

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

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SECOND CHANCES

Yesterday, at a celebration of Second Chances Month, Geo Group Inc. recognized graduates of their recent re-entry program in Dauphin County. Re-entry services include substance abuse treatment, GED prep, building life skills, parenting skills, anger management, and work readiness. Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas Judge **Deborah Curcillo** spoke to honor the graduates and wish them future success.

THE SAGA CONTINUES

Pennsylvania Governor **Josh Shapiro** has joined a multi-state lawsuit against the Trump Administration over the sudden cutoff of pandemic relief funding for schools. The lawsuit, filed in federal court, argues the administration unlawfully reversed a prior decision allowing states to use COVID relief aid through March 2026. Shapiro says the move puts \$183.6 million owed to 116 Pennsylvania school districts and education centers at risk, along with \$1.8 million owed to the state Department of Education. He criticized the reversal as a broken promise that could harm students and leave Pennsylvania taxpayers to cover the costs.

NEW CHANCELLOR IN TOWN

Dr. **Christopher Fiorentino** has been named Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), following a national search. Fiorentino, who began his career at West Chester University in 1983, previously served as its president before retiring. PASSHE officials praised his deep understanding of the system and commitment to student success. As chancellor, he will oversee 14 campuses serving over 80,000 students across Pennsylvania.

PA PRESERVED

The Shapiro Administration announced that over 3,000 acres of farmland across 17 Pennsylvania counties will be preserved with more than \$12 million in state funding. A total of 29 farms will be protected from future residential or commercial development as part of the state's ongoing farmland preservation efforts. Agriculture Secretary **Russell Redding** emphasized the importance of protecting productive farmland to support

Pennsylvania's agricultural economy and future innovation. The program partners with local governments and nonprofits to purchase development rights, ensuring farms remain in agricultural use for generations to come.

ALL IN FOR AL

Congratulations to Pennsylvania Secretary of State **Al Schmidt** for being named the "Standout Secretary of State" by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. Schmidt was recognized by the national initiative for supporting nonpartisan student voter efforts among college students, in particular the Commonwealth's Campus Voting Challenge which ranked as one of the most active in the nation. PA's effort included more than 75 schools throughout the state reaching more than 480,00 students. On the award, Schmidt stated, "I'm grateful to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge initiative for their partnership, and I'm humbled by this recognition on their awards day. Our collective goal is helping every voter be a lifelong voter."



Happy Birthday

Today:

- State Representative **Dan Frankel**
- Former State Representative **W. Curtis Thomas**
- **Samantha Rockhill**, Legislative Data Specialist, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

Saturday:

- State Representative **Anthony Bellmon**
- **Peter G. Trufahnestock**, Director of Government and Public Affairs, NiSource
- **Deborah Hannon**, President, PA Legislative Services
- **Robert Vescio**, Partner, C&G Strategies
- **Jen Smeltz**, Executive Director, Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure; Office of Senator Stefano
- **Jodie Stuck-Loehr**

Sunday:

- State Representative **David Zimmerman**
- Former Senator **Bob Casey, Jr.**
- **Derek Danneker**, Legislative Reporter, Pennsylvania Legislative Services
- Richard W. Bloomingdale
- **Amanda N. Rumsey, Esq.**, Manager, RTO & Federal Regulatory Policy, PPL
- **Bruce A. Kraus**, Former Member, Pittsburgh City Council



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