

AAA Reading-Berks Member Publication

# on the go

**Historic Dreibelbis  
Farm Fest**

**Golden Anniversary  
of Dirt Oval Fun**



**July  
August  
2025**

PERIODICAL

**Announcing 2025 Berks Fiddle Fest**

**2025 AAA Car Guide Crown**

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The Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society invites you to experience life on an old-time farm

## 12 Golden Anniversary

Shellhammer's Speedway, located in Leesport, invites you to help celebrate 50 years of dirt & fun

## 16 2025 Berks Fiddle Fest

The Berks Fiddle Fest returns to the Fleetwood Park this fall - bring your fiddles and join in

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Photo Credit: Mike Feltenberger

## On The Go

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Current Hours

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Closed Saturday and Sunday

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## Cover

The Dreibelbis Farm in Virginvile invites you to enjoy their biggest event of year - the Pennsylvania German Farm Festival on Saturday, August 23 from 10am to 4pm. Rain or shine, here's your opportunity to experience life on a farm. Admission is free, parking is \$3. More on page 6.

### NOTICE - SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS:

Our office will be closed for the following observances - *Friday, July 4 Independence Day;*  
*Monday, September 1 Labor Day*

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# President's Note

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“...our hard-earned dollars are  
being put to work...”

Peter J. Armstrong  
*President/CEO*

## No Pain, No Gain

You know how it is with the news....there's good and there's bad. Which do you prefer to hear first? Let's lead with the bad. Sorry if that's not your preference.

This past April, Construction Coverage, an online service that aids contractors and real estate businesses, published its study, *U.S. States With the Worst Roads*, reporting that Pennsylvania ranks among the Union's states having the worst roads - we're 14th, to be specific. Well, we're not the absolute worst - I guess that's on the “good news” side.

The Construction Coverage report shouldn't be a surprise to anyone living in or commuting through the Berks County area. For instance, the bridge work on Route 183 is projected to impact almost 7,000 vehicles daily due to the closure and necessary detours. The project is expected to be completed by fall of 2026.

You might want to work on beefing up your patience behind the wheel. Upcoming local projects include the replacement of the nearly one hundred-year-old single span bridge on Penn Avenue over the Cacoosing Creek, set to begin Spring 2026.

Last fall, the nonprofit transportation research group TRIP, out of Washington D.C., published that our Commonwealth's rural roads and bridges are in poor shape, requiring \$198B in repairs and improvements.

The TRIP report acknowledged that “roadways are a vital component of infrastructure in the United States.” Look at your grocery shopping list and consider how many of those items are brought to where you shop by freight truck. Can you imagine a world where the goods you count on cannot make it to the stores? You got a bit of an idea during the COVID years. Different cause, same type of inconvenience if our deteriorating roadways aren't soon remedied.

And it's not just the condition of empty store shelves. The same TRIP report mentioned above went on to say that driving on Pennsylvania's poor roads will make its citizens poor, too, to the tune of \$7.1B per year due to additional vehicle repairs, accelerated vehicle depreciation, and increased fuel consumption and tire wear.

On the “good news” side, the \$1.2T Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, signed into law by former President Biden in November 2021, will provide a sorely needed investment into repairing and modernizing the nation's infrastructure, with \$11.3B coming to Pennsylvania over a five-year period.

You can report a state road that is in bad shape by going to the PADOT website, [www.pa.gov](http://www.pa.gov). From the same website you can find information on transportation projects going on this year and that are on four- and twelve-year plans. Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties are part of District 5. There were fifteen Berks County projects listed on the date this column was penned, including the Cacoosing Creek bridge replacement at Penn Avenue and the work to upgrade thirteen intersections along Route 422 Ben Franklin Highway.

While repairs to our roadways and bridges come with their own set of inconveniences, those disruptions are of a temporary nature. Allowing our infrastructure to continue to deteriorate without abatement has a much more disruptive ending. Active and planned construction and renovation projects are proof that our hard-earned tax dollars are being put to work. If that isn't good news, I don't know what is.



# NAUTICAL MILES AHEAD OF ANY OTHER CELEBRATION

## LESS HOLIDAY HOSTING, MORE ONBOARD TOASTING 2025 CARIBBEAN HOLIDAY SAILINGS\*

SHIP	DATE	HOLIDAY	ITINERARY
Celebrity Apex*	12/20/25	Christmas	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Beyond <sup>SM</sup>	12/21/25	Christmas	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Constellation*	12/21/25	Christmas	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Eclipse*	12/20/25	Christmas	8-Night Caribbean
<b>Celebrity Silhouette*</b>	12/21/25	Christmas	6-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Xcel	12/21/25	Christmas	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Apex*	12/27/25	New Year	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Beyond <sup>SM</sup>	12/28/25	New Year	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Constellation*	12/28/25	New Year	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Eclipse*	12/28/25	New Year	6-Night Caribbean
<b>Celebrity Silhouette*</b>	12/27/25	New Year	8-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Xcel	12/28/25	New Year	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Apex*	11/22/25	Thanksgiving	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Beyond <sup>SM</sup>	11/23/25	Thanksgiving	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Constellation*	11/23/25	Thanksgiving	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Eclipse*	11/22/25	Thanksgiving	8-Night Caribbean
<b>Celebrity Silhouette*</b>	11/23/25	Thanksgiving	6-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Xcel	11/23/25	Thanksgiving	7-Night Caribbean
Celebrity Reflection*	12/22/25	Christmas	4-Night Short Caribbean
Celebrity Summit*	12/18/25	Christmas	9-Night Long Caribbean
Celebrity Reflection*	12/29/25	New Year	4-Night Short Caribbean
Celebrity Summit*	12/27/25	New Year	9-Night Long Caribbean
Celebrity Ascent <sup>SM</sup>	12/22/25	New Year	11-Night Canals



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# Club Update

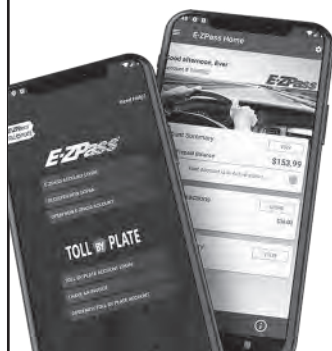


## Unlock Elevated Benefits

Whether you're a small business owner, need a temporary mailbox for your extended travels, or simply prefer to have your deliveries sent elsewhere for extra security, The UPS Store can help. Members save 20% July 1-Sept 30, 2025.

You can find the closest UPS Store near you at [Discounts.AAA.com/home-business/the-ups-store](https://Discounts.AAA.com/home-business/the-ups-store).

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**UPDATED**

### First Time Participant:

July 30 & 31 8am-12pm • August 26 & 27 8am-12pm

### 4-hour Refresher Classes 8am-12noon:

AAA - July 15, July 29, Aug 22, Aug 28, Sept 10, Sept 30  
Boyertown Area - July 23, August 25, September 17

*...for those who last took the course July/August/September 2022*





+



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Overview of the use of child safety restraint systems on school buses, with focus on preschool-aged children and children with disabilities



# historic dreibelbis farm festival

*Demonstrations of life on the farm include kitchen crafts, open-hearth cooking, butchering, dairy chores, spinning and blacksmithing*



On Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society will host our annual Farm Festival at the Historic Dreibelbis Farm in Virginville. The Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and protect the Historic Dreibelbis Farm and to make it available to the public for educational, historical, and environmental purposes.

The 180+ acre farm has been owned by the Dreibelbis family for nearly 250 years. Built in the 1860's, the unremodeled brick farmhouse is perhaps one of the best living reminders of rural life in Berks County. Among the activities will be demonstrations of life on the farm—kitchen crafts, open-hearth cooking, butchering, dairy chores, spinning, quilting, sewing, and blacksmithing. Pennsylvania-German rural work-life will feature lots of old-time tools and farming activities, including plowing with oxen.

Our expanded nature trail will be open along with Native American displays, a horse-drawn wagon ride

and lots of old-time games and activities for the children.

Special talks on local archaeology, local units in the Civil War, Native American storytelling, Revolutionary War enactors, and a Civil War Veterans Display will bring the past to life for modern folks. Special period music will be offered throughout the day. Food will be available provided by the Virginville Grange. There is no admission charge to the festival with only a nominal parking charge. An entrance fee is charged for tours of the main house. The event will be held rain or shine.

The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is located on Route 143 south of the village of Virginville. GPS Address: 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg, PA 19526.





For more information on this annual event, visit [www.Dreibelbisfarm.org](http://www.Dreibelbisfarm.org), "Historic Dreibelbis Farm" on Facebook or Instagram, or contact Mark Dreibelbis at (610) 488-7896.

Birdhouse Making • Butchering • Oxen Weaving • Blacksmithing • Tinsmithing  
Butter Making • Cooper • Candle Making  
Cider Making • Black Powder Shooting  
Children's Games • Redware Pottery  
Old-Time Washing Machines  
Broom Making • Handmade Ceramics  
Hickory Syrup • Potter • Barrel Making  
Dairying • Sauerkraut Making  
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Dried Flower Ornaments • Schnitzelbank  
Wood Carving • Colonial Trading Post  
Threshing Machines • Tools from the Past  
Wool Spinning • Old-Time Equipment  
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August 20 6:00pm  
• Norwegian Cruise Line

September 17 6:00pm  
• Celebrity Cruises

October 15 6:00pm  
• Royal Caribbean Int'l

November 19 3:00/6:00pm  
• Princess Cruises

December 17 6:00pm  
• Carnival Cruises

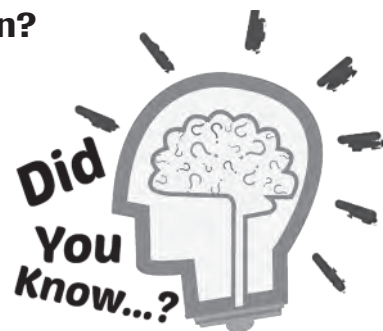
R.S.V.P. 610-374-5600

## Did you know...car batteries have a finite life span?

It's true! Car batteries typically last three to five years, but that can vary based on driving habits, weather conditions, and the quality of the battery.

Find the battery-associated words in the puzzle below and submit to be entered to win a prize!

B H Y T N L S P U N K X T V Y  
Z E X J V V D H S C O V W S I  
E S O Z R K J V M J R G N N X  
R M Z E P K S L O V W N A P M  
L G B A L A K C U L Y G Y Z F  
N I Q S E E C H E Q T R B X L  
M A T G I M C H P B B A W R O  
P C O H Y P G T A Q X E G I O  
Z I E X I H W S R R A A N E D  
A D J D Z U E N P O G N G U E  
E N M N F E M F H I L E O R D  
S O D L I V Q X G J H Y H D B  
G P A E L F G N A Z L R T B E  
I V L A R K A K J I Q S Y E Q  
N G M D N E C T A W G M H A K



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### Word List

ELECTROLYTE	FLOODED	LITHIUM
ACID	VOLTAGE	CHARGE
ANODE	LEAD	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # or email \_\_\_\_\_

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## Who Can Search What?

By now most of us are used to the obligatory searches associated with air travel. We're ready to remove our shoes, belt and outerwear. We place our electronics, change, keys, watches and jewelry into the plastic bins to be screened. And we dutifully follow the 3-1-1 rule for liquids, creams, and gels.

But where is the line drawn as to who can/cannot do a deeper dive search into our phone/electronics?

According to Avast, an online travel blog, Ben Osborn notes that there are circumstances where the TSA might be permitted to ask you to power on your device, such as if the interior of the phone looks suspicious as it passes through the scanning device. They might want to confirm that your phone has not been tampered with, and they may open a few of the apps to prove that the phone functions as it should and isn't a threat. However, the TSA is not permitted to be perusing your posts, calls and texts.

In order to protect our borders, travelers entering the U.S. may be subject to inspection of electronic devices including phones, cameras, and computers by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. This includes visitors from elsewhere and U.S. citizens returning to American soil. There is a lot of information on this subject at their website, [cpb.gov](http://cpb.gov).

The searches are integral to the U.S. CBP's war on terrorist activity, human trafficking, drug smuggling and underworld cash infusions, visa fraud and other border control violations. Keeping that in mind can make the process a little easier to bear.

While a search of a traveler's electronics is the legal right of the U.S. CBP under these conditions, the number of actual electronic device border searches is fairly infrequent.

According to their website, "in Fiscal

Year 2024, less than 0.01 percent of arriving international travelers encountered by CBP at a port of entry had their electronic devices searched." FY23 and FY24 statistics are also available at [cbp.gov](http://cbp.gov).

Services like TSA PreCheck<sup>®</sup> can speed up the check-in process by providing expedited security screening benefits for flights from U.S. airports. This service often provides a security wait of less than five minutes, plus perks like keeping your shoes on and leaving electronics in your bag.

Another service is Global Entry, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection program that speeds up re-entry to the U.S. for pre-screened passengers. Enrolling in Global Entry involves an application, background check, in-person interview, and a \$100 fee. Once approved, the service is good for five years.

If you don't have Global Entry or TSA PreCheck, being prepared for the line ahead of time will help make the process a little easier to bear.

- If you're traveling with gifts, keep them unwrapped in the event that additional screening is required.

- Check that bulky coat with your other checked luggage if you're not going to wear it on the plane.

- Check out the TSA's "What Can I Bring?" page if you're not sure what is allowed in your carry-on. Still not sure? Leave it at home.

- Check carry-ons for prohibited items one last time, even if you don't think you have any. A forgotten water bottle could cost precious minutes.

- Don't tune out TSA instructions about how to handle electronics, shoe removal, and other procedures, no matter how many times you're heard them.

Preparation is key to limiting the headaches that can be associated with international travel. Bon voyage!

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# Simple Fix

**Dear Ask Ed:**

**I recently had an issue with my car that I thought was going to be a big deal, but turned out pretty easy to resolve. Maybe you've seen this where you worked, and maybe your readers would find this helpful or at least interesting.**

**Before my last vehicle inspection the yellow "check engine" symbol lit up on the dash. My heart fell because I was sure this was going to be a big deal, costing lots of cash and lots of inconvenience. You can imagine my relief when the culprit was a loose gas cap. Didn't see this in your column yet so I thought I'd share my experience with you.**

**Tony T.**

Dear Tony,

Thanks for writing in! I have in fact seen this very situation more than once during my time as an auto tech. I've also seen vehicle owners in a panic when they bring in their vehicle with the MIL symbol illuminated, assuming the fix is going to be costly.

The very fact that the vehicle owner has taken the trouble to bring the vehicle in to the repair shop means that the MIL has done its job - alerting the driver that something about the car needs professional attention.

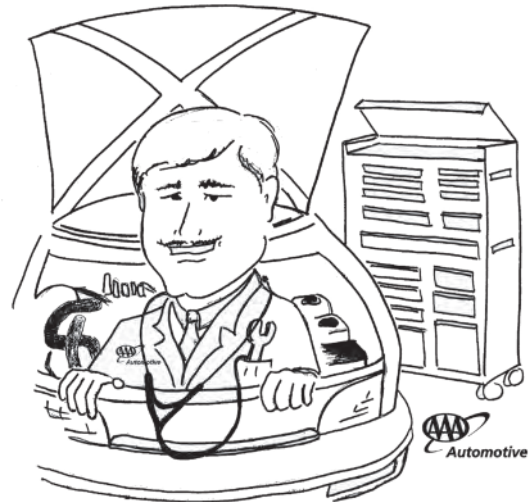
Sometimes the news is indeed in the "bad" column, such as an engine or exhaust malfunction. And sometimes the news isn't worth the worry the vehicle owner has imagined - as in the case of your faulty gas cap.

It is possible for a replacement cap to not completely seal, causing a disfunction in the car's EVAP system, which is designed to collect and manage fuel vapors, thereby reducing emissions. By the way, over-fueling (continuing to input fuel into the vehicle after the gas pump clicks off) can also cause a problem with the EVAP system because liquid fuel can enter the charcoal canister or fuel vapor lines, leading to issues like difficulty starting the vehicle and potential damage to emissions control components.

A cap that doesn't completely seal can also allow the gas you spent your hard-earned dollars on to evaporate before it is used!

Another aspect of the MIL is the appearance - is it a steady burning light or is it flashing? The difference between the two can allude to the severity of the malfunction. When either of these alerts pop up, it is important to resolve the issue promptly.

If you are driving when the MIL starts to



*AskEd@aaardgberks.com*

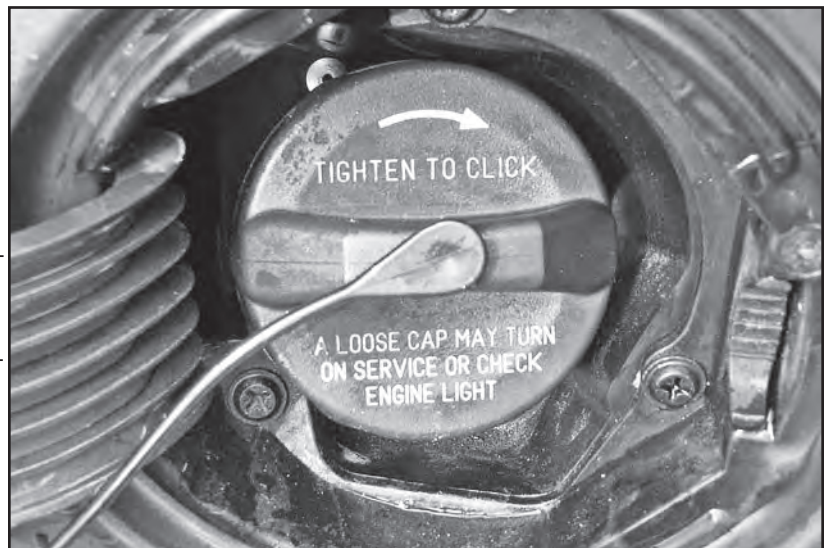
flash, be cautious and pay attention to how the vehicle runs. If it begins to lose power, shakes, emits an odd smell like rotting eggs or sulfur, or exhibits some other "not normal" activity, pull over as soon as it is safe to do so and get it to your trusted mechanic.

The MIL is just one of several "hey, pay attention to me" lights that can colorfully decorate your vehicle's dash. These can include maintenance reminders such as a brake system warning light, the TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System), oil pressure light, airbag warning, low fuel warning, and coolant temp alert.

I hope this information is helpful. Thanks for writing in. Happy motoring!

Ed

*Contact Ed with your automotive question either by email at AskEd@aaardgberks.com or by writing to him at AAA Reading-Berks, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA*



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# golden anniversary of dirt oval fun



In 1956, Ralph Shellhammer bought a parcel of land that was no more than an overgrown wilderness. Ralph and his son, Ronnie, fulfilled their dream of building a racetrack. The track hosted the Berks Micro Midgets for several years. After the Midgets departed, the track was left dormant and in 1972, the track was destroyed by Hurricane Agnes. The track is only sixty feet from the Schuylkill River.

Shellhammer Dirt Track has kept its original location just north of Leesport, Pa., one block off of State Rt 61 on Mohrsville Rd.

The racetrack seemed a hopeless disaster, that is, until Dave Cordier Sr. and Dick Adams joined forces to rehabilitate the speedway. Boulders were embedded into the track surface. All of the electrical poles were snapped, wires were torn, and the concession stand was on its side in the infield. Dave Sr, Dick, and their sons, Dave Jr and Randy, rose to the challenge and began the reconstruction.

In 1975, Shellhammer's Speedway was given birth as a go-kart facility. Ralph Shellhammer sadly passed away in 1976. Dick Adams relinquished his responsibilities and duties to Dave Sr. at the start of the second year of racing, leaving him the sole promoter.

The land was leased from the Shellhammer Family until 1995. After nineteen years of lease operation, promoter, Dave Cordier Sr., was offered to purchase the land. The Cordier Family opted to keep the name of the speedway as it was and continue business as usual. The weekly program of go-karts spawned many careers for drivers in the local big car ranks such as Jeff Strunk and Doug Manmiller.

Over the years, there have been many people who contributed to the success of the speedway from track officials to concession stand workers to track prep personnel. We are thankful to everyone who has passed through the gates and who continue to support the racing at the "Little Track By The River"

Dave Sr and his wife Shirley no longer walk the speedway grounds, but have left a positive mindset that continues on after their early

beginnings with 2 nights of racing, Wingless Wednesday and Super Saturday. Both of these nights attract stellar fields of race teams and a solid fan base. Super Saturday car counts in the 80's and 90's attracted over 300 entries and Wingless Wednesday car entries continue to exceed 100.

The Cordier legacy continues through the hands and vision of Dave Cordier Jr. and his wife Brenda. Although the name has changed to Shellhammer Dirt Track, the infamous reputation and highly respectable heritage will continue through many generations to come.

Above left: Photo of the scoring tower and grandstands taken from turn 1. .  
Below: The Big Wheel races were quite popular with the younger fans.  
Photo Credit: Mike Feltenberger.





Above: The Garl Family still racing at Shellhammer's twenty years later as Lindsay (lower right) was the All Star Slingshot point champion in 2024 and still racing in 2025. Below: The open wheel micro sprints head into 3 turn on the high banks. Photo Credit: Mike Feltenberger.





# PA Turnpike Comm: Don't Be Smished

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is advising that a smishing scam is again being sent to random individuals, aiming to deceive them to share their personal financial information to settle outstanding toll amounts.

This was not a security breach. Instead, it's part of a scam impacting tolling agencies across the nation. These text messages are being sent to random Pennsylvania cell phone numbers. While the messages have varied, the scam ultimately claims the recipients have unpaid tolls that could result in additional fines or suspended driving privileges if not acted upon immediately.

People who receive an unsolicited text, email, or similar message suggesting it is from the PA Turnpike or another toll agency should not click on the link. E-ZPass account holders and Toll By Plate customers can use approved safe methods to check their accounts such as the official PA Turnpike E-ZPass website or the PA Toll Pay app available from the Apple App Store, or Google Play store.

## How the PA Turnpike communicates with customers with overdue toll bills.

- The PA Turnpike does not text E-ZPass or Toll By Plate customers. However, we do work with two debt collection agencies, Harris and Harris and TSI. Both companies will text customers that have a significant overdue balance. Harris and Harris will include their name, company information, and legitimate details relating to your account in their text messages. Text messages from TSI will also include similar information.

- Neither the PA Turnpike, nor any of its partners, will ask customers to send money via a link or any other payment process, like Zelle or Venmo.

- The PA Turnpike begins commu-

nications via mail with E-ZPass and Toll By Plate customers that have an outstanding balance.

**E-ZPass accounts** that go into insufficient status - the account balance is zero dollars or less - receive the following notifications:

- A pre-final demand notice is sent after 30 days when customers fail to respond to notices regarding replenishment failures and/or low balance.

- A final demand notice is sent after a second 30 days when the customer fails to respond to the pre-final demand notice. The customer is then advised that failure to respond will result in the account being turned over to a collection agency with additional fees added.

**Toll By Plate** customers will receive an initial invoice for travel and will have 30 days to pay or resolve before a past due invoice is mailed with a late fee included. If after 60 days the customer has not paid their balance, unpaid invoices are eligible to be sent to a collection agency.

Here's an example of what the smishing scam text may look like. This is NOT from the PA Turnpike and is a scam.



Individuals who receive this text should not click on the link. Instead, immediately report the scam to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and/or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center.

Those who receive a fraudulent text can report it to the U.S. Federal Trade

Commission and/or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center. Both organizations share scam information with law enforcement agencies.

## What should you do if you think you are a victim?

- Check your personal E-ZPass account online to verify account balances and other personal information.

- Check the PA Toll Pay app if you have this feature on your smartphone. It's available to download from the Apple App Store or Google Play store.

- Call our E-ZPass and Toll By Plate Customer Service Center at 877-736-6727 M-F 8am-6pm to speak with a live agent ready to assist you with your E-ZPass questions and anything relating to your E-ZPass account.

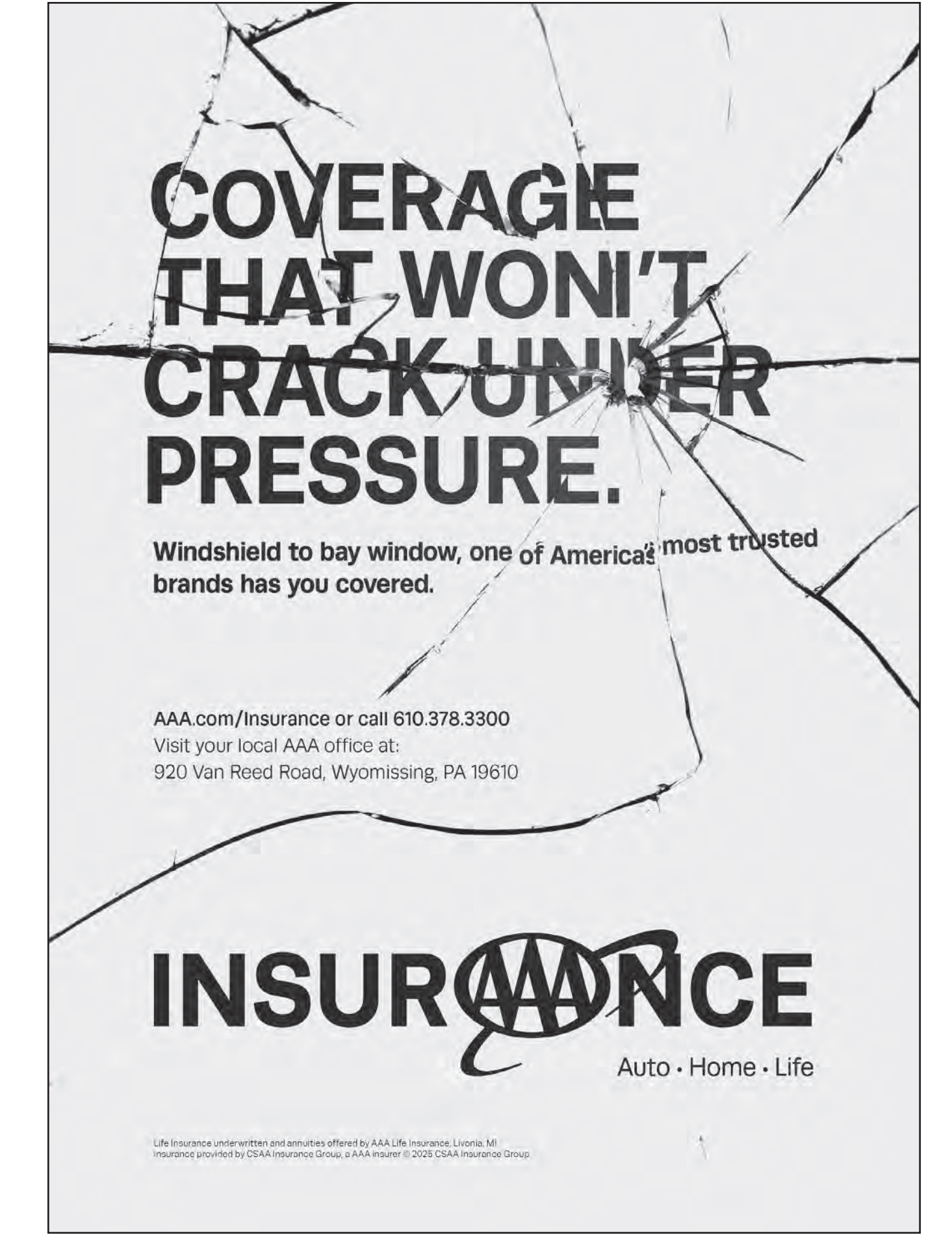
- Don't mail payments to the PA Turnpike. If you're unsure, call our E-ZPass and Toll By Plate Customer Service Center first to verify your account information.

- Don't click on links in text messages, emails, or other communications from an unsolicited party claiming to be the PA Turnpike Commission or another tolling agency. Contact the listed company at a website or phone number you know is real.

- If you clicked any link or provided your information, take efforts to secure your personal information and financial accounts. Dispute any unfamiliar charges.

- If you believe you are receiving fraudulent communications, report them to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and/or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center. Both organizations share scam information with law enforcement agencies.

- Immediately file a complaint at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov), the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center. The site is dedicated to sharing information on internet crimes across law enforcement agencies.



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# Destinations & Diversions

## Announcing the 2025 Berks Fiddle Fest

The Annual Berks Fiddle Fest will be held on Sunday, September 21st, 2025 at the Fleetwood Community Park located at 334 West Main Street in Fleetwood, PA. We have partnered with The Friends of the Fleetwood Parks, a 501c organization, with the mission of raising funds to improve and maintain amenities in the Fleetwood parks for community enjoyment. This means that all profits from the Berks Fiddle Fest will go directly to this wonderful organization to help fulfill its mission.

A donation will get you an entire day of entertainment and much more. The gates open at 9:00am with Main Stage activities starting at 10:00am. The day starts with our traditional worship service followed by a variety of Americana musical bands until 1:00 pm. This is followed by our all-ages Fiddle Competition, which is the main attraction of the Fiddle Fest and something you don't want to miss!

Our main stage line-up this year features a Meadowood Music student showcase, Wood Flower, and The Luke Hertzog Trio.

The Headliner this year is Walt Michaels. Walt's various incarnations, including Bottle Hill, Michael,

McCreesh & Campbell and Walt Michael & Co. have spanned forty years and taken him from the coal camps of Appalachia to the White House to the Closing Ceremonies of the 13th Olympic Winter Games. Walt takes our stage at 12 noon.

Considered to be a virtuoso of tremendous influence in the revival of the hammered dulcimer, Walt's wide repertoire ranges from old-time Southern Appalachian, to Celtic, to breathtaking original compositions. As a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, he has recorded fourteen albums and instructional videos, appeared at the Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and toured extensively throughout the US, Canada, Europe and the UK. His music has been heard on ABC-TV, NBC's Tonight Show, Broadway, BBC, TNN, CBC, OLN and PBS.

The Main stage is not the only area providing music filling the air at the Fiddle Fest. There is the Open Mic area hosted by Phil Stahl, fiddle, guitar, and mandolin workshops, our second Scottish F.I.R.E. Fiddle Competition qualifier, the Dirty Rotten Parrots and the Fiddle Chix roving around the grounds playing music, and a lot of local musicians joining together in Jam groups all around the park. You are more than welcome to bring an instrument and join the jams or simply listen and enjoy!

Speaking of music, we have a Martin Acoustic Guitar raffle with tickets available at the Festival. The winner will be announced at the end of the day and you could win!

Don't worry about eating and drinking. You won't go hungry or thirsty at the Fiddle Fest! Food and drink will be available to purchase. Hot dogs, burg-



ers and drinks by The Friends of The Fleetwood Parks, BBQ food by Freddy Bears Smokin' Hot BBQ, hand-dipped ice cream by Pops Malt Shoppe, baked goods from the Fleetwood Library organization, and The Fleetwood Community Theatre Group will have fresh baked apple dumplings.

Another one of the keystone features of the Fiddle Fest is our crafter area. With fifty-plus crafters and vendors featuring hand-made and musical items, you will want to browse this area to find a treasure to take home. This year we are again featuring an area for young crafters, eighteen years of age and under, to display and sell their work. You will want to see what these young crafters can do and support them.

We invite you to bring lawn chairs and blankets and be part of both the experience and tradition of fiddle music and fiddle festivals in Berks County!

We look forward to having you at the Fleetwood Community Park on Sunday, Sept 21st for the Berks Fiddle Fest!

For more information, email us at [berksfiddlefest@gmail.com](mailto:berksfiddlefest@gmail.com) or find and contact us on Facebook.



# MySafeDrive™ Arrives for AAA Members

AAA, a leader in road safety for over a century, recently announced a new AAA Insurance discount opportunity called MySafeDrive™, an exciting new program designed to incentivize safe driving. This is an extension of AAA's enduring commitment to the safety and security of AAA members. MySafeDrive builds on the success of SMARTrek by introducing new social features for the family.

"MySafeDrive provides an exciting new way to unlock AAA Insurance rewards," said William Benonis, Director of Insurance Services at AAA Reading-Berks. "This program gives AAA members the savings they deserve for making the effort to drive safer."

MySafeDrive allows new AAA Auto Insurance policyholders to enjoy up to a 10% discount on their initial policy term through active participation. This innovative program encourages and rewards exemplary driving behaviors, with the possibility of increasing the discount to 20% upon policy renewal. This initiative is a testament to AAA's mission to promote safer driving habits.



Getting started with MySafeDrive is simple:

1. **Enroll:** Opt into MySafeDrive when signing up for a AAA Auto Insurance policy
  2. **Download:** Install the MySafeDrive app and log in to start tracking your driving habits
  3. **Drive:** Hit the road and let MySafeDrive monitor your performance
  4. **Save:** The safer your driving, the greater your savings
- The MySafeDrive app will aid users with metrics and guidance to help improve their driving skills. The Family Sharing option enables parents and young drivers to share

real-time data, fostering a collaborative approach to safe driving. The app's trends and streaks feature also offers valuable insights, allowing drivers to track their progress and make necessary adjustments.

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## EVs and Hybrids Take 2025 AAA Car Guide Crown

AAA has awarded the 2024 BMW iX xDrive50 as the overall winner and top vehicle in the midsize SUV category for the 2025 AAA Car Guide. This year, all category winners are 2024 or 2025 models and are either electric (EV), plug-in hybrid electric (PHEV) or hybrid vehicles. Furthermore, the researchers added new scoring criteria and brought back the minivan category, awarding the top spot to the 2024 Chrysler Pacifica PHEV Pinnacle.

"Minivans are a favored choice for families and offer space for storage,"

Guide winner. Noted in this year's guide, the iX repeats its win from the 2023 edition of the AAA Car Guide. SUVs are often popular amongst consumers because of their versatility, safety, and comfort. Researchers noted that the iX has impressive range, a comfortable ride, responsive steering and handling, and abundant power and low-end torque.

The luxurious 2024 Chrysler Pacifica PHEV Pinnacle won the top spot in the minivan category.

This minivan is the only one of its kind with both gasoline-powered and plug-in hybrid options. It's perfect for families looking for style, comfort, and storage capacity. Researchers noted that the Pacifica has a fuel-efficient PHEV drivetrain, a useful all-electric range of 32 miles, a spacious cabin with lots of storage, and an attractive interior finish.

"Our goal with the AAA Car Guide is to help consumers navigate the evolving automotive marketplace by evaluating the latest vehicles with detailed evaluation from AAA researchers," said McKernan.

### Background

The AAA Car Guide includes comprehensive reviews of each vehicle based on fifteen criteria, including advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS), fuel efficiency, braking, performance handling, ride quality, and new for this year, infotainment usability. These vehicles are tested, scored, and placed in one of eight vehicle categories by the Automotive Research Center (ARC) of the Automobile Club of Southern California.

said Megan McKernan, the Automotive Research Center manager at AAA Automobile Club of Southern California. "This year's AAA Car Guide includes a wide variety of categories to help car buyers in their purchasing decisions."

### Key Winners

The AAA Car Guide winners feature multiple advanced driving assistance systems (ADAS) such as automatic emergency braking (AEB), reverse automatic emergency braking (RAEB), and lane-keeping assistance (LKA).

The 2024 BMW iX xDrive50 was selected as the top vehicle in the midsize SUV category and was crowned the overall 2025 AAA Car

### FAQs

#### 2025 AAA Car Guide

##### • What is the AAA Car Guide?

The AAA Car Guide serves as a comprehensive resource for prospective car buyers looking to navigate the complexities of the automotive market.

##### • Why does AAA publish the AAA Car Guide?

As an unbiased automotive expert, AAA publishes the Guide to help those in the market for a safe, fuel-efficient vehicle understand the newer technology and which may best fit their needs.

##### • How are test procedures developed?

Testing procedures were developed using the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) standards and custom procedures employed by the AAA Automotive Research Center to provide helpful information to consumers. All vehicles are tested in real-world and test track conditions on the basis of fifteen criteria: Advanced driver-assistance systems, fuel efficiency, EPA emission score, acceleration, braking, performance handling, everyday drivability, ride quality, interior size, ease of entry and exit, visibility, interior noise, cargo capacity, quality, and infotainment usability.

All driving tests were performed at the Irwindale Speedway in Irwindale, California, and on Southern California roads.

##### • Where is the AAA Car Guide?

The 2025 AAA Car Guide can be found at [AAA.com/CarGuide](http://AAA.com/CarGuide).



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<sup>1</sup>The 1 free day rental offer is an exclusive offer for AAA members who enroll at [AAA.com/hertzgold](https://AAA.com/hertzgold). Valid for new Hertz Gold Plus Rewards® (HGPR) members only. Free rental day will be awarded in the form of 950 Gold Plus Rewards points after the member's first paid Gold rental. Free day excludes taxes, fees, & options. © 2025 Hertz System, Inc. All rights reserved. CS 1224060



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