

HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

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RETURN TO SENDER

Federal authorities are investigating letters containing "suspicious substances" that were mailed to congressional and election offices across the country. The mailings have already prompted evacuations at election offices in Louisiana and Oklahoma, while officials in multiple states report similar incidents. Yesterday, a suspicious letter intending to go to the Pennsylvania Department of State was stopped by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in Harrisburg. The investigation comes less than three weeks before Election Day and echoes similar threats directed at election offices in recent years.

RESERVE JUDGMENT

The City of Reading could pull \$24 million from its reserves over the next two years to balance its budgets, as officials project a \$12 million deficit for 2026 and a similar shortfall in 2027. Mayor **Eddie Morán's** proposed \$129 million 2027 budget avoids another tax increase and focuses on cost-cutting, but continued reliance on reserves and projected deficits have raised concerns about the city's financial future.

SAFETY MEASURES

Harrisburg City Council is reviewing grants totaling \$2.2 million for safety improvements to Front Street. These improvements would occur where the late **Holly Engelman** was struck and killed at a pedestrian crosswalk in August. Proposed improvements include a fully signalized intersection at Front and Vaughn streets, as well as stop signs, roundabouts, and lane reductions. A vote on the grant applications is scheduled for October 27.

SECURITY BLANKET

The Social Security Administration has announced a 3.6% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2027, marking the largest increase in benefits since 2023. The adjustment will increase monthly retirement benefits by an average of \$75 and benefit roughly 76 million Social Security and Supplemental Security Income recipients nationwide. The annual adjustment is tied to inflation and comes as consumer prices continue to rise. Most beneficiaries will begin seeing the increase in their monthly payments starting in January.

FLOWER POWER

The award-winning Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) Philadelphia Flower Show presents ICONIC, a celebration of the garden for its 200th anniversary. PHS is bringing together five iconic Pennsylvanian public gardens as a part of the showcase. This will give visitors an opportunity to experience the artistry and beauty of leading gardens across the Commonwealth. The event will take place March 13th through the 21st at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.



Happy Birthday

Today:

- Former State Representative **David K. Levdansky**
- **Autumn Southard**, Administrative Assistant, PA Department of Corrections
- **Mary Isenhour**, Ronney Novak Isenhour Group
- **Thomas Lang**, Associate, MPL Law
- **Jill Beck**, Judge, PA Superior Court

Saturday:

- State Representative **Steve Malagari**
- **Stephanie Watkins**, Senior Vice President, Advocacy & Policy, HAP
- **Marc J. Gergely**, Director of Government Affairs, DTI Development Inc.
- **Robert Simpson**, Former Commonwealth Court Judge



GREENLEE PARTNERS

230 State Street,
Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-236-0443

CONTACT US

Greenlee Partners, LLC | 230 State Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101 US

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