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Reading & Northern Offering More Passenger Excursions from Reading Outer Station

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 2, 2024 – Port Clinton, PA – While the Reading & Northern's signature passenger routes may lead to Jim Thorpe, PA, 2024 will present several different options both old and new. The railroad will operate several special excursions this year from Reading Outer Station to places such as Tamaqua and Minersville. These will be in addition to the classic weekly Reading to Jim Thorpe trips. One of the other long-standing passenger routes is from Reading Outer Station to Pottsville. Reading & Northern will once more continue the tradition of operating excursions to the historic city of Pottsville several times during the spring and summer of 2024.

Pottsville has many unique attractions to call its own and is a great alternative to Jim Thorpe for passengers seeking a different adventure. The most famous of all of course is the Yuengling Brewery, which guests receive a free tour of as part of their ticket price. Jerry's Classic Car Museum, another Pottsville favorite, offers discounted admission to all excursion riders. The Schuylkill County Historical Society Museum follows suit, with discounted admission and a wealth of exhibits showcasing the rich history of the area. Passengers have five hours – more time than that given on a Jim Thorpe excursion – to explore the city. The city of Pottsville even provides a trolley to take visitors around to the various attractions.

A new attraction for 2024 will be an outdoor farmer's market which will greet passengers the moment they exit the train upon arrival in Pottsville. Last year on one of our summertime runs to Pottsville, passengers (not to mention the train crew) were pleasantly surprised by the sight of numerous local food and craft vendors who had set up shop in the parking lot of Pottsville Union Station. Upon suggestion from that train's crew, and working with the city of Pottsville, Reading & Northern has coordinated its 2024 excursions with the dates of this unique outdoor market.

Founder and co-owner of Pottsville Outdoor Markets, Jonathan Morris, said "Following a very successful 2023 market season, Pottsville Outdoor Markets is excited to be part of the 2024 train excursions scheduled to arrive in the city. We plan to have over 60 vendors at each of our markets including farmers, food trucks, crafts, and several others, including several new small businesses which are joining us this year. The market is free admission, and we plan to have free parking available. We look forward to seeing everyone at the market!"

The train departs Reading Outer Station at 10:00am and operates nonstop to Pottsville, reaching the city in approximately one hour. Tickets for these fantastic excursions are reasonably priced at \$39.00 each and are available now at www.rbmrr-passenger.com or by phone at 610-562-2102.

Reading & Northern Railroad, with its corporate headquarters in Port Clinton, is a privately held railroad company serving over 80 customers in nine eastern Pennsylvania counties (Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and Wyoming). It has expanded its operations over the last 40 years; and now handles nearly 40,000 carloads of freight (which removes over 200,000 trucks from the highway), while its Passenger Department handles over 300,000 riders annually. Reading & Northern operates its freight and steam- and diesel-powered passenger excursions over 400 miles of track, owns over 2,000 freight cars, and employs over 350 dedicated people. Reading & Northern has been repeatedly honored as one of the premier railroads in the nation, including being named Regional Railroad of the Year in 2020 by *Railway Age* magazine.