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STRONGER PENALTIES

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and several Pennsylvania lawmakers are working to increase penalties for PFA violations to better protect victims of domestic violence. House Bills 1908 and 1909, both introduced by State Representative **Nate Davidson**, aim to do just that. HB 1908 would create a grading scale for PFA violations while arresting officers would put the violations in state and national databases. HB 1909 would raise the grading scale by one degree under the PFA violation. Both bills have been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

NOW ENTERING

Pottsville native and former federal employee **Rachel Wallace** announced her run for Congress seat in Pennsylvania's 9th district. Wallace pursued a career in public service having worked for Congressman **Tim Holden**, in the U.S. Senate, the State Department, and as Chief of Staff for the Office of Management and Budget. The seat is currently held by incumbent Republican Congressman **Dan Meuser**. Meanwhile, in the 3rd Congressional District, **Dr. Ala Stanford** has joined a crowded Democratic primary but has one thing that the rest of the candidates do not; an endorsement from Congressman **Dwight Evans**. Dr. Stanford is the first Black female pediatric surgeon entirely trained in the United States.

SHAPIRO LEADS POLLS

Governor **Josh Shapiro** holds an early 16-point lead over Republican Treasurer **Stacy Garrity** in the 2026 governor's race, according to a new Quinnipiac University poll. The survey also shows voters split on who to blame for Pennsylvania's ongoing budget impasse and finds Shapiro ahead of Vice President **J.D. Vance** in a hypothetical 2028 presidential matchup.

HERSHEYPARK HAUNTS TOP 10

Hersheypark Halloween and Dark Nights has climbed the charts of spooky fun. The attraction ranked No. 6 on USA TODAY's 10 Best 2025 Readers' Choice Awards for top theme park Halloween events, up from No. 8 last year. Running weekends through

November 2nd, the seasonal favorite features five haunted houses, four scare zones, rides, and entertainment, all included with park admission.

JANE OF THE JUNGLE

Jane Goodall, British primatologist best known for her research on chimpanzee behavior in Tanzania, passed away at 91 yesterday. With nothing more than a notebook and a pair of binoculars, she started her research of chimps in the 1960s to learn about their social structures and capacity for complex thinking. From there, she established the Jane Goodall Institute to advocate for animal rights and the conservation of the natural world.



Happy Birthday

- **James W. Brown**, Board of Directors, Hershey Trust Company
- **Stephanie Catarino**, Wissman, Executive Director, American Petroleum Institute
- **Pam Witmer**, Vice President of Government Affairs, UGI Energy Services



Committee Meetings

- (H) Tourism, Recreation and Economic Development – 10:00AM - Public hearing on HB 1286.



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