

Asides

Sunday, July 12, 2009

THE BIG political story in Pennsylvania remains the state budget. But never mind how remote Harrisburg may seem from people's problems back home -- that condition is also literal for the Pittsburgh area. If you want to go, you pretty much have to drive or take a Greyhound bus -- and it's getting worse. On Thursday, the **Steel City Flyer**, a bus that runs twice daily from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg, will roll its last. The luxury bus service, introduced with fanfare last November after flights from Pittsburgh were eliminated, didn't attract enough riders. Henry Posner III, who helped start the service, told the Post-Gazette's Brian O'Neill that the plan was undone by an unanticipated situation -- employers reimbursing their Harrisburg-bound staff up to 55 cents a mile, more than \$200 for the round trip, meaning they would lose money if they took the bus at \$138. In addition, the service could not gain access to Amtrak's intermodal terminal in Harrisburg because another bus company had subleased it, forcing the Flyer to drop off passengers 200 feet away. It's a sad end to a good idea.
