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Happy October and 3 months of a budget impasse!



***The State House will
convene at 9:30AM.***

TIME'S UP

As of 12:01am today, the federal government shut down after Congress failed to reach an agreement on federal spending. The majority of Senate Democrats voted against the Republican spending bill over a lack of provisions regarding health care. The Senate is expected to reconvene this morning and vote on two bills based on the failed spending bill.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

Congratulations to State Senators ***Lindsey Williams*** and ***Jay Costa*** for being recognized as the PA Library Association 2025 Elected Officials of the Year! Both senators helped secure funding for the Allegheny County Library Association to fund a project for book vending machines in locations where children are often vulnerable. This project, titled "Providing Books to Children in Difficult and Challenging Situations" provides free books featuring characters in similar situations as the children that are facing challenges. Thank you both for your continued support of library services in the Commonwealth!

WATER POETRY

PA Humanities celebrated Rain Poetry yesterday in Harrisburg as installations of rain-activated poetry around the Capitol were unveiled to the public. The project is intended to display the creativity of Pennsylvania youth across the Commonwealth. This coincides with the launch of the Rain Poetry Toolkit and grant program to spread the initiative statewide.

INN THE FUN

Dutch Wonderland is giving families a new way to keep the fun going past the park gates. The Cartoon Network Hotel will soon be transformed into the Dutch Wonderland Inn, set to open in March 2026. The new inn will feature 155 rooms, pools inside and out, a splash pad, and a new family restaurant. Reservations will open soon, with "stay and play" rates starting at \$199.

BEARY-Y BIG WIN

After three straight runner-up finishes, **Chunk** the brown bear finally claimed his crown in this year's Fat Bear Week. The 1,200-pound bear, officially known as Bear 32, beat out Bear 856 in the final bracket of the wildly popular online contest. More than 1.5 million votes were cast as fans followed bears at Alaska's Katmai National Park via livestreams, watching them bulk up on a record salmon run. Despite a broken jaw, Chunk is now the undisputed heavyweight champ of Fat Bear Week.



Happy Birthday

- Former Congressman **Patrick Murphy**
- **Tarah Toohil**, Judge, Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas
- **Donald Jacobs**, Former CFO for Bucks County, Former IT Director for PREIT



Committee Meetings

- (H) Appropriations – OTF - Agenda to be announced.



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