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FALLEN HERO

Penbrook Borough said its final goodbye to its late fire chief **Steven Murphy Jr.**, who passed away suddenly on July 23rd. Murphy had served in many roles for Citizens Fire Company No. 1 in Penbrook, serving as Chief since 2021. Murphy had served as a firefighter since he was 14 years old and had over 20 years of experience. His memorial service took place on Friday, July 31st, and was attended by the rest of his company. Murphy was 36 years old.

STEAM SENATOR

On Friday, U.S. Senator **Dave McCormick** (R-PA) toured Harrisburg's Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts, the education and culture venue located on Market Street in Downtown Harrisburg. McCormick observed the facility's efforts to promote a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) education, which McCormick believes is vital to expand across Pennsylvania. The Whitaker Center is home to a wide array of exhibits and experiences, as well as live performances of shows and music. McCormick noted the Center's support for students in underprivileged school districts and praised their ability to educate children.

MUSEUM RENOVATION

The State Museum in Harrisburg is now closed until 2029 as a \$55 million renovation project begins. The museum will undergo a major transformation that includes the installation of accessible elevators, an observation deck, and several other improvements designed to preserve exhibits and improve the experience for visitors. During its final weekend before closing, visitors were invited to pay what they wished for admission as the museum prepared for its first major upgrade since opening in 1964.

FISH FRY OPENS

Last week, Harrisburg resident **LaTasha Gantz** unveiled a new Midtown location for her restaurant, Aunt Hocker's Fish Fry. The opening is far from her first business venture, as she launched the original Aunt Hocker's Fish Fry location in York County in 2024 and has since served customers at festivals and community events in Harrisburg. The menu features comfort food made from family

recipes passed down by Gantz's mother and aunt, including sandwiches, soups, fried catfish, cod, haddock, homemade desserts, and more.

STAFF SHAKEUP

The body of renowned British-Nepali climber **Nirmal Purja** has been recovered from Pakistan's Broad Peak days after a deadly avalanche swept away his 10-member expedition. Purja, known worldwide for climbing the planet's 14 highest peaks in a record 189 days, was found about 5,700 meters up the mountain by a ground rescue team. Purja's death has prompted an outpouring of tributes from around the world, with many remembering him as one of the greatest mountaineers of his generation.



Happy Birthday

- Congressman **Ryan E. Mackenzie**
- **Daniel "Doc" Greenlee**, Associate Professional, PGA
- **Eugene DePasquale**, Chairman, PA Democratic Party
- **Arnie Kriner**, Board Chairman, Tri-County Rural Electric Inc.
- **Shawn Fabian**, Client Development Manager, Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc.
- **Justin Gensimore**, Policy Director and Executive Director, Office of State Senator Marty Flynn



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