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EDITORIAL & OPINION

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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The Inquirer offers news, which strives to present unbiased, factual reporting, and opinion, which showcases viewpoints. Here is what you'll find on these opinion pages.

EDITORIAL: An opinion about a matter of public interest or policy researched and written by our Editorial Board, a group of journalists separate from the newsroom who meet frequently to discuss and debate issues. Unlike news stories, which are fact-driven and written by reporters, editorials advocate, champion, argue, critique, and suggest ways to make the region better.

COLUMN: Unlike reporters, columnists are allowed to include their opinions and viewpoints when presenting their reporting. Inquirer columnists include Will Bunch, Trudy Rubin, Helen Ubiñas, and Jenice Armstrong.

OP-ED: An essay or other type of article, including cartoons, that presents the opinion or perspective of someone with insight on the news. Many are submitted to us, but we also solicit op-eds from writers on specific topics. For more information: inquirer.com/opinion-guidelines

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: A reader's written opinion submitted by mail or email in response to a story in The Inquirer or another issue.

MORE ON HOW WE WORK: The Editorial Board consists of the executive editor and publisher, the managing editor for opinion, the deputy opinion editor, opinion coverage editor, columnists, and writers. The board routinely discusses issues of the day to decide what to editorialize on and, during election campaigns, which candidates or ballot measures to endorse. News reporters and editors do not participate in these discussions. The board's opinions are not a consideration in news coverage.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to letters@inquirer.com. Limit length to 150 words and include home address and day and evening phone number. Letters run in the Inquirer six days a week on the editorial pages. Letters are not published online.

Don't blame Biden?

We do remember Joe Biden's comments during the presidential election that he would get rid of all fossil fuels if elected. Of course, we also remember his symbolic shutting down of the Keystone XL pipeline on Day 1 of his presidency.

How is that strategy working out? We have the highest gas prices ever. The Russian invasion has also contributed to high gas prices.

But instead of sitting down with the oil industry and developing a coherent strategy to address our problem, Biden proposed meaningless symbolic acts like the release from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve and a three-month reduction of the national gas tax. Ironically, an article in The Inquirer the same day as your editorial said the tax reduction will have a limited short-term impact and could, longer term, increase gas prices. The editorial would have us believe Biden is a helpless participant in events beyond his control. In reality, he is captive to a climate industry that is half

a century away from having the capability to effectively replace fossil fuels.

Vince Sobocinski, Blue Bell

Pa. needs alternatives to opioids

Regarding "Pain relief doesn't have to mean opioids" (June 9), this research proves that non-opioid alternatives are effective for pain management, yet they remain difficult for patients to access. More than 5,000 Pennsylvania residents died of a drug overdose in 2021, three-quarters of which are attributed to opioids.

To stem the tide of this crisis nationwide, an upstream effort to prevent addiction is crucial. The Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation (NOPAIN) Act, pending in Congress, would increase access to safe, non-opioid pain management options by updating Medicare reimbursement policy. As founder of Project Healing Hive, I have seen firsthand the impact of providing access to non-opioid therapies in our community.

I thank Sen. Bob Casey for his support, and urge Sen. Pat Toomey and Pennsylvania's congressional delegation to support this bill. Pennsylvanian lives depend on it.

Kristen Yehiel, founder and president, Project Healing Hive, Phoenixville. kristen@supportph.org

Wrongful convictions endanger lives

Within four days, The Inquirer published two opinions critical of Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner. They were written by authors at Broad + Liberty and the Commonwealth Foundation. Publishing criticisms of Krasner might pass for balanced journalism, except that it is based on lies such as incarceration reduces gun violence and more gun sales will make us safer. However, locking up the wrong people endangers the public. It lets the killer go free, harms families, and removes a productive person from the community. A criminal justice system that

prizes convictions over justice needs serious reform, which is what Krasner is trying to do. Krasner's Convictions Integrity Unit, since 2018, has exonerated 25 wrongly convicted people whom former district attorneys have put in jail, abetted by the Philadelphia Police Department's use of false confessions and planted evidence. Krasner's Convictions Integrity Unit is reviewing more cases that stem from misconduct within the criminal justice system in order to repair the damage.

Gerry Givnish, Philadelphia

Dog Days photo promotes bad behavior

The photo of a dog off the leash under a sprinkler just indicates the lack of responsible dog ownership. There have been several severe injuries to children and adults caused by dogs off leashes. Again, the irresponsible dog owners are at fault. These photos just encourage the same behavior by dog owners.

Fran Muni Neiley, retired police lieutenant, Philadelphia

OP-ED