

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

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## FORGIVEN

Yesterday, State Treasurer **Stacy Garrity** announced that the Treasury would be forgiving accrued interest on loans that were taken out by counties and human service agencies impacted by the budget impasse. Her office announced that they would provide loans with 4.5% interest in September, leaving some providers with no other option. More than \$42.2 million worth of loans were taken out by 62 organizations, and one county also received a loan. On the forgiveness, Garrity stated, "The ability to waive interest is monumental, ensuring that every dollar can be channeled directly into the essential services that impact the lives of our friends and neighbors who depend on the vital support these organizations provide."

## WORKING PROGRESS

Progressive group Working Families Party announced plans to oust U.S. Senator **John Fetterman** ahead of the 2028 primary election when his seat would be up next. The group cited growing frustrations with the Senator over his support of the current Administration including voting with Republicans on a bill that removes healthcare funding, voting for a GOP-backed immigration bill, and voting to confirm **Pam Bondi** as U.S. Attorney General. WFP has yet to endorse a candidate, but the group plans on hosting events across Pennsylvania to train potential challengers.

## STUFFING, NOT STEERING

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is bringing back its Sober Ride Home program for Thanksgiving weekend, offering free \$20 Uber vouchers to help reduce impaired driving in Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry counties. The vouchers, funded through a federal Safe Streets grant, can be used November 26–30 between 7 p.m. and 3:30 a.m. Riders must start their trip from a bar or restaurant and have an active Uber account. A QR code to redeem the voucher will be available on the program's website during promotional hours.

## AXOLOTL ABANDONED

A highly unusual sighting in Walnut Creek led Buzz n' B's Aquarium to recover an axolotl,

a species native only to Mexico's lake system and critically endangered in the wild. Staff say the salamander, found swimming outdoors, was almost certainly abandoned by an owner since axolotls cannot survive in Pennsylvania waters. The animal arrived with a severe fungal infection and died despite treatment. The shop emphasized that no domesticated aquatic species should ever be released outside, urging owners to seek help from pet stores or shelters instead.

## WORDS A' PLENTY

Cambridge Dictionary recently announced its word of the year for 2025 being "parasocial." The term was originally coined by sociologists **Richard Wohl** and **Donald Horton** in 1956 to describe the one-way relationships people have with TV personalities which is now being used to describe the relationships people have on the internet and social media with celebrities, influencers, and the like. The dictionary reported that it added 6,000 new words this year with some of the current generation highlights including "delulu," in reference to someone acting crazy or delusional, "skibidi," which has no defined meaning, and "tradwife," which is someone living as what is considered a traditional life as a wife and mother.



### *Happy Birthday*

- State Senator **Rosemary M. Brown**
- State Representative **R. Lee James**
- State Representative **Donna Scheuren**
- Former State Representative **Pam Snyder**
- **Bill Ward**
- **David Sanko**, Executive Director, PA State Association of Township Supervisors
- **Nicholas Wojdak**, Client Services Representative, Pennsylvania Legislative Services



### *Committee Meetings*

- Joint Independent Regulatory Review Commission – 10:00AM - [\*\*Agenda\*\*](#)



# GREENLEE PARTNERS

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