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***The State House will
convene at 11 AM, and the
State Senate will convene
at 10 AM***

AND SO IT BEGINS

Yesterday, Governor **Josh Shapiro** gave his budget address to a joint session of the General Assembly. The Governor's proposal would increase the state budget by \$3.5 billion to \$51.5 billion, which would cause the Commonwealth to dip into its rainy-day fund. As part of his proposal, Shapiro called for increasing spending on public schools, public transportation, and workforce development. To pay for the increased spending, the Governor called for the taxing of games of skill and adult-use cannabis. Republican leaders in the House and Senate expressed concerns that the Governor's proposal is too expensive and would be unsustainable in the long term.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

PA Attorney General **Dave Sunday** has appointed **Darryl Lawrence** to serve as the Interim Consumer Advocate. Lawrence most recently served as the Senior Assistant Consumer Advocate in the PA Office of Consumer Advocate and has been in the office since 2005. On the appointment, Sunday stated, "I am confident that Darryl has the experience, expertise, and commitment to public service required to represent the best interests of Pennsylvanians who demand and deserve fair pricing and high-quality when it comes to essential utilities."

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

The PA Department of Revenue released the Commonwealth's January 2025 collections

data, which total \$3.9 billion in General Fund revenue. The Department reports that January's collections were \$51.3 million less than anticipated. Sales Tax totaled \$1.3 billion, and Personal Income Tax was \$2 billion. Outside of the General Fund, the Motor License Fund saw \$250.2 million last month, \$20.1 million above the estimate.

UNCLE SAM'S NEW SIDE HUSTLE

On Monday, President **Donald Trump** signed an executive order directing the U.S. to explore the creation of a government-owned investment fund. The President suggested it could potentially profit from TikTok if an American buyer is secured. He noted that many countries have sovereign wealth funds and suggested that the U.S. could eventually surpass Saudi Arabia's in value.

EGG HEIST

Over the weekend, 100,000 eggs were stolen from an egg distributor in Franklin County. Pennsylvania State Police are now searching for suspects. The stolen eggs are estimated to have a retail value of around \$40,000.



Happy Birthday

- **Geri Sarfert** Director of Development and Policy, Republican Caucus PA Senate
- **Amal Mahrouki***, Senior Director of State & Local Affairs, AIA
- **Olivia Perry** Digital Director, PA Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Programs

Committee Meetings

- (H) Human Services – 9AM - Informational meeting on Treatment and Support for Traumatic Brain Injuries
- (H) Health – 9:30AM – To consider: HB 60, HB 65, HB 157, HB 409, HR 31, HR 33, and HR 40
- (H) Labor and Industry – 10AM - To consider: HB 118, HB 183, and HB 308
- (H) Local Government – 10AM - To consider: HB 162, HB 209, HB 369, HB 388, and HB 424
- (H) Finance – 10AM - To consider: HB 325
- (H) Finance – 10:15AM - Public hearing on HB 416, HB 422 and any other business that may come before the committee
- (H) Appropriations – Off the Floor – Agenda to be announced

- (S) Appropriations – Off the Floor - To consider: HB 324



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