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from
Adams County

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County Concerned Due to State Funding Delay

Given that its August, and no final state budget agreement is in place or imminent, counties across Pennsylvania are confronting growing challenges in delivering essential services to their residents. In an op-ed released this week, CCAP President and Indiana County Commissioner Sherene Hess underscored the consequences of the ongoing budget impasse, particularly for the human services counties are mandated to provide on the state's behalf. Without an enacted budget and corresponding code bills, the commonwealth cannot release funding for many of its core obligations. Counties are now bracing for missed payments that support vital programs such as mental and behavioral health services, child protective services, support for individuals with intellectual disabilities, substance use treatment, and housing assistance for those experiencing homelessness. These services form the backbone of Pennsylvania's human services safety net. State funding is not a luxury – it's essential to ensuring these programs remain operational and responsive to community needs.

Counties are urging the General Assembly and the Administration to finalize the state budget without further delay, so that critical funding can flow, and services can continue uninterrupted. At the same time, counties are advocating for long-term safeguards to prevent future disruptions. One such measure is House Bill 1609 sponsored by Repre-



representative Marla Brown (R-Lawrence), which would ensure continued funding for core human services, such as medical assistance, child welfare, mental health care, and substance use treatment, even during a budget impasse.

What's at stake isn't just a legislative deadline – it's the ability of counties to meet their legal responsibilities, respond to residents in crisis, and ensure the safety, health, and stability of communities across the commonwealth!

Penn State AG Progress Days

If you have never been to Penn State's annual AG Progress Days you are missing quite an experience. This is Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural exposition. It is held at Penn State's vast Research Farm Grounds outside the main campus. Hosted by the Penn State College of AG Sciences, it features the latest equipment, technology, exhibits, educational programs and guided tours. The Penn State College of AG Science is an important training and research facility both for the state and nation that is held in high regard.

It was my first time there and when you pull into the grass parking lot with cars as far as you can see, you remark how vast it is. Commissioner Martin and I spent a large portion of our time at the public official's luncheon with featured speakers College of AG Sciences Dean Ott, Governor Shapiro, PA Secretary of AG Russell Redding, Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi, and Pennsylvania Congressman and Chair of the US Senate Agricultural Committee GT Thompson. Thompson happens to be a Penn State alumnus. It was a great opportunity to network with many other County Commissioners. We then attended a question-and-answer session with Thompson and Secretary Redding. Food security, tariffs and farm labor were hot topics.

You could spend the day there and not see everything. Many Pennsylvania's do not understand the significance of agriculture to our state. There are few things more fundamental than agricultural necessities', benefits and economic impacts. I must have heard 20 times that day "that food security is national security." Amen!

AG Progress Days are held during three days in the middle of August every year. Parking and admission are free so mark it on your calendar and marvel at Pennsylvania agriculture. I didn't think about the fact that I was wearing my VT hat at Penn State on Wednesday. I saw former HACC VP Shannon Harvey at the event and we chatted. Shannon is now a Penn State Trustee. When I came back to the office yesterday afternoon there was a Penn State blue bag on my desk with a brand-new, very nice, white Penn State hat that had been dropped off. It seems that Shannon thinks I needed another hat? Thank you, Shannon!

Excursion Train Rolling Into Adams County

Soon you will be able to experience beautiful Adams County on the Gettysburg Railroad. Owned and operated by Patriot Rail, the new railroad launches in early September from the 1884 renovated train station on N. Washington Street. Along with the daily scenic and historical excursions there will be themed train rides by season. At the ribbon cutting last Wednesday, the engine and cars look first class. These fully renovated vintage railroad cars will be available for special events and private bookings along with regular excursions. There is no doubt the Gettysburg Railroad is a welcome and significant addition to our vibrant Tourism Industry. In speaking to a railroad executive at a Destination Gettysburg function on Thursday evening, he told me that the Gettysburg Railroad will also be supplying freight service to six companies in northern Adams along the route. Welcome to Adams County Gettysburg Railroad!

Adams County Receives Election Integrity Grant

The Adams County Board of Commissioners is pleased to announce Adams County has been awarded an Election Integrity Grant Program (EIGP) of \$388,606.30. The grant provides funding to support the work of county governments and their election offices. Along with the required application, this funding is based on the number of registered voters within the county in the previous primary election.

Some of the eligible uses are payment of staff for pre-canvass, mail-in and absentee ballots, physical security, required post-election procedures, printing of ballots, payment of poll workers, training costs, preparation and transportation of polling equipment and cost of processing voter registration applications.

On behalf of the Board, County Taxpayers and Voters - a shout out to our Election Staff for providing the groundwork for this grant award!

CCAP Conference

This Sunday we head to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Summer Conference. It is a jammed packed 3-days of committee meetings, board of director meetings, informational sessions, business sessions, meeting with vendors, district meetings, networking and setting priorities. One somber highlight will be a guided field trip to the Flight 93 Memorial. Having worked in Law Enforcement for the NPS, I have been there several times in those early days seeing the memorials left on that chain link fence, but I have never been to the new visitor center. I am sure it will be impactful as always!

Having served on the CCAP Board of Directors for the past 12-years, as the annually elected Board Representative for 9-counties representing District 3, I have ceded that position to Commissioner Amy Webster from Blair County, after announcing last year to the district I was stepping down. What an educational, resource expanding and rewarding experience being on the CCAP Board was! It definitely made me a better commissioner to serve Adams County. Amy is a commissioner, minister and an attorney. I wish Amy the best and look forward to serving the district and organization in other capacities!

County Approves Conservation Easements With Hanover Shoe Farm

At the August 6 public meeting the Board of Commissioners approved 3 Agreements For The Sale And Purchase Of An Agricultural Conservation Easements with Hanover Shoe Farms, Inc. totaling 467 acres.

- XVI-43 located at 2398 Hanover Pike, Conewago Township - This Agreement provides for the purchase of a conservation easement by the County on 93.08 acres of farmland owned by Hanover Shoe Farms and located in Conewago Township. Total cost to the County is \$279,240.00 plus \$4,940.19 in closing costs. This Agreement is effective August 6, 2025.
- XVI-44 located at 859 Mt Pleasant Road, Conewago Township- This Agreement provides for the purchase of a conservation easement by the County on 217.83 acres of farmland owned by Hanover Shoe Farms and located in Conewago Township. Total cost to the County is \$653,490.00 plus \$7,653.08 in closing costs. This Agreement is effective August 6, 2025.
- XVI-46 located at 602 Mt Pleasant Road, Conewago Township - This Agreement provides for the purchase of a conservation easement by the County on 157.43 acres of farmland owned by Hanover Shoe Farms and located in Conewago Township. Total cost to the County is \$472,290.00, \$9,094.21 in closing costs. This Agreement is effective August 6, 2025.



The **End**

Gettysburg Brewfest & Trail 5K: Historic Daniel Lady Farm, Hanover Road. Saturday. Benefits preservation of farm. Do one or both! Trail 5K at 8:30am. Beautiful scenic trail course. Brewfest VIP 2:30pm and General Admission 3:30pm. Craft beer, cider, canned cocktails, food, live music. For more information and tickets go to gettysburgbrewfestandtrail5k.com

- **All-You-Can-Eat Crabs & Chicken:** Greenmount Fire Company. Saturday Sept 13. 6-9. Crabs, chicken, crab soup, corn on cob, baked beans, snacks and beverages. \$50. 717-778-5377 or 717-334-5151.
 - **Music In The Park:** Hamiltonban Community Park. Sunday, 5pm-7pm. Live music by Jalopy Deluxe. Bring a lawn chair. Good music and an ice cream treat. 717-253-7395.
 - **Heidlersburg Fireman's Carnival:** This evening and Saturday. Dean Crawford & The Dunn River Band this evening, and The Amish Outlaws on Saturday. Two great groups!! Air-conditioned dining room and great fried oyster sandwiches and platters. Support our volunteer emergency services!
 - **A Gettysburg Christmas 1863:** Gettysburg Film Commission Founder and "Gettysburg" movie actor Bo Brinkman will offer a sneak peek into his upcoming film *A Gettysburg Christmas 1863* at the GAR Hall, on Wednesday August 20 at 7PM. Brinkman and several of the actors will read from scenes. Free and open to the public. Seating limited to 70.
 - **176ers Dueling Pianos:** This evening from 7pm-10pm at the Art Oasis on Lincoln Square. Bring your lawn chair. I love dueling pianos!
 - **Bobby Horton: Songs and Stories of the Civil War & Long Steel Rail:** This evening at the Majestic Theater. Civil War at 5PM & Long Steel Rail 8PM. 19th century attire and musical instruments. Songs and stories of struggles, hopes and fears placed in historical context. Ticket \$25.
 - **Gettysburg 89TH Bluegrass Festival:** Today thru Sunday at Granite Hil Family Campground. Live performances, food trucks and workshops. Visit gettysburgbluegrass.com
 - **Neil Diamond Tribute:** At the Totem Pole from August 27-31. If you go on Wednesday evening, I will see you there!
- No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historical, agricultural, recreational, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!**