



"KINDLE, NOOK, SONY READER...I SAY, HARDWICK, THIS SURE IS AN IMPRESSIVE LIBRARY."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kick the habit

It's that time of year again — a time to look over the past 12 months and make resolutions for how to do it better in the new year. Along with hitting the gym more often and starting a diet, quitting smoking tops many resolution lists.

Quitting isn't easy, but the American Lung Association is here to help with free programs to help Oklahomans quit tobacco.

Nicotine in cigarettes and e-cigarettes is highly addictive, which is part of why it can be so tough to quit smoking. Over 70 percent of people who smoke want to quit smoking and 40 percent will make an attempt this year, but only 4 percent to 7 percent can quit without support. This is why it is so important to turn to proven methods and expert resources to help you quit smoking for good.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, the American Lung Association is able to offer free programs for local residents who are ready to quit smoking, like the proven effective Freedom From Smoking program. For more information on the program and sign up, call 405-421-9009.

We look forward to helping you start your new year on a healthier step!

*Eva Sawheny, MD,
Oklahoma City*

Editor's note: A pulmonologist, Sawheny is a board member of the American Lung Association in Oklahoma.

Driven away

I am co-owner of a business which has been located in downtown Tulsa for nearly 40 years. We have weathered the peaks and valleys of the local economy, construction and reconstruction of the Main Mall and all the more recent construction projects revitalizing downtown.

Our business necessitates utilizing delivery vehicles to service customers. Loading zones are critical for loading vehicles. Over the past year on our street, we have lost two full-time loading zones. There are two other businesses on our street that require delivery vehicles. We also have paid for monthly parking blocks away.

In conjunction with this, we have seen an aggressive increase in meter enforcement. While we commend the spirit of this initiative, it has regressed into an antagonistic, unprofessional attack

on downtown businesses and their customers. Trying to budget for monthly parking infractions and lost productivity with employees constantly moving and plugging meters within our business district is out of control.

We reached out to the city following proper channels and were told that new meter apps will allow for extended periods and that we have more than enough loading zones on our streets.

My question to the mayor: Is this how you want to treat loyal, taxpaying downtown businesses? Is the intent to force businesses like ours to relocate?

I have suggestions and solutions, but it needs to start with respect for what drives our local economics. If you do care about small business downtown in Tulsa, help us.

Chris Sloan, Tulsa

End the invasion

When you see videos on the news of children hanging on boxcars trying to get to the U.S., it makes you aware of how cruel their parents are. Sending those young children thousands of miles, alone — some of whom will be raped, murdered and enslaved — just so the parents can get into the U.S., is evil. Even animals will die to

protect their offspring, but these parents sacrifice their own children in hopes they make it. These children should be sent back to their parents. They had them, and they should take responsibility to raise them.

The caravan invasion of the U.S. only shows how arrogant these people are to believe they can break our laws as they please. Doesn't this action make fools out of the people immigrating legally, learning our language, the Constitution and our history before arriving? It's not fair. If they claim political asylum, then give them a rifle, a box of cartridges and a couple of grenades and send them back to change things for themselves.

Concerning the millions crossing our borders, where are the environmentalists when land is consumed by building housing, shopping centers, factories, cars and roads?

Where are the unions when illegal aliens go to employers claiming they will work for half the pay? Why are these groups so lenient? To solve this problem, the immigrants need to change their own governments' attitudes to better serve its citizens.

*Brian Webb,
Owasso*