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Senators urge Trump to take stronger action on opioid crisis

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

A group of U.S. Senators, including Joe Manchin, Sherrod Brown and others, have urged President Trump to re-declare opioids as a public health emergency, claiming that there has not been enough action on the matter since it was initiated on October 26, 2017.

Trump's emergency declaration expired on January 23, 2018, according to the senators' letter. "We have seen too little action taken relative to the magnitude of the problem and urge you to immediately renew the opioid public health emergency declaration," it reads. "It is critical that we immediately take every possible step and use every tool at our disposal to work to end this crisis."

In the past there have been bipartisan efforts to address the opioid issue, such as the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery (CARA) act of 2016. CARA is a sweeping bill that addresses "the full continuum of care from primary prevention to recovery support, including significant changes to expand access to addiction treatment services and overdose reversal medications," according to the website of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

The act involved federal restrictions on opioid prescriptions and the establishment of treatment to treat patients with opioid addictions, according to F. Stuart Leeds, assistant professor of family medicine at the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Nevertheless, opioid usage has persisted in recent years.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released data showing that over 42,000 people died due to opioid-related overdoses in 2016. That number is a 28 percent increase in overdose deaths from the year before, and five times higher than the number from 1999.

CDC data also shows that, on average, about 115 people in the United States die every day from opioid overdoses.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) website claims that drug overdoses are the leading cause of injury death in the United States. Opioid usage constitutes 66 percent of those overdose deaths, according to the CDC website.

In March of 2016, the CDC for the first time issued a comprehensive opioid prescribing guide, which was an unprecedented turning point for the organization, according to Leeds.

A great number of overdose deaths in recent years can be attributed to ready availability of cheap black tar heroin from Mexico and the influx of fentanyl. Fentanyl is a pure synthetic drug that is often used as analgesia in medical procedures. It is about 88 percent times more potent than morphine.

Data from 2016 revealed that out of about 4,000 deaths, about 2,400 were attributed to fentanyl and 340 to carfentanil, according to Leeds. "Some level of fentanyl was detected in the blood of 90 percent of these overdose victims," he said.

Trump announces tariffs on imported solar and washing products

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

On Monday, Jan.22, the Trump administration announced heavy tariffs on solar products and washing machines produced abroad – 30 and 50 percent, respectively.

Most of these products are imported from Asian countries. By introducing these tariffs, President Trump is making good on a promise to crack down on trading partners which some argue are harmful to domestic manufacturers, according to a USA Today report.

He has stated that the move will “benefit our consumers and... create a lot of jobs,” according to a Los Angeles Times article.

This decision is intended to increase the number of domestically-manufactured products and make the U.S. economy less reliant on China, the number one producer of solar panels in the world.

The tariffs have been criticized by lawmakers and trade experts alike, who warn that the tariffs will not create jobs, will raise prices, and will ultimately be harmful to the U.S. economy.

The Wall Street Journal reported that South Korean electronics giant LG would be raising its washer-dryer prices by \$50, “as a result of the trade situation,” LG executive, Thomas Yoon said.

This decision is also expected to deal a major blow to the renewable energy industry, which as a whole has been doing very well lately, according to Wright State Mechanical & Materials Engineering Professor James Menart.

A 2017 Levelized Cost of Energy report (LCOE) from Lazard shows that natural gas, wind and solar energy “are now cheaper on a lifetime basis” compared to coal and nuclear energy, said Head of Lazard Jonathan Mir, in a video published by the company. “The implication... is that those older technologies on an economic basis should be eventually forced to retire.”

Over half of installation comes from renewables, according to Menart. Not only is renewable energy economically competitive, but “it is competing on its own without subsidies against traditional fossil fuels... [and] is being installed at large rates relative to fossil fuels” he said. “The nation is turning toward renewables... because the price is right.”

The renewable energy industry is expected to be impaired by the tariff, considering that it relies on imports for 80 percent of its supply. The Solar Energy Industries Association estimates that roughly 23,000 solar jobs will be lost as a result of the tax on solar imports.

How Wright State CaTS combats phishing scams

Sarah Cavender

News Writer

Technology has become a part of our lives every single day, especially in school. Often times, Wright State students receive spam or phishing scams in their inboxes.

A phishing scam is a form of fraud in which an attacker masquerades as a reputable entity or person in email or other communication channels, according to searchsecurity.targettech.com.

“Information security is often in the news today. Generally speaking, when that topic is in the news, it isn’t good. CaTS takes the responsibility of protecting your personal information seriously,” said Mike Natale, the Wright State chief information security officer.

Wright State’s CaTS department works to make the Raider community aware of phishing scams and protect against them. They provide support for anything technology-based on campus such as Internet access, computer labs, electronic classrooms, telephones, information technology security, and administrative and computing resources.

“Two of the easiest ways your computer system can become infected is by clicking on a link that takes you to an infected website or by downloading a document that is infected with malware,” Natale said. “However, there are many other methods that can be used to steal your data. CaTS has taken steps to implement a layered approach to information security by placing security systems and technical controls into our environment.”

CaTS utilizes firewalls and intrusion prevention systems that protects everyone's computers while on the Raider network. Along with filter for email spam, URL filtering and a document scan protect users from emails designed to trick a person into a scam.

“Be alert to emails that do not seem quite right (I.e. containing bad grammar, spelling, or opportunities that seem 'too good to be true'), said Natale. “Do not send your username and password in response to an email; CaTS will never ask you to do that. Be careful when clicking on links in an email, especially ones telling you to visit a site because there is a problem with your email account; CaTS won’t do this either.”

Natale also recommended to keep the antivirus software up to date and install security patches on personal computers.

For more information on protecting a computer or about CaTS [go to their website](#) or contact the CaTS Help Desk at (937) 775-4827.

WSU Theatre Alum wins \$100,000

Angel Lane

Features Editor

Wright State theater alum Christian Duhamel who received his BFA in Acting-Musical Theatre just won \$100,000 for his work. Tony Award winner Edward Kleban left it in his will that cash prizes would be given to “musical theater writers whose work shows great potential,” according to a report by the [NY Times](#).

Duhamel won the Kleban prize for librettist, or writer of a musical work. The \$100,000 is payable over two years and winners were chosen by a special committee.

“Christian is honored to have been named the recipient of the 2018 Kleban Award for most promising musical theater librettist. He won the award for his work writing the book of My 80-Year-Old Boyfriend. The award is administered by New Dramatists on behalf of the The Kleban Foundation, Inc.,” according to a statement on Duhamel’s [website](#).

The [NY Times](#) also reported that “according to the Kleban Foundation, the 63 artists who have received the prize over its 28 years have collectively won four Tony’s, two Pulitzer Prizes and 59 Emmy Awards.”

The Wright State Department of Theatre, Dance and Motion Pictures also congratulated Duhamel in a [Facebook post](#), “Congratulations to Christian Duhamel (Wright State BFA Musical Theatre) on receiving the prestigious Ed Kleban Prize for Musical Theatre composition. Very proud of you!”

To learn more about Duhamel, click [here](#).

SGA to host Mental Health Day & Game of Life

Angel Lane

Features Editor

Mental Health Day is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 5 and will include yoga, coloring pages, WWSU, donuts and a speaker from Counseling and Wellness. The event is meant to help students to relax for the day.

“I felt a huge pull to do Mental Health Day and Game of Life because I think they can be two vital activities for our campus. Essentially, Mental Health Day is meant to spread awareness of mental health and its importance around campus. Furthermore, it is imperative for students to have a time and day to reflect on themselves and their mental health,” said Timri Nolte, director of academic affairs for the Student Government Association.

Game of Life will consist of around 11 activities and events, including six financial assistance activities and five activities that are over life lessons like mental health, career services and student legal services.

“It is important for our students to learn about their futures in finance as active members of society. These activities include credit scores, student loans, mortgages, etc.,” Nolte said, “I have heard a lot of students talk about classes like ‘Life 101’ or ‘Why do teachers not teach us about real life?’. I wanted to respond to these statements and questions by creating Game of Life.”

The prize list for Game of Life includes two \$500 scholarships, a Microsoft Pro laptop, a pair of wireless Beats headphones and an iPad mini. The prizes will be won by matter of raffle -- students receive two entries for each completed event.

Nolte wanted to make sure commuter students would have the chance to get involved as well. Five of the Financial Literacy activities are online giving students who are not on campus the opportunity to compete at home.

“These students will either complete the online portions and that will automatically send to us and their entries will be counted or students will use their Wright1 Cards at the events to swipe in to get their participation points. Amy Barnhart and I will be doing a raffle on Facebook Live for all of the prizes,” Nolte said.

Students can text @tnolt to 81010 to take part in the Remind app for updates on locations, events and more.

Sean Murphy ranked fourth best catching prospect in baseball

Brian Patch

Sports Editor

Former WSU baseball player Sean Murphy was ranked as the fourth best catching prospect by MLB.com this past week.

Murphy started as a walk on at WSU, but quickly showed he belonged on a division one baseball team by winning the Horizon League freshman of the year in 2014. By 2016, he was considered one of the best catching prospects in the entire country, particularly because of his defense and tremendous arm strength. He was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in the third round that year.

MLB.com ranks players based on five “tools”: hitting, hitting with power, speed, arm strength and fielding ability. For each category, a player is given a projection grade of 20-80, with 80 being the best. The 80 grade is seldom seen because it means that player is projected to be one of the best players in MLB in that particular skill.

Murphy was given grades of 45 in hitting, 50 in power, 40 in speed, 70 in arm strength and 65 in fielding. As explained earlier, his grades of 70 and 65 are rare, and further support his projection to be an elite defender when he reaches the major league level.

MLB.com released a scouting report on Murphy praising his defensive skills, while also saying he may be a better hitter than advertised.

“Offensively, Murphy possesses an intriguing blend of power potential and on-base skills from the right side of the plate. There's some natural hitting ability there too, and he proved comfortable using the entire field in his first full season. Even if his production is only modest, Murphy's defensive chops alone could make him an everyday catcher at the highest level”.

MLB.com also projects that Murphy will be in the major leagues in 2019, but with Murphy reaching the AA level last year, it's we could see him in an Athletics uniform this coming season.

Biannual Adventure Summit coming in February

Holly Souther

Features Writer

The Adventure Summit was established in 2006 and has since become a biannual event. Five Rivers MetroParks and the Outdoor Recreation Center have collaborated to host the event on campus on Feb. 9 and 10, 2018. Over 40 presentations will be offered along with a variety of outdoor recreation classes that people can partake in for free, although there are a few competitions such as the bouldering contest or an indoor triathlon that have to be paid for with the chance to win prizes.

The main speakers will be in the Apollo room, while the upstairs conference rooms will include the presentations as it flows down into the recreation spaces, according to Associate Director for Campus Events Drew Corbett.

"A vendor fair where different organizations, companies and groups will come and showcase what they have to offer from an outdoor recreation standpoint. We utilize our swimming pool for water activities or group exercise studios for the presentations that are in there as well," Corbett said.

Three prominent speakers are to be featured; Jordan Romero, the youngest climber who completed the seven summits across the world, Dale Sanders who hiked the Appalachian Trail at the age of 82 and Susan Conrad who journeyed across the coastal route known as the Inside Passage.

"You can be young and do these adventures or be older and 82 and to do these adventures, and there's little bit of something for everyone in between," Corbett said. "The theme is kind of like age has no difference."

Graduate Assistant for Outdoor Recreation Erin Sherrets said, "This brings light to what Wright State has to offer for students specifically, and the Adventure Summit consist of professionals who do outdoor recreation full time so it also shines a light on what Wright State can provide for students."

Faculty hold demonstration at university forum

Lucas Gonzalez

News Editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, Wright State held a public forum to discuss issues including the university's fiscal health, the FY18 budget, future financial projections and fiscal watch.

The forum, known as "Let's Talk" is an initiative started by University President Cheryl Schrader that is intended to create an open public dialogue and to provide the community with information and perspective, according to the university website.

The panel featured Walt Branson, vice president for finance and operations/chief business officer; Tina Heigel, university controller; Doug Fecher, chair of the Board of Trustees and Schrader.

In preparation for the forum, the Wright State chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) organized a demonstration in protest of certain university proposals.

Issues raised by WSU-AAUP included: "no raises for this and the next two years; increased cost for health benefits; administrative control over changes in health insurance coverage [...]; the possibility of furlough; nullification of workload agreements; [and] loss of job security for Tenure and Tenure-Eligible faculty," according to Linda Hockaday, assistant director of Student Services.

The university as a whole has made significant steps toward overcoming its financial challenges, according to Schrader, including avoiding fiscal watch – which is the second most severe stage of a school's financial condition.

"It is becoming more likely that we are not going on state fiscal watch," she said. "With everyone's continued efforts, we can be successful in avoiding fiscal watch altogether."

WSU swimming splits their final home meet

Tevin Carter-Tolbert

Sports Writer

The Wright State Raiders hosted the Xavier Musketeers for their final home meet Saturday afternoon. The Wright State men won 167-94, while the Xavier women won 184-72

The men had a number of first place finishes with Thomas Downey (1000 free), Jack Fergus (100 back), Trevor Keriazes (100 breast), Mitchell Stover (200 fly, 200 back), Dominic Poletta (50 and 100 free), Levente Sardi (200 breast), Kevin McCaffrey (100 fly), Levente Sardi (200 IM) each winning. The 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay teams both took first place finishes for the men side as well. For the women, Sofia Aledo (100 back, 200 IM) and Abby Saner (200 breast) each gained victories for the Raiders.

With it being the last home meet of the season, emotions were definitely high and you could see it from both the swimmers and the fans. Before the meet started, all of the seniors were recognized for their accomplishments and dedication to the program throughout its ups and downs. Those seniors were Fergus, Keriazes, Stover, Ryan Schultz, Chace Conley, Marissa Johnson, Jamie Krupp, Abby Saner and Meghan Wilson. Since this would be their last meet at WSU, the entire team was recognized after the meet.

Stover thought the final meet went well overall, even though it was bittersweet. "Everybody accomplished what they wanted to. Everybody wanted to have a good last meet, everyone wanted to feel a part of everything and wanted to be a part of that last meet here."

Looking forward, the team will prepare themselves for the Horizon League Championships in Cleveland, OH, starting on Wednesday, Feb 21.