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November 3, 2025

Straight Talk

Welcome to the latest edition of the Steered Straight Newsletter! We are thrilled to bring you updates on the impactful work that Michael DeLeon and the Steered Straight team are doing to support communities, young people, and families nationwide. Our mission is to inform, educate, and empower young people to make positive choices. Thank you for joining us on this journey to make a difference.



They Thought It Was Candy. It Sent Them to the Hospital.

In a small Georgia town, five middle school students were rushed to the ER after eating gummies laced with kratom—a dangerous, opioid-like substance that’s being sold legally in gas stations and vape shops across the country.

This wasn’t marijuana. It wasn’t alcohol. It was **kratom**—a little-known, loosely regulated drug that’s now making its way into classrooms, disguised in teen-friendly packaging and marketed as “natural.”

Parents, educators, and prevention leaders: this is your warning. Kratom is not on most people’s radar—but it should be. It’s addictive. It’s accessible. And it’s already harming kids.

Most adults have never heard of it. Teens can buy it at corner stores—no ID required. Schools aren’t talking about it. Most prevention programs don’t cover it. And now, children are paying the price.

This is how epidemics start. We’ve seen it before, with vaping, with synthetic drugs, with opioids. Kratom is following the same path, quietly, quickly, and dangerously.

Learn what happened in Walker County, why it matters, and what we must do—before this crisis reaches your child’s school. [Read the full blog article](#)

at www.michaeldenonblog.org

Michael DeLeon

Road Warrior



How the Miles Make a Difference

There is NO WAY you can look at Michael holding a bag of 35 vapes collected in ONE DAY and wonder why Steered Straight exists and why Michael does what he does. 35, that's incredible, and incredibly sad at the same time. Prevention matters. Kids matter!

Michael always loves to have repeat visits to schools. Every 4 years there is a new batch of kids, but every year there is a new grade coming in at the very least. This particular school district was an absolute HONOR to be back to this year. These counselors and administrators are AMAZING!!! These kids are amazing as well! Thank you for finding the value in prevention and these students!

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In The News

The Durango tractor-trailer held over 13 tons and 13,400 liters of drug-making chemicals and may be tied to the Cabrera Sarabia family, an armed wing of La Mayiza. (Credit: Via @OHarfuch on X)

Mexican authorities seized a tractor-trailer carrying more than 13 tons and 13,400 liters of chemical precursors used to produce [synthetic drugs](#), in what officials described as a major blow to drug cartel's trafficking networks.

Mexico's Security Minister Omar García Harfuch said on his X account that the multi-agency operation took place in the northern state of [Durango](#) and led to one arrest. Authorities said the seizure resulted from surveillance actions that intercepted the truck at a checkpoint along the Durango–Hidalgo del Parral highway. The vehicle had been modified to transport precursor chemicals and drug materials.

To read the full article please click this link or the photo above <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/mexican-authorities-seize-tractor-trailer-carrying-more-than-13-tons-of-precursor-chemicals/ar-AA1PsaJ2?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

On the Road to Recovery

Steered Straight and Recovery Army sat down with Tyler Bowman. Tyler's addiction started at a very early age. After he found his sobriety, he sees that even as young as age 3 he had an addictive personality. His parents had a shaky relationship, and he used this for his benefit by manipulating his parents and going back and forth between them to get what he wanted. A bad break up and a hand injury led to abusing prescription painkillers. He sees this as the tipping point. He finished his prescription and experienced withdrawals. In 2011 an event led to Tyler sleeping for 3 days and a call to poison control by his mom. Intrigued? To hear the rest of Tyler's story in his own words, please click on the link/photo below and watch his inspiring journey!

To see more stories of hope and inspiration please visit:

www.recoveryarmy.com



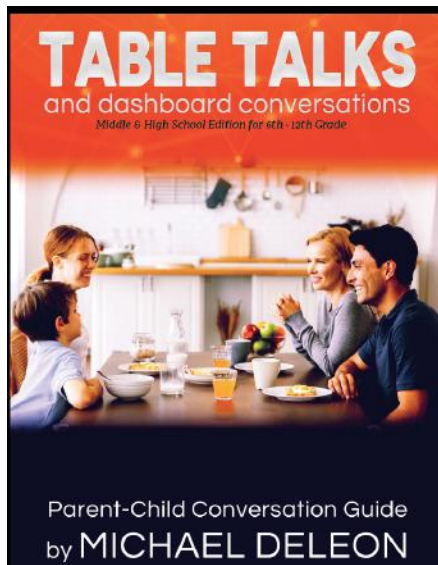
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TABLE TALKS

Michael has created workbooks for parents and children that guide them in managing relationships and discussing difficult topics beyond drug and alcohol abuse. Each month, he focuses on a different subjects and offers many different topics of conversation and activities you can do with your children to help foster that deep connection and communication that is so vital.



Table Talks and Dashboard Conversations is an in-depth Conversation Guide for Parents and Kids. You can order through [Amazon](#) or the [Steered Straight website](#).



The Month of November: Alcohol, Tobacco/Nicotine, Vaping, Drinking and Driving

The focus of November is alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, vaping, and drinking and driving. November is a great time before the holidays kick in to full gear to start talking to kids and young adults about these topics. This will encourage them to think before they act when faced with the unique challenges that come this time of year. There are so many social events, parties, and celebrations that involve alcohol. **This week I would like to encourage you to have a**

conversation with your kids about the risks and dangers of drinking and driving or getting in a vehicle with anyone who has consumed a substance that alters them in any way. Whether we feel impaired or someone looks impaired it is better to be safe than sorry. Give them some suggestions of what they can do before they find themselves in a sticky situation. Can they call you? Can they get an Uber or a Lyft? Have the conversation. Stress the importance and the consequences that can happen from just one time. It can end their life or someone else's.

Spend the week building your kids up! The more we open up with kids, the more they will open up to the important adults in their lives.

Headlines We Are Following

[Green Gut Syndrome: When Weed Turns Against You — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

[When Only One Teacher Showed Up: A Wake-Up Call for Our Schools — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

[Legalization vs. Reality: Why Illegal Cannabis Shops Are Still Thriving — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

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Contact Steered Straight

Michael and his team of professional Steered Straight speakers are eager to meet you in person and make a profound impact on your students, staff, and community. To bring their inspiring message to your next event, contact Steered Straight to schedule.

[CONTACT STEERED STRAIGHT](#)



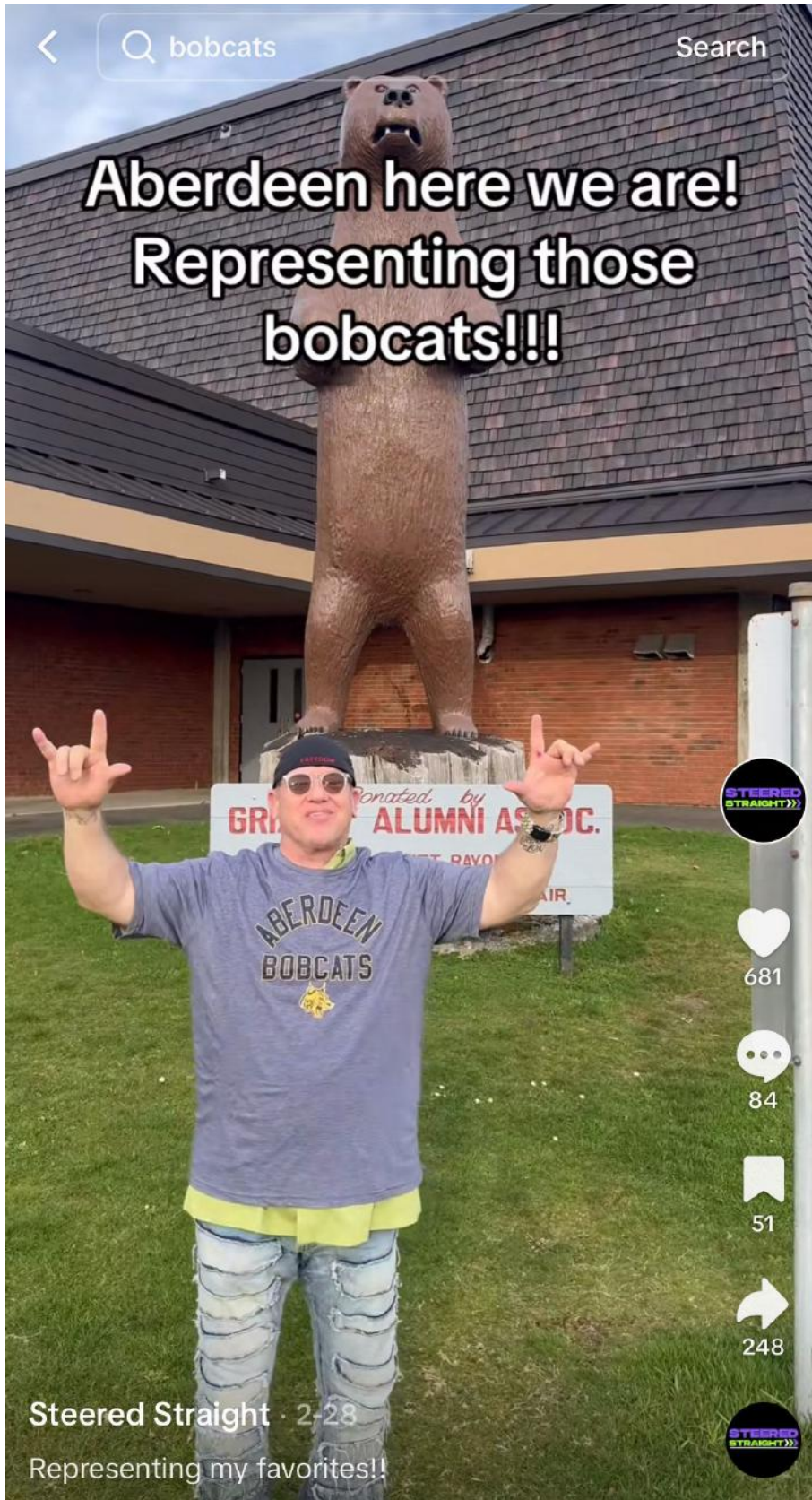
Follow On Social Media



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18K followers





Watch now on TikTok

@steeredstraight

Check out these awesome posts.

Michael showing the incredible amount of vapes he has collected this last week and also educating how he disposes of the vapes he collects.

Michael stirring the pot once again with some healthy school rivalry on TIKTOK

Michael DeLeon and the team at Steered Straight are working hard to ensure this generation gets what they need to change the world. No other program like it and no one delivers the message better. All for the kids! Follow Michael and Steered Straight on social media so you don't miss a beat!

#steeredstraight #motivator #explore #advice #drugfree #antivaping #recovery #quitvaping #stayinyourlane



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