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LETTER: No exception. The Convention Center has failed.

[In response to “**Surprise, surprise...convention center actually doing quite well except...**”]

... “Not only doesn’t this project add any significant rooms to the marketplace, the 300 room, taxpayer-financed, private hotel takes away 3 times more rooms than the center adds. In other words, the CC would have to triple its output of overflow of rooms simply to have a break-even effect on the local hotel industry.

LANCASTER SUNDAY NEWS

Editorial “**Whose payday?**” opines: “House Bill 2191, sponsored by Rep. Chris Ross, R-Chester County, and co-sponsored by five Lancaster County lawmakers (John Bear, R-97th District, Scott Boyd, R-43rd, Tom Creighton, R-37th, Dave Hickernell, R-98th, and Gordon Denlinger, R-99th), opens the door to payday lenders in Pennsylvania by removing the state’s 24 percent cap on interest charged to borrowers...”

“Under the proposal, according to the Philadelphia Inquirer, a \$300 loan would carry interest of \$42.50 — an annual interest rate of 369 percent...”

“This topic is front and center because the LCCCA, as a result of the lopsided agreements with PSP, and many other factors, cannot pay its bills. But even if those agreements were actually fair, and all the other shortcomings from the electric meters/transformers and this and that all fell into alignment, the CC project would NOT be adding any significant number of hotel rooms to the marketplace and that is what makes it a failure... NO EXCEPTIONS!”

“Once they get caught in the payday loan trap, borrowers find themselves in a downward spiral. Bled dry by the interest and fees they must pay on the short-term loans, they end up having to borrow again — and again, and again. Nationally, people who take out payday loans are in debt to their dealers for 200 days out of each year, the Inquirer notes....”

WATCHDOG: *Three wags of the tail! Chris Ross, John Bear, Scott Boyd, Tom Creighton, Dave Hickernell and Gordon Denlinger should be deeply ashamed for sponsorship of such a bill. We note they are all Republicans, but apparently not the type of Republicans of two decades ago.*

Pennsylvania natural gas interests spent \$1.3 million on lobbying

LEHIGH VALLEY MORNING CALL: Five of Pennsylvania’s largest natural gas drilling interests spent a staggering \$1.3 million to lobby state government from January through March as lawmakers and the Corbett administration worked to approve a new impact fee on the industry.

Leading the pack was the Marcellus Shale Coalition, an industry trade group based in southwestern Pennsylvania. The group spent \$978,766 during the first three months of the year trying to influence government, disclosure records show...

EDITOR: *This is a similar amount as Tom Corbett received from the Marcellus Shale lobby during his election campaign. They were paying to get their*

candidate elected. Three guesses as to what they are paying for now.

We only have Memorial Day half right

In recent weeks the Watchdog visited Tunisia and had the edifying and emotionally wrenching experience of visiting a military cemetery containing 2200 American soldiers who fell during the 1942 African Campaign at the outset of World War II.

We reflected upon the lives not lived and how the premature death of a single person changes the world.

These emotions would have been the same had the cemetery been in honor of the fallen from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, but there would have been another layer of emotion: anger....yes fury... at those governmental and business leaders responsible for having misled us for years in the first and tricked us into the second.

(When one reaches a certain age, sorrow is also felt for those who died on the other side for much the same reasons.)

Memorial Day needs to be more than just reflecting upon and honoring the fallen. We need to differentiate wars that were necessary from those that were not. In the latter case we need to be prepared to accept responsibility for our nation's folly and to be angry...furious!

For young men and women to die in war is tragic; but for them to have been sent through misbegotten ideology and for purposes of ambition and self-enrichment is despicable.

Honor and mourn the fallen; but recognize and hold accountable bad leaders.

Marijuana Legalization Hits 56% Support in Rasmussen Poll

DRUG WAR CHRONICLE: A Rasmussen poll of likely voters released Tuesday found support for legalizing and regulating marijuana at 56% nationwide, a significant increase over a March Rasmussen poll and in line with other recent polls that show legalizing gaining majority support and trending upward....

Legalization garnered majority support among both sexes and across age groups, although with some significant differences. While 61% of men

supported "legalizing marijuana and treating it like alcohol or cigarettes," only 52% of women did, reflecting a gender gap apparent in other polls. And while even seniors came in with 50% support, only 49% of respondents with minor children supported legalization...

The poll also asked whether it should not be a crime "for someone to smoke marijuana" in private. Only 32% agreed that private pot-smoking should remain a crime, while 68% disagreed.

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