will feel guilt for the rest of their lives.

Anyone can find themselves involved in such a situation. Please share this message with your loved ones and others.

A dog's life in a bear market

A nation in financial free-fall has forced many Americans to make some very heartbreaking decisions, including whether to give up the family dog. For these people, a job layoff or foreclosed home has meant moving across state lines, or into an apartment that does not accept pets, or with relatives who don't want or have the room or desire to accommodate a beloved furry relative.

When this happens, or when medical or veterinary bills override the ability to pay them, a painful choice confronts a family.

"We are definitely getting an increase in people having to surrender dogs because of the economy," says Kelly Hitz, Director of Public Relations of the Humane Society of Harrisburg. *"For a lot of people, it is forcing tough decisions between food for animals, and food for children."*

According to Lisa Conklin, Director of Development for the Adams County SPCA *"The farm breeding of animals is perpetuating this overflow at the shelters where the supply exceeds the demand. You can find a pure bred at a shelter. The shelters are overflowing. We need to do better here as a society."*

Library system feasts while 16 libraries starve

At a recent commissioners meeting, Susan Hauer, Director of the Lancaster Library SYSTEM, complained about how county funding had remained static over the decade and made a strong case for not reducing the SYSTEM'S request in next year's budget. She then went on to say that the full allocation of \$2.3 million would allow "*distribution of a total of \$150,000 to the 16 municipal libraries that are part of the system.*"

The only funds going to the actual libraries average less than \$10,000 each? Don't the independent local libraries, not the SYSTEM, incur most of the expenses? Even when state funding is weighed, the SYSTEM still receives about half of all funds. We have a bloated SYSTEM and starving libraries.

There is no strong and articulate voice for the

hundreds of dedicated library employees who faithfully serve our community at the local level and for the hundreds of thousands of visitors who use library services throughout the county.

Lancastrians will not be properly served until there is consolidation of all of the libraries and the System under a single board of trustees. Meanwhile, the Commissioners should arrange to have an independent analysis made concerning how county library funding should be more fairly allocated.

Symptomatic of debilitated leadership was the downtown (Duke Street) trustees canceling the upgrade and renovation and rejecting a million dollars in grants after spending \$600,000 without even trying to raise \$1.3 million. With a consolidated board, this would not happen.

LETTER: A good move!

“The Dec. 2 *Intell* editorial, '*Blurred Vision*', presented the idea that the former Hess Department Store Building could be used as a new home for the North Museum of Natural History & Science. This location would place North Museum in close proximity to other museums, such as the Heritage Museum, Quilt Museum, Demuth House, Lancaster Art Museum, Hole in the Wall Puppet Theater and Museum, as well as the Academy of Music and

Central Market. It would be directly across from Binn's Park.”

“Even though North Museum is a non-profit, it would bring people downtown who would eat in nearby restaurants and shop in downtown stores. It certainly would bring families with young children into center city who do not ordinarily do so.”

LETTER: Proposed trolleys unable to make 90 degree turns

“The wheel base of the display trolley is so long that it will take out two lanes to make a turn. The outrageously expensive [so called] feasibility study should have (but does NOT) plot the actual location of the tracks or the turn radii.”

“In cities where there are long stretches with gentle turns, there is little issue. But our city blocks are relatively short and the planned route has four 90 degree turns in the busiest intersection.”

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