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BUDGET SHIFT

Budget Secretary *Uri Monson* will step down next week to become Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System. Governor *Josh Shapiro* highlighted that Monson's tenure included financial reforms that helped the Commonwealth secure its highest bond rating in more than a decade and saved taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Deputy Secretary *Zachary Reber* will be appointed to the top budget post and is set to take over on December 15th.

THE NIGHT BEFORE

Yesterday, the FBI arrested Virginia resident *Brian Cole Jr.* as a suspect in planting pipe bombs outside the Republican and Democrat parties' D.C. headquarters on the eve of the 2021 Capitol riot. According to the criminal complaint Cole, who is 30, resides at home with his mother and other family members. He has been charged with use of an explosive device in addition to any other charges levied over the course of the investigation.

COLOR ME SURPRISED

Pantone, the global authority on color, announced its color of the year for 2026. What the organization refers to as PANTONE 11-4201 Cloud Dancer is a shade of white that resembles what is seen in clouds, invoking a sense of calm in the viewer. Additionally, Pantone announced various partnerships with companies like Motorola, Play-Doh, and Joybird to release products that highlight the calming warmth that the color brings.

PRIME READS

The New York Times Book Review editors have named its 10 Best Books of 2025. The lineup jumps from World War I battlefields to Australian convents to sprawling immigrant family sagas, paired with nonfiction on housing struggles, historic tragedy, and high stakes survival. It is a tight list of the year's most ambitious reads and proof that the editors were not afraid to swing big.

RECORD RATINGS

Thanksgiving football set new highs this year with an average of 45 million viewers across all three NFL games, far above last year's 34.5 million. The Cowboys v. Chiefs matchup on CBS led the day with 57.2 million viewers, making it the most watched regular season game ever. Packers v. Lions drew 47.7 million viewers earlier in the day, and Bengals v. Ravens added 28.4 million at night. The NFL credits the jump to Nielsen's improved tracking of out-of-home viewing and a big lift in streaming numbers, which climbed 58 percent from last year.



Happy Birthday

Today:

• *Matt Osenbach*, Executive Director, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Saturday:

- Former State Representative John Barley
- Christopher Dezzi, President, The Dezzi Group, LTD

Sunday:

• Andre Barnabei, Assistant General Manager, Rivers Casino Pittsburgh



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