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Floridians should not have to ration their insulin | Letters

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The Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now Act of 2026 would lower the cost of the life-saving drug for many of the millions of Americans who use it. ©Arkasha Stevenson

Insulin rationing

For more than 12 years, insulin has been as necessary to me as breathing. I have rationed doses to make a vial last longer, calculated whether I could afford another month's supply, and experienced the fear of possibly coming up short.

Many Floridians know that fear. People living with diabetes are often forced to weigh the cost of insulin against groceries, electricity, rent and transportation. Skipping or reducing insulin is not a harmless financial compromise. It can quickly become a life-threatening emergency.

The bipartisan Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now Act of 2026 would provide meaningful relief. The legislation would cap monthly out-of-pocket insulin costs at \$35 for people with private or employer-sponsored insurance. It would also establish a five-year pilot program to help provide low-cost insulin to uninsured patients.

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I urge Sens. Rick Scott and Ashley Moody and Rep. Laurel Lee to support the INSULIN Act and help bring it to a vote. Insulin is not optional or a luxury. Congress has an opportunity to ensure people can obtain the medicine they need without sacrificing other basic necessities.

Andrae Anderson, Tampa

Hillsborough juvenile detention center is closing, state says| Aug. 15

Tough move

I've volunteered for some time at the center that is closing. We go in and spend time with the kids, mostly just being there for them and showing, with consistency, that we care. Many of these kids have no family who regularly visits them, or even can, since they often come from several counties away. Volunteers who provide continuity of support offer familiarity that, over time, helps the kids open up, share and feel valued.

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We can follow their monthslong journey and see their progress — their ability to cope, mature and better understand their circumstances. With the center closing and the kids moving to a distant facility, that continuity will be lost, as the volunteers, too, need to find a new facility to serve.

It's a shame this change might make it harder for them.

Steve Cassidy, St. Petersburg

Inflation slows some, but prices remain elevated | Aug. 13

Blaming Biden?

We are close to the 21-month mark of the current Trump administration. During that time, he has implemented numerous programs and policies through executive orders bearing his signature that, in the world of economics, are referred to as "inflationary pressures."

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Just curious: Are we still blaming Joe Biden?

Terry R. Arnold, Treasure Island

Pinellas judge rules in favor of SPCA in Waddles case | July 29

Poor decorum

While I accept the court's legal ruling regarding Waddles the pig, Judge Kathleen Hessinger's authoritarian conduct in the courtroom was utterly unacceptable.

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benches inside. This is a blatant violation of transparency.

Second, her rhetoric was dripping with contempt. Before reading her decision, she openly mocked the crowd, sneering, "We have a pig who got sunburned. And that got all of you to turn out?"

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Minimizing a severe, near-fatal burning incident as a mere "sunburn" is bad enough, but weaponizing her bench to lecture and insult animal welfare advocates is an egregious abuse of power. Judge Hessinger's offensive, unprofessional tirade exposed a glaring bias. Citizens have a right to monitor our legal system without being humiliated by the very officials paid to serve them.

Dan Hester, co-founder and former board president of MEOW Now Inc. (now a program of Friends of Strays), former board member of SPCA Tampa Bay and former vice mayor of Seminole.

Autistic children are drowning in Florida stormwater ponds. What can be done? | Aug. 17

Unique challenge

The autism spectrum is simple, but it is not easy. Every individual with special needs, from child to adult, is unique in their diagnoses, abilities and

communication styles, especially in public situations. Yet, many of them look perfectly "normal."

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Having a 24-year-old autistic son and seeing him and others at church, school and Special Olympics events, I have witnessed and been shocked by every different situation you can imagine. Monitoring 24 hours a day, 365 days a year requires superhuman powers to stay ahead of these fast-moving, harmless individuals with unusual habits, thoughts or styles that make them unique.

Dale Kimball, Wesley Chapel

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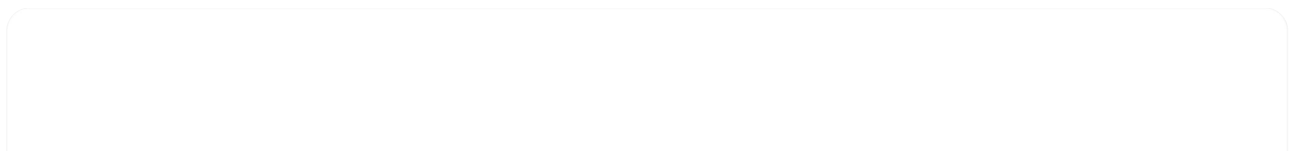
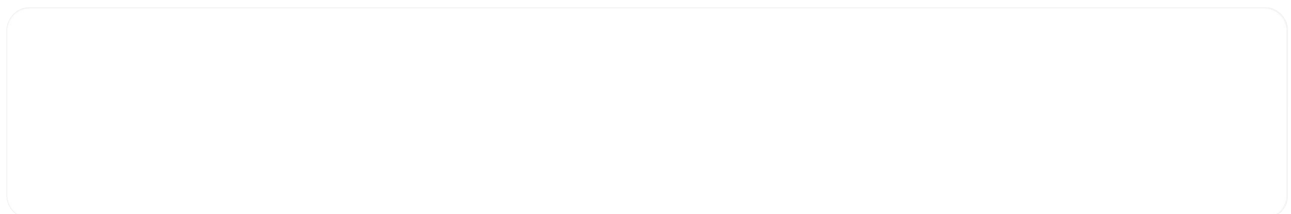
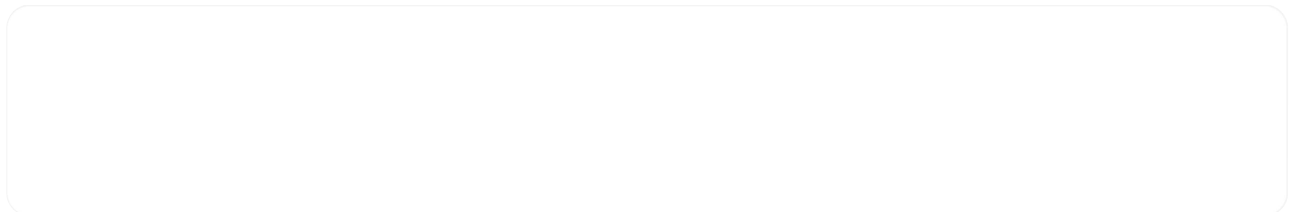
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