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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

April 04, 2025

TOUCH GRASS

Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests are experiencing a surge in reservations, with officials expecting a record-breaking summer. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) reports a nearly 30% increase in campsite bookings compared to last year, with 24% of spots already reserved for peak season. Popular destinations with large lakes, such as Prince Gallitzin, Bald Eagle, Greenwood Furnace, and Trough Creek state parks, are seeing especially high demand. DCNR Secretary **Cindy Adams Dunn** urges visitors to plan ahead as interest in outdoor recreation continues to grow.

TARIFF-YING DROP

The stock market yesterday reacted to the Trump Administration's newly imposed tariffs on nearly 60 countries by taking a major dip and causing significant uncertainty for investors and economists. The Dow dropped 1,700 points, the S&P 500 was down 4.8%, and the NASDAQ was down by 6% when the market closed yesterday.

TIKTOK PRIME?

An unnamed Trump Administration official revealed Wednesday that Amazon placed a surprise bid to buy TikTok just before a U.S. ban on the app takes effect Saturday. The source, speaking anonymously, said the proposal was delivered to Vice President **JD Vance** and Commerce Secretary **Howard Lutnick**. Under current rules, TikTok's parent company ByteDance must transfer ownership to an approved buyer or shut the platform down in the United States. Although President **Donald Trump** might delay the ban again, he also indicated that he anticipates an agreement by Saturday.

TORTOISE TRIUMPHS

For the first time in over 150 years, the Philadelphia Zoo has welcomed new Western Santa Cruz Galapagos tortoise hatchlings. The four critically endangered babies were born to **Mommy** and **Abrazzo**, both estimated to be around 100 years old, with Mommy becoming the oldest first-time mother of her species. The hatchlings will make their public debut on April 23, coinciding with the 93rd anniversary of Mommy's arrival at the zoo. Zoo officials celebrate this as a historic milestone, emphasizing the importance of

WICKED

Yesterday, the U.S. Senate confirmed **Dr. Mehmet Oz** to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on a party line vote. Oz noted his close relationship with HHS Secretary **RFK Jr.** It is anticipated that CMS will begin to see cuts that were ordered at other public health agencies earlier this week, including at the FDA, CDC, and NIH. CMS is expected to lose 300 staff, including those working in minority health and shrink the cost of healthcare delivery. Dr. Oz notably ran for U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania in 2022 but lost to U.S. Senator **John Fetterman**.



Happy Birthday

Today:

- State Senator **Michele Brooks**
- State Representative **Greg Scott**
- State Representative **Wendy Fink**
- Former State Representative **Kevin P. Murphy**
- Former Congresswoman **Melissa Hart**
- **Sarah Herr, Executive Policy Specialist, PA Dept of Military and Veteran Affairs**
- **Thomas W. Starke**

Saturday:

- Former State Representative **Kate Harper**
- **Risa Ferman**, Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Montgomery County
- **Ryan Ulrich**, Principal Economic Strategy Coordinator, Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC

Sunday:

- State Senator **Lisa M. Boscola**
- State Representative **Brad Roae**
- **Joan Melvin**, Former PA Supreme Court Justice
- **Gregory Beckenbaugh**, Staff Attorney, Senate of PA
- **Stephen Caruso**, Capitol Reporter, Spotlight PA
- **Erin Murphy Boyle**, Client Account Director, Accenture
- **Kira Zickler**, Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of Representative Schlossberg
- **Angela Gochenaur***, Director, Public Policy, Moderna
- **Deron Gould**, Special Counsel, Rules & Policy, PA House of Representative



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