

State Capitol Roundup: Weekly Summary

Provided by Rep. Craig Dally (R-Northampton)



Republican Leader Calls for Return to Session to Solve Budget Crisis

More than 40 days into the new fiscal year without a full budget, Gov. Ed Rendell's decision to line-item veto funding for many important programs and services is taking its toll on millions of Pennsylvanians. Republican Leader Sam Smith (R-Jefferson County) called on House Democratic leaders this week to return

to session immediately so that schools, day care providers, mental health counseling services, preschool programs, nonprofit organizations and other vital services across the Commonwealth will not be interrupted in continuing to provide assistance to residents across the state. Thousands of college students may be forced to find other ways to fund their education in the coming weeks as the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) can neither finalize grant award amounts nor disburse money to campuses on students' behalf until a final budget is adopted. The House-Senate conference committee, charged with reaching a budget agreement, has not met since the end of July and

has not planned or announced meetings in the coming days. For the latest budget news, visit PAHouseGOP.com.

Gaming Expansion Considered by House Gaming Oversight Committee

The House Gaming Oversight Committee heard this week from casino executives seeking to add table games to Pennsylvania's casinos. Legislation that would authorize table games, providing an additional revenue source for Pennsylvania, could come before the House as part of the budget process. Republican members of the House Gaming Oversight Committee, including chairman Rep. Curt Schroder (R-Chester County) and Rep. Paul Clymer (R-Bucks County) oppose expanding gaming in Pennsylvania, at least until sweeping reforms of the gaming process are instituted, including banning political contributions by gaming interests, prohibiting outside employment for members of the Gaming Control Board, and forbidding anyone with a felony conviction from obtaining a gaming license. For the latest legislative news, visit PAHouseGOP.com.

Adolph Calls for Override of Vetoed Student Financial Aid

Rep. William Adolph (R-Delaware County) Thursday called for an override of the governor's veto of funding for the Pennsylvania Higher

Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to ensure students get the financial aid they need as they head back to college. Joined by House Appropriations Chairman Mario Civera (R-Delaware County) and Delaware County Community College officials, Adolph said the governor's decision to blue-line PHEAA funding is leaving many students and their families wondering when or if they will get their state grants. While some higher education institutions intend to front the anticipated grant money for students, others may not be in the financial shape to do so. An estimated 172,000 state residents are eligible for need-based grants and have been held hostage by the governor. Senate Bill 850 contained \$386 million for PHEAA grants, but those funds were vetoed by the governor when he signed a temporary spending plan last week. For the latest legislative news, visit PAHouseGOP.com.



Biffle is Racing as Hard as He Can

This hasn't been the season Greg Biffle expected, though he certainly has time to pick up the pieces.

The 39-year-old Biffle didn't win during the 2008 regular season, but after making the Chase, proceeded to win its first two races. He wound up third in the Sprint Cup standings.

For now, Biffle's first priority is making the Chase, but that doesn't mean he's going to back off.

"We're certainly not racing conservative-ly," he said. "We're racing to win, but we're not going to do anything stupid."

"We know we have to stay in (the top 12 in order to qualify for the Chase). It's tight ... and we're doing all we can do."

Roush Fenway Racing put Biffle in what was then still the Winston Cup Series back in 2003. He finished second in the Chase standings two years later. A year ago, three Roush Fenway drivers -- Biffle, Carl Edwards and Matt Kenseth -- made the Chase. They could do it again, but the positions of Biffle and Kenseth are hardly secure as the

regular season enters its final four races.

"We're just going to have to be better," said Biffle. "We know that. We're nervous about getting in (the Chase), and anything can happen. ... There are some races we're concerned about leading up to the cutoff (end of the regular season), and we know we're on the bubble, so it's important to have good finishes right now."

Biffle, from Vancouver, Wash., is one of only two drivers to have won championships in both the Nationwide and Camping World Truck series. (Johnny Benson is the other.)

Biffle also was rookie of the year in both series. He came up through NASCAR's developmental system, winning track championships early in his career at Tri-City Raceway in West Richland, Wash., and Portland (Ore.) Speedway.

"Really, we're working as hard as we can every week to bring the best race cars we can to the track," said Biffle. "It's important that we have the best possible equipment right now."

"We're racing as hard as we can. We're not taking big risks, but, at the same time,

we're racing for the win."

Monte Dutton has covered motorsports for The Gaston (N.C.) Gazette since 1993. He was named writer of the year by the National Motorsports Press Association in 2008. His blog NASCAR This Week (<http://nascar.rbma.com>) features all of his reporting on racing, roots music and life on the road. E-mail Monte at nascar_thisweek@yahoo.com.

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Roush Fenway driver Greg Biffle says his first priority is making the Chase, but that doesn't mean he's going to back off. (Photo: Getty Images)

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

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If you wonder if you're being abused, you probably are. It's not the kind of thing people generally think about unless it's truly happening. Unfortunately, many seniors are being abused, in various ways.

It can be abuse if someone is:

- ¥ Keeping your money, food or medicine from you.
- ¥ Hiding your mail.
- ¥ Keeping you from contacting your doctor or your friends.
- ¥ Hurting you in a physical way, or even emotionally.

Sometimes the abuse isn't obvious, or maybe it has happened very gradually. Abuse can come from a spouse, for example. If your formerly mild spouse has changed -- perhaps going into tirades or lashing out physically -- your doctor needs to know about it. There could be a medical reason for a change in your spouse's personality, and you have to take matters in hand to get to the bottom of it.

Is a child or other relative always asking you for money? Do you give in because you're afraid of what will happen if you don't? That's abuse.

If you've had someone helping you write checks to pay bills each month, are you being pushed to sign checks when you don't know what they're for? That's abuse.

If you are ever physically injured, call 911.

If you suspect that things have been stolen from your house, including money or medicine, or if you've been abused in other ways, you need to tell someone. Call your doctor, attorney, a caring relative or a kind manager at the senior center. Or you can call the elder-abuse hotline toll-free at 1-800-677-1116.

Whether you live at home or are in a hospital or nursing facility, you have the right to not be abused, and there is help for you. You're not alone. But you have to take the first step and let someone know.

Matilda Charles regrets that she cannot personally answer reader questions, but will incorporate them into her column whenever possible. Write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.

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Robert L. Decker Softball Tournament Results

The results of the 16th 2009 Robert L. Decker Memorial Softball Tournament are as follows: 1st place -- champions -- R.J. Vending

-- Hackettstown, N.J. 2nd place -- K.C. Pub -- Poconos, Pa. 3rd place -- Hartzell's Auction -- Bangor, Pa. Most Valuable Player -- Edwin Gruszecki -- shortstop for R.J. Vending.

Stitch -- Wind Gap, Pa.; Pen Argyl Legion; Bangor Jacksonian Club; Sam Crivillaro; Hillside Club, West Bangor, Pa.; Bryce "Bird" Onjack, Mike McGuirk; Paul Reduzzi & his football staff; Volunteer Umpires -- Ronnie Singer, Dr. Funk, Tommy Singer, Val Caesar, Walt Kyperski.

The Smith and Decker family would like to extend their gratitude to all of the players involved in the 13-team tournament. In addition, a special appreciation and gratitude is extended to the following contributors: Detzi's Tavern -- Wind Gap, Pa.; Quick

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Give the axe to

5 Prompt

8 Surrounded by

12 Jamaican citrus

13 Venomous viper

14 Arp's style

15 Handle roughly

16 Long March leader

17 Exile

18 Threatening term

20 Siestas

22 Yogi Bear's home park

26 Winter warmer

29 Type squares

30 Bagel topper

31 Partner in crime

32 More, to Manuel

33 Father (Fr.)

34 Ms. Farrow

35 Insult (Sl.)

36 Metric measure

37 Comedian Paula

40 Morse morselets

41 Bandleader Cugat

45 Eastern bigwig

DOWN

1 Wrestling style

2 Culture medium

3 Hint

4 Party pooper

5 Ship of the desert

6 N.A. nation

7 People things are

8 named for

9 They're roomy and gloomy

10 Picks out of a lineup

11 Gram. case

19 Wet expanse

21 Foolish sort

23 Minimum

24 Standard

25 Former partners

26 Overly theatrical

27 Hedgepodge

28 Robert Graves subject

32 Faux pas

33 Triumph

35 Banned bug spray

36 "CSI" evidence

38 Bridge player

39 U-shaped yoke holder

42 "Young Frankenstein" role

43 Grandson of Eve

44 "Portnoy's Complaint" author

45 Sprite

46 Miss Piggy's pronoun

48 Palindromic title

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	4	9	3					5
		7			8			6 1
2				4 1 3				
8				2		6		4
4		2			7			9
	1		6 3					7
5		4						3 6
9 8			5		7			
3			7		9 1			

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solution time: 25 mins.
Answers
King Crossword



Answer
Weekly SUDOKU

ALL MY CHILDREN:

A stressed-out Kendall began having chest pains. Marissa started softening up to JR. Frankie returned home to find Randi holding a baby. Angie lied to the police in order to protect her family. Liza became susceptible to David's charms. Natalia warned Randi that she couldn't keep Trevor. Wait to See: Annie sets her sights on Scott.

AS THE WORLD TURNS

Lily told Emma the devastating news that Holden was dead. James introduced Paul to his new brother -- Henry. Damian found out that Holden's dental records didn't match the body at the scene of the accident. Craig sensed that Teri had a crush on him. Alison got her job back at the hospital. Wait to See: Bob refuses to admit that he could have Alzheimer's.

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Ridge attended a group therapy session with Brooke and Taylor. Owen warned Whip to stay away from Jackie. Ridge was surprised by Steffy's new outlook on his love life. Donna decided to test Bill's devotion to her sister. Jackie felt guilty for cheating on Owen with Whip. Wait to See: A confused Beth attacks Stephanie.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Daniel suspected that Kate still had feelings for him. Lucas was faced with the dilemma of keeping Chloe on life support. Stephanie and Philip got back together. EJ wanted to perform genetic testing on Hope. Rafe found a connection between Sami, Nicole and Dr. Baker. Wait to See: Bo and Hope get closer to finding their daughter.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Rebecca told Edward why she really came to Port Charles. A pretty French tourist caught Michael's eye. Sam told a feverish Jason that she loved him. Nikolas kissed Elizabeth just before Lucky arrived. Alexis told Sonny that she was protecting Kristina. Monica assured Rebecca that she was welcome in their family. Wait to See: Patrick fears for Robin's safety.

GUIDING LIGHT

Vanessa turned down Billy's impulsive wedding plans, but agreed to go on a date with him. The remaining single men of Springfield began trying their luck with online dating. Rafe tried to convince Natalia to get back together with Frank. Mel and Cyrus acted on their attraction for one another. Wait to See: Josh tells Reva that he loves her.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

Delphina offered to channel Nash from the Other Side. David tried to provoke Clint as fodder for his new reality show. Schuyler decided not to interfere with Rex and Gigi's relationship. Marty was chosen to be Todd's new counselor. Rex asked Stacy why she hadn't seen an obstetrician yet. Wait to See: Viki contemplates a run for mayor.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

Kevin confronted Ryder about his connection to Deacon. Paul found out that Mary Jane was his sister. Patty, Deacon ordered Amber to marry him. Colleen made it clear to Victoria that she was after J.T. Victor learned that Jack was trying to have Ashley committed. Victoria gave in to Deacon. Wait to See: Billy has second thoughts about divorcing Chloe.

Soap Updates



Shelley Henning is Stephanie on "Days of Our Lives"

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

Be careful not to allow the backers of a new financial "deal" to pull the wool over the Lamb's eyes. It could hold fewer pluses and more negatives than you were first led to believe.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)

It's a good idea to finish all incomplete tasks so that you can devote your attention to next week's projects. The weekend could hold surprises for romantic Fernandas and Ferdinands.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)

A workplace suggestion you made a while ago that you might have forgotten could come back with a request to turn it from idea to reality. Your social life picks up considerably this weekend.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

Someone from the past could return with an intriguing opportunity for a future project. Check into it, by all means. But don't neglect your current responsibilities in the meantime.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)

Keeping your claws sheathed and using good humor instead to counter someone who's bad-mouthing the Big Cat isn't easy. But it's the best way to avoid more problems down the line.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

A workplace situation could improve if you're less critical and more supportive of those who are, after all, trying to do their best. Let them know you're there to help when necessary.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

A new job offer might not carry all the benefits you're seeking. Make sure you know what you're entitled to, what is off the table and what is negotiable before you make a decision.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)

A social obligation you would rather get out of could hold some surprisingly positive aspects. Why not go and see for yourself? A family member makes a curious request.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)

Before tackling that new project awaiting you at home or

on the job, take time out for some much-deserved pampering to help lift your spirits and restore your energy levels.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)

Your social calendar begins to fill up more quickly than you expected. And that's great. You deserve to enjoy some good fun after so much time spent on serious matters.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)

A domestic situation continues to improve, thanks to all the tender, loving concern you've shown. A colleague makes a questionable move that you might want to check out sooner rather than later.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

A sudden turn in a romantic relationship calls for both a rational and passionate response. Keep the love level high, but also find out why the problem arose in the first place.

BORN THIS WEEK:

You often set high standards for others. But to your credit, you set the same expectations for yourself.

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