

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

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## HIGHER WALLS

A new “anti-climb” fence is being installed around the Pennsylvania Governor’s Residence in response to the April 13 break-in and arson fire. State Police Commissioner Col. **Christopher Paris** says the fence is one of several new security measures recommended in a confidential report. While some changes will be visible, Paris noted that others will remain undisclosed to protect safety.

## LITERACY RALLY

Actress **Sheryl Lee Ralph** and her husband, State Senator **Vincent Hughes**, rallied at the Pennsylvania Capitol on Wednesday to advocate for stronger literacy funding. Hughes, Democrat Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, called for expanded support of a reading program to address low literacy rates. Ralph, star of stage, screen and Abbott Elementary, encouraged students to aim high and emphasized the importance of reading for future success. She read with children on the Capitol steps and distributed books, urging parents and lawmakers to prioritize education in the upcoming state budget.

## PUFF, PUFF, PASS

Adult use cannabis passed the State House on party lines yesterday. The bill will now head to the State Senate for consideration. After a 2.5-hour debate on the floor, House Democrats passed language that would expand on the public retail system through the Pennsylvania LCB and would be for consumers 21 and older. However, House Republicans challenged its constitutionality and claimed that it would create an “unnecessary government monopoly.” The bill in its current form seems unlikely to advance through the State Senate.

## GO BIRDS

This week was certainly a busy session week in the State Capitol with lawmakers, advocacy groups, and interest groups from across the Commonwealth coming to town. However, some would consider the Philadelphia Eagles two Lombardi trophies the most important visitors this week. The Super Bowl champions were honored yesterday in both chambers.

# BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE

Prepare for supersonic selfie opportunities: the Blue Angels will roar into Harrisburg International Airport on May 24–25 as the marquee act of the 2025 Central Pennsylvania Air Dot Show. It's stop number three on their tour, but they're not flying solo. Audiences can catch the F-16 Viper Demo Team, aerobatic ace **Michael Goulian**, the WestPoint Parachute Team, and other sky-high talents. General admission starts at \$39.99, and fewer than 1,300 spots remain—VIP seats already vanished. Purchase tickets [here](#).



## *Happy Birthday*

- State Senator **Daniel Laughlin**
- Former State Senator **Vincent J. Fumo**
- Former State Representative **Michael Puskaric**
- Raise a Riesling with Former State Representative **Chris Sainato**
- **Jonathan C. Greer**, CEO & President, Insurance Federation of PA (IFP)
- **Josh Paul**, Legislative Director, Office of Senator Argall
- **Erica J. Godsey**
- **Rachel Maurer**, Communications Coordinator, House Democratic Caucus
- **Brandi Miller**, Regional Caucus Director, House Southeastern Delegation

## *Committee Meetings*

- (S) Communications and Technology – 10AM - Public hearing on powering artificial intelligence's future in our economy
- (H) Republican – 10AM - Public hearing on Cutting Costs, Creating Commerce
- (H) Education – 10AM - Informational meeting on governance of cyber charter schools



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