

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

July 24, 2025

## RAIL REVIVAL

Pennsylvania could play a starring role in a proposed coast-to-coast high-speed rail line. The "Transcontinental Chief," aiming to launch by May 2026, would stop in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and even smaller towns like Tyrone and Reading. Delaware-based AmeriStarRail pitched the plan to Amtrak and the Trump Administration, promising sub-72-hour service from L.A. to NYC using existing tracks. The line would carry both passengers and freight and skip the taxpayer tab by relying on private funding. Supporters believe this project would provide travel opportunities for Americans and tourists alike just in time for the U.S. semiquincentennial, FIFA World Cup, MLB All-Star Game, and the NFL Draft.

## PA'S DRIVING DIGEST

A new study ranks Pennsylvania's best and worst drivers, and the results might make you rethink your next road trip. State College leads with the safest drivers, while Carlisle tops the worst list with 27 incidents per 1,000 drivers. Ram drivers lead in fender benders by car make, and Pontiac drivers appear to be the safest, although the last new Pontiac was sold in 2010.

## THE BITTER PRICE

Chocolate lovers, brace yourselves, because price hikes are on the way. Hershey announced it is raising prices due to skyrocketing ingredient costs, especially cocoa. Despite keeping most products under \$4 for years, dwindling cocoa yields in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire have pushed prices up. These farmers, who produce 60% of the world's cocoa, have suffered severe civil conflicts and environmental factors which have contributed to decreased production.

## FROM FOUNDRY TO THE FUTURE

The former Frog Switch & Manufacturing Co. site in Carlisle, once the last manganese foundry in the U.S., is being prepared for redevelopment after closing in 2023. The 27-acre property, which includes 18 industrial buildings and a five-acre capped landfill, was acquired by the Real Estate Collaborative with support from over \$10 million in state

funding. Officials are conducting environmental studies and clearing equipment to ready the site for a master developer, with hopes for a mixed-use transformation that could include housing, commercial space, and even a public park showcasing remnants of the site's industrial past.

## SCAM JAM

The PA Department of Banking and Securities and other local agencies are teaming up with State Senator ***Kristin Phillips-Hill*** to host Scam Jam, a free event aimed at helping York County residents steer clear of fraud. Happening tomorrow from 12:30–2:30 p.m. at Goodwill Fire Company in Jacobus, attendees will get expert tips, enjoy light snacks, and even play games with a shot at prizes.



### ***Happy Birthday***

- ***James Welty***, President, Marcellus Shale Coalition



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