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A10

Prison treatment programs should include help for heroin addicts

Regarding "More police to carry heroin antidote" (Feb. 19):

Interesting article, but overly simplistic to the point of obscuring a deeper truth. Drug-related contacts with the police frequently result in criminal charges for the individual, especially if the individual already has a criminal history.

Since "addicts tend to relapse from eight to 12 times while trying to get off opiates," is it not offensive to equal justice under law for legislation to have been passed that allows police to save the lives of those battling opioid addiction, but to not have passed legislation that allows those very same individuals who are sentenced to a prison treatment program — either the 120-day or the long-term program — to receive either methadone or buprenorphine?

Lou Horwitz • St. Peters

Improve access to Creve Coeur park before adding soccer fields

With the announcement of the proposed soccer park addition to Creve Coeur Lake Park, I am concerned about the limited road access to the site and whether the plan will address this issue ("County officials detail soccer complex," Feb. 12).

Currently, Creve Coeur Mill Road provides the only access to the west side of the park as well as to the Lou Fusz Soccer Complex. In 2015, the complex added four turf soccer fields, and this addition has noticeably increased the already significant traffic levels on this small, curvy country road.

The addition of 13 more soccer fields will exceed the road's capacity for safe usage.

There are several residential sections along Creve Coeur Mill Road with spotty sidewalks and no shoulder. In many places, the road surface is in bad condition and the road is subject to flash flooding. The road is also used by bicyclists and pedestrians to reach the park from the south.

Creve Coeur Lake Park is already heavily used on the weekends, normally when soccer tournaments are held. A significant increase in soccer facilities will increase the congestion within the park and add to the safety issues getting to the park.

Before proceeding with this major expansion of the park, the St. Louis County Council must address/improve access to the park and cover the costs needed to avoid dangerous road conditions.

Joan Harris • Chesterfield

Ferguson's own reform efforts are a mirage

Blake Ashby offers a defense of the city of Ferguson for its failure to listen to the community and sign the Department of Justice consent decree ("A cancer in the social justice movement," Feb. 21). He misses the target in a variety of areas. For one, his concerns about the cost of the decree are based on inflated numbers, as the Post-Dispatch has pointed out ("Two words in decree dictate Ferguson's cost calculation," Feb. 21).

Most rankling, however, is the persistent fiction that Ferguson did agree to the consent decree and is implementing it on their own. They may be going through the motions, but their efforts are a mirage. Their ordinance for a Civilian Review Board takes