

YOUR VIEWS • LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 10/9/17, A13

Rink project showed no regard for the public good

Many thanks to Tony Messenger for candidly calling out the duplicitous nature of the ice rinks planned for Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park ("Torn-up park is all that's left of rink plan," Oct. 6). This was never about providing relief for hockey parents, it was never about enhancing outdoor recreation, and it clearly was never about stormwater management.

What becomes more and more apparent is that this is a project wherein County Executive Steve Stenger colludes with his favored donors, with no regard for the public good.

If the Missouri Department of Natural Resources holds firm with its position that this boondoggle does nothing for outdoor recreation, the costs will expand with the mandate that more land be acquired for the park, adding to what they have spent on the ill-advised grading thus far.

The Blues and the Legacy Ice Foundation would do well to pull back from this growing swamp and look for a better solution that doesn't tarnish them with the smell of political double-talk.

Michael Meredith • St. Louis County

Professional development of police leads to drop in crime

Regarding "De-policing, crime and the 'Ferguson effect' in Missouri" (Oct. 4):

De-policing has its time and place, but the assertion that since 2014 de-policing does not mean more crime in Missouri is, if not flat-out refuted by national data, on fragile grounds to say the least. The violent crime rate nationwide has actually increased for the last two consecutive years for which we have data.

More important is the United States attorney general's power to investigate police departments thanks to the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. Since then, there have been a minimum of 69 formal investigations. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, the violent crime rate has actually fallen more than 45 percent from 713.6 per 100,000 inhabitants in 1994 to 386.3 per 100,000 in 2016.

Thus, as these investigations have been conducted and remedies pursued, the data confirm the rational expectation that the continuous, intelligent and professional development of our law enforcement community correlates with a decrease in the violent crime rate as it simultaneously enhances the safety of our police officers in the performance of their duties and protects our citizenry's constitutional rights.

Lou Horwitz • St. Peters

Require personal responsibility in handling of guns

Regarding the letter "Demand a public health approach on gun laws" (Oct. 5):

Dr. Kristen Mueller should know that the vast majority of gun deaths result from suicides. This accounts for one-half to two-thirds of all gun deaths every year.

If you want people to stop killing themselves, then you need to work with them to show them that life is worth living. So what if you make it harder for them to buy the gun, and in the end they don't. Did you really save a life? Or are they still living with whatever would drive them to suicide, just not by other means?

Every newly purchased gun comes with a gun lock. If your gun doesn't have one, you can go to your local police station and get one free of charge. So there are your seat belts. But like wearing a seat belt, it requires the owner to actually apply it.

At what point do we require personal responsibility?

Jacob Jones • Fenton

Blunt getting a lot of money from the NRA

According to a Washington Post article Oct. 3, Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., has accepted over \$60,000 in campaign donations from the National Rifle Association. Politico reports that amount is \$143,543 over a period of time, and a Los Angeles Times article of Oct. 3 says he's received \$4.6 million in direct and indirect NRA support. The numbers vary because neither Sen. Blunt nor the NRA want you to know the real amount.

It doesn't matter how much it is; Sen. Blunt receives a lot of money from the NRA. He may offer prayers every time there's another mass shooting, but when it comes to legislating, he's not going to bite the hand that feeds him. And when it comes to the safety of Missouri's citizens, he believes more guns and fewer gun restrictions are better.

He's been in Congress for over 20 years. It's time for him to go.

T. Kinealy • Webster Groves

Roberts' argument over gerrymandering is questioned

In "Fake news comes to the Supreme Court" (Oct. 5), Washington Post columnist Dana Milbank recounts an argument made by Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. for avoiding consideration of cases of political gerrymandering, in which tens of thousands of American voters have been disenfranchised in obvious violation of the Constitution.