

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

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O-O-O-OH NO

The Shapiro Administration announced that it will not cover medication for weight loss and obesity under Medical Assistance starting January 1st of next year. The move is projected to save the government \$380 million that would have gone to pay for this medicine. This comes as concerns continue to rise about Medicaid cuts exacerbating the cost of healthcare.

STUDENT SHOWCASE

High school students across PennDOT District 8 are taking part in PennDOT's annual Paint the Plow program, and the public can [vote](#) for their favorite design. Students from Carlisle, Central Dauphin East, Susquenita, Trinity, and West Perry painted five snowplows with this year's theme, "Don't race. Allow some space," which promotes safe winter driving. Voting runs through December 14th and the top vote-getter will be selected as the Fan Favorite, while PennDOT staff will also choose a Judge's Pick for creativity and theme execution.

SCOUTING FOR COOKIES

The Girl Scout cookie season is starting once again with a new flavor thrown into the mix. The Exploremores are chocolate cookies with a creme filling that blends the taste of marshmallow and toasted almonds. The cookie has been described as tasting similar to rocky road ice cream. In Pennsylvania, Girl Scout cookie sales will begin mid-January with the starting date varying by region.

I'M THE CAPTAIN NOW

The United States seized a sanctioned oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela, marking the first known tanker seizure since Washington D.C. increased its military presence in the region. President Trump confirmed the operation, and Venezuela called it an act of theft. U.S. officials say the tanker, *the Skipper*, had been moving sanctioned crude tied to Venezuela and Iran. Oil prices ticked higher after the news, and analysts say the seizure raises geopolitical concerns without immediately changing global supply.

CONTINUED CUTS

The Federal Reserve has once again voted to cut interest rates to between 3.5 to 3.75%. However, concerns are starting to rise with three members of the board voting against the cut, breaking from the norm of unanimous consent for policy changes in previous votes. Of the three no votes, one thought that the cut was unnecessary and two wanted an even bigger cut. This comes as the Federal Reserve continues to face pressure from the White House for bigger cuts to interest rates.



Happy Birthday

- **Margaret Tricarico**
- **Joseph Kerecman**, Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs, Calpine Corporation
- **Angela Leopold**, Senior Partner/Co-Owner, Novak Strategic Advisors
- **Annie Olives**, Forensic Accountant, PA Gaming Control Board
- **Jamila Winder**, Montgomery County Commissioner and Vice Chair of the Board



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