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November 24, 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.



Holiday celebrations should never end in funerals.

Yet every year, drunk and impaired driving turns joy into tragedy—spiking crash deaths by nearly 40% during Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, and the Fourth of July. And it's not just alcohol. Cannabis, prescription medications, and even common cold medicines can dangerously slow reflexes, cloud judgment, and put lives at risk.

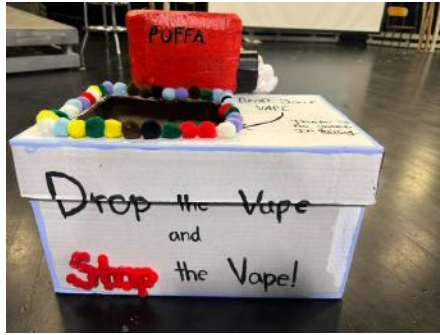
This is not just a statistic—it's a warning. Our future generation is watching, learning, and making choices. For educators, parents, and caregivers, the holidays are a critical time to talk with youth about the dangers of impaired driving. College students coming home for break are especially vulnerable, surrounded by parties, peer pressure, and the false confidence that "just a little" won't hurt.

The full blog www.michaeldeleonblog.org lays out the alarming numbers, the top substances that impair driving, and practical strategies families and communities can use to prevent tragedy—from ride sharing and designated drivers to public awareness campaigns and community education.

Don't let celebration turn into tragedy. Read the full article
@ www.michaeldeleonblog.org, share it, and have the conversation with
your kids, your students, and your community. One honest talk today
could save a life tomorrow.

Michael DeLeon

Road Warrior



How the Miles Make a Difference

Kids at a school in east Texas didn't just make a vape drop box, they handed them in to Michael after his presentation. Michael and Steered Straight...making a positive difference in every state in our country!

Steered Straight and the calling and mission of Michael DeLeon are making a difference!! This is how the miles make a difference. From plane to plane and city to city, he keeps moving by the grace of God! The number of lives touched, and people educated and inspired. Thank you, God.

Steered Straight

In The News

INDIANA NEWS

Indianapolis mom says her 3-year-old ingested THC gummies while under the supervision of a daycare worker

by: Kit Hanley

Posted: Nov 20, 2025 / 10:40 AM EST

Updated: Nov 20, 2025 / 12:45 PM EST

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indianapolis mom is sounding the alarm on the dangers of THC after she says her 3-year-old daughter ingested gummies while in the care of a daycare worker.

The mom, who requested to remain anonymous, told FOX59/CBS4 she dropped her kids off with their daycare workers on Nov. 11. Later that day, she got a call saying that her daughter was acting weird and looked sick. When she picked her daughter up, she said she wasn't acting herself.

The next day, she got a call from one of the daycare workers who told her that her 3-year-old had eaten something out of another daycare worker's pocket.

She then drug tested her daughter and found she had tested positive for THC. She took her to the hospital to get a second opinion, and the results came back positive once again. The mom has filed a police report, and the case is under investigation. In the meantime, she wants to alert other parents.

"Make sure that you're paying attention to your kid, make sure you're asking your kid what's going on at daycare. Especially, if they're old enough to talk...just kind of making sure that everybody is aware of

this,” the Indianapolis mom said.

“This is stuff that’s going on in our community.”

This comes as lawmakers are cracking down on the kid-friendly packaging and potency of THC products.

“If you use drugs and you do that, you just don’t have that around kids. I mean, it’s like having kids and leaving a gun on the table. What are we doing here?,” said Retired DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge Michael Gannon.

Gannon says these candies can be dangerous, especially in the hands of children.

“For these people that are using that, you have to take the precautions, you have to have it in locked containers. You have to safeguard,” Gannon said.

We’ve also checked with police, who tell us this incident is being investigated.

We’ll follow up closely and share the results of the investigation when we can.

On the Road to Recovery

Steered Straight and Recovery Army sat down with Christina Burns. Christina's says, "Life began before addiction began". Everyone has a life, a past, and we all respond differently to our environment. Some end up turning to substances to cope or escape. Christina came from a broken home full of addiction and mental health struggles. Her grandmother, that she called mom, offered her the bits of stability she had in her young life. She largely felt alone in her world and started drinking and drugs in high school. This led to other poor choices in her life and there was a period of time where she gave up and found heroine. As you can imagine, this led her down an even deeper path in her addiction. Today Christina is a published author, motivational speaker, recovery advocate, and an inspiration and huge help to many! To hear the rest of

Christina's story in her own words, please click on the link/photo below and watch her inspiring journey!

To see more stories of hope and inspiration please visit:

www.recoveryarmy.com



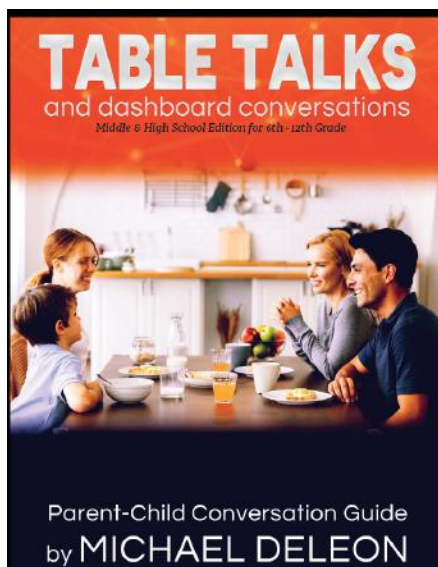
STEERED STRAIGHT

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 and other substances. **This week I would like to have a conversation with your children about the following statistics. Please read the "Stright Talk" with your children and click on the link to read all the information in the corresponding blog article at www.michaeldeleonblog.org**

Key Holiday Drunk Driving Statistics

- **Major holidays (2018–2022):** 38% of crash deaths involved drunk drivers, a **27.7% increase** compared to non-holiday periods.
- **Christmas–New Year’s:** About **40% of traffic fatalities** involve drunk drivers, averaging **54 alcohol-related deaths per day**.
- **Fourth of July (2023):** 233 people died in drunk driving crashes; **40% of drivers killed were intoxicated**.
- **Thanksgiving (2023):** 39% of fatalities involved alcohol-impaired drivers.
- **Overall (2017–2021):** 38% of traffic fatalities during holidays involved drivers with a BAC \geq 0.08.

Have the conversation. Stress the importance and the consequences that can happen from just one time.

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

[What Teachers Wish Parents Knew: 19 Truths About Kids in School — Michael DeLeon Blog](#)

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

[Vaping's Hidden Toll: The New Wave of Dental Damage in Young People — 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](#)




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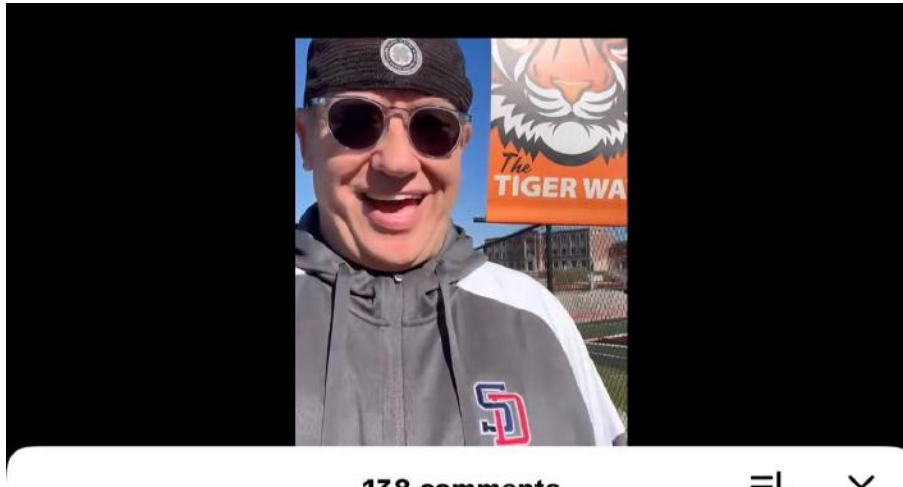
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THATS USS!! thank you so much for coming to our school and giving an AMZING assembly!! love your work!!

Reply





138 comments



Todd Chavez

Ur the best man that story about your "fruity friend" from the bathroom was awesome

10-23 Reply

♡ 14



— View 5 replies ▾



minitruckin_67

Just left my school today

10-23 Reply

♡ 3



— View 1 reply ▾



jadeactuallydoesgetpaid

ayyyy go knights!!

10-21 Reply

♡ 2



— View 1 reply ▾



Eureka!

Was just at one of your assemblies today, best I've ever seen honestly

10-23 Reply

♡ 3



Josslyn

Best assembly I've ever been too!!

10-20 Reply

♡ 8



— View 1 reply ▾

Watch now on TikTok

@steeredstraight

Check out these awesome posts.

Instagram shows you firsthand how Michael gets kids attention and gets them to engage.

TIKTOK - If you go this post you can read over 135 comments, many from kids, showing what they thought of Michael, his story, and the way he presented it!! Life changing moments.

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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