

JULY 7, 2026 BLUE VALLEY TIMES

State Fop Issues Statement On Passing Of Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Michael Pahira

By Jill Helsel Gingrich

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. — Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge President Joseph Regan today issued the following statement regarding the passing of Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Michael Pahira.

"Today, Pennsylvania lost more than a dedicated member of the Pennsylvania State Police. Today, the commonwealth lost a public servant who put duty above himself and made the ultimate sacrifice while working to keep our highways safe.

"Every day, law enforcement officers across the commonwealth step into harm's way without knowing what the day may bring. This heartbreaking tragedy is a solemn reminder that even routine enforcement activities carry extraordinary risks.

"The Pennsylvania State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police stands in unwavering support of the Trooper Pahira's loved ones, the men and women of the Pennsylvania State Police, and all law enforcement officers who continue to serve and protect our communities with bravery and fearlessness."

Here are some facts and suggestions for keeping your home comfortable and also understanding some of the specifics of air conditioning in general.

The design criteria for a residential air conditioning system is to keep the house 20 degrees cooler than the outside on a 95° day. A good load calculation will take into account the heat a refrigerator gives off as well as heat from other appliances and humidity from plants and human activity. All of those things add extra load to the system that is required to remove humidity and lower the temperature in your home. If the air filter is dirty or if the outdoor unit is covered with grass clippings and dryer lint or even pollen, it will not be able to work to its full capacity. That may be fine when it is 80° but not when it's 100°. You need every btu you can get on that day. Do everything possible to keep the humidity and the sun out of your home on those days. Don't run the dryer and don't bake. Don't open the windows in the morning just because it feels cool outside or you will allow humidity to enter and your air conditioner will have to work hard to remove that moisture before it can make the temperature drop. Don't expect to keep your house 70° when it is 95° or 100 outside. 80 will feel good when you come in from outside on those days. Keep in mind that it is extremely rare to reach those temperatures in our area. The last time we had 100° was in 2011. When the sun goes down, your air conditioner has a chance to catch up because there is no infrared heat for it to deal with. Be patient.

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday With The Star-spangled Sampler 4-h Camp!

By 4H Club

LEHIGH VALLEY - Get ready for three exciting evenings of learning, creativity, and patriotic fun at the Star-Spangled Sampler 4-H Camp! Youth are invited to join us as we celebrate America's 250th birthday through hands-on activities, engaging lessons, and plenty of red, white, and blue excitement! Each night will feature a different theme highlighting America's history, agriculture and creativity while providing participants with memorable experiences and new skills.

Night One (August 5, 6:30-8:00 pm): How Dairy Shaped America

Did you know that dairy farming has played a major role in America's growth and success? Campers will discover fascinating dairy facts, learn about the seven major dairy cattle breeds, and explore how each breed made its way to America. This fun and interactive evening will help youth understand the important role dairy has played in feeding and building our nation.

Night Two (August 11, 6:30-8:00 pm): Building America with LEGOs

Travel through 250 years of American history as we explore how homes, businesses, landmarks, and cities have changed over time. After learning about America's architectural evolution, campers will put their imaginations to work by creating their own LEGO masterpieces. Whether it is a historical landmark, a dream home, or a completely original creation, the possibilities are endless! Bring your own LEGOs if you wish (and want to keep your creation)!

Night Three (August 18, 6:30-8:00 pm): Red, White, and Blue

We will wrap up the patriotic celebration with a night full of creativity and color! Campers will create festive vegetable baskets using artificial vegetables, design red, white, and blue floral arrangements and decorate delicious cupcakes with patriotic decorations. It is the perfect way to celebrate America's birthday while showcasing craftsmanship.

Join us for one night or all three nights as we honor 250 years of American history through hands-on learning, creativity, and patriotic fun. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

For more information or to register, please contact the Lehigh County 4-H educators!

All camps are held at the Lehigh County Ag Center, 4184 Dorney Park Road, Allentown, PA 18104. To register, visit 4h.zsuite.org, select Lehigh County, and click on Events by July 13. Spaces are limited, so early registration is encouraged.



Da Vinci Science Center Celebrates America's 250th with New Exhibits, Liberty Legacy Garden, and AI Experience

By Da Vinci Science Center

Allentown - As Pennsylvania and the nation commemorate America250, Da Vinci Science Center is celebrating the innovators, inventors, and dreamers who have shaped our country's past and are inspiring its future.

Visitors this summer can experience a variety of special PA250-themed activities throughout the Science Center, including the new Innovators & Inventors exhibit, the Liberty Legacy Garden, and the debut of AI Discovery: Science in 3D, an interactive experience that explores how artificial intelligence is transforming the way we learn, create, and imagine.

The community is also invited to attend the Liberty Legacy Garden Dedication Ceremony on Saturday, July 4th, at 9 a.m. at Da Vinci Science Center at PPL Pavilion. The brief ceremony will officially dedicate the garden as part of the statewide Pennsylvania250 initiative, celebrating the people, places, and ideas that continue to shape our Commonwealth.

"America's story has always been one of curiosity, innovation, and discovery," said Lin Erickson, Executive Director and CEO of Da Vinci Science Center. "Through these special experiences, we're inviting families to celebrate Pennsylvania's remarkable legacy while exploring the science and technology that will define the next 250 years."

Da Vinci Science Center is proud to partner with Pennsylvania250, Lehigh Valley partners, and communities across the Commonwealth in celebrating America's 250th anniversary through education, innovation, and discovery.

For more information, hours, admission information, and a complete schedule of summer events, visit www.davincisciencecenter.org.

Summer Sleepovers Sleep Under the City Stars

By Da Vinci Science Center

ALLENTOWN, PA, - An overnight adventure on our downtown terrace – where science never sleeps!

Summer Sleepovers are perfect for birthday parties, scout troop adventures, or families and friends craving a unique and unforgettable experience.

Urban Camping

Outdoor sleepover on our rooftop terrace for up to 35 guests. Bring your own tents! Earplugs provided if any city noise may bother you.

Exclusive Exhibit Access

Private evening and morning access to Da Vinci Science Center's exhibit floor.

S'mores Before Bed

Roast marshmallows and enjoy s'mores on the terrace before bedtime.

Continental Breakfast

Wake up to a continental-style breakfast before exploring the first floor exhibits one last time.

Da Vinci Science Center Fun Patch

Every participant receives a Da Vinci Science Center Fun Patch as a souvenir

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