

# NewsLanc.com

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2/5/10 • Publisher: NewsLanc.com, LLC • Combined Circulation: 80,000 monthly • Volume II, No. 105

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## Lancaster Newspapers to charge for online access

According to an article in the *New York Times*, the *Lancaster Newspapers* will be in the vanguard of regional newspapers charging for online access.

The *Times* reports: “*We’re starting small, so if this really turns people off, we’re not playing with a huge chunk of our readership,*” said Ernest J. Schreiber, editor of the Lancaster paper’s Web site, LancasterOnline.com.”

“*We have news that no one else has, like these obituaries,*” Mr. Schreiber said. “*We would eventually take other sections of our online content into the system. I’m thinking local sports, perhaps.*”

The *Times* concludes “Given the industry’s troubles, *doing nothing is not an option,*”

Schreiber said. “*The sooner we can do it, the sooner we can find something that works.*”

Certain national and international newspapers such as the *Financial Times* of London and the *Wall Street Journal* believe it possible to charge visitors for access due to the unique value of their financial coverage. What the *Lancaster Newspapers* will be testing is whether local news concerning local events also can also be monetized.

*NewsLanc* wishes the *Lancaster Newspapers* good fortune with the experiment. An economically healthy, vigorous press earning revenue from subscribers as well as advertisers is in the best interest of the citizenry.

## LETTER: Marijuana antidote for alcohol abuse

*I have depression and anxiety disorder and smoking it has greatly helped me over the years. I used to do another drug that only masked the problem, and that terrible drug was alcohol! Alcohol kills more innocent people than marijuana does!*

*There are many people that medical marijuana has helped, and I’m sure that there is NO ONE that has benefited from ALCOHOL! So please have an open mind.*

## Laid off firefighter blames City for negligent union negotiation

The following are excerpts from a letter published on *LancasterOnline.com*:

“*Throughout our negotiation process, the city did not mention, suggest, imply or otherwise*

*indicate that any layoffs would occur. When the issue of compensation was raised, the city asked the firefighters what we were looking for. We suggested the agreed upon 3%, 3.25% and [Continued...]*

3.5% incremental increases for the three consecutive years covered by the contract.

*“The city immediately accepted this offer, with very little discussion. After that agreement, the negotiator for the city smirked and said that the city was willing to offer 4 or 5%. We joked with the city about making a low offer and moved on under the belief that both parties were satisfied...”*

**NEW ERA:** After challenging the concept of streetcars for initial cost, applicability to a small city such as Lancaster, and obstructing traffic during rush hour, Carol Petersen’s column re streetcars concludes:

*“Many of the cities with so-called ‘heritage’ lines cited by Lancaster streetcar fans found their ridership dropped off steeply after an initial period of either free or very low priced fares....”*

*“Our fire bureau is already critically understaffed. For example, I, as a probationary firefighter with about 6 months in service, was pressed into service as a driver/operator for several fire apparatus due to a lack of available staff...”*

*“Training is also a problem. Only the most senior firefighters on the job today can remember the last time city firefighters were able to train using live fire in a ‘burn building.’ ...”*

*“This proposed streetcar is not a ‘modern streetcar system.’ It is not light rail. It is not a commuter line. It is an amusement. And a very high-priced, disruptive, inconvenient, backward looking one at that.”*

**WATCHDOG:** Two wags of the tail! Why does Mayor Rick Gray persist upon wasting money for a study of this obviously nutty idea which has virtually no public support?

## **HartfordAdvocate.com: “Prisons - America’s growth industry”**

*The following was forwarded by a reader:*

“Inside the borders of the United States resides a separate nation of 2.3 million people. It’s a nation in constant flux, with 700,000 residents released each year, their places soon taken by 700,000 others. It’s a land where the meals are free but the doors are always locked. Often, the same people keep returning to this nation, while others who’ve been there before are released, creating an awful human churning effect that baffles social scientists, hamstring mayors, breaks municipal budgets and overwhelms the ability of do-gooders to adequately address.

“I speak, of course, of America’s prison population. Incarceration may be the only U.S. industry that enjoys unlimited growth potential. We lead the world, by a wide margin, in the number of citizens in prison. The per capita rate is six times higher than Canada, eight times that of France, and even surpasses China and Russia. According to Georgetown law professor David Cole: *‘We literally cannot afford our political addiction to incarceration’ ...*”

**The above have been excerpted from [NewsLanc.com](http://NewsLanc.com).  
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