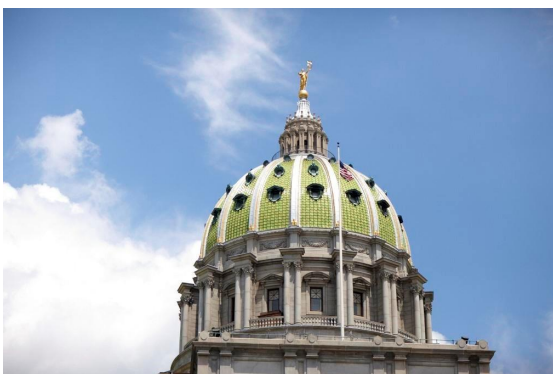


# HARRISBURG ONLINE

HARRISBURG'S FAVORITE NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

July 17, 2025



***The State Senate will  
convene at 9:30 AM.***

## DEAL OR NO DEAL?

Philadelphia narrowly avoided another city worker strike after AFSCME District Council 47 reached a tentative agreement with the city early Tuesday. Covering 6,000 employees, including the Parking and Housing Authorities, the deal offers a 13.5% pay raise over four years, a \$1,250 first-year bonus, and slightly better health care coverage. Mayor **Cherelle Parker** praised the deal as a win for collaboration and respect. With the agreement needing union ratification, its estimated cost is about \$92 million over five years—buying labor peace and keeping Philly running smoothly.

## BIG BIRTHDAY, BIG PRICE TAG

Pennsylvania is gearing up to host America's 250th birthday along with the NFL Draft, PGA Championship, MLB All-Star Game, and FIFA World Cup. However, the state legislature still has not locked in the full \$65 million in state funds requested. Advocates say this is a once-in-a-generation chance to showcase Pennsylvania. Without adequate investment, though, the state risks missing out on billions in tourism and the legacy these celebrations could leave behind.

## LAUREL CAVERNS LEVEL UP

Laurel Caverns, the largest cave in the Northeast, is on track to become Pennsylvania's 125th, and first underground, state park. When Governor **Josh Shapiro** highlighted the site in his 2026 tourism budget, owner **David Cale** was stunned to hear the news, calling

the state park status “the ultimate.” Cale’s thrilled the subterranean wonder will be protected and explored for generations. With over four miles of sandstone passages and a steady 52-degree temperature, the caverns will eventually be handed over to the state, upgraded, and preserved. Currently, tours run April through September, with winter reserved for hibernating bats.

## HOMETOWN HERO

Harrisburg paid tribute to NFL star **Micah Parsons** on Tuesday by retiring his No. 23 jersey at Severance Stadium. The former Cougars standout, who went on to dominate at Penn State and now with the Dallas Cowboys, returned for the special ceremony following his youth football camp. “To be back in this spot where I played and being honored, it means everything,” Parsons said, celebrating the place where his football journey began and the community that shaped him.

## PA PREFERRED

Pennsylvania was showcased in a big way last evening at the annual ESPY awards, hosted by Mechanicsburg native **Shane Gillis. Saquon Barkley**, Philadelphia Eagles and former Nittany Lions running back, won Best Play with his backwards hurdle against the Jacksonville Jaguars this season. **Katie Schumacher-Cawley** won the Jimmy V Award for Perseverance after beating breast cancer and winning a National Championship with the Penn State Women’s Volleyball team. And finally, the Philadelphia Eagles won the Best Team award after crushing the Kansas City Chiefs hopes and dreams of a three-peat.



### *Happy Birthday*

- Former State Representative **Mike Tobash**



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