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from
Adams County

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Rt 116 Fairfield Rd Detour to Begin Saturday

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has announced that a detour is scheduled to begin this Saturday, July 20, for the bridge replacement project on Route 116 near Gettysburg in Adams County. The bridge spans a tributary to Willoughby Run just west of Willoughby Run Road near *The Gettysburg Times* in Cumberland Township.

The detour will use Knoxlyn Ortanna Road, Knoxlyn Road, Route 30 and Baltimore Street. Trucks should adhere to the detour route and refrain from using township roads. This project consists of the replacement of the existing structure, minor approach work, guide rail updates, and other miscellaneous construction. All work is expected to be completed by August 14, 2024. Lobar Site Development Corp of Dillsburg, PA, is the contractor on this \$935,279 project.



BUDGET

Motorists can check conditions on major roadways by visiting www.511PA.com, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 1,000 traffic cameras. 511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices.

State Budget Passed

In total, the FY 2024-2025 budget reflects nearly \$47.6 billion in General Fund expenditures, which represents a 6.2% increase from the prior fiscal year. Based on our initial assessment of information currently available, many lines and programs important to counties received flat funding or nominal increases, with a few exceptions, including intellectual disabilities and autism services, long-term care, and tourism initiatives. The FY 2024-2025 State budget appropriates an additional **\$20 million increase** in county mental health based funding from FY 2023-2024, which is woefully under the county ask of **\$250 million**. Additionally, while not allocated to counties, the schools received an appropriation of \$100 million for physical safety and mental health grants, which merges two prior school-based programs into one combined grant program.

Mental Health Funding Inadequate for Counties

In general, the FY 2024-2025 budget does not increase taxes, but does provide several tax cuts for businesses to deduct more losses and students to deduct loan interest. For counties, many lines, and programs important to counties received flat funding or nominal increases, with a few exceptions, including intellectual disabilities and autism services and long-term care, Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILTs) for state forest and park lands, and tourism initiatives. Overall, the largest funding increases were dedicated to K-12 education, providing for a nearly \$1.1 billion increase in K-12 across several budget lines.

The FY 2024-2025 state budget does not adequately address one of counties' top legislative priorities for 2024, increasing county mental health funding, with just an additional \$20 million increase in county mental health based funding for this year. This is woefully less than the \$250 million increase counties sought to begin rebuilding the crumbling community-based mental health system.

Counties believed the \$20 million increase that was provided in the FY 2023-2024 budget was a down payment and an act of good faith that the legislature and administration were ready to start making serious investments into the community-based mental health system. Demand for mental health services continue to skyrocket while the funding for those services maintains a slow crawl. Given the severity of the situation, Pennsylvania counties were hopeful that this would be the time for the state to get serious about investing in the mental health services so many members of our communities depend on. It will once again be up to Pennsylvania counties to continue providing these critical services with inadequate funding.

County Agrees to Collect Taxes for Littlestown SD

At a recent public meeting the Board approved an agreement for the County Treasurer to collect school taxes on behalf of the Littlestown School District for Germa-





ny Township.

This has been an escalating trend as municipalities find it more difficult to find residents willing to fulfill that role, or a tax collector departs for numerous reasons mid-term.

Fortunately, Adams County Treasurer Crissy Redding has the experience and the willingness to fulfill that role when necessary. As a former Straban Tax Collector she understands tax collection and tax collectors. She and her staff simply roll up their sleeves and seamlessly work these additional responsibilities into their other tasks. The Adams County Treasurer's office currently collects taxes for Arendtsville, Abbottstown, Bendersville & Germany.

Gettysburg Named 1 of 12 Top Small East Coast Towns

We already know that the town of Gettysburg is world-renowned for the battle and that it is the county seat of Adams County. Gettysburg has recently received another distinction. One of the top travel's magazines and online media outlets in the world, Travel + Leisure, has named Gettysburg one of its "12 Best Small East Coast Towns."

The article highlights the destination's rich history and calls out the town's great culinary scene with nods to several local businesses including Mason Dixon Distillery, the Union Hotel, and the Dobbins House Tavern.

"There's something thrilling about standing on the battleground that led to a turning point in the Civil War or imagining Abraham Lincoln giving the Gettysburg Address to war-weary soldiers. That's the norm in Gettysburg, arguably one of the most historically significant towns in the U.S.," the article reads.

Other towns featured in the article include Aurora, N.Y.; Edgartown, Mass.; Mystic, Conn.; Kennebunkport, Maine; Beaufort, S.C.; Hot Springs, N.C.; Cape May, N.J.; Meredith, N.H.; Marathon, Fla.; St. Mary's, Ga.; and Providence, Mass.

PA Budget Includes Boost for Tourism

Tourism & Agriculture are the 2 economic engines that propel our economy. Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro has signed the States new budget, which includes substantial increase in state tourism marketing. That is good for Adams County!

According to the Pennsylvania Restaurant & Lodging Association, the budget passed last week has increased the line item for tourism marketing to \$15 Million. This increase coincides with the release of Visit PA's new marketing campaign, "The Great American Getaway." The state funding is important to destination marketing across the state, including Destination Gettysburg, who rely on the state for promotions domestically and abroad.

Domestic Relations Hosting Child Support Awareness

Adams County Domestic Relations is hosting a Child Support event outside the Human Services Building on Friday, August 2, from 10-1. The event will be hosted on the lawn around the walking path directly outside of DRS at the Human Services Building.

Those committed to attending include BCSE

Director and staff, PA Secretary of DHS, DRAP (Domestic Relations Association of Pennsylvania) President, local school districts, ASERT (Autism Services Education Resources and Training Collaborative), Adams County CYS, Adams County Library, SCCAP, Lions Club, K-Pets and many more. The committee is delighted to have this overwhelming community support with many providing free school supplies for children. I hope you will be available to stop by and celebrate the children, our staff and the importance of the child support program and the impact on families in our community.



The End

- **Gettysburg National 19TH Century Baseball Festival.** Thirty 19TH century baseball clubs from all over the nation gather at the Schroeder Farm on Pumping Station Road to play old time period baseball on 5 different fields. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, shade tents and picnic baskets. Saturday 8-5 and Sunday 8-4.

Gettysburg Brewfest & Trail 5k Run/Walk. Benefits the beautiful and historic Daniel Lady Farm. Saturday, August 17th. The 5K Run/Walk starts at 12:00 Noon with a cannon blast. Brewfest VIP entry at 1:30PM. General entry 2:30PM. Forty beers and cider. Live music by 3 performers. Go to www.gettysburgbrewfestandtrail5k.com for information, registration and tickets.

- **160TH Anniversary of the Ransoming & Burning of Chambersburg.** *This Saturday.* This exciting evening reenactment and light show is done with atmospheric effects, lights and actors. Old Market Day street festival, civil war walking tours, children's activities, acapella & unplugged finals with voting for the winner. Free!
- **Round Barn Annual Corn Fest.** Sunday, July 28th, 9-5. This is a delicious and popular event that draws a crowd. I can attest it is some of the best local roasted corn you can eat. Other food, fruit and vegetables available. My guess is they will have lots of peaches as well.
- **Music In the Park – Heads or Tails Experience.** Gettysburg Rec Park Amphitheater. This Sunday 6-8PM. Free!
- **Get Social Music Festival.** July 26th & 27th. Live music by 17 acts. Lincoln Social, Baltimore Pike. Friday from 6-10PM & Saturday from 12-10PM. 2-day pass \$20. Friday \$10 and Saturday \$15 at the door.
- **Hollabaugh Bros Peach Festival.** Put a checkmark for August 10/11 on your calendar for Hollabaugh's 34TH Annual Peach Festival. Peach ice cream, peach sundaes, peach bread, peach muffins, peach scones, and peach sugar cakes— and even fresh peaches. Peach heaven!
- **Die Hard – Majestic Summer Classic in the Main Theater.** Wednesday, July 24th at 7:30PM. The restored main theater is a special place to watch any show or performance. I have been a regular Wednesday attendee. \$8 with good air conditioning!

No matter what you do, get out there and experience all historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer!