



**Center for Beef Excellence
Beef Bytes
February 19, 2010**

Dear Friends,

Which school-based youth organization was founded in 1928? Hint: This organization admitted African Americans in 1965 and women in 1969. Answer: The Future Farmers of America (now called the National FFA Organization). Join Versant Strategies in recognizing the almost one half million FFA members across the nation as they prepare to celebrate National FFA Week beginning February 22. Visit www.ffa.org to learn more about the FFA.

John's trivia byte for this week. Since post WW II, the political party that controlled the governor's seat has changed every eight years.

Looking for an agricultural producer's executive training opportunity? See the attached document for a seminar set for March 10, 2010, at the Berks County Ag Center.

For those of you who missed the Eastern Outdoor Show earlier this month, check out the World Fishing Network's article on one of our own clients, Susquehanna Aquacultures http://www.wfn.tv/events/blog.php?blog=402494&event_id=79. Congratulations on the great article and photos!

Have a nice weekend.

MeeCee

Articles of Interest

From Cattle Network – Number of Farms, Land in Farms, Average Size

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/Report---Number-Of-Farms--Land-In-Farms--Average-Size/2010-02-15/alpha Article.aspx?oid=987750&fid=CN-LATEST NEWS &hq e=e1&hq m=620054&hq l=3&hq v=55cb6bb90e=>

USDA addresses veterinary shortages with education loan repayment

<http://www.americancattlemen.com/cattle-industry-news/usda-addresses-veterinary-shortages-education-loan-repayment-program=>

02-19-2010

[Local food movement takes root](#)

When it comes to fruits and vegetable, many Carlisle residents,

myself included, are going back to their roots. Local foods offer a tastier, and often healthier option, and allow people in communities to come together and support agriculture. It is a movement toward what used to be the norm for consumer food choices.... - [PATRIOT](#)

02-19-2010

[Giant pulls Boar's Head products involved in recall](#)

Giant and Martin's supermarkets today announced that they have pulled a Boar's Head salami product from their shelves following a nationwide recall. The food markets announced that they have pulled 8-ounce packages of Boar's Head Salame Panino because it may have the potential to be contaminated... - [MORNING CALL](#)

02-16-2010

[USDA - New USDA Data Offers In-Depth Look at Organic Farming](#)

(Press Release)

02-16-2010

[Inside PDA for February 12, 2010](#)

(Press Release)

02-16-2010

[Expert: Milk prices should remain stable](#)

A Penn State agriculture professor forecasts stable milk prices this year, following a rough 2009 for the dairy industry. Speaking at Fulton Bank Agricultural Services Group's 31st annual luncheon seminar Friday at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center, Jim Dunn said milk prices... - [LD NEWS](#)

02-16-2010

[Hurting family farms](#)

Family farming could suffer another blow if proposed federal regulations go into effect. Changes are being proposed by the U.S. Department of Transportation with four primary restrictions to farm trucks, tractors and other agricultural vehicles driven on any state or township road and that weigh more than... - [SOMERSET DAILY](#)

02-14-2010

[Farm milks methane for all it's worth](#)

LANCASTER (AP) – When rock band Bon Jovi goes on tour and Ben & Jerry's makes its famous ice cream, they lower their carbon footprint thanks to dairy cows in Lancaster County... - [AP](#)

02-14-2010

[Farmers cultivating technology](#)

Today, you are just as likely to spot a local farmer on a Blackberry as you are to see him on his tractor. Technology is revolutionizing farming, thanks in no small part to a Pittsburgh-based company, with a former Greene County resident at its helm, that's helping a growing legion of farmers use the tools of the Web.... - [WASH. O.R.](#)

Legislative Interests

[HB 2256](#) [Pyle](#) Amends Tax Reform Code providing for deer processor tax credit.

Printer Number(s):[P3216](#)

Bill History:02-16-10 H Filed
02-16-10 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

[HB 2260](#) [Houghton](#) Amends Title 3 (Agriculture) providing for the registration, licensing & use of a PA Preferred trademark; establishing the Pennsylvania Preferred Trademark Licensing Fund; and providing for penalties & for enforcement.

Printer Number(s):[P3223](#)

Bill History:02-18-10 H Filed
02-18-10 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Agriculture and Rural Affairs

[SR 215](#) [Brubaker](#) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget & Finance Cmte to study costs to achieve the Chesapeake Bay Program nutrient load reductions from PA's agricultural sources, for evaluations and protecting PA's agricultural sector.

Printer Number(s):[P1542](#)

Bill History:03-08-10 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Weekly Letter

Lest anyone believe Pennsylvania is alone in the state budget pain cave, we learned this week that 48 other states either began the year with a budget deficit, or are projecting one by year's end. The only Americans who are apparently oblivious to budgetary agita reside in Montana and North Dakota (also known as the cool Dakota.).

Pennsylvania transportation honchos are still holding their collective breath as they wait for the federal government to rule on the state's application to toll Interstate 80 (thereby signaling the end of western civilization, according to some in the northern half of the state.) We were reminded this week by our pals in the highway construction industry that every \$1 billion spent on road/bridge construction supports about 34,000 jobs, according to

the Federal Highway Administration. So if the tolls are a no go, there are going to be a lot of very bored highway builders out there.

It is not often you hear advocates for the poor and disabled criticize Governor Ed Rendell. That is why it was kind of a shock this week to hear the fine folks at the Community Law Project in Philadelphia express serious concerns about how Rendell's budget proposal could end up hurting some very vulnerable Pennsylvanians. Some wonder just how far you can cut to the bone until you realize "Hey, I cut all the way through the bone, and now I am sawing the table in half." To be fair to the governor, however, it has been quite some time since the checking account was in the black.

Rendell's plan to lower and broaden the state sales tax looks to be on life support barely two weeks after the words left his lips. Lawmakers across the state are roundly criticizing the idea, saying the idea is nothing more than a tax increase. If the plan fails, expect to see Governor Rendell return to Harrisburg as a private citizen in 2011, wearing a t-shirt that says "I told you so" and cackling like the Joker from Batman.

A group of people who want to make money by selling beer came to Harrisburg to demand a chance to sell more beer. In fact, they equated their right to sell beer with the Declaration of Independence, which may have been just a TAD overdone. It all got us wondering when the last time was that we really wanted a beer and could not find one. Still wondering, in fact.

Japanese energy giant Mitsui, Inc. has plopped down \$1.4 billion to basically take over all natural gas drilling activities in Pennsylvania from Andarko, Inc. which was the previous biggest dog barkin' on the Marcellus Shale block. Reliable sources tell Triad that if any new tax/revenue bill comes out of the state House this year, it will bill the resurrection of the severance tax on natural gas drilling. Word from Mitsui was "Not in this dojo, you don't."

Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty announced this week that he will forgo a run at the governor's chair and instead pursue the state Senate seat being vacated by the retiring Bob Mellow. Kudos to John Micek of the Allentown Morning Call and the Capitol Ideas blog for beating the news out of Doherty a full day before his press conference. This makes Doherty the first candidate ever to leak his own fate a day before he announced it.

A federal arbiter will soon decide if Pennsylvania loses \$290 million in tobacco settlement money. Some may recall that in 1998, states successfully sued ciggy-makers for \$200 billion over 25 years (which might explain why you need a second mortgage for a carton of Marlboros.) Tobacco companies are looking to renege on their end of the agreement because, they allege, some states have not enforced the settlement agreement properly. If it sounds like a lot of hooley, well, you have good ears. In any case, Attorney General Tom

Corbett is confident the state will prevail, and with \$290 million at stake, we would bet Governor Rendell is cheering Corbett on from the sidelines.

During House budget hearings this week much was made of a proposal to force municipalities to pay for State Police protection if they do not have their own local force. And then a funny thing happened. One lawmaker asked if, since the State Police also patrol highways in Philadelphia, perhaps we should charge that city as well. This is known in cinematic circles as "foreshadowing." As in, foreshadowing what the House GOP amendment will look like if the bill ever hits the House Floor.

The Kaiser Foundation this week released a report showing that more Americans enrolled in Medicaid from June 2008 to June 2009 than in any other year in history, bringing the number of benefit recipients to 46.9 million. This makes sense, of course, since unemployed folks tend to rely on Medicaid, and we've had ourselves a glut of unemployed folks lately. What makes less sense, however, is the back end of the report where we find that 29 states are considering slicing their Medicaid budgets. Great plan. Those states apparently plan to move poor people off the Medicaid rolls and onto the "Have fun living in a cardboard box next to the freeway" rolls.

Politicians of the blue stripe spent the week touting how well the federal stimulus package has worked on the little Stim guy's one-year birthday. Governor Rendell even named a bridge after Vice-President Joe Biden (no word on whether or not the bridge spanned a babbling brook, but you gotta admit, it would make sense.) Rendell and his allies essentially argued that, sure, we are kinda still in the commode, but it would have been a lot worse had we not passed the Stim. The GOP response was "What planet do you people live on? There are people in the streets eating dirt!"

Speaking of the Stim, Governor Rendell this week also announced that Pennsylvania will be the proud recipient of \$130 million in stimulus funding to bring the Interwebs to the far reaches of Pennsylvania's farmland, thereby allowing Jed to surf the net while he drives his plow. The money is part of a nationwide effort to connect rural areas, schools and hospitals to Facebook. Wait until actual farmers start to play "Farmville" on Facebook. Game. Over.

March 1 was to be the day of reckoning for Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson, as a \$2 million debt service payment on the city's incinerator comes due. Problem? The city has about 14 cents on hand. This doomsday scenario was also brought to you by Harrisburg City Council, who last week passed a budget that essentially ignored its \$268 million debt obligation. That would be akin to you doing your monthly bills and intentionally omitting your mortgage payment. Great idea until some auctioneer shows up and sells your house while you are in the tub. Early this morning, the Harrisburg Authority announced it would pay the \$2 million, buying the mayor another month before she is right back in the same

boat. Oh, and just to be clear, do not expect Governor Rendell and the state to ride to Harrisburg's rescue. The governor was pretty clear this week that it ain't happenin', captain.

A week after the death of Congressman Jack Murtha, the Philadelphia Inquirer came out with a story on how Murtha's 12th Congressional seat might just go the way of all flesh after the 2012 reapportionment. Some of our friends provide a slightly different analysis over at the Triadvocate. So therefore, we now challenge the Inky to a duel.

That is all from Harrisburg, where the budget hearings are scintillating, the rhetoric is hot, the coffee is Jamaican, and the fun never ends! We'll be back next week with your wrap-up, but until then, have a great weekend!

Around the Capitol

REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE ENDORSES CORBETT OVER ROHER- Attorney General Tom Corbett was endorsed for governor over state Rep. Sam Rohrer, R-Berks by Republican State Committee during the winter endorsement meeting this past weekend at The Hilton, Harrisburg & Towers. Corbett received 329 votes to Rohrer's 10, with 9 abstentions, according to an unofficial tally of Saturday's vote. Prior to that, the committee voted on a proposal to hold an open primary and skip the endorsement process, something Rohrer urged the GOP group to do. Corbett's supporters won big in that vote as well, with 297 votes for endorsing and 51 votes against it.

TOOMEY WINS GOP STATE COMMITTEE ENDORSMENT - Former U.S. Rep. Pat Toomey, R-Lehigh, running for the U.S. Senate, this weekend won the state Republican Party's endorsement over conservative activist Peg Luksik of Johnstown. The result during Saturday's Republican State Committee meeting, held at The Hilton Harrisburg and Towers, was 328 votes for Toomey, 12 votes for Luksik and 8 abstentions. But when Toomey was asked if he planned to tout Corbett and Cawley as he campaigned, Toomey said only that he would support the GOP nominee.

JIM CALEY ENDORSED FOR LT. GOV BY REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE- The most competitive Republican State Committee endorsement contest ended Saturday when Bucks County Commissioner Jim Cawley won the GOP group's nod on the second ballot for Lt. Governor. Prior to that vote, the state committee sponsored a public forum for the lieutenant governor candidates: Cawley, Lancaster businessman Chet Beiler, activist Russ Diamond, York businessman Steve Johnson, Philadelphia political commentator Joe Watkins, Jean Craige Pepper of Erie, and Dauphin County Commissioner Nick DiFrancesco.

CURRENT LIST OF OPEN SEATS IN THE PA HOUSE AND SENATE: HOUSE: Anthony J. Melio, D-Bucks; Will Gabig, R-Cumberland; Bryan Lentz, D-Delaware; Keith McCall, D-Carbon; Kathy Manderino, D-Philadelphia; Don Walko, D-Allegheny; Sam Rohrer, R-Berks; Russ Fairchild, R-Snyder; Merle Phillips, R-Northumberland; Mario Civera, R-Delaware; Craig Dally, R-Northampton; Rich Grucela, D-Northampton; Katie True, R-Lancaster; Barbara McIlvaine-Smith, D-Chester; Bob Mensch, R-Montgomery (open seat); Bob Belfanti, D-

Northumberland; Frank Oliver, D-Philadelphia **SENATE:** Ray Musto, D-Luzerne; J. Barry Stout, D-Washington; Robert Mellow, D-Lackawanna

HAFER SAYS SHE'LL RUN FOR SEAT FORMERLY HELD BY MURTHA, BUT WILL THAT SEAT LAST REDISTRICTING? - Former state auditor general and state treasurer Barbara Hafer, who has also been a Republican but is currently a Democrat, confirmed Monday that she will seek the 12th Congressional District seat that became vacant following the death of Rep. John Murtha last week. Hafer said she will seek election to the seat unless Murtha's widow, Joyce, decides to run for the seat. But it might not matter much who runs for and wins the seat in the special election soon to be scheduled by Gov. Ed Rendell. The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reports the 12th congressional District could end up being the congressional district Pennsylvania loses because of 2010 Census results and the redistricting that follows those results. Pennsylvania is expected to be one of nine states to lose at least one congressional seat because of population changes throughout the nation.

DOHERTY DROPS GUBERNATORIAL BID, WILL RUN FOR MELLOW'S STATE SENATE SEAT- There's going to be one less candidate seeking the Democratic Party's gubernatorial nomination. Several media outlets reported Wednesday that Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty's campaign confirmed he will formally end his bid for governor to run for the state Senate seat currently held by Senate Minority Leader Robert Mellow, D-Lackawanna. Mellow announced last week he would not seek re-election. Doherty will become the third person seeking the Senate seat. State Rep. Jim Wansacz and Scranton School Board member Chris Phillips have already announced their candidacies for the in the Democratic primary in the 22nd Senatorial District, although the field could grown larger. Others considering candidacies include former Lackawanna County Commissioner Joseph Corcoran, former Scranton City Councilman Gary DiBileo, Executive Deputy Secretary of the state Department of Community and Economic Development John Blake, and insurance executive Joseph Albert. Former Old Forge School Director Frank Scavo is the only candidate to announce on the Republican side.

RENDELL SETS MAY 18 PRIMARY AS DATE FOR SPECIAL ELECTION- The special election to select someone to complete the U.S. House term of the late John Murtha will be held on May 18, primary election day in Pennsylvania. Gov. Ed Rendell [announced](#) the special election date Wednesday, adding it to the day when Republicans and Democrats will choose their respective parties' nominees for the general election. Thus far, only former state auditor general and state treasurer Barbara Hafer, a Democrat, has said she will run for the 12th Congressional District seat, but only if Murtha's widow, Joyce, decides against a run for the seat.

FORMER LT. GOV. SINGEL APPEARS POISED TO ANNOUNCE CANDIDACY FOR MURTHA'S FORMER SEAT - The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reports former Pennsylvania lieutenant governor Mark Singel appears poised to announce his candidacy for the 12th Congressional District seat formerly held by John Murtha, who passed away early last week.

If Singel does announce, he'd join two other Democrats - former state treasurer and auditor general Barbara Hafer and former Naval officer Ryan Bucchianeri - seeking the seat. Singel has said, as has Hafer, that if Murtha's widow, Joyce, decided to run for the seat, they would drop from the race.

Legislative Developments

House Session Schedule

March	8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
April	19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
May	3, 4, 5, 24, 25, 26
June	7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

The House stands in recess until Tuesday, March 8, at 1:00 p.m. or to the call of the Chair.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Mon. Feb. 22, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for the Department of Environmental Protection.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 11:00 a.m. on Mon. Feb. 22, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources.

House Judiciary will hold a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. on Mon. Feb. 22, 2010 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building on **HB 928 (Grucela)** Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in child protective services, providing for the detection of child rapists & predators; imposing duties on health care practitioners; providing for reporting, for law enforcement, for fetal tissue & DNA.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 1:00 p.m. on Mon. Feb. 22, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for the Department of Agriculture.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 9:00 a.m. on Tues. Feb 23, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for the Department of Education.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 11:00 a.m. on Tues, Feb 23, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for State System of Higher Education.

House Judiciary will hold an informational meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Tues. Feb 23, 2010 in Room 205 Ryan Office Building with the PA District Attorneys Association.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 1:00 p.m. on Tues. Feb. 23, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for State-Related Universities (Penn State, Pitt, Temple, and Lincoln)

House Labor Relations will hold a public hearing at 1:00 p.m. on Tues. Feb. 23, 2010 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building on **HB 2108 (Ellis)** Amends the Whistleblower Law further providing for the definitions of "employee" and "employer," for enforcement and for penalties.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 9:00 a.m. on Wed. Feb 24, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for Department of Insurance.

House Labor Relations will hold a public hearing at 9:30 a.m. on Wed. Feb. 24, 2010 in Room 418 Main Capitol on Industrial Partnership: **HB 2230 (Gergely)** Amends the Workforce Development Act providing for industry partnerships.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 11:00 on Wed. Feb 24, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for Dept. of Aging.

House Judiciary will hold a public hearing at 11:00 a.m. on Wed. Feb 24, 2010 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building on **HB 1957 (DePasquale)** Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) & 42 (Judiciary) further providing for harassment; and providing for peace orders.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 1:00 p.m. on Wed. Feb 24, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol for Dept. of Public Welfare.

House Labor Relations will hold a public hearing at 1:30 p.m. on Wed. Feb 24, 2010 in Room 418 Main Capitol on **HB 2160 (Bradford)** Amends the Unemployment Compensation Law further providing for shared work program.

House Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 9:00 a.m. on Thurs. Feb 25, 2010 in Room 140 Main Capitol on Office of the Governor/ Executive Offices/ Secretary of the Budget.

Independent Regulatory Review Commission will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thurs. Feb 25, 2010 at 333 Market Street, 14th Floor Conference Room, Harrisburg, Public meeting to consider the following Regulations:

Reg. No. 2751 Dept. of Revenue (Deemed Approved) #15-446: Clothing

Reg. No. 2771 EQB #7-436: Blue Quality Network-Eye Run, et al. (Water (WQN) Package); Stream Regulations (Deemed Approved)

Reg. No. 2770 EQB #7-434: Accreditation-Environmental Laboratory

Reg. No. 2745 Dept. of Intrastate Motor-Transportation #18-414:
Carrier Safety Requirements

Reg. No. 2744 Dept. of Interstate Motor-Transportation #18-413:
Carrier Safety Requirements

Reg. No. 2705 Dept. of and Mental-Transportation #18-410: Physical
Criteria, Including Vision Standards Relating to the Licensing of Drivers

Reg. No. 2704 Dept. of Bus Drivers-Transportation #18-411: School

Reg. No. 2776 DCED #4-91: Industrialized Housing

Reg. No. 2816 State Board of ine #16A-5322: Reduction-Osteopathic Medic
of Biennial Fee for Osteopathic Physicians (Final-Omit)

Reg. No. 2668 State Employees' Death-Retirement Board #31-11:
Benefits

Reg. No. 2639 State Board of #16A-4816: Preneed-Funeral Directors
Activities of Unlicensed Employee (Previously Disapproved)

House Judiciary will hold an informational meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Thurs. Feb. 25, 2010 in Room G-50 Irvis Office Building with the PA Chiefs of Police.

House Professional Licensure will hold a public hearing at 2:00 p.m. on Thurs. Feb 25, 2010 at Salus University, Room West 400, 8360 Old York Road, Elkins Park on The Speech-Language & Hearing Licensure Act.

Senate Session Schedule

February (Budget Hearings: 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25)
March 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 (Budget Hearings: 1, 2, 3, 4)
April 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
May 3, 4, 5, 24, 25, 26
June 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

The Senate stands in recess until Tuesday, March 8, at 1:00 p.m. or to the call of the Chair.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 10:00a.m. on Mon. Feb 22, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for the Department of Community and Economic Development/ PA Housing Finance Agency.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 1:00 p.m. on Mon. Feb. 22, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for Executive Offices and Office of the Governor.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 3:00 p.m. on Mon. Feb 22, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for Department of Health.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tues. Feb 23, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 1:00 p.m. on Tues. Feb 23, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for the Public Utility Commission.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 2:00 p.m. on Tues. Feb 23, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for the Office of the Auditor General.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Wed. Feb 24, 2010 in Hearing Room 1 North Office Building for PA State Police.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 1:00 p.m. on Wed. Feb 24, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for PEMA/Homeland Security.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 3:00 p.m. on Wed. Feb 24, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for PA State System of Higher Education.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thurs. Feb 25, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for Dept. of Aging.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 1:00 p.m. on Thurs. Feb 25, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for Dept. of Transportation.

Senate Appropriations will hold a budget hearing at 3:00 p.m. on Thurs. Feb 25, 2010 in Hearing Room 1, North Office Building for the Treasury Department.

Other Articles

- 02-19-2010 [**Governor Rendell Proclaims FFA Week, 'Teach Ag' Day**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-19-2010 [**Game Commission Offers Seedlings for Landowners, "Landscaping for Wildlife' Book**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-19-2010 [**Gaming board head says table games may start by July 4**](#)
-- The chairman of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board says table games such as poker and blackjack could be up and running in the state by the Fourth of July. Board Chairman Gregory C. Fajt says that the new games could be operating on the early end of the six- to nine-month time frame Gov. Ed Rendell... - [*MORNING CALL*](#)
- 02-19-2010 [**Tolling decision expected soon**](#)
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Weeks of rumors that a decision from the Federal Highway Administration is imminent on the tolling of Interstate 80 apparently are true, but a spokesman from the agency could not say when the decision will come. "The application is being reviewed expeditiously, and we're... - [*DAILY ITEM*](#)
- 02-18-2010 [**PennFuture Facts: An apology is in order - Vol. 12, No. 4 - February 17, 2010**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-18-2010 [**Study: States must fill \\$1 trillion pension gap**](#)
HARRISBURG, Pa.—States may be forced to reduce benefits, raise taxes or slash government services to address a \$1 trillion funding shortfall in public sector retirement benefits, according to a new study that warns of even more debilitating costs if immediate action isn't taken... - [*AP*](#)
- 02-17-2010 [**Chesapeake Bay - Proposed Budget Cuts Threaten Environmental Programs & Goals**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-17-2010 [**Governor Rendell Says Federal Recovery Act Having Profound Impact in PA**](#)
(Press Release)

02-17-2010 [Senator Corman: State Budget Hearings Can Be Viewed Online](#)
(Press Release)

02-17-2010 [Pew Finds Credit CARD Act Will Save Consumers Billions](#)
(Press Release)

02-16-2010 [pa2010 Exclusive: Hafer running to succeed Murtha](#)
(Press Release)

02-14-2010 [Several tax code changes may impact tax returns this year](#)
If you received President Barack Obama's payroll credit this year, it may affect your tax return. And you can get up to \$3,000 deducted from your adjusted gross income if you purchased a new car in 2009. These are among a half dozen changes to the federal tax code that taxpayers... - [SCRANTON TIMES](#)