



**SPORTS C1**  
**BARKLEY SCORES 2 TDS AS EAGLES EDGE JAGS, 28-23**

**SPORTS C1**  
**EMBIID STRIKES INQUIRER'S HAYES IN LOCKER ROOM**



**LIFE & CULTURE B4**  
**NONPROFIT GIVES TEENS CULINARY EXPERIENCE**

**PHILLY & REGION B1**  
**PHILLY AREA LAWYERS ON FRONT LINES OF CHILD SEX ABUSE CASES**

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



Former President Donald Trump speaking at a campaign rally in Lititz, Pa., on Sunday. The Republican presidential candidate's closing pitch in Lancaster County played out like a lengthy stream-of-consciousness tirade. Evan Vucci / AP

**CAMPAIGN 2024**

## Trump ramps up rhetoric, false fraud claims in Pa.

**In Lancaster County, he ditched the teleprompter and called the Democratic Party "demonic" cheaters and mused about journalists being shot.**

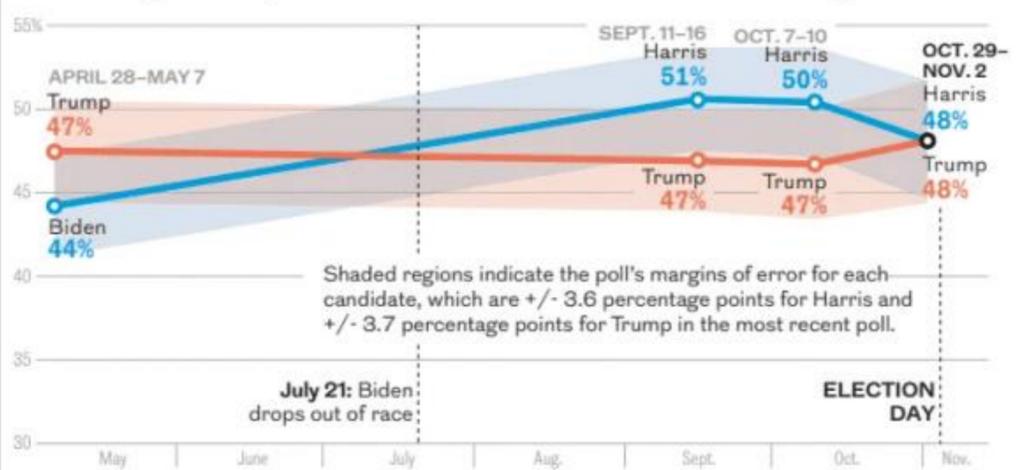
By Julia Terruso  
 Staff Writer

LITITZ, Pa. — In one of his final rallies in the most critical battleground of the presidential election, former President Donald Trump ranted off-script about unproven election fraud in the state and called the Democratic Party "demonic" and "cheaters."

In what appears to be a neck-and-neck race in the state, Trump spent his 22nd visit of the year here ignoring the teleprompter and vamping with a crowd of faithfuls who gathered on a chilly, sunny Sunday morning. The visit came as polling three days before Election Day predicted a photo finish in Pennsylvania. But Trump's closing pitch included just a brief mention of pledging to "fix" what Democrats

- Inside**
- Star-studded lineup set for closing rally on the Parkway. **A2**
  - Five Philly voting trends to watch for. **A6**
  - Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance on SNL. **A10**

**Philadelphia Inquirer / New York Times / Siena College Poll**



**Note:** Results for the latest poll includes 5 respondents who already cast a vote for a third-party candidate, whose responses accounted for 0.3% of the 1,527 registered voters surveyed. Previous polls did not reflect preferences for third-party candidates.

Source: Philadelphia Inquirer/New York Times/Siena College poll | John Duchneskie / Staff Artist

## Poll: A dead heat in Keystone State

By Sean Collins Walsh  
 Staff Writer

Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump are virtually tied in Pennsylvania, according to a new Philadelphia Inquirer/New York Times/Siena College poll of likely voters.

About 48% of the respondents said they supported Harris, and another 48% backed Trump,

reflecting a dead heat in what many view as the pivotal swing state. Previous Inquirer/Times/Siena College polls in Pennsylvania, from September and early October, showed Harris with 4 percentage-point leads, indicating Trump may have gained ground. In the more recent poll, people who already voted for a third-party candidate were included in results. The new poll surveyed 1,527 likely Pennsylvania voters from

Oct. 29 to Nov. 2. The margin of error was 3.5%. Both candidates and their running mates are making numerous campaign stops in the Keystone State in the final two days of the race. On Monday, Trump will hold events in Pittsburgh and Reading, while Harris has planned a get-out-the-vote concert rally at the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art that evening.

→ SEE TRUMP ON A4 | → SEE POLL ON A3

## Temple's president starts job with focus on safety

**"Public safety is the cornerstone of any institution," John A. Fry said on his busy first day.**

By Susan Snyder  
 Staff Writer

MIDDAY Friday, John A. Fry's wife texted him: "How goes it, Owl?" "So far, so good!" Fry responded. It was the first day of school for Fry, who officially became president of Temple University, home of the Owls, on Friday. He wore a cherry-red tie with "T's" for Temple — one his predecessor Richard M. Englert frequently donned — and a pin with the scales of justice and the words "leadership" and "integrity" in honor of late president JoAnne A. Epps, the former law school dean who died suddenly last year.

"When I was suiting up, I was thinking of the two of them," said Fry, 64, who led Drexel University in West Philadelphia for 14 years before crossing town to take the helm at Temple. "I'm following in the footsteps of really great leaders."

The day was packed: He met with the provost and vice provost for enrollment management and learned that applications are coming in strong. He listened to student government leaders pitch what he thought were very constructive improvements to campus shuttle service. At a presidential transition team meeting, plans were made to expand campus shuttle service if a SEPTA strike occurs.

There was lunch with outgoing president Englert, a personnel matter to resolve, and a visit to the College of Liberal Arts, where he stopped in at a few classes and heard a promising pitch from dean Richard Deeg on expanding study abroad opportunities to Latin America and Africa. He got a tour of main campus led by student ambassadors, strolled by a student pep rally for the basketball team at the Bell Tower, and met with about 40 officers and leaders in the Department of Public Safety.

Fry announced on a campus welcome video that campus and neighborhood safety would be his first priority.

"Public safety is the cornerstone of any institution," he said. "If people don't feel safe, if they don't feel like they are in a good public environment, it really sort of distracts them from the work they are supposed to be doing, whether as students, faculty, or staff."

Temple's campus in recent years has been rattled by shooting deaths of former student Samuel Collington outside his off-campus apartment in 2021 and Temple police Sgt. Christopher Fitzgerald in 2023, yielding new safety efforts and a decrease in aggravated assaults, robberies, and thefts around campus.

→ SEE FRY ON A9

## Casey, McCormick make closing arguments

**The Senate candidates made final appeals in one of the nation's most closely watched contests.**

By Sean Collins Walsh  
 Staff Writer

TOWANDA, Pa. — As the sun was setting over the Endless Mountains on Friday evening, Dave McCormick's campaign bus rumbled to the top of a ridge overlooking the Susquehanna River and stopped outside VFW Post 1568.

Wearing alligator-skin boots, blue jeans, and a gingham button-down, the Republican U.S. Senate candidate stepped inside

the lodge and was greeted with an ovation by the assembled veterans and their families.

"The best way that we can keep peace is to have strength — a military that's not woke and focusing on millions of hours of DEI training," said McCormick, a West Point graduate who served in the Gulf War. "A military's single mission should be lethality, the capacity to

destroy the enemy. No one wants peace more than people that have served in combat."

McCormick's campaign against three-term U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D., Pa.) is one of the most closely watched races in the country, and the Republican's message is clear: I am strong, and Casey is weak.

"Whenever the bullets start

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# Featuring Philly

## NEWS



A family crosses the trail at Four Mills Nature Reserve in Ambler, Pa. Monica Herndon / Staff Photographer

### HOW TO PHILLY Tips to make your week better

#### Warm fall days? Try these family-friendly hikes near Philly!

With the unseasonably warm weather, it's a great time to hit the trails and enjoy nature without the beach crowds. Pack some ice water and check out these nearby family-friendly hikes:

##### John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge

**Philly**  
Just 20 minutes from Center City, this 1,000-acre urban oasis is perfect for kids. Spot wildlife on the Wetland Loop trail.

##### Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education

**Philly**  
Explore fields, forests, and ponds on the easy Widener Trail, plus outdoor art and bird blinds. A 30-minute drive from Center City.

##### Four Mills Nature Reserve

**Ambler, Pa.**  
Introduce young kids to nature with gentle 1.5-mile trails and creek views. Splash in the Wissahickon Creek for a cool down!

##### Sourland Mountain Preserve

**Hillsborough, N.J.**  
Rock formations, bird-watching, and scenic views await in this one-hour drive adventure.

##### Black Run Preserve

**Evesham, N.J.**  
Flat trails, giant pine trees, and kid-friendly activity sheets make this peaceful spot ideal for family exploration.

Enjoy these local trails for a refreshing family outing before winter — or fall (?) — really hits. —By Sam Ruland

#### COMING TOMORROW

Trivia Tuesday



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# Philly preps for final Harris rally on Parkway

By Emily Bloch and Rob Tornoe  
Staff Writers

Vice President Kamala Harris will hold a get-out-the-vote concert rally Monday night at the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art as the presidential campaigns continue to focus on the critical swing state of Pennsylvania. A similar Harris concert rally will take place in Pittsburgh earlier that evening.

Here's everything we know about the Philly rally so far.

#### Where and when will the Philadelphia rally take place?

The rally and concert will take place on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, below the Art Museum steps, on Monday night — election eve — from 5 to 9 p.m., according to campaign messaging.

#### Who's performing at the rally?

The rally and concert will feature a star-studded cast of musicians and celebrities, many of whom have direct ties to Philadelphia.

Among those expected to perform are Lady Gaga, Ricky Martin, The Roots, DJ Cassidy, Freeway and Just Blaze, Jazmine Sullivan, and Adam Blackstone, according to the Harris campaign. Former talk show host Oprah Winfrey, who interviewed Harris last month, will also speak at the rally, as will Fat Joe and DJ Jazzy Jeff.

The get-out-the-vote event will be tied together with a national livestream show which will spotlight "every battleground states' rallies, performances, and speeches," the campaign

announced.

Before Monday night's event in Philadelphia, Harris will also attend a separate rally and concert in Pittsburgh, which will feature Katy Perry, D-Nice, and Andra Day.

Performers at Harris rallies have included Bruce Springsteen, John Legend, Gracie Abrams, and more. Celebrities and artists with Philly ties who have endorsed Harris include Pink, Questlove, and Abbott Elementary's Sheryl Lee Ralph, as well as Delaware's Aubrey Plaza.

#### Who can attend the rally?

Rallies are free and open to the public.

Those interested in attending can register via a listing on the Democratic National Committee event page. That may also add you to their mail and fundraising list.

How can I watch the rally from home?

The Harris campaign has consistently live streamed its rallies and events from its YouTube channel.

You can watch for updates on the campaign's live video page.

#### Road closures

City officials started closing some streets as early as Friday.

Motorists are advised to avoid areas near Fairmount Avenue and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and to expect delays.

The following streets are closed through 8 p.m. Tuesday:

- Eakins Oval between Kelly Drive and Spring Garden Street
- Kelly Drive (inbound) from 25th Street to Benjamin Franklin Parkway
- Spring Garden Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Kelly Drive

- Benjamin Franklin Parkway (inner and outer lanes) between 22nd and 24th Streets

The following streets will be closed from 5 a.m. Monday to about 8 p.m. Tuesday:

- The entire width of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, beginning at 18th Street and extending west through Eakins Oval to 25th Street
  - 19th Street between Arch and Callowhill Streets
  - 20th Street between Arch and Vine Streets
  - 21st Street between Winter and Hamilton Streets
  - 22nd Street between Winter and Spring Garden Streets
  - 23rd Street between the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and Pennsylvania Avenue
  - Spring Garden Street Tunnel
  - Spring Garden Street Bridge
  - Kelly Drive between Fairmount Avenue and Eakins Oval
  - Martin Luther King Jr. Drive between the Falls Bridge and Eakins Oval
  - I-676 westbound off-ramp at 22nd Street (the I-676 eastbound off-ramp at 23rd Street will remain open)
- Short-duration, intermittent closures of 2200 to 2400 Pennsylvania Avenue are expected Monday to move equipment and resources. Motorists are advised to use caution in the area and follow instructions from the Philadelphia Police Department.
- There will also be parking restrictions throughout the immediate area.

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# Thousands turned away from Michelle Obama rally in Norristown

By Aliya Schneider  
Staff Writer

There were so many lines outside Norristown Area High School on Saturday evening, it was hard to tell what direction they were going in. Thousands were hoping to see former first lady Michelle Obama and musician Alicia Keys, surrogates for Vice President Kamala Harris, who made the trip to Montgomery County just three days before the presidential election.

Thousands were turned away due to fire safety capacity constraints.

Montgomery County — where Gov. Josh Shapiro got his political start — is a Democratic stronghold, and voter turnout in the powerful Philadelphia suburbs can seriously impact who wins the presidential race in Pennsylvania, and therefore, the whole race.

"You know I love you, because I don't like politics, and I'm out here again," Obama said to an overflow crowd that filled the school auditorium as much as the fire marshal would allow. "But this race is important, and what happens in this county and in this state absolutely matters. That is why we are here."

"You are so powerful and so important — you are the most important, actually," Keys said to the Pennsylvania voters, one visibly starstruck with her mouth agape.

The celebrity guests then went to the main stage, in a gymnasium full of nearly 4,000 people.

Keys emphasized the importance of voting up and down the ballot, using the fight for women's suffrage as an example of the power of Congress. Shapiro told the crowd that Pennsylvanians get to decide not just the next president, but what values the country holds.

"It actually may be the only thing Kamala Harris and Donald Trump agree on," Shapiro said to the energized crowd. "Whoever wins Pennsylvania is likely to be the next president of the United States."

Obama gave a 30-minute speech in which she described Trump — or as she and Keys called him, "Kamala's opponent" — as an embodiment of a hatred that's existed in the country for years but has become more insidious, cunning, and bombastic. She said whether his platform resonates with enough people is part of "the great



Former first lady Michelle Obama traveled to Norristown to rally voters in support of Vice President Kamala Harris on Saturday. Charles Fox / Staff Photographer

experiment we call democracy."

Bonita Patterson, 69, a Philadelphia teacher from Drexel Hill attending the rally, said that while she supports Harris, she would vote for anyone decent running against Trump, even a Republican — and she's voted Democrat all her life.

"I feel like he opened up a bandage that had a lot of puss underneath," she said. "And that's why everybody feels free to say and do whatever they want now, and racism seems to be what's going up instead of what's going down."

Another attendee, Sonya Harris, 53, a Norristown sales manager whose son attends the high school, said she phone-banked, canvassed, and attended several rallies for the first time this year. She believes Montco voters will turn out, noting that she's noticed more campaign signs in the county than past years.

"We have to win," she said. "There's really no alternative. We just can't go back to chaos and confusion and all that Donald Trump brings, we just can't."

In her remarks, Obama said the energy for Harris on the campaign trail is reminiscent of her husband's own run.

"Yes we can!" someone shouted from the crowd.

"We did, and we can do it again," Obama responded.

She also urged attendees to take action in the final stretch by having an uncomfortable conversation, knocking on doors, or driving people to the polls.

"Folks, the process will go on with or without you," she said. "Decisions will be made, judges will be appointed, laws passed."

Biden won the election in Pennsylvania by less than 82,000 votes in 2020. Obama said that breaks down to less than nine votes per precinct. She also pointed to a 2020 Iowa congressional race that was won by six votes.

"Six folks, ya'll, that's your group chat," Obama said. "That's your fantasy football league, or at least half of it. So just think about it, maybe you and your friends can swing the whole presidential election. That is possible, that is the power."

Obama said progress in the country is comparable to building a skyscraper, scaling a mountain, or making a sandcastle — "a lot easier to destroy than to build up." She said that despite working each day for incremental progress, one outcome can swiftly and mercilessly reverse course, whether it's a hurricane, a pandemic-causing virus, or "a small man trying to make himself feel big by pouring gasoline on other people's genuine pain and anger and fear."

"You can spend a lifetime carefully, painstakingly constructing something brick by brick, but it takes only one big wave, one strong gust of wind, and all your efforts can be swept away in an instant," she said. "That's what's at stake in this election."

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# State senator puts pregnancy loss in spotlight

**The Democrat from Montgomery County is coming forward about her treatment for a nonviable pregnancy as women's health remains a campaign issue.**

By Gillian McGoldrick  
Staff Writer

Just over a week ago, Pennsylvania State Sen. Amanda Cappelletti learned that her nearly 10-week-old fetus did not have the electrical activity needed to have a heartbeat.

Cappelletti would need a dilation and evacuation procedure to prevent complications from allowing her nonviable pregnancy to end on its own. She had the abortion last Monday, just a week before Election Day.

The Democrat from Montgomery County made history last year as the first sitting state senator to give birth while in office to her now-19-month-old daughter Taglia McQuiston, and she has been open about two previous miscarriages.

Now, just days before voters go to the polls Tuesday with abortion access a decisive issue for voters, Cappelletti is coming forward about her family's latest heart-breaking loss.

Cappelletti is grateful that as a resident of Pennsylvania, where abortion is accessible up to 24 weeks of gestation, she got the medical care she needed. But she knows that may not have been the case for women in 21 states with restrictive or total abortion bans in place.

"I don't know that I fully processed my own grief, because that's just where my mind went to right away," Cappelletti said, in an emotional interview just a few days after her loss.

Maternal mortality has increased in states with more restrictive abortion laws in the two years since the U.S. Supreme Court



**State Sen. Amanda Cappelletti, with her daughter at home in Montgomery County on Sunday, was the first Pennsylvania state senator to give birth while in office. About a week ago, she had an abortion to prevent complications from allowing her nonviable pregnancy to end on its own. She wants people to consider the right to such access as they vote in Tuesday's election.** Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

overturned a constitutional right to an abortion, though it will be years until the effect of the laws is clear.

An investigative series by ProPublica has tracked at least four

women who have died "preventable" deaths — mostly due to needing abortion procedures as they were facing a miscarriage, but health-care providers could

not act, without risking criminal charges, until there was no fetal heartbeat. One of these reports, published Nov. 1, documented the 20-hour wait and three emergency room visits one Texas teenager made before dying from an infection while having a miscarriage.

Cappelletti's health was not immediately in danger. But if she waited for her body to reject the pregnancy on its own, she was at a greater risk of dangerous levels of bleeding or an infection, her doctor told her. And since Cappelletti's fetus did not have a heartbeat, she may have been able to get the medical procedure, even in the states with the most restrictive abortion bans.

However, she said she worries that should former President Donald Trump be reelected, he would limit abortions nationally, as detailed by the conservative Project 2025. Trump has distanced

himself from the 900-page policy agenda, despite it being authored by 140 former Trump administration officials.

"It wasn't lost on me that the procedure I would be getting a week before Election Day might not be available to me the next time I might need it," Cappelletti said.

The Trump campaign, in a statement, said Democrats and Vice President Kamala Harris are "LYING and fear-mongering because they have NOTHING else to offer the American people" about Trump's relationship with Project 2025 and he has "long been consistent in supporting the rights of the states to make decisions on abortion." Karoline Leavitt, his national press secretary, also said Trump would not sign a federal abortion ban if back in the White House.

Cappelletti, who worked as the director of policy for Planned Parenthood before her election to the state Senate in 2020, said she and her husband were "very excited to welcome a second child."

Cappelletti's name will appear on Tuesday's ballot, as she is up for reelection against Republican Greg Harris. She'll continue to experience the symptoms of her loss through the next week, including cramping and bleeding. The emotional side, however, will likely be dealt with after the election, she said.

Her extraordinary public plea is not for her reelection, which she is expected to win. Or necessarily to "politicize my grief," contending "reproductive rights was already politicized."

Rather, her message is to undecided voters across Pennsylvania that they consider voting for Vice President Kamala Harris, who has made abortion access a cornerstone of her presidential campaign.

"My plea is as a human being, and as a mother: I deserve dignity and respect that I'm going to make the decisions that are best for me and my community."

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## Senate

→ CONTINUED FROM A1

flying, he ducks," McCormick said of Casey at a campaign stop earlier Friday outside the state's largest firearms shop, Grice Gun Shop in Clearfield.

Casey, meanwhile, has hammered McCormick over questions about the Republican's ties to Pennsylvania and controversies related to his time as CEO of the world's largest hedge fund, Bridgewater Associates.

And as he travels the state, Casey has employed an old-fashioned bring-home-the-bacon appeal, pausing his stump speech to read from an index card and list the line items from President Joe Biden's pandemic relief legislation that are earmarked for the county he is in.

"How about transit money? Twenty-five million dollars," Casey said during a Westmoreland County Democratic get-out-the-vote event Thursday in Murrysville. "The community college — \$9.5 million. Nine fire departments got help because of my votes and my work. Forty-six million dollars for bridge investment in this county."

### Casey focuses on 'Connecticut Dave'

If McCormick has framed the race as one of strength vs. weakness, Casey has worked to make it a question of honesty.

In merciless TV ads and during their two debates, the incumbent has criticized McCormick for talking tough on China on the campaign trail despite Bridgewater playing a pioneering role in opening up Chinese markets for U.S. investment firms during his tenure. And he has accused McCormick of lying about where he lives.

McCormick grew up in Bloomsburg and worked in the Pittsburgh area for about a decade as an adult. But he lived in Connecticut, where Bridgewater is based, for years before returning to the Keystone State around 2022, when he launched his political career. While campaigning this year, he has

continued to spend time in Connecticut, where one of his daughters from a previous marriage still lives.

"Last time I checked, Connecticut is not one of our 67 counties," Casey said in Murrysville.

Standing next to him was a physical embodiment of that notion. It was Halloween, and U.S. Sen. John Fetterman (D., Pa.), who is not up for reelection this year, wore a costume inspired by the 2007 comedy *Superbad*, with a sandwich board-style printout of the character McLovin's Hawaiian fake ID, but with the picture and details changed to McCormick's and "Pennsylvania" scribbled across the top.

"Who wants to talk about the Connecticut guy?" said Fetterman, who won his seat in 2022 by defeating Mehmet Oz amid questions about whether the celebrity physician lived in New Jersey. "He is trying to hope that people are going to pick a guy that doesn't live in Pennsylvania. That didn't work great for Dr. Oz."

Amy Lowmaster, a Punxsutawney resident who attended McCormick's Clearfield event, said she wasn't bothered by questions about McCormick's residence.

"What man wouldn't live near his daughters?" Lowmaster said. "That's not fair that they criticize him about living in Connecticut. That was part of his life. But he is here now and he has history here, and he's one of our own."

### Race to the center

Neither candidate faced a primary opponent, and both have sought to cast themselves as centrists in the general election.

McCormick this year has softened his stance on abortion rights, saying he opposes abortion but supports exceptions in cases involving rape, incest, or threats to the life of the mother. While running in the 2022 GOP primary, he articulated support only for the third exception.

In an unusual ad, McCormick looks directly at the camera and lays out an argument that it's Casey who's outside the mainstream on the issue, casting the Democrat's vote in favor of legislation guaranteeing abortion rights nationwide as support for "late-term abortion."

"Sen. Casey has the more extreme position," he said. "I'm more middle of the road, and

looking for common ground."

Casey, meanwhile, has worked to create daylight between himself and his party on other issues, touting his support for natural gas fracking and running ads noting his alignment with former President Donald Trump on trade.

At a campaign stop Thursday in Allegheny County, Casey highlighted times he has opposed deals backed by Democratic administrations and supported aspects of Trump's protectionist agenda, such as the 2018 U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

"Part of that record is also fighting to stop trade deals that I thought were bad for the country," Casey told reporters at a get-out-the-vote event in Castle Shannon. "Whether that's agreeing with a Republican president or a Democratic president, I don't really care. It's what we've got to do. I've got to do what's best for Pennsylvania."

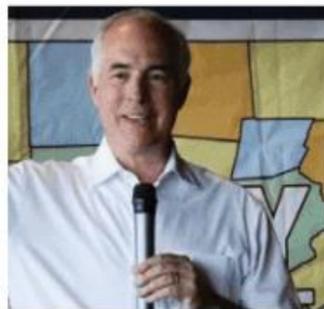
The USMCA revised the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, which has been criticized for accelerating the loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs. Casey noted that he criticized NAFTA as state auditor general in the 1990s and opposed former President Barack Obama's unsuccessful effort to form a Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, with Pacific Rim nations.

Erwin resident Marsha White attended Casey's Murrysville event, a canvass launch, and said she was nervous: She had never volunteered to knock on doors for a campaign before and she was now preparing to do so deep in Trump country on behalf of Harris and Casey.

A Westmoreland County native, White said discussions about politics with her friends and family members have become increasingly vitriolic in the Trump era, and she admitted she has often struggled to stay out of the fray. Casey's mild-mannered approach to politics, she said, was a welcome change of pace.

"He seems to be present, where he needs to be," White said. "He has strong character. You don't hear anything weird about him."

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**U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D., Pa.) is seeking a fourth term, while Republican Dave McCormick, right, is making his second run for office.** Jose F. Moreno, Steven M. Falk / Staff Photographers



## Poll: Casey has slight edge over McCormick

By Sean Collins Walsh  
Staff Writer

Democratic incumbent Bob Casey holds a 5 percentage point lead over Republican challenger Dave McCormick in Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate race, according to a new Philadelphia Inquirer/New York Times/Siena College poll.

About 50% of likely voters in the poll said they planned to vote for Casey, who is seeking a fourth term, and 45% for McCormick, an Army veteran and former hedge fund CEO.

Casey was ahead by 4 percentage points in the previous Inquirer/Times/Siena College poll, from early October, and he had a 9-point lead in the September poll.

Notably the new poll shows the presidential race tightening in Pennsylvania — with Vice President Kamala Harris now virtually

### Acknowledgment

The Philadelphia Inquirer/New York Times/Siena College Poll was funded by a grant from The Lenfest Institute for Journalism. The poll was designed and conducted independently from the institute.

tioned with former President Donald Trump despite previously holding a 4-point lead — with the Senate race holding steady.

The new poll surveyed 1,527 likely Pennsylvania voters from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2. The margin of error was 3.5%.

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## Poll

→ CONTINUED FROM A1

About 43% of respondents said they had a favorable view of Trump, and 52% reported unfavorable views of the former president. Harris' approval rating was 48%, with 50% viewing her unfavorably.

When asked what issue was most important in deciding who to vote for, about 25% said the economy, the most common response. The next most common answers were abortion, with 19% of those surveyed ranking it first, and immigration, at 15%.

The poll showed more evidence for a gender gap in this year's

election. Among Pennsylvania respondents, 53% of women said they were voting for Harris, and 44% for Trump. Conversely, about 53% of male voters were supporting Trump and 43% Harris.

The Times on Sunday also released polls of other swing states, showing Harris with narrow leads in Wisconsin, North Carolina, Nevada, and Georgia, and Trump ahead in Arizona and Michigan.

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**You don't hear anything weird about him.**  
Marsha White, Casey volunteer

## NEWS

# Massive in-person turnout expected

By Katie Bernard  
Staff Writer

When polls open at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, officials across Pennsylvania are expecting more voters to arrive and cast their ballots in person than they've seen in nearly a decade.

More than 6 million voters cast ballots in the presidential election in 2016; the lion's share of those were in person on Election Day as Pennsylvania had not yet enacted widespread mail voting.

But since then, the voting landscape in Pennsylvania has dramatically changed.

In 2019, the Pennsylvania General Assembly approved no-excuse mail voting, coincidentally making the critical change just before a pandemic hit. Mail voting went from a little-used method for absentee voters to one that dominated the 2020 election.

But in the years since, voters have begun returning to the polls on Election Day. Mail voting has remained a popular option — as of Thursday, more than 2 million Pennsylvania voters had requested a mail ballot and more than 1.6 million had returned their ballots. But that number doesn't come close to the number of mail ballots cast four years ago.

The change will impact both how voters experience Election Day and how campaigns and analysts interpret the results as they're being reported.

"So much of it will be dependent upon Election Day because it's not 2020, people are not going to all vote by mail," Neil Makhija, a Democrat who chairs the Montgomery County Election Board, said in an interview about the impact of the Philly suburbs earlier this month.

As analysts predict 2024 could become the highest-turnout election in U.S. history, election officials are preparing for more in-person voters than they've seen in years.

Here's what that means:

## Will there be longer lines on Election Day?

For the most part, election officials have said they don't expect longer lines on Nov. 5 as a result of higher in-person turnout.

Election officials have employed new equipment in polling places, like electronic poll books, that help poll workers check in voters and move them through a polling place quicker.

Lines are most likely first thing in the morning, when doors open and voters try to cast their ballots before the workday.

Technical issues or an unexpected surge of voters could also cause longer lines at a polling place for a given period of time.

## What impact will turnout have on ballot counting?

More in-person voters will likely mean election officials in Pennsylvania are able to count ballots more quickly.

In previous years, slowdowns in counting and reporting of results have been the result of the long process surrounding counting mail

ballots under the state's law.

Pennsylvania election officials are not allowed to begin processing mail ballots until 7 a.m. on Election Day. This process includes slicing open ballot envelopes, removing ballots from the envelopes, flattening them, and scanning them into counting machines.

Counting of in-person votes, on the other hand, is a much quicker process because of voting machines used by voters on Election Day.

Depending on turnout, and how many mail ballots are returned to the election office on Election Day, officials anticipate they will be able to finish tallying mail ballots within a day or two of Election Day rather than the five days it took in 2020.

Of course, additional ballots, including provisional ballots and overseas ballots, may still be tallied after that period.

## How will 2024 results be reported?

The leads in races on election night from the presidential race on down may fluctuate. This is entirely normal.

The first votes that counties generally count and report are mail ballots that came in before Election Day and were processed between 7 a.m. and polls closing.

As of Thursday, registered Democrats accounted for 56% of ballots that had been returned in Pennsylvania. Republicans represented 33% of returned ballots. While Republicans have increased their share of mail ballots from 2020, it is still likely that first batch of ballots will skew toward Democratic candidates, including Vice President Kamala Harris.

Similarly, Election Day returns that will be reported throughout the evening and night on Tuesday are likely to skew toward former President Donald Trump and other Republican candidates.

The results that are reported overnight and in the days following the election will be additional mail ballots that came in on Election Day. Once again, these are likely to skew toward Democrats as they have an overall lead in the number of mail ballots requested.

How close the race is will determine when news organizations, like the Associated Press, declare the winner. While it is possible the winner of the state will be clear Tuesday night, it is also possible that it may be days before it is clear who won the Commonwealth.

## How can I find my polling place in Pennsylvania?

For voters heading to their polling place in person on Tuesday, polls open at 7 a.m. Anyone who is in line at their polling place by the time polls close at 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

However, in order to vote on Election Day, voters must report to their assigned polling place.

Voters can locate their assigned polling place at the Department of State's website or their county election office website.

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Katie J. Bernard



Gov. Josh Shapiro speaks to small-business owners at a rally for Vice President Kamala Harris in Germantown on Sunday. "She's someone who's going to make our economy healthy, and someone who's going to help make sure that when you're sitting around the kitchen table, that you're going to be better off because Kamala Harris is president," said Shapiro. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

# Shapiro, Parker say Harris is best for strong economy

By Rosa Cartagena  
Staff Writer

Gov. Josh Shapiro and Mayor Chelle L. Parker teamed up on Sunday in Philadelphia to speak to business leaders at a get-out-the-vote event for Vice President Kamala Harris, calling her the partner they need to realize the economic plans they have for the city and state.

Their backdrop was Germantown's P4 Hub, a coworking space for entrepreneurs of color run by the firm DiverseForce. Both Democratic political leaders said they need a partner in the White House who will work with them to govern and serve Philadelphia and Pennsylvania; that collaborator is Harris.

Parker recalled her own historic election, becoming the first female mayor of Philadelphia, saying that when she finally arrived in her new office in January, many people asked her how she felt.

"I felt vulnerable," Parker told the crowd of about 80 people. "I felt vulnerable because I understood that, although I had just personally achieved this historic milestone in this city, none of it mattered without intergovernmental cooperation and planning and support ... I realized that, without the White House in support of our agenda in Philadelphia, that none of the promises that I made will I ever be able to bring to fruition."

Calling Pennsylvania "the swingiest of all swing states in the nation," Parker encouraged everyone to vote and pointed to the 2020 election, when President Joe Biden won the state by roughly 80,000 votes. She credited that victory to high voter turnout in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, and Montgomery Counties.

Parker said that while she can feel high energy backing Harris when she's talking to voters, "we are still in underdog mode." She recalled hearing Philadelphians concerned about the high prices of groceries and said that Harris' economic plans will help families in need.

"Some of us, who are products of humble beginnings, like myself, we begin to think about what that means to the men and women who are trying to make ends meet on a daily basis," said Parker. "So when you hear our vice president talk about an opportunity economy that just doesn't allow people to just get by, but an economy that allows them to be equipped with the tools that is access to economic opportunity that will help them get ahead — that is what we have to be excited about."

Following the mayor, Shapiro made the case for Harris' plan to create an opportunity economy.

"She's someone who's going to make our economy healthy, and someone who's going to help make sure that when you're sitting around the kitchen table, that you're going to be better off because Kamala Harris is president," said Shapiro. "On the other side, Donald Trump, his economic policy is all about giving his buddies a tax cut, screwing over most of you in this room, and making it harder for us in Pennsylvania."

Shapiro said he's focused on two things as governor: fighting for Pennsylvanians' freedoms and getting stuff done, which has become his motto. "This election now is a referendum on those two things — which presidential candidate is really for our freedoms and which presidential candidate is going to get stuff done for all of us," Shapiro said.

To be effective, Shapiro said,

he needs a partner as president who will work with Pennsylvania, like Biden did last year when providing assistance to reopen I-95 in 12 days after a gasoline tanker fire caused a partial collapse of the major East Coast highway in Philadelphia.

The governor ended his remarks by underscoring the decisive power of Pennsylvania voters and noting the state's and nation's historic roots. "Remember William Penn founded this commonwealth on the promise of religious tolerance, on the promise of inclusion. Now, I'm not sure Penn ever imagined I'd be standing in a Black-owned business as a Jewish governor, talking to all of you about an AAPI woman who wants to be the president of the United States," Shapiro said, chuckling as the audience applauded. "I'd like to think he'd be proud of that."

Surrogates for Trump also campaigned in the Philadelphia area this weekend, with a handful of former administration officials and members of Congress making several stops in the collar counties as part of a statewide bus tour. During a stop at a construction company in Broomall, Delaware County, on Saturday, speakers implored the 150 supporters there to encourage their friends and family to vote, and they said the suburbs of Philadelphia will decide the future of the country.

"Pennsylvania will win or lose this thing for Donald J. Trump," said Kash Patel, who worked in national security during the previous Trump administration. "And look, whatever they're gonna do, we have the numbers."

Staff writer Anna Orso contributed to this article.

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Rosa Cartagena

# Trump

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"broke," and otherwise played out like a lengthy stream-of-consciousness tirade.

"When they say he gave a long and rambling speech, say, 'It was brilliant,'" the Republican candidate told the crowd as his remarks hit the 90-minute mark.

If there was one theme of Trump's remarks it was a heavy focus on false claims of election fraud in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. On stage, he inaccurately described a situation in Lancaster County in which county officials are investigating a batch of 2,500 registration applications that included some potentially fraudulent applications. Trump contended all 2,500 ballots were "written in the same hand."

Trump contradicted his own party's push to get Republicans to vote by mail, saying, "we should have one-day voting and paper ballots."

He lamented county officials who were "extending hours," for voting, when his own party successfully sued to extend the window for voters to apply for mail ballots in Bucks County.

"There's so many things happening in Pennsylvania. We're in court all the time," Trump said.

He repeatedly blasted the election administration system in the nation despite no widespread evidence of election fraud. He said voting machines should "never be used" and claimed it was unknown how many votes he got in 2020 while also falsely stating he won Pennsylvania.

"If nothing comes out of the whole thing, you better get a new system," he said.

The stage was set for Trump to contrast Vice President Kamala Harris' record within the Biden administration against his own. But while the podium said "Trump will fix it," and attendees held signs that said "Kamala broke it, Trump will fix it," his speech focused very little on the economy or policy differences.

Instead, Trump rolled out a list of grievances in what was, at times, a nostalgic reflection on his nine years of running for office.

"For future elections, I won't be part of it," Trump said. At one point he seemed to acknowledge he

could be defeated. "It's going bad. And it can never get fixed because we're never gonna get the right people in because of what they do with elections."

The day started with a lineup of female speakers, including race car driver Danica Patrick, former U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, and Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders. The former president is about nine points behind with women in the state, according to a Philadelphia Inquirer/New York Times/Siena College poll released Sunday.

An hour and 15 minutes into his speech (which he arrived for an hour late), people had started leaving the Lancaster airport. Trump flung insults at his political enemies. He called U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D., Calif.) "ugly," former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "crazy," and harkened back to 2016, calling Hillary Clinton "crooked." He called Chinese president Xi Jinping "brilliant," (but also "not a very good person").

For nearly a decade Trump has villainized the press but took his vitriol a step further on Sunday as he evaluated the bulletproof glass

around him.

"To get me, someone would have to shoot through the fake news and I don't mind that so much," he said, gesturing to about 100 reporters and photographers working on the media stand directly in front of him.

That elicited a statement of clarification from the Trump campaign's communications director, Steven Cheung, who said the former president's comment "has nothing to do with the Media being harmed" but rather "threats against him that were spurred on by dangerous rhetoric from Democrats."

"In fact," Cheung continued, "President Trump was stating that the Media was in danger, in that they were protecting him and, therefore, were in great danger themselves, and should have had a glass protective shield, also."

Jeff Bartos, a former GOP Senate candidate from Lower Merion who has been stumping for Trump, said Trump's off-script style is often what people come to see.

"People who are coming out in cold weather by the thousands,

they take him seriously, but not literally," Bartos said. "I think too many in [the media] maybe take it too literally."

Robert Chirico, 56, who lives near Stroudsburg, and works in IT, called the election stakes huge. "I feel everything's at stake."

"You know, you go in the grocery store, everything costs so much more," Chirico said. "People are really, really hurting. ... The border, immigration, security, things are really bad. I've never seen it so bad. I'm worried for my children, for my grandchildren."

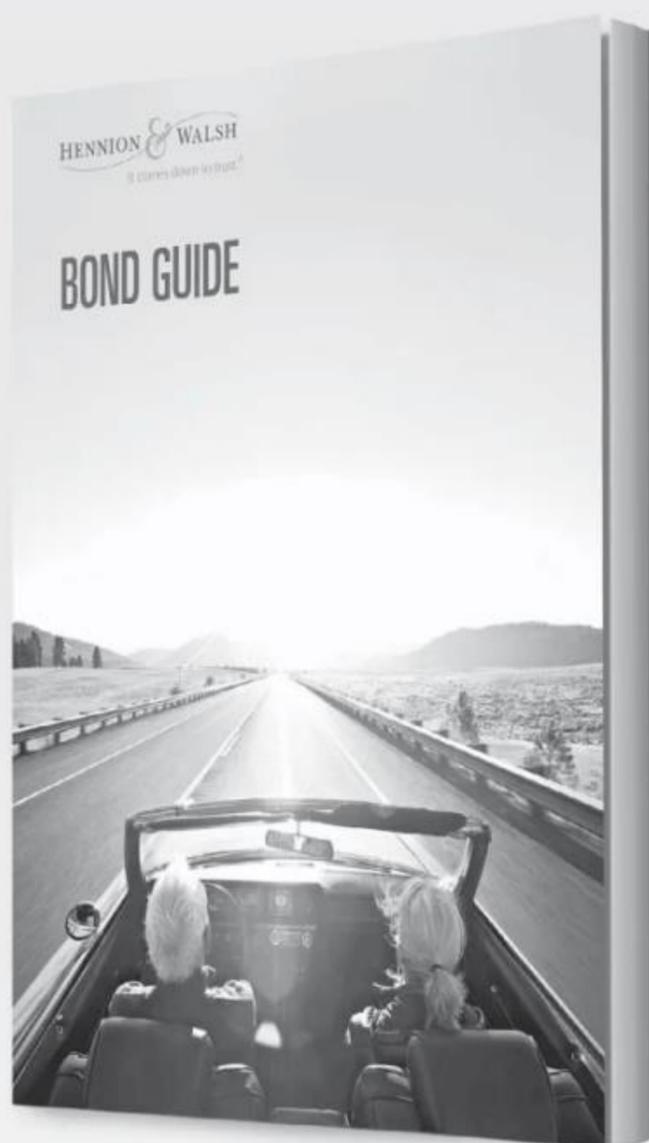
Jen Coppello, 50, of Morgantown, has voted for Trump in the last two presidential elections.

She said she doesn't know why Trump is losing the female vote in the state because she said he thinks his policies are policies that help women.

"He cares about every gender," she said. "Or both genders — not every."

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Julia Terruso

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A mural in LOVE Park by artist Hawk Krall, one of the six temporary murals for Mural Arts Philadelphia's non-partisan "To The Polls" project, which was curated by Conrad Benner, founder of StreetsDept.com. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

CAMPAIGN 2024

# 5 trends to watch for in Philly on Election Day

By Fallon Roth and John Duchneskie  
Staff Writers

Believe it or not, Election Day is officially one day away.

In the run-up to Nov. 5, Pennsylvania has become the de-facto center of the American political universe, poised to play a determining role in the 2024 election. But Philadelphia — the key battleground state's largest city — and its populous suburbs have a big part in deciding whether Vice President Kamala Harris or former President Donald Trump win the state's 19 electoral college votes.

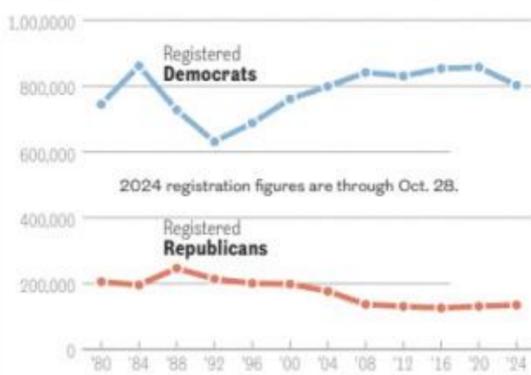
Both campaigns have been vying for the state's crucial votes, exemplified by 33 trips to Philadelphia and its collar counties (21 for Harris-Walz and 12 trips for Trump-Vance), including purple Bucks County, where a legal challenge has already been filed by Trump's campaign.

In the past two presidential elections, Democrats have maintained their strong advantage in Philadelphia — where the party outnumbered the GOP 7-to-1 — but Republicans have made some progress in the city as the Democratic Party finds increasing support in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Here's how voter trends have played out in the Philadelphia area in years past and what that could mean for tomorrow.

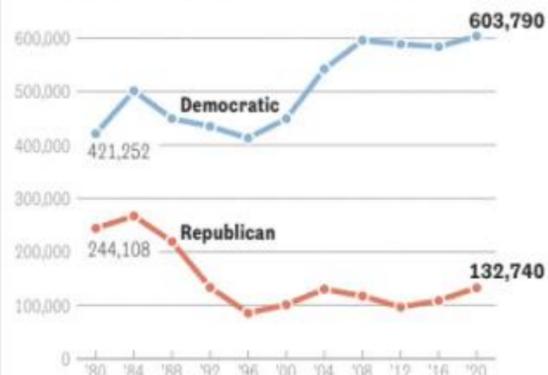
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## Registered Voters in Philadelphia



Source: Phila. City Commissioners; Pa. Dept. of State  
John Duchneskie / Staff Artist

## Votes for President in Philadelphia



Source: Phila. City Commissioners; Wilkes University  
John Duchneskie / Staff Artist

## How will GOP voter registration affect Kamala Harris' Philly performance?

Philadelphia, historically a Democratic stronghold, helped President Joe Biden win Pennsylvania in 2020, but since his victory four years ago, Democrats have shed approximately 55,000 registered voters in the city. Meanwhile Republicans have added roughly 4,000 registered voters.

In recent years, some working-class voters in Philadelphia, once a key demographic for the Democratic Party, have shifted to the GOP, with many blaming Democrats for rising prices over the last several years. Democrats' voter registration advantage peaked in 2016 with a little more than 853,000 registered.

Though registered Democrats far outweigh Republican registration in the city, both parties will look to Nov. 5 and the days after to see how the GOP's registration additions impact both Harris and Trump's margins.

## Will Harris build on Joe Biden's vote totals in Philly?

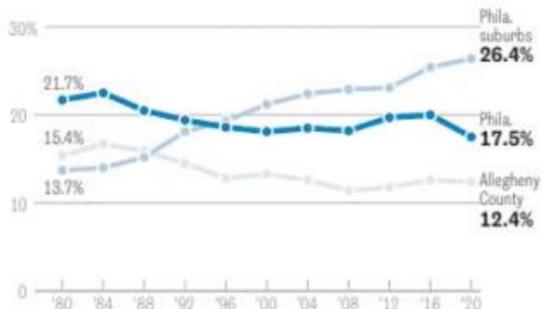
Democrats have voiced concern about turnout in Philadelphia, but in 2020 Biden received more than 600,000 votes in the city, the largest portion since former President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964.

Still, Trump did increase GOP totals in 2016 by approximately 12,000 and received nearly 24,000 more in 2020.

In 2024, Republicans have been paying more attention to Philadelphia than in years past exemplified by his first-ever Philly rally in June and his campaign's local office and deployment of door-knocking and pro-Trump mailers in Democratic-majority neighborhoods.

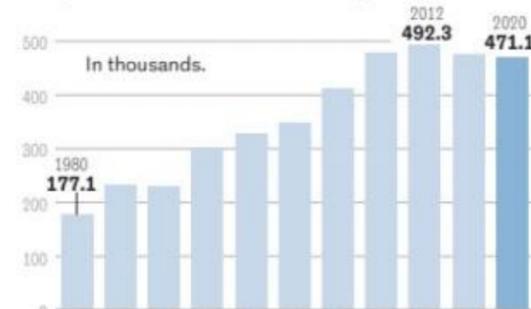
And Democrats, who have continued to cater to their base in the city — in the face of worries about the Harris campaign's Philly reach — will look to see if the vice president builds on Biden's hefty totals.

## Philadelphia's Share of the Statewide Democratic Vote



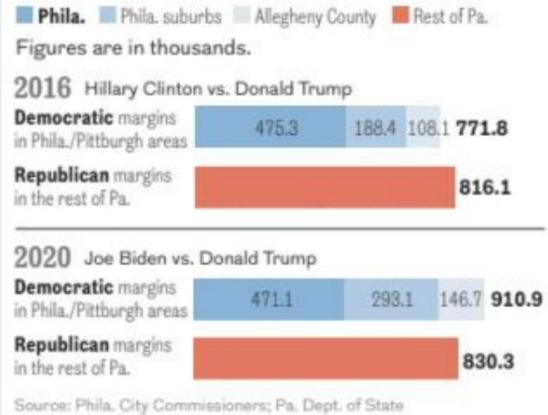
Source: Phila. City Commissioners; Wilkes University  
John Duchneskie / Staff Artist

## Democratic Margins Over Republicans in Philadelphia



Source: Phila. City Commissioners; Wilkes University  
John Duchneskie / Staff Artist

## Margins by Pa. Region



Source: Phila. City Commissioners; Pa. Dept. of State  
John Duchneskie / Staff Artist

## What will turnout in the suburbs look like?

Despite Biden's significant vote haul in 2020 in Philadelphia, the city's portion of the Democratic vote statewide fell from 20% in 2016 to 17.5% in 2020, thanks to an increase in Democratic shares of votes in the Philly suburbs.

The Democrats' share in the suburbs went from 23% in 2012 to about 26% in 2020 as the city's share declined over the eight years. But that has not stopped Republicans from courting voters in the collar counties and Democrats from continuing to cultivate their base there.

Just a few examples in recent weeks: Trump held a roundtable in Drexel Hill and Harris participated in a CNN town hall in Aston. The former president worked a staged shift at a Feasterville McDonald's and Harris connected with anti-Trump Republicans in Washington Crossing.

## Will Donald Trump continue to gain in Philly?

Democratic candidates dominated Republicans in Philadelphia by an increasing amount between 1992 and 2012. But in 2016, Trump trimmed that margin by 17,000 votes, a key factor in his Pennsylvania victory eight years ago where he won the commonwealth by 44,000 votes.

In 2020, Trump knocked down the Democrats' margin in Philly by roughly 4,000 votes, but Biden's margins elsewhere in Pennsylvania aided the then-Democratic nominee's win.

On Nov. 5 and the days after, pundits and politicians will look to see what impact Trump makes in Philadelphia, especially as his campaign looks to help Trump lose in Philadelphia by a little less, and if Harris supplements any gains with her own additions in other areas of the state.

## It's a game of margins. What will they look like this year?

Despite his gains in vote totals in Philly, Biden's margins in 2020 in the city dropped slightly compared with Clinton's in 2016, and Trump added to his advantage outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.

But Biden recaptured Pennsylvania in 2020 by extending the Democratic lead in the Philly suburbs by 105,000 votes compared with 2016 and increased his lead in Allegheny County.

The Harris campaign will look to meet or build on Biden's success in 2020, as both the vice president's campaign and the Trump campaign vie for critical Pennsylvania.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

# BUSINESS & MONEY

## SAP's Delco industry center uses AI to streamline manufacturing

**Artificial intelligence-enhanced manufacturing applications are now being deployed around the world as a massive upgrade in efficiency and production.**

By Joseph N. DiStefano  
Staff Writer

When Hurricane Helene damaged western North Carolina in September, filling medical facilities with people who couldn't be cared for at home, Jim Polk, a tech executive at Exela Pharmaceutical Sciences in Lenoir, N.C., got a call from the Atrium Health hospital group in flooded Asheville. Could his company make intravenous saline bags for the expected crush of patients?

"That could take six months," Polk thought, going over in his mind the familiar steps of meeting government and hospital requirements, hiring, lining up machinery and suppliers, writing and sharing reports, and weeks of factory trial and error to get production right.

But Exela had upgraded its manufacturing technology — and not just on the floor of its 600-person plant in Lenoir. Exela had also installed new software to connect factory production data to materials-sourcing, labor-supply, government-compliance, market demand, shipping, pricing, and other functions, using artificial intelligence applications to automatically pinpoint and fix problems.

This use of self-improving AI software to rapidly boost efficiency was dubbed a "Fourth Industrial Revolution" in a widely read 2011 book by Swiss engineer Klaus Schwab. He projected AI-enhanced manufacturing would transform factories as thoroughly as earlier steam power, mass production, and computer-control technologies. The Helene crisis gave Exela a chance to test these "Industry 4.0" software applications on a new product line.

In less than three weeks, Exela was producing IV bags ready to ship.

"It was beyond miraculous," Polk said. "We bring up a line now without adding heads. We don't need to make and copy and retain all those documents. We are saving many weeks. We can immediately rock and roll."

Polk and his colleague Don Overton, Exela's finance chief, had seen demonstrations of what their new software could do — designing, mixing, bottling, and shipping chemicals, drugs, and soft drinks, among other sample products, as they provided a few directions, and watched the machines kick in.

They had seen how this could work on a late summer visit to the Industry 4.0 Center, a model factory complex at Exela's main business software supplier, SAP, at its glass-walled U.S. headquarters in Newtown Square, Delaware County.

"It's the future of manufacturing — purely digital, completely paperless," and heavily automated, said Overton. "It's seamless, and integrated in real time: Accounts payable is tied directly into purchasing, which is tied directly into warehousing, which is tied directly



Rakesh Gandhi, the SAP vice president who oversees the multinational business software giant's Industry 4.0 Center at its U.S. offices in Newtown Square, Pa. The center helps clients, including large manufacturers, figure out how to use software to automate production and integrate it into supply, accounting, marketing, and sales. Joseph N. DiStefano / Staff

into production, which ties directly into shipping, and that ties into sales, and into HR.

"So when we moved product, there's no delay. There's no paper to reconcile. Records don't accumulate. We call it Bye Bye Paper."

The typical cost for SAP's digital manufacturing execution system includes an annual subscription fee of around \$100,000 — but also an outlay of at least \$300,000 worth of new hardware to make it run, according to a June 2004 study by International Data Corp. Users could expect 10% productivity savings — plus a tripling of their profitability over three years, IDC added.

SAP's "copilot" AI application, Joule, takes questions from users across a manufacturer's network. Asked about sources for popular materials, Joule will list prices, shipping times, reliability, labor and political factors, and other variables for suppliers around the world, varying results by producer and customer needs and locations.

Germany-based SAP employs around 3,000 at its U.S. headquarters in Newtown Square. The company also has Industry 4.0 Centers at a handful of other sites in the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

But with its suburban Philadelphia location near the center of the Northeastern United States, the Newtown Square center expanded last year from a smaller facility. It's now about 8,000 square feet,

roughly the size of a Super Wawa.

"I love that center. We have hosted customers, IT and business stakeholders there to explore [how to speed up] supply chains and make continuous improvements," Asif Poonja, CEO of Fujitsu Americas, said in a phone interview from his office in Toronto.

Once a Japanese manufacturer best known for its film and cameras, Fujitsu is now a global manufacturing adviser to companies such as ABB, the Swedish generator and electrical equipment maker. Fujitsu has brought engineers and managers from ABB and other global companies to Newtown Square to demonstrate AI's impact on factory automation and business processes.

The center, with its design and control centers, factory robots, and bottling and filling machines, makes software use more tangible: "Sitting on a Zoom call or on a laptop is not always effective" at engaging factory professionals, Poonja said. "To see these solutions in action" on actual machines designing, producing, and packaging chemicals, drugs, or beverages "is very powerful."

Poonja says the new-generation manufacturing software also helps hire and train workers faster.

"It's hard to get into factories these days. In Newtown Square you can go right on their [working model] factory floors and have discussions with their engineers. It's

amazing the details you can get into," Poonja added.

### Will software replace us all?

SAP employs 112,000 worldwide. SAP shares have risen twice as fast as rival Oracle over the past five years, and also beaten its U.S.-based rival over the past one- and two-year periods.

Does all this automation destroy jobs? Exela said it's been hiring even as it's been automating production, because overall sales are up.

But automation has had a marked impact on next-generation factories. For example, GSK, the pharmaceutical giant that once employed thousands stamping pills at Philadelphia-area sites, plans to invest up to \$800 million (including \$21 million in state funds) in a factory near the Susquehanna in Marietta, Pa., that projects a modest 200 jobs.

### SAP's multinational workshop

SAP's Industry 4.0 Center includes machines from a constellation of companies, many based in SAP's homeland.

There are mixing machines from Beckhoff, a real-time location systems from Kinexon, a storage-and-retrieval system from Gebhardt, and high-speed

inspection machines from Krones, all based in Germany.

There are handheld and wearable scanners from Illinois-based Zebra. There are robotic carriers from a Danish company, Universal Robot, mounted with cameras from based-in-Germany Asentics; Mobile Industrial Robots from MiR, another Danish company; and a "hands-free" maintenance system using Germany-based Frontline's TeamViewer software and Washington State-based RealWare's Navigator headsets.

"With all the changes going on with the supply chain, all the disruptions" in recent years from COVID shutdowns, attacks on Red Sea shipping, and port labor strikes, "we wanted a facility where we could highlight our solutions and show how these applications work together to solve problems — instead of having folks use a lot of Power Points," said Darcy MacClaren, SAP's chief revenue officer for digital supply chain, during a visit to the center.

Though SAP competes with other big software makers, it also uses and integrates with products made by rivals including Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Nvidia, and many others.

"North America is the most competitive part of the world" for business software makers, said Lloyd Adams, head of SAP Americas, in an interview. "We are bringing more of our customers into the 4.0 center, it's a magnet for organizations all over North America. It really helps crystallize what's possible."

At the center, SAP Vice President Rakesh Gandhi demonstrated how staff who remain on the factory floor wear cameras and sensors that pour data into company software systems that adjust machinery, purchasing, and pricing. "We are automating all steps," he added. "Our big message is the importance of collecting all this information so you can seamlessly embed it with the AI and understand, real time, what is going on in your supply chain."

"The customer wants everything to run from one control center. It is important to visualize how all the technology will work. The shop floor operator can see all the analytics," such as whether a flood in China, a strike in Britain, or a port closing in California will make it more efficient to replace one supplier with another. "They become data-driven companies."



Lloyd Adams, top executive at SAP Americas, next to the High Speed Filling Line, which uses production data to improve product quality and shares the data with finance, shipping, materials, and other functions to speed production.

“It’s the future of manufacturing — purely digital, completely paperless, and integrated in real time.”  
Don Overton, Exela finance chief

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BUSINESS & MONEY

TECH GIANTS SET TO SPEND \$200B THIS YEAR CHASING AI

Companies are racing to secure the scarce high-end chips and build the sprawling data centers the technology demands, and facing extreme costs to do so.

By Mark Bergen and Lynn Doan Bloomberg News

Three months ago, Wall Street punished the world's largest technology firms for spending enormous amounts to develop artificial intelligence, only to deliver results that failed to justify the costs.

Silicon Valley's response this quarter? Plans to invest even more.

The capital expenditures of the four largest internet and software companies — Amazon.com Inc., Microsoft Corp., Meta Platforms Inc., and Alphabet Inc. — are set to total well over \$200 billion this year, a record sum for the profligate collective.

The spree underscores the extreme costs and resources consumed from the worldwide boom in AI ignited by the arrival of ChatGPT. Tech giants are racing to secure the scarce high-end chips and build the sprawling data centers the technology demands.

To do so, the companies have cut deals with energy providers to power these facilities, even reviving a notorious nuclear plant.

They're each trying to convince Wall Street that these huge investments will make their future businesses more profitable than the current ones selling digital ads, goods, and software.

On an investor call on Thursday, Andy Jassy, Amazon's chief executive, called AI a "really unusually large, maybe once-in-a-lifetime type of opportunity," evidenced by his company's projection for a record \$75 billion in spending for 2024.

A day earlier, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg pledged to ramp up investing in AI language models and other futuristic projects he now frames as core to his company's future.

Apple Inc. has also vowed to invest in AI, introducing a suite of services, like a more capable Siri, called Apple Intelligence. But its relatively weak financial results this quarter weren't helped by its



Andy Jassy, Amazon's chief executive, called AI a "really unusually large, maybe once-in-a-lifetime type of opportunity," evidenced by his company's projection for a record \$75 billion in spending for 2024.

new AI products, which mostly hadn't arrived.

Financial results for the tech giants last week were a mixed bag. Shares of Amazon and Google parent Alphabet soared after the companies beat earnings expectations, largely on the strength of growth in their cloud-computing units.

For Microsoft, its lackluster quarterly performance came not because customers weren't lining

up to pay for its cloud and AI offerings but because the company couldn't build capacity quickly enough.

Microsoft spent \$14.9 billion in the quarter, a 50% rise from last year — and an amount higher than the company had ever spent on property and equipment in a single year before 2020.

IN THE KNOW

TREASURY AUCTIONS

4-week bills, Nov. 7; 3-month, 6-month bills, Nov. 4; 1-year bills, Nov. 26; 2-year notes, Nov. 25; 3-year notes, Nov. 4; 5-year notes, Nov. 26; 7-year notes, Nov. 27; 10-year notes, Nov. 5; 30-year bonds, Nov. 6; 5-year TIPS, Dec. 19; 10-year TIPS, Nov. 21.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

THURSDAY Lunch With the City's Leaders, Michael

Forman, chairman and CEO, FS Investments. Location: Fittler Club, 24 S. 24th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. Register at centercitybusiness.org or 215-545-7766. Space limited. Reservations and prepayment required.

BANKRUPTCIES

PENNSYLVANIA No listings. NEW JERSEY No listings. Sources: Legal Intelligence and U.S. Bankruptcy Court NJ

INSIDER TRANSACTIONS

Securities trades recently reported to the Securities and Exchange Commission by officers, directors, and principal shareholders of corporations based or having sizable employment in the Philadelphia area. Titles are as reported to the SEC.

Bancorp Inc. Matthew Cohn, director, purchased 1,065 shares at \$149.91 to \$150.11 on Oct. 29, and now directly/indirectly owns 222,369 shares. Mark C. Tryniski, director, purchased 5,000 shares at \$50.36 on Oct. 29, and now directly own 10,105 shares. Maria Wainwright, officer, sold 11,375 shares

at \$50.08 on Oct. 29, and now directly owns 24,443 shares. Matthew J. Wallace, chief technology officer, sold 10,160 shares at \$50.06 on Oct. 29, and now directly owns 74,798 shares. Crown Holdings Inc. Gerard H. Gifford, chief operating officer, sold 10,000 shares at \$95.89 on Oct. 23, and now directly owns 120,387 shares. Parke Bancorp Inc. Daniel J. Dalton, chairman, sold 5,000 shares at \$20.96 on Oct. 24, and now directly owns 129,415 shares. PNC Financial Services Group Inc. William S. Demchak, chief executive officer, sold 1,242 shares at \$190.27 on Oct. 25, and now directly owns 5,474,313 shares.

position." Analysts were broadly optimistic that Microsoft's data center supply difficulties will eventually be straightened out. The issue will "modestly" restrict Microsoft's cloud business, but the company's investments, particularly its large stake in OpenAI, are "planting the longer-term seeds for success," JPMorgan analysts wrote in a note after the company's results.

Wall Street's concern with runaway spending isn't going away. Last week Meta reported \$4.4 billion in operating losses for Reality Labs, its division that makes augmented reality glasses and other gadgets far from commercial success. The company has also spent heavily to make its Llama models that aim to compete with Google and OpenAI.

On the Meta earnings call, Zuckerberg argued that these AI investments are improving the company's primary business of selling ads on Facebook and Instagram. But investors will remain nervous about any signs of weakness in the ads business "as they continue to wait for a return on Meta's bigger AI bets," said Jasmine Enberg, principal analyst for Emarketer.

Still, Meta's stock is up 60% this year. And some analysts said Zuckerberg's big spending will pay off down the line. "Of course, history is on his side," MoffettNathanson analysts wrote in their report, "and investors now have been trained that patience here is a virtue."

READERS' CHOICE STOCKS AND FUNDS

Weekly changes. To add a stock or mutual fund, e-mail us at BusinessNews@phillynews.com, or send your request to The Philadelphia Inquirer, Business News Department, P.O. Box 7788, Philadelphia, Pa., 19101

Table with columns for Stock, Last, Chg, and various stock symbols like AMZN, AAPL, MSFT, etc.

Table with columns for Fund, NAV, Chg, and various fund symbols like Fidelity, Vanguard, etc.

NEWS

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# Fry

→ CONTINUED FROM A1

Fry said while he focused on safety at Drexel and in an earlier job as an executive at the University of Pennsylvania, he's not too familiar with North Philadelphia. He asked for officers' help.

"I need to go out on some patrols on different shifts so I can really sort of learn the geography," he said. "I need to get to know the neighbors, the campus, the dynamic between neighborhood and campus."

Fry's safety focus was welcomed. "We are thrilled and appreciative that President Fry made public safety his first meet and greet on his first day," said Jennifer Griffin, Temple's vice president for public safety. "His words were inspiring, and we look forward to supporting his vision for Temple."

In the welcome video, Fry cited enrollment as another of his five priorities. Temple has experienced about a 25% enrollment decline since 2017. But this fall, the university welcomed 4,926 first-year students, a nearly 30% increase over last year. And while overall enrollment declined 1.7%, it's a much smaller drop than last year, possibly signaling Temple might be turning a corner.

Fry acknowledged the benefit of having both improvements in safety and enrollment as he begins.

"There's a sense of confidence — not overconfidence — but confidence and momentum," he said. "There's really strong hope here that I get to work with ... What I want to do is build on that momentum."

Senior finance majors Conor McCabe and Alex McShane cited public safety and enrollment as two major issues they would like to see Fry address.

"I would love to see more smart kids come here on full rides," said McShane, 21, of Phoenixville.

"When you see students going above and beyond, that inspires other students to do it," agreed McCabe, 21, of Havertown.

They both said they looked forward to meeting Fry on Friday. The



Donna Gray, campus safety services manager — risk reduction and advocacy services (left), greets Temple University's new president John A. Fry during his first day of work on the main campus. Elizabeth Robertson / Staff Photographer

two help manage Temple's student investment fund, a project under which students oversee a portion of Temple's endowment, and Fry is scheduled to come to their class, they said.

Fry also cited academics and research and philanthropy among his top priorities. He said it's not too early to start thinking about a fundraising campaign to culminate in Temple's 150th anniversary in 2034.

"There's a lot of preparation that has to get done," he said, "feasibility studies, making sure the team is

built in the right way. I need to get to know thousands of people. That buildup is going to take a while."

Rounding out his priorities, he cited the aspiration for an innovation corridor stretching from main campus up Broad Street to the medical school campus less than 2 miles away. But he also in his video said he envisions a move south, toward Center City.

He said during the interview that Temple is interested in potentially purchasing some of the shuttered University of the Arts' prime property when it goes up for sale via

bankruptcy. Temple has a Center City site at 15th and Market Streets.

"Should we have a more visible role and site in Center City? To be determined," he said.

After UArts abruptly closed in June, Temple attempted to negotiate an acquisition but the Hamilton Family Charitable Trust, which has contributed about half of UArts' endowment, opposed the transfer of the endowment to Temple. Now, the matter is in Orphans' Court.

Several students said they hope the start of Fry's tenure will bring stability in the top job, following

the resignation of Jason Wingard in March 2023 after less than two years and the death of Epps in September 2023.

"We haven't gotten to see any cohesivity of leadership on campus yet," said Kate Pavlovcak, 19, a sophomore advertising major from Richboro.

She hopes the school now can focus on issues, such as helping students who don't have enough to eat.

Despite spending the prior 22 years as a college president, 14 of them leading Drexel and eight at Lancaster's Franklin & Marshall College, Temple marks Fry's first partially public university.

That's "part of my learning curve," he said.

Fry wants to develop a good working relationship with the board of trustees; Drexel's board of 63 members was about twice the size of Temple's and he said he never once felt it was crossing the line from governance to management.

He's learned from prior presidencies that a balance is needed between "getting out of the gate fast and making things happen" and listening and learning.

"I'm going to get a lot of advice early on ... which I'll absorb and respect but in the end, it is going to be my job to synthesize all that and then at a certain point in time to lay out my point of view based on what I'm hearing but also on my own intuition," he said.

He also notes the importance of getting to know people personally and professionally early on, building trust, credibility, and friendship.

"It pays off later," he said.

But on the unusually warm November day, Fry just enjoyed strolling the campus he now oversees, taking in vistas up and down Temple's main walks.

"I was feeling extremely lucky," he said.

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

# PHILLY

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## NEWS



Vice President Kamala Harris (right) in a skit on "Saturday Night Live" with Maya Rudolph. The Democratic candidate for president had made an unannounced trip to New York to appear on the show. Jacquelyn Martin

# Harris makes cameo on 'SNL'

**She appeared as the mirror image of herself in the show's cold open.**

By Diane Mastrull  
Staff Writer

Live from New York, it's Vice President Kamala Harris.

After a day stumping for votes in North Carolina and Georgia, Harris made a quick stop in New York City for a cameo on *Saturday Night Live*.

For just over two minutes, and to sustained applause from the studio audience, Harris played herself as the mirror image of actress and comedian Maya Rudolph playing Harris, backstage somewhere in Philadelphia on the final day of her presidential campaign against former President Donald Trump.

"I'm just here to remind you, you got this," Harris, wearing a dark suit and her trademark pearl necklace and American flag lapel pin, said to an identically dressed Rudolph. "Because you can do something your opponent cannot do. You can open doors."

A chuckling Rudolph responded: "I see what you did there, like to a garbage truck," apparently referring to Trump's difficulty opening a door to a garbage truck he rode

in earlier in the week in Wisconsin after President Joe Biden made a comment referring to Trump supporters as "garbage." That was in reference to a comedian at a Trump rally last weekend in Madison Square Garden who described Puerto Rico as a "floating island of garbage."

The SNL skit, part of the show's cold open, continued with Harris and Rudolph, holding hands through the mirror and engaged in a pep talk of sorts with numerous plays on "Kamala." Rudolph talked about the American people wanting to "stop the chaos," to which Harris responded: "And end the dram-ala." To laughter from the audience, they ultimately concluded, in sync, "Keep calm-ala, and carry on-ala."

The bit concluded with a not-so-subtle nod to the critical role the swing state of Pennsylvania will play in determining who wins Tuesday's election. Standing next to Harris, Rudolph says: "I'm going to vote for us," to which Harris replies, "Great. Any chance you are registered in Pennsylvania?"

"Nope. I am not," Rudolph says, as both California women smile into the camera and belt out in unison: "Live from New York, it's Saturday night."

Word of Harris' possible appearance on SNL was first reported by

CNN and other news outlets a few hours before its 11:29 p.m. start. It was a high-profile detour on her way to scheduled campaign events in Detroit on Sunday before Harris returns to Pennsylvania on Monday, capping her visit to the commonwealth with an election eve rally in front of the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

It was not known whether *Saturday Night Live* had invited Trump to appear. Asked by reporters, Jason Miller, a senior adviser to the Trump campaign, said: "Probably not. I don't know," NBC News reported.

The long-running NBC institution is in the middle of its 50th season, one that has featured plenty of political commentary, including multiple appearances by Rudolph portraying Harris.

Trump, last appeared on SNL on Nov. 8, 2015, one year before he was elected the 45th president over Democrat Hillary Clinton. During the show's opening monologue, he described himself as "a nice guy" who doesn't "hold grudges" and said he knows "how to take a joke."

Staff writer Vinny Vella contributed to this article.

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# Israel announces it made ground raid into Syria

**In Gaza, Israeli strikes have hit several hospitals, injuring patients, Palestinian officials say.**

By Melania Lidman  
and Samy Magdy  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military said Sunday it has carried out a ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen involved in Iranian networks. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.

Israel has carried out air strikes in Syria multiple times over the past year, targeting members of Lebanon's Hezbollah and officials from Iran, the close ally of both Hezbollah and Syria. But it has not previously made public any ground forays into Syria.

The Israeli military said the seizure was part of a special operation "that took place in recent months," though it did not say exactly when it occurred. Syria did not immediately confirm the announcement, but a pro-government Syrian radio station, Sham FM, reported Sunday that Israeli forces carried out a "kidnapping operation" over the summer targeting a man in the south of the country.

The disclosure of the raid comes as Israel has waged an escalated campaign of bombardment in Lebanon for the past six weeks, as well as a ground invasion along the countries' shared border, vowing to cripple Hezbollah. On Saturday, an Israeli military official said naval forces carried out a raid in a northern Lebanese town, seizing a man they called a senior Hezbollah operative.

The army identified the man it seized as Ali Soleiman al-Assi, saying he lives in the southern Syrian region of Saida. It said the man had been under military surveillance for many months and was involved in Iranian initiatives targeting areas of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights near the border with Syria.

Body camera footage of the raid released by the army showed soldiers seizing a man in a white tank top inside a building. The man was brought to Israel for interrogation, the military said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the border with Lebanon on Sunday, saying his focus was on trying to keep Hezbollah from rearming itself through the "oxygen lifeline" of Iranian weapons transferred to Lebanon via Syria. Israel says its campaign in Lebanon aims to push Hezbollah away from the border and put an end to more than a year of fire by the group into northern Israel.

Israel's strikes in Lebanon have killed more than 2,500 people over the past year. In Israel, 69 people have been killed by Hezbollah projectiles.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces continued an offensive in the northern Gaza Strip, where the military has said it is battling Hamas fighters who regrouped there.

Shell fire hit Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza, injuring patients, including children, the hospital's director, Hossam Abu Safiya, said in a statement to the media. He said the shells hit the hospital's nursery, dormitory, and water tanks, just after a delegation from the World Health Organization ended a visit.

In southern Gaza, an Israeli strike hit a group of people gathered outside in an eastern district of Khan Younis, killing at least eight Palestinians, including four children and a woman, the

territory's Health Ministry's emergency services said. The city's Nasser Hospital, which received most of the bodies, confirmed the figures.

Palestinian officials said an Israeli drone strike on Saturday hit a clinic in northern Gaza where children were being vaccinated for polio, wounding six people, including four children. The Israeli military denied responsibility.

Munir al-Boursh, director general of the Gaza Health Ministry, told the Associated Press that a quadcopter struck the Sheikh Radwan clinic in Gaza City early Saturday afternoon, just a few minutes after a United Nations delegation left the facility.

The WHO and the U.N. children's agency, known as UNICEF, which are jointly carrying out the polio vaccination campaign, expressed concern over the reported strike. Rosalia Bollen, a spokesperson for UNICEF, said the strike occurred while a "humanitarian pause" agreed to by Israel to allow vaccinations was in effect.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesperson, said that "contrary to the claims, an initial review determined that the (Israeli military) did not strike in the area at the specified time."

It was not possible to resolve the conflicting accounts. Israeli forces have repeatedly raided hospitals in Gaza over the course of the war, saying Hamas uses them for militant purposes, allegations denied by Palestinian health officials. Hamas fighters are also operating in the north, battling Israeli forces.

Northern Gaza has been encircled by Israeli forces and largely isolated for the past year. Israel has been carrying out another offensive there in recent weeks that has killed hundreds of people and displaced tens of thousands.

A scaled-down campaign to administer a second dose of the polio vaccine began Saturday in parts of northern Gaza. It had been postponed from Oct. 23 due to lack of access, Israeli bombings and mass evacuation orders, and the lack of assurances for humanitarian pauses, a U.N. statement said.

Administration of the first dose was carried out in September across the Gaza Strip, including the north.

At least 100,000 people have been forced to evacuate from areas of north Gaza toward Gaza City in the past few weeks, but around 15,000 children under the age of 10 remain in northern towns, including Jabaliya, Beit Lahya, and Beit Hanoun, which are inaccessible, according to the U.N.

The final phase of the polio vaccination campaign had aimed to reach an estimated 119,000 children in the north with a second dose of the oral polio vaccine, the agencies said, but "achieving this target is now unlikely due to access constraints."

They say 90% of children in every community must be vaccinated to prevent the spread of the disease.

The campaign was launched after the first polio case was reported in Gaza in 25 years — a 10-month-old boy, now paralyzed in the leg. The World Health Organization said the presence of a paralysis case indicates there could be hundreds more who have been infected but aren't showing symptoms.

The war began on Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Israel's offensive has killed over 43,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities, who do not say how many were combatants but say more than half were women and children.

# Idaho health department 1st in US to ban giving COVID-19 vaccines

By Devi Shastri  
Associated Press

A regional public health department in Idaho is no longer providing COVID-19 vaccines to residents in six counties after a narrow decision by its board.

Southwest District Health appears to be the first in the nation to be restricted from giving COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccinations are an essential function of a public health department.

While policymakers in Texas banned health departments from promoting COVID vaccines and Florida's surgeon general bucked medical consensus to recommend against the vaccine, governmental bodies across the country haven't blocked the vaccines outright.

"I'm not aware of anything else like this," said Adriane Casalotti, chief of government and public affairs for the National Association of County and City Health Officials. She said health departments have stopped offering the vaccine because of cost or low demand, but not based on "a judgment of the medical product itself."

The six-county district along the Idaho-Oregon border includes three counties in the Boise metropolitan area. Demand for COVID vaccines in the health district has declined, with 1,601 given in 2021 to 64 so far in 2024.

The same is true for other vaccines: Idaho has the highest

childhood vaccination exemption rate in the nation, and last year, the Southwest District Health Department rushed to contain a rare measles outbreak that sickened 10.

On Oct. 22, the health department's board voted 4-3 in favor of the ban — despite Southwest's medical director testifying to the vaccine's necessity.

"Our request of the board is that we would be able to carry and offer those (vaccines), recognizing that we always have these discussions of risks and benefits," Perry Jansen, a doctor, said at the meeting. "This is not a blind, everybody-gets-a-shot approach. This is a thoughtful approach."

Opposite Jansen's plea were more than 290 public comments, many of which called for an end to vaccine mandates or taxpayer funding of the vaccines, neither of which are happening in the district.

At the meeting, many people who spoke are nationally known for making the rounds to testify against COVID vaccines, including Peter McCullough, a Texas cardiologist who sells "contagion emergency kits" that include ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine — drugs that have not been approved to treat COVID-19 and can have dangerous side effects.

Board chairperson Kelly Aberasturi was familiar with many of the voices who wanted the ban, especially from earlier local protests of pandemic measures.

Aberasturi, who told the

Associated Press that he's skeptical of COVID-19 vaccines and national public health leaders, said in the meeting and in an interview that he was supportive of but "disappointed" in the board's decision.

He said the board had overstepped the relationship between patients and their doctors — and possibly opened a door to blocking other vaccines or treatments.

Board members in favor of the decision argued people can get vaccinated elsewhere, and that providing the shots was equivalent to signing off on their safety.

Some people may be reluctant to get vaccinated or boosted because of misinformation about the shots despite evidence that they're safe and have saved millions of lives.

The people getting vaccinated at the health department — including people without housing, people who are homeless, and those in long-term care facilities or in the immigration process — had no other options, Jansen and Aberasturi said.

"I've been homeless in my lifetime, so I understand how difficult it can be when you're ... trying to get by and get ahead," Aberasturi said. "This is where we should be stepping in and helping."

"But we have some board members who have never been there, so they don't understand what it's like."

State health officials have said that they "recommend that people consider the COVID-19 vaccine."



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks at a memorial ceremony for those killed by Hamas on Oct. 7, 2023, and those who fell in the Iron Sword war, at the Knesset in Jerusalem on Oct. 28. Debbie Hill AP

## OBITUARIES

## Survivors of Spain's floods hurl mud at royals

By David Melero  
and Joseph Wilson  
Associated Press

PAIPORTA, Spain — A crowd of enraged survivors hurled clots of mud left by storm-spawned flooding at the Spanish royal couple on Sunday during their first visit to the epicenter of their nation's deadliest natural disaster in living memory.

Spain's national broadcaster reported that the barrage included a few rocks and other objects and that two bodyguards were treated for injuries. One could be seen with a bloody wound on his forehead.

It was an unprecedented incident for a royal house that carefully crafts the image of monarchs

adored by their country of more than 48 million people.

Spanish fury has been unleashed against a state that appears overwhelmed and unable to meet the needs of people used to living under an effective government.

Officials also rushed Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez from the scene soon after his contingent started to walk the mud-covered streets of one of the hardest-hit areas, where over 60 people perished and thousands of lives were shattered. The disaster fueled by climate change killed at least 205 people in eastern Spain.

"Get out! Get out!" and "Killers!" the crowd in the town of Paiporta shouted, among other insults. Bodyguards opened umbrellas to

protect the royals and other officials from the tossed muck.

Police had to step in, some officers on horseback, to keep back the crowd of several dozen, some wielding shovels and poles.

Queen Letizia broke into tears sympathetically after speaking to several people, including one woman who wept in her arms. Later, one of the queen's bodyguards had a bloody wound on his forehead and there was a hole in the back window of the prime minister's official car.

But even after being forced to seek protection, King Felipe VI, with flecks of mud on his face, remained calm and made several efforts to speak to individual residents. He insisted on trying to

speak with people as he tried to continue his visit.

He spoke to several people, patting two young men on their backs and sharing a quick embrace, with mud stains on his black raincoat.

Still, one woman smacked an official car with an umbrella and another kicked it before it sped off.

While far from awakening the passion that the British hold for their royals, Felipe and Letizia's public events are usually greeted by crowds of fans.

The 56-year-old Felipe took the throne when his father, Juan Carlos, abdicated in 2014 after he was tarnished by self-made financial and personal scandals. Felipe immediately cut a new figure, renouncing his personal

inheritance and increasing financial transparency of his royal house. He and 52-year-old Letizia, a former journalist, dedicate a significant part of their public agenda to cultural and scientific causes.

But the public rage over the hap hazard management of the crisis has been building. Felipe heard some jeers when he took part in a tribute to the dead of a deadly 2017 terror attack in Barcelona, but that was nothing comparable to Sunday's reception.

Paiporta, population 30,000, still has many city blocks completely clogged with piles of detritus, countless totaled cars and a ubiquitous layer of mud. Many people still didn't have drinking water five days after the floods.

## OBITUARY

## Charles Brandt, 82, whose book about mob inspired 'The Irishman'

By Brian Murphy  
Washington Post

Charles Brandt, a lawyer whose best-selling book *I Heard You Paint Houses* was adapted into film as *The Irishman*, recounting the tale of a mobster who claimed he killed former Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa in a 1975 disappearance that remains a mystery, died Oct. 22 in Wilmington, Del. He was 82.

A family announcement said Mr. Brandt died at a hospice facility, but no cause was noted.

The title of Mr. Brandt's 2004 book refers to the first words Hoffa purportedly said to Frank Sheeran, who had a reputation for "painting" — or splattering walls with blood — as a hit man. The line is repeated in director Martin Scorsese's 2019 movie as Al Pacino as Hoffa meets Sheeran, played by Robert De Niro.

Sheeran's story, as told by Mr. Brandt, traced his rise in organized crime and what he claimed were roles in more than 25 mob-related killings, including Sheeran's assertion that he fatally shot Hoffa at a house in Detroit in July 1975 and that the body was cremated. If proven, the account by Sheeran, who died in 2003, would settle the many questions and theories over Hoffa's fate.

The FBI never closed the Hoffa investigation. The slaying scenario told in Mr. Brandt's book had supporters but also was challenged by others versed in the Hoffa case.

In a 2019 article in *Slate*, a journalist and author specializing in organized crime coverage, Bill Tonelli, quoted former underworld figures and FBI officials who rejected Sheeran's story. "It's baloney, beyond belief," John Tamm, a former FBI agent based in Philadelphia who investigated Sheeran and once arrested him, told Tonelli. "Frank Sheeran was a full-time criminal, but I don't know of anybody he personally ever killed, no."

The *Slate* piece brought a blistering rebuttal by Mr. Brandt's publisher. Mr. Brandt fiercely defended Sheeran's credibility and insisted that investigators in Hoffa's disappearance had long suspected Sheeran, a Hoffa confidant. (Hoffa created a Teamster local run by Sheeran in Delaware.)

"It's a joke," Mr. Brandt said of Sheeran's critics. "Read the book."

Mr. Brandt said Sheeran was wracked by guilt over what happened to Hoffa, who was reportedly targeted by mob bosses over fears he could spill secrets. Mr. Brandt reworked a section of the book in later editions to emphasize that Sheeran wanted to talk about his deeds in an act of catharsis.

"I was afraid that I would be killed.

I'm serious," Mr. Brandt told the *Telegraph*. "I was afraid that somebody would read that and decide that I had taken advantage of Sheeran's conscience, and that I needed to be put away."

Sheeran was convicted of racketeering-related charges in 1982 and was serving a prison sentence in Delaware when he began to suffer serious health problems. In a bid for early release, he rehired Mr. Brandt, a former prosecutor who had entered private legal practice in 1976 specializing in medical malpractice cases.

Mr. Brandt won the appeal for Sheeran's freedom in 1991. After a celebratory lunch, Mr. Brandt said Sheeran asked whether he was interested in writing a book on Sheeran's claims about Hoffa. In 1988, Mr. Brandt had published a novel, *The Right to Remain Silent*, about a police officer framed for theft.

Mr. Brandt said he and Sheeran decided it was too perilous at the time to write about Sheeran's account. They waited eight years to start the project — until after the deaths of many of Sheeran's former underworld associates.

Sheeran, a World War II combat veteran, was a truck driver who became part of the crew of an eastern Pennsylvania crime boss, Russell Bufalino. As Sheeran rose in the underworld, he stood out as one of the few mobsters without Italian heritage.

During interviews with Mr. Brandt, Sheeran confessed to a string of killings, including the 1972 shooting of Colombo crime family underboss Joseph "Crazy Joe" Gallo in New York. Sheeran told Mr. Brandt that he lured the union boss to a house in Detroit for a purported meeting with mob leaders to clear the air.

In 1971, Hoffa secured an early release from prison after convictions in 1964 on jury tampering and fraud. In exchange for freedom, Hoffa agreed to step down as Teamsters leader.

But Hoffa also appeared eager to reclaim Teamsters control despite being barred under the rules set by President Richard M. Nixon's pardon. Sheeran said that Mafia bosses feared that Hoffa would try to cut a new deal by offering prosecutors further details of Teamsters links to organized crime families.

"Jimmy Hoffa got shot twice at a decent range — not too close or the paint splatters back at you — in the back of the head behind his right ear. ... My friend did not suffer," Sheeran was quoted as saying in Mr. Brandt's book. "Then I dropped the piece on the linoleum, went out the front door with my head down."

Before Sheeran's claims, a widely

repeated theory was that a New Jersey hit man, Salvatore "Sally Bugs" Bruggaglio, pulled the trigger. Bruggaglio was gunned down in 1978 in New York.

Scorsese said De Niro was gripped by *I Heard You Paint Houses* and encouraged work on a film adaptation. "He sat down, he started talking about the book, but he became — I could see he was really emotionally involved with the character," Scorsese told *Esquire* magazine in 2019.

A review of *The Irishman* by Anthony Lane in the *New Yorker* noted that "rumors have seethed" for years about Hoffa's disappearance, but he praised how the film handled the version of events in Mr. Brandt's book.

"Whether or not you buy the thesis," Lane wrote, "so calm and so remorseless is the clarity with which Scorsese charts the events of that day that you somehow yield to them not as a flight of fancy but as the reconstruction of an established truth."

New York roots  
Charles Peter Brandt was born in Staten Island on March 13, 1942, and was raised in Queens. His father worked as a customs house broker, and his mother was a nurse.

Mr. Brandt received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Delaware in 1963 and then studied at Brooklyn Law School, where he earned his law degree in 1969. To help pay tuition, he worked as a junior high school teacher and then as an investigator for the New York City's Welfare Department in East Harlem, which was then a hub of gangland activity. "I literally hung out with Mafia types," he recalled.

He returned to Delaware and worked as a homicide prosecutor for the attorney general's office. He served as Delaware's chief deputy attorney general from 1974 to 1976.

Mr. Brandt cowrote two other books with underworld themes: *Donnie Brasco: Unfinished Business* (2007), with former FBI agent Joe Pistone about going undercover in the Bonanno crime family; and *We're Going to Win This Thing: The Shocking Frame-Up of a Mafia Crime Buster* (2012), with Lin DeVecchio, an FBI agent who successfully fought allegations of mob ties.

Mr. Brandt's 2022 book, *Suppressing the Truth in Dallas*, explores allegations of a Mafia role in President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Brandt's marriage to Kathleen McGaw ended in divorce. He married Nancy Poole in 1976. In addition to his wife, survivors include a daughter from that marriage; three stepchildren; and four grandchildren.

## Funeral Announcements

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**BARRY**  
JOHN EDWARD



Born on January 5th, 1951, passed away peacefully on November 1st, 2024, All Saints Day. A veteran, proud father, and creative individual, he is survived by his brother Dan, his son Joe, daughter Annie, and step-daughter Viveka. John was a strong and independent person and a mover and shaker in political spheres. A poet and writer by hobby, he was a generous and devoted person who cared deeply and passionately about the world and his loved ones. The family will be holding a private service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in John's name to the Hunter Seven foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing and detecting cancer in military veterans. HunterSeven.org

**CARP**  
MINDA (NEE GOLD)



Age 82, passed away peacefully with her loved ones by her side on November 1, 2024. Loving wife of the late Richard; devoted father of Beth (Kenny) Soffer and Brian (Robyn) Carp; Proud grandmother of Sari (David), Jeffrey, Jordin and Greg. In lieu of flowers, Minda's family asks that you honor her memory by giving the gift of peace to each other. Services and interment will be private. Shiva will be observed Monday evening at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Brian Carp.

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**MALONEY**  
MARY PATRICIA  
(NEE MCGOWAN)



Age 86, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2024. Loving wife of John J. Maloney, devoted sister to Kathleen (Kassy) Buckley, Margaret (Peggy) Quinn, and Joanne (Jody) Roche (deceased), beloved mother to Eileen (Stephen) Maloney-Wilensky, Kathleen (Thomas) Johnston, Jacqui (Paul) Peace, Caroline (Gregg) Mowery, Mary Teresa (Joseph) Donohoe, Nancy Ann (Charles) Browning and John (Lauren) Maloney Jr. She was cherished by her 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. Visitation will occur on Thursday November 7th from 8 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. at DINAN FUNERAL HOME, 1923 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia PA. 19130. A Funeral Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church (10 A.M.), 2319 Green St., Philadelphia PA 19130. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to PennMedicine Hospice: www.PennMedicine.org/hospice-donate.

**THOMPSON**  
DANIEL J., JR.

Dec. 15, 1944 - Nov. 1, 2024  
Of Audubon, NJ, passed away peacefully on November 1, 2024 surrounded by his family. He served in the United States Navy from 1962 to 1966 before earning a degree in Electrical Engineering from Drexel University. He worked for Philadelphia Electric Company and retired after 30 years of service. Daniel is predeceased by his parents, Daniel J. Thompson, Sr. and Sarah (Says) Thompson; his son and daughter-in-law, Daniel J. Thompson, III and Laura (Petersen) Thompson; his granddaughter, Mikhayla Thompson; his brother, William Thompson and his sister, Mary Jane (Thompson) Moriarty. He is survived by his wife, Aileen B. Thompson of Audubon, NJ; his sons, Albert F. Thompson (Donna) of Barrington, NJ and Matthew J. Thompson (Kelly) of Cherry Hill, NJ; and his daughter, Melissa A. (Thompson) Flem (Brian) of Audubon, NJ. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Maura, Albert, Jr., and Anna Thompson and Allison and Caroline Flem. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 901 Hopkins Road A, Haddonfield, NJ 08033. Visitation for family friends will be held from 9 A.M. until Mass begins. All Services will be held at the Church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Cathedral Kitchen (cathedralkitchen.org) or Wounded Warriors (woundedwarriorproject.org).

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## OPINION

## Letter to the Editor

A reader's written opinion submitted in response to an article in The Inquirer or another issue.

## For more on how we work

The Editorial Board includes the managing editor for opinion, columnists, and opinion writers and editors. The board routinely discusses issues of the day to decide what to editorialize about and, during election campaigns, which candidates or ballot measures to endorse. News reporters and editors do not participate in these discussions. The board's opinions are not a consideration in news coverage.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## Pa. shortchanged

Pennsylvania voters are guaranteed to be shortchanged in the 2024 presidential election. Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C., have a combined population of almost 13 million and 42 Electoral College votes. Pennsylvania has roughly 13 million residents but only 19 Electoral College votes. In a series of 1960s decisions that can be summarized as "one person, one vote," the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against states that gave their rural residents more electoral power than their urban ones. Yet, the Electoral College, an 18th-century election albatross, has already trumped the popular vote twice this century, in 2000 and 2016, violating the one person, one vote principle. The Electoral College shouldn't be allowed to undermine a third.  
**Paul L. Newman,**  
Merion Station

## Shameful decision

The Voter Registration Act of 1993 contains the provision that voter registration list maintenance programs not be undertaken within 90 days of an election. Yet, Virginia did just that, arguing that because the purge applies to noncitizens, and the law does not, it was free to ignore the law's 90-day mandate. Virginia provided no proof that noncitizens voted in the past or are likely to do so in 2024. In fact, eligible voters were purged from the list. Both the federal district court and the U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the state to reinstate the 1,600 voters removed from the rolls. Cue the U.S. Supreme Court conservative justices, who issued an emergency stay blocking the lower courts' ruling. They did so without explanation, although it is certainly clear. Bored with merely putting their thumbs on the scales of justice to fit their ideology, they have moved to disenfranchising voters. Somehow, Chief

Justice John Roberts doesn't grasp why the public has lost faith in the court's moral authority. It may be because the Roberts Court seems hell-bent on joining the ranks of the tarnished Taney Court.  
**Stewart Speck,** Ardmore,  
[speckstewart@gmail.com](mailto:speckstewart@gmail.com)

## Stand against hate

My Jewish grandfather, a loyal German who served in the kaiser's army during World War I, and who later observed the rising tide of antisemitism and political unrest in Germany, once voted for Adolf Hitler. This decision has prompted deep reflection within my family on the complexities of human behavior in turbulent times. As the years passed, my grandfather's life took a tragic turn. In 1942, he was imprisoned by the very regime he once supported, sent first to Theresienstadt and eventually to Auschwitz, where he perished along with my grandmother. Throughout his letters, he detailed the growing

hostility and prejudice in Germany, capturing the dark transformation of a nation. Despite his early loyalties, he ultimately fell victim to the very forces he failed to fully recognize. My family's history is not just one of loss, but also one of resilience. My father, sent to the United States at 13 to escape the rising threat of Nazism, later served in the U.S. Army. After his discharge, he returned to his hometown and learned the full extent of the tragedy that had befallen our family. Through letters from both my grandfather and my father, I have a poignant record of their experiences and the personal toll of global conflict.

I share this story in the hope that it serves as a reminder of the dangers of complacency, and the necessity of standing against hatred and intolerance. My family's journey through some of history's darkest chapters underscores the need for vigilance in protecting democratic values and learning from the past.  
**Joel Goldwein,** Merion

## COLUMN

## For many people, Tuesday's election is truly a life-and-death matter

## In Philly and elsewhere, undocumented immigrants anxiously wait for an election that could turn life upside down — and they are not alone.

By Will Bunch



When the world first met Keldy Mabel Gonzáles Brebe de Zúñiga here in Philadelphia some three-and-a-half years ago, the feisty Honduran-born mother was a living parable for why elections matter, in a story that seemed to come with a feel-good ending.

In 2018, after her brother became her fourth sibling murdered amid gang violence in her Central American homeland, Gonzáles Brebe fled north with two of her teenage sons. Crossing into Mexico, the family was detained by U.S. Border Patrol, then ripped apart under the cruel Donald Trump-era policy known as family separation. For much of her two years in an El Paso, Texas, detention facility, Gonzáles Brebe didn't know where Erick — 13 at the time of their crossing — and Mino, 15, were located, let alone whether they were safe. Eventually, the mother was deported, and the boys were released to a relative in Philadelphia's Kensington section.

Four years ago last week, Joe Biden was elected president with a promise to undo the damage of Trump's immigration policies. In May 2021, Gonzáles Brebe was one of the first four migrants harmed by family separation to be granted a so-called humanitarian parole — a three-year special permit to come to the United States. The cameras were rolling as she surprised her two kids by arriving at their Philadelphia apartment for a joyous and highly emotional reunion.

But it was not the end of her story. This Tuesday brings the next U.S. presidential election, and this one may matter even more.

Speaking in Spanish in a recording translated by a colleague, Gonzáles Brebe told me last week that in late 2024, her immigration status remains unsettled. She said she is hopeful that she and her family will gain legal protection after her husband — who had come to the United States without documentation ahead of her 2018 border ordeal — was told he would be receiving a so-called T visa, awarded to alleged victims of human trafficking.

Gonzáles Brebe is well aware that the reelection of Trump and his core campaign promise of a sweeping mass deportation program could upend everything. "I think if Donald Trump were to win ... for us it would be a problem," she said last week, adding that "it'd be a problem because he can ... he's willing to deport many people."

She's hardly alone. And yet, with the apparent dead heat election between the GOP's Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris just a day away, most voters are focused on what's become a form of tribal warfare between two equal factions, waged in apocalyptic yet abstract terms. We don't talk as much as we should about the life-altering experience that a Trump win could mean for actual humans like Gonzáles Brebe, who could be put on a plane and shipped to a place where she could be killed.



**Keldy Mabel Gonzáles Brebe de Zúñiga** speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Kensington in May 2021.  
Matt Rourke / AP

Trump's main pledge is his scheme for the mass deportation of 15 million people currently on U.S. soil, which is even greater than the best estimate of 11 million undocumented immigrants. It could include those here on temporary protections — like Gonzáles Brebe, or many of the Haitians now in communities like Springfield, Ohio, or Charleroi, Pa. — or so-called Dreamers who were brought here as small children. They have been told to expect door-to-door immigration raids, large makeshift detention camps, and then a deportation flight to a country that many fled because of deadly violence.

Peter Pedemonti, coleader of the Philadelphia-based New Sanctuary Movement that works with the

city's large populations of immigrants from Mexico and Central America, the Caribbean, and Asia, said these communities are wary of Trump's potential return but also dismayed at the polls showing nearly half of Americans also support "militarized mass deportation" of the undocumented. He said they're alarmed at neighbors not "seeing them as human beings, and not seeing them for the jobs that they do, and as being a father or a spouse."

When I think about the stakes in Tuesday's election — and these are the only things that matter: the stakes, not the odds — I keep thinking about something Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said on the campaign trail in 2020, addressing rallies that were often packed with mostly white progressives from deep blue cities and suburbs. He asked: "Are you willing to fight for a person you don't know as much as you're willing to fight for yourself?"

If you haven't voted yet, are you willing to think about Gonzáles Brebe and the millions like her — people for whom the election outcome isn't just a statement about our values, but a verdict on whether they will live in hope or face suffering, possibly even death? The future of American democracy ultimately depends on whether we are willing to fight for the people we don't know.

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## OPINION

## COLUMN

## How will we cope if Trump (or Harris) wins?

So many of us were caught off guard on Nov. 9, 2016 — the morning after the election. So how should we prepare this time?

By Helen Ubiñas



What if he wins again? And if you're Puerto Rican, Black, Mexican, Asian, Haitian, a woman, a member of the LGBTQ community, a journalist, a Philadelphian, a Democrat, or even Beyoncé or Taylor Swift, I don't even have to tell you who "he" is.

If you've been the target, directly or indirectly, of the slurs, invective, and insults of Donald John Trump as he's burnished his political brand over the past nine years — and that list includes just about everyone except (*checks notes*) white men, the insurrectionists of Jan. 6, 2021, and the leaders of autocratic regimes around the world — the only thing more painful than Trump's 2016 election victory is the possibility that he might reclaim the White House a second time.

So many of us were caught off guard on Nov. 9, 2016 — the morning after the election.

We were ill-prepared, at best, to cope with the cataclysmic political shift that has left deep scars — on Americans and American norms, but also on the ideals and institutions that define our country, and our very democracy.

And now, here we are again — with a much less closeted and much more aggrieved and angry group of sycophantic supporters and surrogates excusing their dear leader's endless depths of depravity:

"He doesn't mean it."  
"He's not talking about us, he's talking about *them*."  
"It's a joke."

The joke's on us — because we are all *them*. We are all eventually *them* to someone like him.

I recently reread the column I wrote the night of the 2016 election and was struck by how familiar it felt. Millions of our fellow Americans, I wrote then, were willing to overlook and embrace the xenophobia and racism and sexism and misogyny to send some sort of twisted hateful message.

Even for those of us who tried to steel ourselves against what could come, the moment was no less gutting.

This time, I want to be ready. As voters prepare to head to the polls Tuesday, I've been spending the past couple of weeks talking to people — both experts and the everyday folks who've been the targets of Trump's venom — to find out how we might best begin to cope with the possibility of a Trump 47 presidency.

I have no doubt that supporters of both Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris are feeling anxious. But, using history as a guide, it's fair to say that only one group of supporters is worried about whether come January we'll have an inauguration or an insurrection — or maybe even something worse.

In May, 73% of American adults said they were stressed about the 2024 election, in a poll from the American Psychiatric Association — and that stress is felt among all political affiliations. Most said the election is a significant source of stress (76% of Democrats, 67% of Republicans, and 64% of independents).

But if Tuesday's vote goes a certain way, these feelings of fear and anxiety — which many experts characterized as grief — will be rekindled.

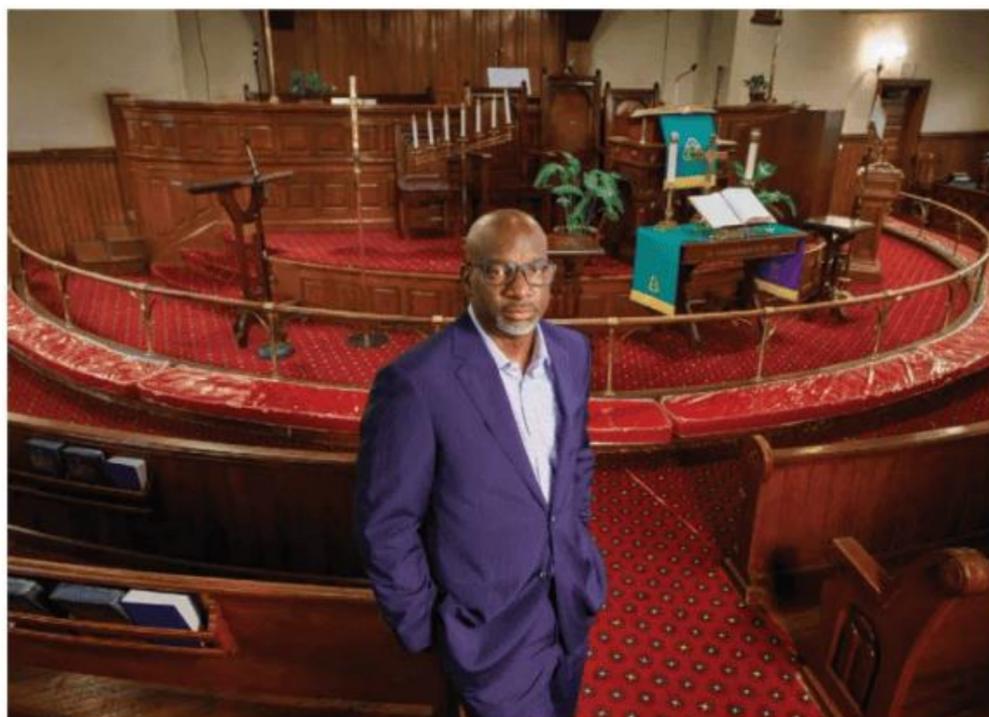
When I heard that, I knew immediately that the first person I needed to talk to was Nelba Márquez-Greene, because of her singular expertise in the intersection of grief, injustice, and mourning, and their impact on individuals and institutions.

Márquez-Greene's 6-year-old daughter, Ana Grace, was among the 20 children and six adults killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn., in 2017. She is also a licensed marriage and family therapist and Yale School of Public Health's activist in residence whose lived experience has taught her how widespread and misunderstood grief is.

Márquez-Greene offered three tips on how to cope.

First, she told me, we have to take care of ourselves — and that means not putting off addressing our physical, mental, and emotional health. In order to stand against whatever comes next, we have to be of sound mind, body, and soul.

Second, "we need to control who enters and exits the inner folds of our heart" — in other words, not everyone deserves to hear, or will be sympathetic to, our pain. Many of us feel betrayed by friends and



Top: The Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The past must always inform the present, he said.

Left: Bookstore manager Lisa Moser, of Julia de Burgos Bookstore at Taller Puertorriqueño in North Philadelphia, recommends books to help voters cope with the outcome of the election. Alejandro A. Alvarez / Staff Photographer; Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

family, and so we have to find supportive communities, whether in person or online. We are always stronger together.

Third is to remember that even in our darkest hours, there is another generation to consider.

Márquez-Greene shared the story of how, following the shootings at Sandy Hook, she came back home from the firehouse where she, her husband, and other victims' families gathered to hear the news that their loved ones were killed. Even in her grief, she recognized that she not only had to share the news with her son Isaiah but also consider how her own response would serve as a model for how he might begin to process it.

"I was going to have to, despite my own pain, understand that there were people I was responsible for and that the only way I was going to be able to do that well and honorably is by taking care of myself," she said.

Without that, "Our young people that we're responsible for, our communities that we're responsible for, won't have from us what they need."

As much as I'll keep what Márquez-Greene said in mind, I also won't forget the many conversations I had with others in the days leading up to the election. (A note to the trolls: I didn't ask anyone which candidate they supported — so if you have anything nasty to say ... say it to my face.)

There was my conversation with the Rev. Mark Kelly Tyler, who before recently becoming the historiographer for the African Methodist Episcopal Church was the longtime pastor of the denomination's founding church. The past, he told me, must always inform the present. "It's not the first time that, in Black America, we've been disappointed by the electoral process," he said. "In fact, historically we've been disappointed more than we've been able to cheer and to celebrate, and in those moments, we've also known that some of our best work, our best organizing, our best resisting, has happened in those kinds of moments."

Then there was my conversation about the healing power of nature with Brad Maule, a photographer who grew up in a central Pennsylvania mountain town and has worked with several outdoor organizations in Philadelphia. It can be hard to remember, but even the worst storms eventually pass.

Iresha Picot, a licensed behavioral therapist and the founder of Black Girl Joy Bike Ride, advised that no matter what challenges arise out of elections or our everyday lives, we need to find "pockets of joy."

And Elicia Gonzales, a queer Latina activist who has led several organizations that serve marginalized communities, and who now works for 22nd Century Initiative, an anti-authoritarianism group working to build a people-powered democracy. No matter the setbacks or successes, she reminded me, we must remain connected with the people and organizations tirelessly working toward a more just world for everyone.

I will also hold onto the conversations about the power of stories and storytelling (and the must-have lists of book recommendations) from Aidan Melinson, a recent college graduate and bookseller for booked., a bookstore in Chestnut Hill, and Lisa Moser, a multilingual Philadelphia native and bookstore manager at Julia de Burgos Bookstore at Taller Puertorriqueño in Fairhill. Start with *Puerto Rico: A National History* by Jorell Meléndez-Badillo and *Democracy in Retrograde: How to Make Changes Big and Small in Our Country and in Our Lives* by Emily Amick and Sami Sage.

And here's to Resa Mueller — a Filipina bartender and general manager at R&D Cocktail Bar who was born in Hong Kong and lived all around the world before settling in Philadelphia — for her tasty postelection potions: a freezer martini, because weird times call for a ready-made drink, and a mock piña colada because even if we can't physically escape to a tropical paradise somewhere, we can at least sip on something that makes us feel like we're sitting under a coconut tree.

I'm grateful for them all — even as the best advice came with the challenges of our new reality.

In so many ways, these are unprecedented times, but perhaps there is some comfort in remembering they are not altogether new.

Following Abraham Lincoln's election on Nov. 6, 1860, a woman from Alabama, Sarah Espy, turned to her diary to document her concerns. She felt "grieved," she wrote, and if the Southern states withdrew from the Union, "it is the beginning of woe."

I'm not a religious person, but as the aphorism goes, there are no atheists in a foxhole, and we can all use all the prayer we can get.

So, I asked the Rev. Tyler if he might recommend a piece of Scripture he thought might help us cope with whatever lies ahead — because if 2020 should have taught us anything, it's that any victory is short-lived.

Tyler, the pastor of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church near Sixth and Lombard Streets, pointed me to a verse from Ephesians: "For we wrestle

not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Scripture can be read in all kinds of ways, but here's what I hope resonates the loudest: This isn't a battle against just one man or one party or one movement, but of a spirit of hate and ignorance and cruelty that takes on many forms.

"It's about trying to overcome that particular spirit," he said.

We have a long road ahead, and while breathing and communing with nature is necessary, and a good book and even the good word can comfort and even empower, the struggle can't end there, because that won't help our transgender daughters and transgender nephews, or a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient, or a woman who needs an abortion facing the prospect of a nationwide ban.

And let's face it: The challenges won't end with a win by Harris. Should she emerge victorious on Tuesday, hers will be a historic administration, but not a perfect one. So we'll need to hold her accountable, too.

But the energy around her campaign has seemed to be rooted in a central theme we should all embrace:

When the fundamental values of the nation are under threat, we must act.

We can be anxious and afraid, we can be disappointed and disgusted, and we can be utterly exhausted — but then we have to continue the work.

I thought of that as I watched Kimberly Burrell, a woman I recently wrote about, respond to being featured in a Trump attack ad — even though she is a lifelong Democrat who plans to vote for Harris.

Burrell was understandably furious, and at a news conference last month, she implored Trump to push the right-wing political action committee that created the ad to take it down.

But then, she went about registering people to vote and continuing her gun violence prevention work in her community where her 18-year-old son was gunned down in 2009.

I was also reminded of a patch a friend created last year with the word "Trying" as he found himself in a position many of us are in: trying to dig ourselves out of some of the most disruptive and divisive moments of many of our lifetimes.

I'd lost track of my patch in a drawer, but I recently dug it back up again because it feels like the best advice we can give ourselves and each other going forward.

Whatever happens, we must never stop trying.

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In so many ways, these are unprecedented times, but perhaps there is some comfort in remembering they are not altogether new.

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# PHILLY & REGION



Attorneys John Baldante and Daniella Price at their law office in Center City. They recently secured a \$30 million settlement on behalf of five former ballet dancers who said they were abused by their dance school teacher in North Jersey. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

## Montco man is charged in murder by hammer

By Michelle Myers  
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Jeanette Weiss recalled her daughter Jessica Zipkin's bright smile, big brown eyes, and velvety red hair, and the excitement that lit up the 34-year-old each time she came up with a new recipe.

That light was extinguished early Saturday morning, when Zipkin's ex-boyfriend bludgeoned her to death with a hammer in his Perkiomen Township apartment, law enforcement officials said.

William Carey, 46, has been charged with first- and third-degree murder, and possessing an instrument of crime, according to a statement issued Sunday by Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and the Pennsylvania State Police.

Shortly before 1:30 a.m. Saturday, state police troopers responded to a 911 call about a possible dead woman at an apartment on Gravel Pike in Perkiomen, according to the joint statement. Inside they found Zipkin with a fatal wound to the back of her head, and a hammer next to her body.

An autopsy determined Zipkin had died of blunt-force trauma to the head and that the manner of death was a homicide, authorities said.

According to Zipkin's family members, she had been dating Carey since early March-late April, but the pair broke up in mid-October.

A bartender by profession, Jena — as her friends lovingly called her — was kind, a good listener, and had the naivety of someone who always looks for the best in people.

"[She] will drop everything she's doing to come to save you, that's the type of person she is," her best friend, Alania Perry, said in an interview Sunday.

But over the weekend, no one

→ SEE MURDER ON B3



Jessica Zipkin was "a good soul," according to her family. Courtesy of Alania Perry

## Philly-area lawyers on the front lines of hundreds of child sex abuse cases

By Melanie Burney  
Staff Writer

When New Jersey relaxed the law in 2019 for child sexual abuse victims to file civil lawsuits against their predators, it opened a floodgate of legal cases.

Hundreds of victims who had been unable to bring a claim against their abusers because the statute of limitations had expired came forward. The new law, the New Jersey Child Victims Act, allowed them to sue their abusers up until they turned 55.

Nearly 600 cases across the state, more than any other firm, have been filed by John Baldante and his associate Daniella Price. Their firm, with offices in Haddonfield and Philadelphia, focuses on civil cases on behalf of child sex abuse victims involving public and private schools and the Roman Catholic Church.

"We're on the front lines of all of this," Baldante said in an interview last week. "It's been a painful wait for these survivors."

Baldante said his firm shifted gears to handle "an avalanche" of cases that landed in its lap. The firm has the largest inventory of

child sexual abuse cases, he said.

It is believed that as many as 2,000 civil cases have been filed since New Jersey carved out an exception to the statute of limitation. Nearly two dozen states have adopted similar laws making it easier for child sexual abuse victims to seek justice in civil courts.

"Those numbers start to get mind-boggling when you think about it," Baldante said. "I was shocked at how frequently [child sexual abuse] occurs."

Five years after the law was changed, those cases are being resolved either through

settlements or jury verdicts. Baldante estimates that his firm has settled about two dozen cases, with a typical average of about \$2.5 million to \$3 million, and several hundred cases are pending.

The settlements provide support for the abuse survivors and send a strong message to organizations that harbor predators that "they can't cover it up and expect to get away with it," said Marci Hamilton, founder and CEO of Child USA and a child sexual abuse expert.

Baldante believes about 100 similar cases have been settled by other firms. Some cases involving private entities are settled with a nondisclosure agreement, but public school districts must disclose such agreements.

Jeffrey P. Fritz, a sexual abuse attorney who has been representing clients under the new law, said the civil lawsuits offer a measure of justice to victims who may have no other recourse. He has several cases pending against the Cherry Hill school district.

"There are tons more out there," Fritz said.

Fritz reached a \$2 million settlement in June with the Camden school district and its former advisory board president Wasim

Muhammad, who was accused of sexually abusing Salema Robinson starting in 1994 when she was his former student. She also filed suit under the new law.

### Setting a new standard

In what is believed to be the largest settlement of those cases filed under the new law, Baldante and Price negotiated a \$30 million settlement in September on behalf of five young women who alleged sexual abuse by their instructor at a North Jersey ballet school.

"These numbers set the new standard of what these cases are really worth," Baldante said. "There has to be accountability."

According to court documents, the alleged abuse by Eugene Petrov lasted for years and occurred at the now-closed Petrov Ballet School in Bergen County beginning in 2011 when the women were teenagers. Petrov was the school's founder and artistic director.

Several girls had ambitions to become professional ballet dancers, and Petrov offered them extra attention to help them achieve their dreams, records said. Their

→ SEE ABUSE ON B3

“It is a huge responsibility, to know that I had a hand in someone's healing. It's very meaningful.”

Daniella Price, attorney for child sexual abuse victims

## Pennridge moves to repeal its 'advocacy' ban on staffers

**The school district aims to repeal a policy that barred workers from personal advocacy, including the display of Pride flags, in classrooms.**

By Maddie Hanna  
Staff Writer

A year after Democrats won control of the Pennridge school board, the new board is moving to repeal a controversial policy that banned staff "advocacy" in classrooms, including Pride flags.

At a meeting last week, the board voted 5-3 along partisan lines to repeal the policy, which was passed in 2022 under a board with a Republican majority. It prohibited staff from advocating "personal beliefs about political, social, religion,

sexual orientation, and gender identity" while in classrooms.

But the reversal isn't final: The issue now goes back to the board's policy committee, where the board's president suggested some changes are likely to be made.

The vote also isn't expected to put an end to the contention in the Bucks County district, which continues to face criticism over the removal of library books and rules around which bathrooms transgender students can use.

"It's painfully evident the legacy of extremism isn't in the past," Laura Foster, a Pennridge parent and advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, told the board at its meeting last Monday.

Here's where the Pennridge school board stands on a number of hot-button issues:

### Repealing the advocacy policy

Pennridge is one of a number of

area districts that flipped to Democratic control in last year's elections and has been at the center of culture war battles. But it has moved more slowly than some of its peers, such as Central Bucks, in repealing its predecessors' policies.

Like Central Bucks, however, Pennridge is now poised to roll back its advocacy policy, and revert to its original version specifying only that staff cannot engage in "political activities" in school. (That version, which mirrors one in place in a number of other districts, says that studying politics and discussing political issues in classrooms are permitted.)

The advocacy prohibitions are "a vague policy," said Ron Wurz, Pennridge's board president. Wurz was originally elected as a Republican, but was reelected last year as a Democrat after disagreeing with the former board's hiring of a curriculum consultant tied to the conservative education movement.

Under the policy, "teachers could be uncomfortable," not knowing how they're permitted to support students, Wurz said.

In arguing that the advocacy policy should be maintained, Republicans have voiced concern about teachers displaying Pride flags. Some board members said teachers who didn't have flags displayed were perceived as not offering a "safe space."

"If we're going to allow that, we have to allow everything," including "straight Pride flags," one Republican board member, Ricki Chaikin, said at a policy committee meeting earlier in October. Another member, Jordan Blomgren, warned about teachers grooming children — comments that drew pushback from Democrats. "That has nothing to do with advocacy, or politics," said Bradley Merk-Gump, a Democrat on the board.

During Monday's board meeting, Blomgren noted that the board had received an email from the Gays

Against Groomers group, calling on it to keep the current advocacy policy. (Democrats on the board pointed out that Gays Against Groomers has been designated an extremist group by the Southern Poverty Law Center for "dehumanizing anti-trans rhetoric.")

In moving to readopt the district's former policy that bans only political activities, Wurz said in an interview, the board may revise it to also include religious advocacy. Some Republican board members have voiced concerns about teachers making anti-Christian statements.

### More book removals

The current board has already repealed the Republican-favored library book policy, which prohibited "sexualized content." But some in the community have expressed frustration that books are still being removed from library

→ SEE PENNRIDGE ON B2

PHILLY & REGION

SCENE THROUGH THE LENS

More of staff photographer Tom Gralish's visual exploration of our region can be seen in his blog at [inquirer.com/sceneontheroad](https://inquirer.com/sceneontheroad)



CNN and Fox News are on adjacent screens in a fitness center in Westmont, N.J., on the final weekend of the election campaign. A recent Pew Research survey shows Americans most often say the two channels are their main sources for political news, leading "traditional" news media. Fox News (13%) and CNN (10%) were first and second in the survey. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

# 7-year-old girl fatally shot in Juniata Park

Police are investigating after the child was found with a gunshot wound to the face at a home on the 3800 block of I Street.

By Rosa Cartagena  
Staff Writer

Philadelphia police are investigating the fatal shooting of a 7-year-old girl in Juniata Park on Sunday afternoon.

Around 2:27 p.m., officers arrived at a residence on the 3800 block of I Street after receiving a call about a shooting, police said. The officers found the child "suffering from a gunshot wound to the face," according to brief police report issued Sunday evening.

The child was transported to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and was pronounced dead at 2:39 p.m., police said.

Police said a firearm was found at the scene. The girl's father and others were detained at the home as part of the investigation. Fox 29 reported. No other information was provided by police.

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# 25 books, graphic novels scrapped

Here's a look at the titles that were removed from Pennridge's libraries this year — and ones that were kept.

By Maddie Hanna  
Staff Writer

The Pennridge school board in September rolled back the prior Republican-led board's policy banning "sexualized content" in library books. But that hasn't put an end to books being pulled from library shelves.

Under the new policy, the district has removed seven books and graphic novel series, deeming them "age-inappropriate." That's on top of 18 books and graphic novel series that the district disclosed this fall were removed based on the old policy, or whose status was challenged during its existence.

Some community members have accused the board, which is now run by Democrats, of enabling book banning. The board's president says the district's librarian and other staff have recommended the removals.

"There are some books that shouldn't be in a high school library," said the board president, Ron Wurz. "I don't call that banning, I call that age-appropriateness."

Here's a breakdown of the actions the district has taken on books, and the continued community divide around what should be allowed in the district's libraries:

### Which books have been removed?

At a policy committee meeting in August, the district's superintendent, Angelo Berrios, said

the district was in the process of reviewing 22 books that were pulled in the 2022-23 school year. Those books were not formally challenged but were checked out for prolonged periods by staff members that school year, after Republican board members warned of "pornographic filth" in the libraries. A parent took the district to court over the issue and won an open-records case last year, with a Bucks County judge ruling that Pennridge had "effectuated a cover-up" of book removals.

The committee in August directed the administration to pause reviewing the books until it passed a new policy. "We'll ask the librarians if repurchasing these books is appropriate," Leah Foster Rash, a Democrat who chairs the committee, said.

But according to a presentation Pennridge administrators gave the committee in October, the high school librarian decided that 14 of those books shouldn't go back in the library.

"This was her professional opinion," Berrios told the committee, adding that the librarian was evaluating the books as if they were new books to add to the library, rather than existing books being challenged. "We weren't coercing, fearmongering, or anything else."

Among the books the librarian ruled out: *Gender Queer*, the frequently challenged graphic novel about a young person grappling with gender identity that includes depictions of oral sex; *The Haters*, a coming-of-age book about aspiring musicians taking a road trip; and *Push*, a novel about a girl sexually abused by her father that became the basis of the movie *Precious*.

But the district also issued decisions on a series of additional books challenged since last year.

It removed 11 books and graphic novel series that were reviewed by a reconsideration committee of staff members. Some had themes of revenge and the occult or were "excessively violent," with graphic sexual content.

Other books included *American Psycho* and *Sex is a Funny Word* — the latter of which Assistant Superintendent Kathy Scheid said was meant to be used by adults with students, as a resource book. "It's not a book that's even written for kids to take out of the library," Scheid said.

### Which books have been kept?

Some books that have been reviewed have been maintained by the district. Pennridge decided to return to library shelves six of the 22 books that disappeared in the 2022-23 school year, including the popular young-adult novel *Looking for Alaska* and *Beloved*, by Pulitzer Prize winner Toni Morrison.

It also kept some of the books that were formally challenged by community members — though it will require parental consent for students to check them out. That group includes *Identical*, about twin sisters who struggle with a father's sexual abuse and addiction, and *A Stolen Life*, a memoir about a girl's kidnapping.

Pennridge's high school librarian also referred to the district's reconsideration committee two titles that disappeared from library shelves in 2022-23: *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and *Cirque Du Freak*. Their review status was unclear this week.

### What are community members debating?

Some Democrats on the board expressed frustration that books

popular with teenagers have been removed — including several in the *A Court of Thorns and Roses* series by Sarah J. Maas, and *It Ends With Us*, by Colleen Hoover.

"I feel like we're missing an opportunity to engage children in voluntary reading," Rash said at the October policy committee meeting. She said she had checked the online libraries of the 10 highest-ranked school districts in Pennsylvania and found they carried many of the books Pennridge was excluding.

"Districts performing way better than us, what are their best practices? Did they kick these books out, too?" she said. (Scheid noted that Pennridge promotes independent reading, "from kindergarten on.")

Meanwhile, Republican board and community members questioned the district's process for evaluating books, voicing concern that the district would consider recommendations from the American Library Association, in light of a former ALA president's post on Twitter identifying herself as a Marxist. Some objected to new rules that parents read an entire book before challenging it.

Ricki Chaikin, a Republican on the board, said during October's policy committee meeting she wouldn't want her daughter reading some of the books that were removed from library shelves in 2022 that the Pennridge librarian had decided to reinstate.

"If you want the committee to review a book, you would follow the same process," Scheid said, telling Chaikin she could submit a reconsideration form.

# Pennridge

→ CONTINUED FROM B1 shelves.

The district announced earlier this fall that its high school librarian had reviewed 22 books pulled from the library's shelves during the 2022-23 school year — removals that were not publicly announced at the time, but that administrators acknowledged were in response to the ban on sexualized content.

While the librarian determined that six of those books should be returned to the library, she removed 14 others, and referred two for review by a reconsideration committee.

The district has also pulled an additional 11 books and graphic novel series from library shelves based on challenges submitted this school year — some as a result of the old policy banning sexualized content. But others

were removed and deemed inappropriate under the new policy announced in September by the Democratic board.

At the October policy committee meeting, Leah Foster Rash, a Democrat on the board, said she was concerned that the book removals were "out of touch" with what students want to read, and that the district could be missing opportunities to pique kids' interest.

"These are books our librarians feel are not age-appropriate for our students," Wurz said at last Monday's school board meeting, giving an update on the board's progress toward policy changes. He said it was "now time to let our professionals handle any issues going forward."

### Bathroom policy

The board is also facing criticism

around its bathroom policy. While Democrats repealed the previous board's policy that required students and staff to use bathrooms in line with their sex rather than gender identity, they replaced it with regulations that distinguished between bathrooms for "biologically" male or female students, and others for students who identified as male or female.

That distinction is still discriminatory, according to a federal complaint that accuses Pennridge of creating a hostile environment for students of color and LGBTQ students. The complaint was originally filed in November 2023 but updated in August with new allegations.

Foster, cofounder of the RIDGE Network, one of the groups that brought the complaint, noted last Monday that queer students "still face restricted bathroom access";

critics say limiting transgender students to "gender identity" bathrooms or single-use bathrooms can force them to out themselves. She demanded the board address an ongoing "climate of racism, homophobia, and transphobia" in the district.

Wurz told community members Monday that "there will be compromises." In an interview, he rejected the assertion from some that the board was "caving to the right."

"The majority of the people think that solutions should be approached from a balanced approach," he said.

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## LOTTERIES

Drawn daily unless otherwise noted. Those drawn after 8 p.m. are too late to make it in some of our newspapers.

MULTISTATE	
<b>Nov. 2 (Mon., Wed., Sat.)</b>	
Powerball	10 45 48 58 61 (2)
Powerplay x3	
Double Play	4 20 37 48 58(24)
<b>Nov. 1 (Tue., Fri.)</b>	
Mega Millions	11 22 42 46 51 (4)
Megaplier x2	
<b>Nov. 2</b>	
Cash4Life	15 20 27 30 48 (3)
<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b>	1-800-692-7481
<b>Nov. 3</b>	
Pick 2 day	7 6 (0)
Pick 3 day	6 4 8 (0)
Pick 4 day	3 1 8 4 (0)
Pick 5 day	7 5 9 1 2 (0)
Treasure Hunt	1 15 23 27 30
<b>Nov. 3</b>	
Pick 2 night	1 2 (9)
Pick 3 night	7 7 1 (9)
Pick 4 night	1 1 1 9 (9)
Pick 5 night	6 9 7 0 2 (9)
Cash 5	10 11 16 18 24
Match 6	2 4 15 25 27 29
<b>NEW JERSEY</b>	609-599-5800
<b>Nov. 3</b>	
Pick 3 day	2 5 2 (5)
Pick 4 day	7 0 3 5 (5)
<b>Nov. 2</b>	
Pick 3 night	4 9 4 (4)
Pick 4 night	2 1 5 5 (4)
<b>Nov. 2</b>	
Cash 5	5 19 23* 24 43
Xtra x2	
<b>Oct. 31 (Mon., Thu.)</b>	
Pick 6 Xtra	1 2 3 4 35 42
Double Play	3 8 24 34 42 46
<b>DELAWARE</b>	302-739-5291
<b>Nov. 3</b>	
Play 3 day	2 2 5
Play 4 day	5 4 8 6
Play 5 day	7 4 3 4 4
<b>Nov. 3</b>	
Play 3 night	7 1 8
Play 4 night	2 1 2 3
Play 5 night	5 1 1 3 9
MultiWin Lotto	7 12 20 23 33 34
<b>Nov. 2</b>	
Lucky for Life	21 25 30 34 35 (9)
<b>Nov. 2 (Mon., Wed., Sat.)</b>	
Lotto America	7 9 23 32 42 (10)
Bonus x3	

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Abuse

→ CONTINUED FROM B1 lawsuits, filed separately in 2021, alleged that Petrov groomed the girls and then sexually abused them.

Under a consent judgment, Petrov will not be held personally liable, and the plaintiffs agreed not to seek any amount from him, according to the document. Petrov has not admitted any wrongdoing and no criminal charges have been filed.

But Baldante plans to file a bad-faith lawsuit against the ballet school's insurance company to collect the \$30 million settlement. The insurance carrier has denied any liability, arguing that the abuse alleged was not covered by its coverage.

It could take several years to resolve the case, Baldante said. But his clients are satisfied with the current outcome because the ballet school has been closed, and they have started to move on with their lives, he said.

"It is a huge responsibility, to know that I had a hand in someone's healing," said Price, his associate. "It's very meaningful."

It is estimated that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys in New Jersey experience some form of sexual abuse before age 18. But most of the abuse goes unreported, according to Hamilton, of Child USA.

Victims are often unable to disclose the trauma they experienced until an older age, usually between 40 and 55, Hamilton said. Previously, New Jersey required child victims to file a civil action by age 20. A bill that would have implemented similar changes in Pennsylvania stalled.

All five women decided to use their names in the lawsuit against Petrov, but The Inquirer does not identify victims in sexual assault cases without their consent. Two of the women, Cristina Tummillo and Elizabeth Flynn, wanted to share their stories to encourage other sex abuse victims to consider coming forward.

"We applaud these girls for being so brave," Baldante said.

Cristina Tummillo: 'My healing journey has only begun'

Tummillo began attending

ballet lessons when she was 5. Her father offered volunteer carpentry work at the Petrov Ballet school, and her teacher, Eugene, was a trusted family friend.

When she was around 16 in 2011, Tummillo said Petrov gained her trust by pretending to serve as a mentor. She put in extra hours on the weekends and stayed late to pursue her dream to become a professional dancer. Then, according to the lawsuit, the alleged sexual abuse began, with him embracing and fondling her, and Petrov masturbating in front of her, and continued for seven years.

Tummillo said she kept in touch with the other dancers after she graduated from high school, and during visits to the ballet school, she saw disturbing signs that made her believe other girls had been sexually abused.

"I just started to put the pieces together," said Tummillo.

Tummillo, now 29 and an office manager, and Flynn, were the first to decide to file a lawsuit, and the others followed. As a result, the ballet school was shut down.

"I'm so very glad that I did it. The outcome is worth it," she said. "It was the right thing to do."

Elizabeth Flynn: 'It's not your fault'

As a teenager, Flynn spent every free moment at her ballet school. It was her life.

"I loved dancing. It was so fun," she said.

And then it wasn't. She said the sexual abuse began when she was 15 and lasted for three years. She didn't tell anyone, partly out of shame and embarrassment.

"I didn't want anyone to know about it," said Flynn, now 24.

Eventually, Flynn confided in her parents. She also spoke with Tummillo and wanted "to come forward to share my story." According to the complaint, Petrov abused her on more than 100 occasions, and she was conditioned to believe the behavior was normal.

Flynn said her bravery was embraced by her family and friends.

"I think it was important to know you're not alone. It's not your fault," she said.

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Corrections officers charged with lying about incident

By Robert Moran Staff Writer

A New Jersey grand jury has indicted six senior correctional officers in connection with a 2020 pepper-spraying incident at a state prison in Burlington County involving alleged illegal use of force and then lying about it in their reports, the state Attorney General's Office announced Wednesday.

On April 8, 2020, five correctional officers and a sergeant used unwarranted force while attempting to remove an inmate from a cell at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility in Chesterfield, a prison for young adults, prosecutors said.

Without giving the inmate verbal orders or a chance to otherwise comply and exit the cell peacefully, Sgt. Michael Emmert, 40, of Toms River, pepper-sprayed the inmate twice before the other correctional officers forcefully removed the inmate, prosecutors said.

The six defendants then filed false reports to give the impression that the use of force was justified, prosecutors said.

Besides Emmert, the other defendants are Christopher Toth, 40, of New Egypt; Mark Sadlowski Jr., 46, of Sewell; Raymond Quinones, 50, of Beachwood; Michael

Gaines, 58, of Willingboro; and Michael Ambrozaitis, 60, of Southampton.

All six were charged with official misconduct, tampering with public records, and falsifying or tampering with records, prosecutors said. Emmert and Toth were also charged with aggravated assault. Toth was additionally charged with witnessing the excessive force and failing to intervene, report, or take appropriate action.

"New Jersey correctional officers work under trying circumstances and do essential work in the criminal justice system and in maintaining public safety," Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin said in a statement.

"The alleged conduct of the officers indicted in this case does a discredit to every correctional officer who performs their duties with integrity. The mistreatment of young adults in the State's care will not be tolerated and no one is above the law," Platkin said.

On Tuesday, two senior New Jersey correctional officers were charged with sexually assaulting a teen who was being held at a juvenile detention center in Bordentown, Burlington County.

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Murder

→ CONTINUED FROM B1 was there to buy Zipkin.

According to the affidavit of probable cause for Carey's arrest, Zipkin's body was found in an apartment rented by Carey.

Video surveillance retrieved by police shows Carey arriving at a local taproom, the Duck Inn, at 12:57 p.m. on Friday, wearing a T-shirt. Almost an hour later, he returned to the apartment, and within 10 minutes Zipkin arrived.

Around 2:30 p.m. a neighbor heard a woman screaming and then a man scream, but according to the affidavit, he turned the volume up on his television.

Eight minutes later, Carey is seen by the cameras entering the Duck Inn's basement with clothing items and disposing of them in a trash can, the affidavit states. Soon, he is seen walking out wearing a long-sleeve shirt and placing the trash bag from the taproom basement into a dumpster in the parking lot.

At some point, he asked

a person for a ride to buy shoes because the ones he had "stunk," according to the affidavit. But when they arrived at the store, Carey didn't get out of the car. Instead, he seeming to be "spaced out and to be crying while inside [the] vehicle," the police report states.

A little before 1:30 a.m., on Saturday, Carey returned home and told the property owner that "his girlfriend was deceased in the apartment," according to the police complaint. The property owner called 911.

As a result of a search warrant, police Saturday morning found a pair of bloodstained sneakers in Carey's kitchen, and a pair of jeans and a T-shirt that appeared to be stained with blood in the Duck Inn dumpster, according to the affidavit of probable cause.

Soon after, Carey was arrested. He is being held without bail at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for

Nov. 13.

For Zipkin's loved ones, the loss is immeasurable and painfully sudden. They are left heartbroken and confused, said Perry, her friend. "We don't know what went wrong," she added.

As the family grapples

with the loss, they said they hope "Jena" is remembered as a good soul who was always there to support people and loved her cat, Flurken.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Final Notice and Public Explanation of Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland November 4, 2024

This is to give notice that the County of Delaware (County) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The activities are funded under the Community Development Block Grant program, HUD grant number 824UC420006 and are all located in Delaware County. Activities identified below will affect the marked -year floodplain and activities marked with an asterisk (\*) also affect a wetland:

Chester Township: Estimated CDBG funding is \$125,000 and estimated total project cost is \$437,500 for the upgrades to existing storm water management systems throughout Chester Township. Activities include: installation of approx. 1,250 LF of stormwater main pipe, replacement of approx. 350 LF of stormwater main pipe, rehabilitation of 23 stormwater inlets and incidental asphalt road repaving. Less than one-eighth acre of floodplain will be disturbed.

The County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: The No Action alternative is not acceptable since failure to complete this project will continue to allow the existing sewer system to deteriorate increasing risk of groundwater contamination. Choosing another location is not acceptable as the project will rehabilitate an existing system and another location would require unnecessary disturbance.

\*Collingdale Borough: Estimated CDBG funding is \$215,050 and estimated total project cost is \$653,947 for sanitary sewer rehabilitation on Lafayette Avenue and area adjacent to Lynbrook Road. Activities include the lining of approximately 0.47 LF of 18-inch main, approximately 681 LF of 24-inch main, and manholes. Less than one-quarter acre of floodplain and one-quarter acre of wetlands will be disturbed.

The County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: The No Action alternative is not acceptable since failure to complete this project will continue to allow the existing sewer system to deteriorate increasing the potential of untreated sewage escaping the system. Choosing another location is not acceptable as the project will rehabilitate an existing system and another location would require unnecessary disturbance.

Darby Borough: Estimated CDBG funding is \$178,524 and estimated total project cost is \$328,875 for street resurfacing of N. 2nd Street. Activities include the milling, base repair and resurfacing, installation of 18 ADA curb cut ramps and related site restoration. Less than one-eighth acre of floodplain will be disturbed.

The County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: The No Action alternative is not acceptable since failure to complete this project will allow further deterioration and increase harmful runoff. Choosing another location is not acceptable as the project will rehabilitate an existing roadway and another location would require unnecessary disturbance.

\*Darby Township: Estimated CDBG funding is \$240,910 and estimated total project cost is \$530,000 for Conway Park improvements on Hook Road. Activities include construction of 2 basketball courts, and associated walkway. Installation of court lighting, approximately 210 LF of retaining wall, and approximately 280 LF of perimeter fence. Less than one-quarter acre of floodplain and one-quarter acre of wetlands will be disturbed.

The County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: The No Action alternative is not acceptable since failure to complete this project will continue to allow the potential of untreated sewage escaping creating an unsafe location for interested residents and increase potential of harmful runoff. Choosing another location is not acceptable as the project will provide restoration of existing opening space and the Township is highly built out without available open space or funding to relocate.

Folcroft Borough: Estimated CDBG funding is \$53,880 and estimated total project cost is \$211,486 for Montgomery Park improvements on Taylor Drive. Activities include the replacement of approx. 1,230 SF impervious asphalt parking lot, with approx. 2,300 SF pervious pavement parking lot and related site restoration. Less than half of an acre of floodplain will be disturbed.

The County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: The No Action alternative is not acceptable since failure to complete this project will continue to allow the potential of untreated sewage escaping creating an unsafe location for interested residents and increase potential of harmful runoff. Choosing another location is not acceptable as the project will convert the site surface from impervious to pervious decreasing the run-off potential and the Borough is highly built out without available open space or funding to relocate.

The County has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and Wetland and has determined that it is not a practicable alternative for the above projects. Environmental files for each project that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 and 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and wetland and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important environmental education tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the County at the following address on or before November 12, 2024: Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development, 2 W. Baltimore Avenue, Suite 202, Media, PA 19063. Attention: Philip Welsh, Director (E10191-5425). A full description of the project activities may also be reviewed from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the same address. Comments may also be submitted by email at ohod@co.delaware.pa.us

LEGAL NOTICES

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL DIVISION PHILADELPHIA COUNTY NO: 23071833

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1 PLAINTIFF VS. Calvin Tucker, known Heir of Emma Tucker-Tyler, deceased and Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns and All Persons, Firms or Associations Claiming Right, Title or Interest from or under Emma Tucker-Tyler, deceased DEFENDANTS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY TO: Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns and All Persons, Firms or Associations Claiming Right, Title or Interest from or under Emma Tucker-Tyler, deceased 4633 North Camac Street Philadelphia, PA 19140 Your house (real estate) at: 4633 North Camac Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 is scheduled to be sold at a Public on-line auction conducted by Bid4Assets, 8757 Georgia Ave., Suite 520, Silver Springs, MD 20910 on January 7, 2025 at 10:00AM to enforce the court judgment of \$109,873.32 obtained by WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1 against you.

NOTICE OF OWNER'S RIGHTS YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PREVENT THIS SHERIFF'S SALE To prevent this Sheriff's Sale you must take immediate action: The sale will be cancelled if you pay back to WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1 the amount of the judgment plus costs or the back payments, late charges, costs, and reasonable attorneys fees due. To find out how much you must pay, you may call: (610) 278-6800. PLEASE NOTE a Schedule of Distribution will be filed by the Sheriff on a date specified by the Sheriff not later than thirty (30) days after sale. Distribution will be made in accordance with the schedule unless exceptions are filed thereto within 20 days after the filing of the schedule.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL DIVISION PHILADELPHIA COUNTY NO: 22030123 PLAINTIFF Longbridge Financial, LLC VS. Melissa Marinucci, known Heir of George M. Novak, III and Michael Novak, known Heir of George M. Novak, III, Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns and All Persons, Firms or Associations Claiming Right, Title or Interest from or under George M. Novak, III, deceased DEFENDANTS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL PROPERTY TO: Unknown Heirs, Successors, Assigns and All Persons, Firms or Associations Claiming Right, Title or Interest from or under George M. Novak, III, deceased 3100 Welsh Road Philadelphia, PA 19136 Your house (real estate) at: 3100 Welsh Road, Philadelphia, PA 19136 5710388600 is scheduled to be sold at a Public on-line auction conducted by Bid4Assets, 8757 Georgia Ave., Suite 520, Silver Springs, MD 20910 on January 7, 2025 at 10:00AM to enforce the court judgment of \$211,278.58 obtained by Longbridge Financial, LLC against you.

NOTICE OF OWNER'S RIGHTS YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PREVENT THIS SHERIFF'S SALE To prevent this Sheriff's Sale you must take immediate action: The sale will be cancelled if you pay back to Longbridge Financial, LLC the amount of the judgment plus costs or the back payments, late charges, costs, and reasonable attorneys fees due. To find out how much you must pay, you may call: (610) 278-6800. PLEASE NOTE a Schedule of Distribution will be filed by the Sheriff on a date specified by the Sheriff not later than thirty (30) days after sale. Distribution will be made in accordance with the schedule unless exceptions are filed thereto within 20 days after the filing of the schedule.

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION Notification is hereby given that PNC Bank National Association, 222 Delaware Avenue, Wilmington, DE, 19899, New Castle County, has filed an application with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) on Monday, November 4, 2024, as specified in 12 C.F.R. Part 5 for permission to establish a domestic branch at 5311 Chew Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19138, Philadelphia County.

Any person wishing to modify an existing application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller 7 Times Square, 10th Floor Mailroom, New York, New York, or LicensingPublicComments@occ.treas.gov within 30 days after the date of this publication. The public portion of the application is available on request. Information regarding the application (including, for example, the closing date of the public comment period) may be found in OCC's Weekly Bulletin available on the OCC's website. (https://www.occ.gov/).

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION Notice is hereby given that by Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, dated October 16, 2024, Tedd Andrew Goodman (#57626) of Philadelphia, PA, is suspended from the practice of law for a period of one year and one day, retroactive to April 24, 2024.

Marcee D. Sloan Board Prothonotary The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION Notice is hereby given that by Order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, issued October 16, 2024, Gary Scott Silver (#83122) of Philadelphia, PA, is suspended from the practice of law for a period of four years, effective November 15, 2024.

Marcee D. Sloan Board Prothonotary The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION Notice is hereby given that on October 25, 2024, pursuant to Rule 214, Pa.R.D.E., the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania ordered that Adam J. Rodgers (#64987) of Philadelphia, PA, be replaced on Temporary Suspension until further definitive action by the Supreme Court is taken effective November 24, 2024.

Marcee D. Sloan Board Prothonotary The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

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MEETING NOTICES

Notice of Meeting

A Camden Social Services District (CSSD) Special Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6th as a Virtual ZOOM Meeting beginning at 5:30 pm. Agenda and instructions for accessing the meeting can be found on the CSSD website: www.mydown towncamden.com

Raymond Comen Interim Executive Director

PROPOSAL BIDS

Philadelphia Parking Notice to Offerors RFP No. 24-23 Vehicle Power Washing

The Philadelphia Parking Authority has released RFP No. 24-23 Vehicle Power Washing. Sealed proposals must be received in the office of the Philadelphia Parking Authority, addressed to Shannon Stewart, 701 Market Street, Suite 5400, Philadelphia, PA 19106, by Monday, December 2, 2024, no later than 1:00 PM. Information and important dates for this solicitation can be obtained from the website, www.philapark.org or by calling Shannon Stewart, Manager of Contract Administration at 215.883.9535.

ESTATE NOTICES

Letters have been granted on the Estate of each of the following decedents to the representatives named, who request all persons having claims against the Estate to present them in writing and all persons indebted to the Estate to make payment to them (unless otherwise noted all addresses being in Philadelphia):

ALOSI, ANTHONY - Catherine Lebesco, Executrix, 29 Lakelield Drive, Marlton, NJ 08053

MACKIEWICZ, FLORENCE -- Karen L. Fullerton, Executrix, 148 Library Place, Princeton, NJ 08540

SANWALD, JOHN M. Michael J. Sanwald, Executrix, 1095 Bancroft Lane, Yardley, PA 19087

STAUBACH, CAROL ANN a/k/a CAROL S. SPRADLIN a/k/a CAROL STAUBACH - Daniel J. Spradlin, Executrix, 3708 Highland Dr., Garnet Valley, PA 19080

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# LIFE & CULTURE



Danajah Y., a recent Sprouts graduate from New York City, spoke about her experience at a fundraising event at the Pump House in Philadelphia in October. Rasheena Wilson

## Nonprofit to give teens firsthand culinary experience in professional kitchens

**Sprouts Chef Training plans to begin its first Philly cohort in the spring.**

By Nate File  
Staff Writer

Your next fine-dining meal might be made by a Philly teenager.

Sprouts Chef Training, a nonprofit giving mentorship and culinary training to under-resourced youth, is coming to Philadelphia. Sprouts participants are paired with professional, working chef mentors who guide them through a six-week paid internship in a restaurant. The goal of the program is to give mentees the practical experience necessary to begin careers in a notoriously competitive field.

"They're learning knife skills, they're on the prep line, and they're really considered a part of the team," said Kari Cooper, development director for Sprouts Chef Training. "They're working with all the other staff in the kitchen; they're working on front of house service."

"They're seeing what all goes into really every aspect of the business," she said.

The organization was founded in the Bay Area, with the Chefs Training program launching in 2016, and has since expanded to New York City.

A group of Philly's hospitality leaders are working to fundraise and build support for the program, including Ellen Yin, co-owner of High Street Hospitality and the

restaurant Fork, and Fia Berisha and Nicholas Elmi, co-owners of BE Hospitality. Their goal is to raise \$40,000 by the end of 2024 to support the training and compensation for a cohort of Philly chef mentees in spring 2025.

"It's an industry that I'm very passionate about, and I think it is a huge opportunity for people," Yin said. "The hospitality industry can provide a stable and lucrative job opportunity, and I think a lot of people don't necessarily think of it because it's not a traditional career path."

### A 'transformative' experience

Sprouts plans to find its first Philly cohort through referral partners at nonprofits and other organizations that work directly with youth (while the program is open to ages 16-28, Cooper said that about 90% all of Sprouts participants are 18 or under). Because many of the mentees may come from under-resourced backgrounds with unique challenges, they will be paired with a Sprouts social worker to help facilitate success in the internship.

Once the internship begins, Sprouts mentees typically spend at least two days a week working with their chef mentors inside restaurants, with Sprouts working as a liaison between the two.

"We've got Michelin star chefs who bring on trainees into their kitchens, and we have local mom-and-pop restaurants that have been in business for 30 years," Cooper said.

She said she believes that the program's partnership with dozens of chefs and restaurants is



From left to right: Kate Rogers, executive director of Sprouts Chef Training, Ellen Yin, co-owner of High Street Hospitality Group, and Mary K. Dougherty, a Philadelphia-based Sprouts board member, at a Sprouts fundraising event in October. PJ Agbay

evidence of a cultural shift within the industry.

"The chefs who are at the top now went through a pretty brutal and competitive process to get where they're at. And I feel like they're recognizing that it doesn't have to be that way," she said.

Yin said that getting hands-on restaurant experience is crucial for young people beginning a culinary career. Without it, the transition can be difficult.

"Imagine a kid who has never maybe had a job, and you're asking them to come into a business that is very reliant on attendance, on consistency, on hard work," she said.

Once the internship is over, Sprouts continues working with

mentees to help them land their first full-time jobs, pursue higher education, or take the next steps in a culinary career. That includes a personal finance workshop to teach them concepts like budgeting, savings, and student loans.

Even if Sprouts participants go on to pursue careers outside of the culinary industry, Yin said that the experience is worth the investment for both mentors and mentees.

"It's a success if that person continues to progress," she said, noting that while her Fork restaurant has been open for over 25 years, many of the young people working there have eventually moved on to other restaurants or careers altogether.

"I want them to be closer to their career goal than they were when

### Acknowledgment

The work produced by the Communities & Engagement desk at The Inquirer is supported by The Lenfest Institute for Journalism. Editorial content is created independently of the project's donors.

they came in," she said.

One Sprouts graduate that may be following that path is Danajah Y., a teen from New York who recently completed an internship with the restaurant Margot in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

"My time at Sprouts was transformative," she said at a Sprouts fundraising and awareness event in Philly in October. "It wasn't just about cooking. It was about creating a family and building confidence in an open kitchen. Cooking in front of others with their encouragement and acceptance boosted my self-esteem and allowed me to grow both personally and professionally."

She said that she plans to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering. And even though she is not furthering a culinary career, she said her experience had helped her grow significantly as a person.

"I realized that I was capable of much more than what the world had initially presented to me," she said.

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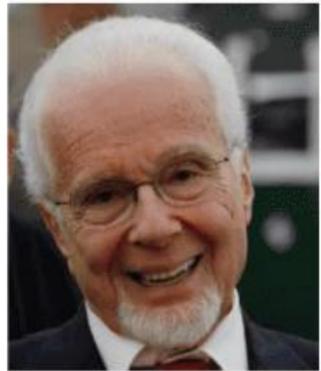
## No Name Pops is gifted 'Philly Pops' name

By Peter Dobrin  
Classical Music Critic

The No Name Pops will take on "The Philly Pops" name sometime next year. Six months after raising the idea publicly, the No Name Pops announced Thursday that it has been gifted the trademark to the name by the family of conductor Peter Nero.

There's no firm date on when the name change would take effect, but the group hopes the switch will happen by July.

In addition, the fledgling group that organized after the demise of



Peter Nero Michael S. Wirtz / Staff Photographer

the original Philly Pops said it had acquired scores, recordings, and memorabilia that belonged to Nero, who directed the Philly Pops from its founding in 1979 until 2013.

The name Peter Nero and the Philly Pops was a "household name in Philadelphia," said Jedd Nero, Peter Nero's son, in April when the idea was announced, "and the name means a lot for Philadelphia as it did to him, and we would love to see that carry on, for this to be his memory."

No Name Pops was begun in 2023 to fill the void left by the Philly Pops, which suspended concerts after being evicted from the

Kimmel Center in January 2023. The new group, largely made up of former Philly Pops players, has made honoring the memory of Nero a major part of its identity. The legendary pianist and conductor died in 2023 at age 89.

Musicians from the No Name Pops perform in various smaller configurations, but the next full-ensemble performance is Nov. 16 at the Kimmel's Marian Anderson Hall.

The items being transferred from the Nero estate number in the hundreds, said No Name Pops executive director Matthew Koveal, and include original manuscripts

and sheet music. Among the pieces are Nero's own musical arrangements, which Koveal said the group aims to perform in future concerts.

"That was part of the agreement with the Nero family," said Koveal, "that we would continue to uphold the legacy of Peter Nero. So we would certainly be incorporating some of his arrangements, some of the things people remember about Peter."

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## LIFE &amp; CULTURE



Bruce Springsteen in 1985 (left) and actor Jeremy Allen White, who portrays The Boss in a film currently in production in New Jersey. AP

## 'DELIVER ME FROM NOWHERE'

## Our first look at Jeremy Allen White as Bruce Springsteen in new film

By Rosa Cartagena  
Staff Writer

After months of anticipation, we're finally seeing actor Jeremy Allen White's transformation into Bruce Springsteen for the biopic *Deliver Me From Nowhere* — transforming his piercing blue eyes with brown contact lenses.

The movie, based on the Warren Zanes book about the making of Springsteen's legendary solo album *Nebraska*, is currently filming in New Jersey and New York.

White, who stars in the Emmy-winning dramedy *The Bear*, brings his signature tortured acting to this depressive period of

Springsteen's life, when the rock legend wrote and recorded the album while living alone in Colts Neck, N.J., in the 1970s.

On set, White sported a red plaid button-down shirt and classic leather jacket, with some photos showing him in a gray beret. Last week the Brooklyn-based actor was seen visiting a bookstore and coffee shop in Hoboken, and filming at a branch of the Montclair Public Library.

Unsurprisingly, passionate Springsteen fans have already begun questioning whether White looks convincing enough as a young Springsteen.

An user on X believed "he looks more like Brian Johnson from AC/

DC than Bruce Springsteen."

Springsteen himself is involved "a little" in the film, as is his manager Jon Landau, who will be played by *Succession* star Jeremy Strong. In a recent interview, the Boss called the cast "lovely" and praised White: "This is not easy to do because you can't do an imitation, you have to do a personal interpretation ... It's difficult, but he is a great actor and sings pretty good."

"Bruce Springsteen's *Nebraska* has profoundly shaped my artistic vision," *Deliver Me From Nowhere* director Scott Cooper said last week in a news release from Disney, which owns 20th Century Studios. "The album's raw,

unvarnished portrayal of life's trials and resilience resonates deeply with me. Our film aims to capture that same spirit, bringing Warren Zanes' compelling narrative of Bruce's life to the screen with authenticity and hope, honoring Bruce's legacy in a transformative cinematic experience."

Given the film locations, local fans have a chance to get involved: Last month, the film's casting company announced a search for extras to appear in Asbury Park in December and East Rutherford in January. The film is set to release sometime in 2025.

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## 'Memoir of a Snail': A slow beauty in stop-motion

By Amy Nicholson  
Washington Post

*Memoir of a Snail*, by the Oscar-winning Australian animator Adam Elliot, is a grubby delight, a stop-motion charmer that feels like falling into a dumpster and discovering an orchid.

It opens with trash — cans, shoes, broken TVs, each molded from clay — and cuts to an elderly Alzheimer's patient named Pinky (Jacki Weaver) in her final moments alive. Pinky's skin is as gnarled as tree bark. "The potatoes!" she gasps, confounding the woman weeping at her side, Grace (Sarah Snook), a dour hoarder wearing a childish hat with knitted eye stalks. Cue Pinky's death.

For the rest of the film's 94 minutes, Grace narrates her own grim life story from childhood to her present. This is finely calibrated

feel-bad cinema, a movie where the characters' circumstances are so dire, you come to love its losers for soldiering on.

Of course, a frame-by-frame obsessive like Elliot would be drawn to a story about snails, the only animal able to appreciate his craft in real time. Elliot moves slowly even compared with other stop-motion artists. His last feature, "Mary and Max," was released in 2009, a pace due in part to his refusal to use digital effects. Here, the fires are cellophane; the tears, sexual lubricant. When one of Elliot's assistants accidentally chopped off her fingertip during production, they put the flap of human skin in a jar and sneaked it into the background as a prop.

Grace's life intersects with other kooks, including her harder twin brother, Gilbert (Kodi Smit-McPhee); a disgraced judge named James (Eric Bana); and a

blink-and-you'll-miss-him character, voiced by Nick Cave, who is promptly eaten by a crocodile. Each stands roughly palm-size with hair like a caveman's toothbrush and just four fingers of their own on each hand. This doesn't prevent them from flipping the bird. Neither are they restrained from such adult pleasures as roller-skating on a nude cruise.

This twee grotesquerie won't corrupt any children undeterred by the film's R rating. Those kids will have already wandered off, dismayed by a cartoon told in shades of gray, black, and Vegemite brown. One of the more beautiful sights in the film is simply a very shiny cabbage.

Yet Elliot has taken the time to stitch a bit of black comedy into every scene — layering each frame with jokes designed to be excavated on a rewatch. My favorite is a glimpse of Pinky dancing at a

topless German restaurant called Schnitz 'n' ... uh, well, think of a lady part that rhymes. (I've since learned it's a real place in Melbourne — try the veal.)

The film's metaphors spiral together too tightly, especially its insistence that vulnerable Grace is trapped inside her shell, a husk that comes to mean her shyness, her hobbies, her home, and her size. I found myself empathizing more with her brother, a pyromaniac who becomes the heart of the movie — he's the one willing to risk getting hurt to protect them.

As Grace and Gilbert's bond weakens, Elliot has written some lovely thoughts on loss that he scores to urgent violins, thundering organs, and, in one scene, the screams of a snail named Sylvia (as in Plath), whose gradual slitherings over the course of the film urge us to creep onward at whatever speed we can.

## N.J. man documents our love for film and TV houses

By Jason Nark  
Staff Writer

Everyone has a movie or show they've watched so much, that the characters begin to feel like family, and their homes feel like, well, home.

It might be Elliott's bedroom in *E.T.*, the Tanner family's Victorian *Full House* in San Francisco, or Winona Ryder's living room, bedecked in Christmas lights, in *Stranger Things*.

Tommy Avallone, an Audubon, N.J., filmmaker, took that simple feeling and turned it into his latest project — *The House From* — a documentary that debuted recently at New Jersey director Kevin Smith's Smokey Castle Cinemas in Monmouth County. The film is now available on streaming networks.

Avallone, 42, has an abiding love for all things pop culture, having directed a film about America's hatred of Barney, the dinosaur, called "I Love You, You Hate Me." "Growing up in the area, like



Courtesy of Tommy Avallone

15 minutes from the Rocky steps, you could go there and think, "Wow, that's a real place. I used to think Audubon High School was the clock tower from *Back to the Future*," Avallone said recently in Haddon Heights, where he grew up. "I was always curious and it was natural for me to grab a camera." Avallone's film, narrated by actor

Jason Lee, follows fans who make pilgrimages to these homes, to places like Oregon, where you can do the "truffle shuffle" outside of the *Goonies* house, or the Cleveland area, where you can pay to tour the iconic home from *Christmas Story*.

"This is a childhood dream of mine to come to this house, Kevin Arnold's house. My favorite show on TV," says a man who shoots a layup at a garage hoop at *The Wonder Years* home in Burbank.

Avallone also explores the pros and cons of owning a famous house. The owners are paid, but some pay a price if the show becomes a cultural icon.

With *Breaking Bad*, for instance, the former owner of Jesse Pinkman's mansion said it was a "privilege" to share home with fans of the show. Across town, however, at the White residency, some fans have thrown pizzas on the roof, like Walt did in season two and the show's creator had to implore them to stop.

Videos abound of the current owner yelling at tourists.

"If you're gonna be a jerk, stay the hell away," she told a local news station in 2015.

The Rubio house in Altadena, Calif., was used for a whole slew of movies and shows, including *This is Us*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, and *American Pie*, *Cheaper by the Dozen*, and countless others.

"Stifler's, from the entry into what we call the den and from the den, then into the living room," the owner said.

When asked what houses are the most iconic, Avallone couldn't pick just one.

"You know, there's Danny Tanner's house or *The Golden Girls* house. You walk in and you feel like you're part of the show," he said. "For movies, I think *Christmas Story* and *Home Alone* are so big because of the holiday element."

Avallone said his next project is about the history of MySpace.

*The House From* is streaming on the Maximum Effort Channel on FuboTV and available for purchase on iTunes, Amazon, and Google Play.

## ADVICE

## Husband wants a divorce, and affair kept secret

By Carolyn Hax  
Washington Post

Adapted from online discussions.

**Question:** My husband of 20-plus years has been having an affair with a woman he says he is in love with, and after being granted some time to "decide what he wants," he has decided what he wants is the other woman.

We are just at the beginning of sorting out a divorce, and friends have expressed shock at the end of our "perfect" (ha!) marriage. When a mutual friend recently asked what happened, I told her the truth: He's been having an affair and decided he wants to be with the other woman.

My husband is livid and told me it isn't anyone's business but ours. Was I out of line by answering with a direct and non-editorialized truth? If so, what should I say when people ask?

**Answer:** If it's so bad, then maybe he shouldn't have done it.

You're under no obligation to cover for him. It also isn't anyone's business, so you're under no obligation to satisfy curiosities if you don't want to, and are welcome to find your most comfortably civil way not to answer such an intrusive question. "Stuff happened."

But he really thinks he has standing to try to control what you say? That's pretty rich.

**Question:** Do you think it's true that it never hurts to ask? My son, daughter-in-law, and grandchild are moving a few days before Christmas, and I would love to spend it with them! They haven't invited us, but we usually see them sometime in December or January to celebrate. My husband says I would add too much stress by asking if we could be there. They always make Christmas feel very special, but I understand they will be in transition.

In the past they have come to see us, but their son is 5 and I'm guessing they'll want to start celebrating at their house. What are your thoughts?

**Answer:** If you're asking to join them in hopes they will "make Christmas feel very special" for YOU, then yes, it can hurt to ask.

If you intend to ask whether your being there could help them primarily with their move, and with their celebration as a bonus, then, OK. It never hurts to offer four extra hands to people who are juggling a 5-year-old and a major life upheaval and a major holiday, as long as you make it clear the two extra mouths aren't their responsibility to feed. And they can decline your offer, no hard feelings.

As long as you're up for a Christmas of one-way giving, then specify that you're available to travel there, stay in a hotel, and take whatever jobs off their hands — babysitting, unpacking glassware, running to grocery and hardware stores, flattening and carting off boxes. You two can be a gotsend.

You can feel as if you received a gift, too; just abandon upfront all expectation of being hosted, and accept they will be stressed and possibly not always on their best behavior. That means leaving any tendency either of you may have for reactive feelings at home.

If they accept and you rise to the occasion, then this could be the un-Christmas Christmas that tests everyone's nerves, gives you a chance to surprise yourselves, and brings everyone closer.

If they say no, then have a perfectly lovely Plan B holiday for yourselves. Then, later, whenever they're ready for you, celebrate a silly Christmas in Whatever. That kind of thing sends most 5-year-olds over the moon anyway.

Chat with Carolyn Hax online at noon Fridays at [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com).

tellme@washpost.com

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

# SPORTS



Eagles linebacker Nakobe Dean celebrates after intercepting a pass in the end zone late in the fourth quarter to seal the win over Jacksonville at the Linc. Yong Kim / Staff Photographer

## Hurts saves Sirianni's bacon in messy win

By Marcus Hayes  
Staff Columnist



Nick Sirianni coached so badly, only prime Jalen Hurts could save him. Hurts led a fourth-quarter touchdown drive that absolved Slick Nick of the second deadly coaching sin: greed. Sirianni left nine points on the field because he chased a hypothetical 20. He twice tried to convert fourth downs instead of kicking short field goals, then opted for three failed two-point conversions. Still, thanks to Hurts, the Eagles beat the Jaguars, 28-23, their fourth win in a row, and moved to 6-2.

→ SEE HURTS ON C3

## EAGLES 28, JAGUARS 23

# Done deal with Dean

### Birds hold on for win over the Jags as Barkley scores rushing and receiving TDs.

By Olivia Reiner  
Staff Writer

Just when it seemed like the Jacksonville Jaguars were about to pull off a comeback on Sunday evening at Lincoln Financial Field, Nakobe Dean called game.

The 23-year-old inside linebacker picked off Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence in the

end zone, squashing their second-half surge and solidifying the Eagles' 28-23 victory. The Eagles dominated the first 35 minutes of the game, going up 22-0 early in the third quarter. Jacksonville exploded in the second half, scoring 23 points to the Eagles' six, but Dean's play ensured that the Eagles would earn their fourth straight win.

Here's our instant analysis from the Eagles' nail-biter of a victory over the Jaguars:

#### Barkley balls out

Saquon Barkley brought his metaphorical magician's hat to the Line

early on, turning an inch into a mile on multiple plays. Early in the second quarter on third-and-6, the Eagles running back snared a pass in the flat from Jalen Hurts, made a pair of defenders miss as he turned upfield, then hurdled backward over another Jaguar, racking up a 14-yard gain.

The Eagles sputtered in the red zone later on in that drive, forcing them to settle for a Jake Elliott field goal. But Barkley got in the end zone himself on two occasions, including one rushing and one receiving. His first touchdown came on the Eagles' second possession of the afternoon after Sydney Brown forced a fumble on Jaguars

punt returner Austin Trammell and Kelee Ringo recovered the loose ball at their opponent's 20-yard line. On second-and-10 from that spot, Barkley burned Jaguars safety Darnell Savage on a wheel route, hauling in a touchdown pass for the Eagles' first first-quarter points of the year and putting them up 7-0.

With just over 30 seconds remaining in the first half, Johnny Wilson nullified his own touchdown by committing offensive pass interference. On the ensuing third-and-16, Barkley ran up the middle and bounced outside to the right, befuddling a trio of Jaguars

→ SEE EAGLES ON (TO)



Nick Sirianni opted against short field goals twice and extra-point kicks three times, and cost his team nine points. Yong Kim / Staff

# Embiid strikes, shoves Inquirer columnist in team locker room

### Sixers star angered by mention of his son, dead brother in Hayes' column.

By Gina Mizell  
Staff Writer

Joel Embiid struck and shoved Inquirer columnist Marcus Hayes during a profanity-laced altercation in the 76ers' locker room following Saturday's home loss to the Memphis Grizzlies.

Embiid, whose open hand made contact with Hayes' neck and collarbone area, was angry about the columnist's recent work criticizing him for missing the start of

the 2024-25 season due to a knee condition following surgery last February.

While moving from his locker toward Hayes, Embiid yelled his disapproval that Hayes mentioned his late brother and his son, both named Arthur, in an Oct. 23 column. Later that day, Hayes removed those references from the column, posting on X (formerly Twitter), "I can see why so many people were upset about it. Sorry about that. Thanks for all of the constructive criticism." Hayes attempted to apologize to Embiid on Saturday but was rebuffed before the confrontation turned physical.

Embiid told Hayes he will "take

all the shots" from the media about his basketball shortcomings or health, but that "nobody comes for my family." He added that if Hayes wrote about those family members again, "you're gonna see what I'm gonna do to you, and I'm gonna have to [expletive] live with the consequences." Embiid also accused Hayes of making similar references in previous columns, which Hayes denied.

The incident, which lasted about two minutes, occurred during the period when the locker room is open to reporters, and was witnessed by multiple media members, Sixers players, and staffers. Reporters were waiting to speak

→ SEE EMBIID ON C2



Joel Embiid on the sideline during Saturday's game against the Memphis Grizzlies. Elizabeth Robertson / Staff Photographer

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SPORTS

ON DECK

	MONDAY NOV. 4	TUESDAY NOV. 5	WEDNESDAY NOV. 6	THURSDAY NOV. 7	FRIDAY NOV. 6
<b>EAGLES</b>	Next: Nov. 10 at Cowboys, 4:25 p.m. (CBS3)				
<b>76ERS</b>	at Suns 10:15 p.m. NBCSP		at Clippers 10 p.m. ESPN, NBCSP		at Lakers 10 p.m. ESPN
<b>FLYERS</b>		at Hurricanes 7 p.m. NBCSP		at Lightning 7:30 p.m. HULU	

Home game



THE SCORE ONLINE

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TV/RADIO

**MONDAY**  
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**  
Texas A&M-CC at Purdue, 6 p.m. (BigTen)  
Big East Opening Night Tip-Off, 6:30 p.m. (FS1)  
Maine at Duke, 7 p.m. (ACCN)  
Wright St. at Kentucky, 7 p.m. (ESPNU)  
Cleveland St. at Michigan, 8 p.m. (BigTen)  
Wichita St. at W. Kentucky, 8 p.m. (CBSN)  
Lehigh at Northwestern, 8 p.m. (Peacock)  
South Florida vs. Florida, Jacksonville, 8:30 p.m. (SECN)  
Elon at North Carolina, 9 p.m. (ACCN)  
UNC Asheville at Alabama, 9 p.m. (ESPNU)  
Chattanooga at Southern Cal, 10 p.m. (BigTen)  
Ohio St. vs. Texas, Las Vegas, 10 p.m. (TNT, TruTV)  
Rider at UCLA, 10:30 p.m. (FS1)  
Baylor vs. Gonzaga, Spokane, Wash., 11:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

Mississippi vs. Southern Cal, Paris, noon, (ESPN)  
Louisville vs. UCLA, Paris, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN2)  
Mercyhurst at Notre Dame, 5 p.m. (ACCN)  
Michigan vs. South Carolina, Las Vegas, 7:30 p.m. (TNT, TruTV)  
**NBA**  
Milwaukee at Cleveland, 7 p.m. (NBATV)  
**76ers at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m. (NBCSP, Fanatic 97.5-FM)**  
**NFL**  
Tampa Bay at Kansas City, 8:15 p.m. (ABC6, ESPN, ESPN2)  
**NHL**  
New Jersey at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m. (NHLN)  
**SOCCER (MEN'S)**  
Premier League: Brentford at Fulham, 3 p.m. (USA)  
**TENNIS**  
WTA Finals Round Robin: Belgrade-ATP, Metz-ATP Early Rounds, 5 a.m. (Tennis)

Penn State drops to No. 6; Oregon is No. 1

Staff and Wire Reports

Oregon was the unanimous choice for No. 1 in the Associated Press college football poll on Sunday, strengthening its bid for the top spot in the College Football Playoff selection committee's first rankings of the season.

The Ducks are No. 1 in the AP Top 25 for the third straight week, and unanimous for the first time, following its 21-point road win against Michigan.

Georgia, which received one No. 1 vote last week, remained No. 2 after overcoming Carson Beck's three interceptions and pulling away late to beat Florida.

Ohio State earned a one-spot promotion to No. 3 with its win at Penn State, the Buckeyes' eighth in a row in the series. No. 4 Miami, which beat Duke, and No. 5 Texas, which was idle, each moved up a spot. Penn State, which had been in the top five in the previous polls, slipped to No. 6.

The Nittany Lions (7-1, 4-1 Big Ten) will host Washington (5-4, 3-3) in a conference matchup Saturday at 8 p.m.

The CFP's expansion to 12 teams this season means losses by top teams to other top teams aren't a certain disqualifier in the race for the national championship. The CFP's first rankings of the season will be released Tuesday and updated weekly until the bracket is announced Dec. 8.

Tennessee held its place at No. 7 despite scuffling well into the fourth quarter against three-win Kentucky and winning, 28-18.

Indiana jumped five spots to No. 8, its highest ranking since it was No. 7 in 2020 — and best in a non-pandemic season since the Hoosiers were No. 4 during their 1967 Rose Bowl season. The Hoosiers rolled past Michigan State, 47-10, on the road to go 9-0 for the first time in program history; every win this season has been by double digits.

No. 9 BYU and No. 10 Notre Dame were idle.

South Carolina was fined \$250,000 by the Southeastern Conference for fans rushing the field after the Gamecocks' 44-20 win over then No. 10 Texas A&M at Williams-Brice Stadium on Saturday night.

Running

**Abdi Nageeye** and **Sheila Chepkirui** used strong kicks in the final mile to win the New York City Marathon for the first time.

Nageeye, who became the first runner from the Netherlands to win the men's race, finished in 2 hours, 7 minutes, 39 seconds. **Evans Chebet**, the 2022 champion, finished second, just six seconds behind.

For the women, Chepkirui, who started to run marathons in 2022, won in 2:24.35. Defending

INSIDE THE FLYERS

Blocking more shots key to this team's identity

By Jackie Spiegel  
Staff Writer

John Tortorella likes to look at the NHL's 82-game schedule in segments.

The Flyers coach breaks the long season into 10- to 15-game chunks to analyze how things are going. "That's going to be frightening," the bench boss said about the opening block before the Flyers' game in Boston.

After 12 games, the Flyers are 4-7-1, with two of those wins coming in the last week. Yes, things could be better. The shots on goal are low, the chemistry has been inconsistent, and the overall level of play needs to be elevated, but one statistic may be the root of all that ails the Flyers: blocked shots.

"I think when you see this team block shots, it's playing to its identity," Tortorella said Saturday after the Flyers' 3-0 loss to a struggling Boston Bruins squad. "It's a team that's being hard, it's a team that is willing to do that. I think that has been very inconsistent as the beginning of the year has started here."

Tortorella expanded on his answer, talking about the past few games and how the Flyers have been up and down in terms of how hard he thought his group played. And then Tortorella wrapped it up with an interesting take:

"Something has to happen as far as puck control and having the puck more in the offensive zone for us to get a full game in, for us to be a complete team," he said. "So, I don't know if shots blocked transforms into that; I think shots blocked transformed into our mindset as far as how hard you have to play."

*Our mindset.*  
Playing hard and — we'll say it — playing gritty are hallmarks of the Flyers organization since the days of the Broad Street Bullies. It's also part of every Tortorella team. During his tenure with the New York Rangers, the team was known to be a shot-blocking machine; over his four full seasons, New York ranked fourth in the NHL (4,563).

And he has brought that same mentality with him to the Flyers. Tortorella is in his third season, and the Flyers finished each of the first two in second place in the NHL in blocks — 1,411 shots blocked in 2022-23, and 1,533 last season. The Flyers are second in blocks in the NHL since Tortorella took over through Saturday games (3,163).

Through the first 12 games of this season, the Flyers have 219 blocked shots (18.10 blocks per 60 minutes). It's better than last season's numbers through the first 12 games (17.8 and 14.79), but lower than 2022-23 (23.8 and 19.61). Two outlier games have helped the Orange and Black's numbers this season: 28 blocked shots in their win over the Bruins on Tuesday, and another 24 in their win over the St. Louis Blues on Thursday.

But look at the losses, especially four of the last five. They didn't even hit a baker's dozen with 12 blocks against the Vancouver



Flyers defenseman Nick Seeler reacts after getting hit by the puck against the St. Louis Blues on Thursday. Yong Kim / Staff Photographer

Canucks, Washington Capitals, and Montreal Canadiens at home, plus only 11 on the road against the Capitals.

In their four wins this season, the Flyers have averaged 23.5 shots blocked, with their one overtime loss — 3-2 to the Edmonton Oilers in Game 3 of the season — seeing 21 shots stopped before reaching the goalie. On the flip side, the team is averaging just 14.86 blocked shots in its seven losses.

That's a drastic drop-off. And only one of those games saw the team break the 20-shots-blocked mark, the 6-4 loss to the Seattle Kraken on Oct. 17.

So why the focus on blocked shots? Without even delving into the numbers, the eye test will tell you the Flyers have big problems up and down the ice. For most of the season they have been "disconnected" for 200 feet. The flow to their game is missing. Could it really be that simple? Probably not, but when you watch games, and the Flyers play to their identity with a hard-nosed style, statistically shown by more than 20 blocked shots in a game, everything seems to come together.

"I think when we're blocking pucks, it keeps the bench involved," forward Owen Tippett said. "Obviously, guys build off that, and it's another chance to build momentum. And, obviously, you want to try and block as many shots as you can and take the workload off the goalies."

"We want to play as best we can in front of them and, obviously, it's something that I don't think we did enough early on in the year. I think the last couple games we've been blocking more, and I think it's leading into our game. It puts energy on our bench, and guys are building off it, and you see more guys buying in."

The buy-in is critical for the Flyers. Across all three seasons under Tortorella, when they block close to (or more than) 20 shots, they earn at least a point. When they block closer to 15 or fewer, they lose.

"They're blocking the right shots too," goalie Sam Ersson said after the Flyers' win over St. Louis. "They're not trying to get in front of everything. They're knowing

kind of what shots they can leave to me. And I think that's huge. And it builds chemistry between me and the guys in front of me."

What about at the other end of the ice? The Flyers are not a goal-scoring machine — they finished the past two seasons ranked 29th and 27th, respectively, in goals per game and are currently tied for 28th. But the one thing that stands out is that when they block shots, they not only allow fewer goals, they also score more — a lot more, to be fair — and they have more time at five-on-five.

Maybe when you're blocking shots and falling into the mindset of playing hard, things click elsewhere. Feet are constantly moving to be ready to block a puck and, if it's not a block, to move it. If the feet are moving, there's a lesser chance of getting called for penalties like holding, hooking, and tripping because you're next to your guy and not needing to slow them down to stay in the play.

"When you don't have the puck, you've got to dedicate yourself defensively and be in shot lanes and cut passing lanes," captain Sean Couturier said. "You want to have the puck to really have some [offensive]-zone time, have puck possession, and generate some offense. So I just feel we're maybe chasing it a little bit throughout the games."

Whether or not Tortorella wanted to buy into the idea that blocking shots results in action at the other end, the statistics show that when the Flyers are playing their brand of hockey — with a major emphasis on laying their bodies on the line — they win games.

Ersson, who was injured in Saturday's game against the Bruins, summed it up perfectly on Thursday.

"This is how we have to play, and we know that," he said. "I think you can kind of sense it. Like when we're blocking shots, when we're doing the small things right, you can kind of feel it on the bench and on the ice that we're rolling. I think that gives us confidence, and we know that we're a very good team when we play like this."

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Embiid

→ CONTINUED FROM C1

with All-Star point guard Tyrese Maxey at his locker, which is next to Embiid's. Sixers staff members and teammates intervened to separate Embiid from Hayes as the confrontation escalated, and Embiid left the locker room shortly after it dissipated.

After that, Hayes said he was escorted to a meeting with Sixers president of basketball operations Daryl Morey and general manager Elton Brand. Hayes said Morey and Brand "apologized for the incident, expressed regret that it happened, and asked me for my version of events. ... They agreed that Embiid's actions were unacceptable."

The NBA issued the following statement late Saturday: "We are aware of reports of an incident in the Sixers' locker room this evening and are commencing an investigation." A Sixers spokesman confirmed Sunday morning that the team is cooperating with the NBA's investigation.

In a statement, Inquirer editor and senior vice president Gabriel Escobar said, "Marcus is an

experienced and accomplished columnist who offers sharp and illuminating commentary grounded in his observations. You are free to disagree with what he says, but a physical assault is unwarranted and untenable and we are taking this matter very seriously."

The Sixers knew Hayes would be at Saturday's game, he said, and were open to facilitating a clearing of the air between the 2023 NBA Most Valuable Player and the columnist. The team leaves Sunday for a three-game road trip at the Phoenix Suns, Los Angeles Clippers, and Los Angeles Lakers.

It is common practice for sports columnists to show up immediately after writing critically about a player, coach, or team. Without advance notice, Embiid held his first media session in about four weeks following Friday's practice — and publicly took issue with Hayes' columns.

"When I see people saying, 'He doesn't want to play,' Embiid said. " ... Like that dude, he's not here, Marcus, whatever his name is. I've done way too much for

this [expletive] city to be treated like this. Done way too [expletive] much.

"I wish I was as lucky as other [players who have been healthier during their careers]. But that doesn't mean that I'm not trying, and I'm not doing whatever it takes to be out there, which I'm going to be here pretty soon."

Embiid, who signed a three-year, \$193 million contract extension last month, has made seven consecutive All-Star teams. But he has sustained numerous injuries throughout his career, including last season's meniscus procedure plus a bout with Bell's palsy during the playoffs. Embiid then played in the Summer Olympics, helping Team USA win a gold medal, but did not play in any preseason games or participate in live five-on-five scrimmaging during the lead-up to the Sixers' Oct. 23 season opener. The league fined the Sixers \$100,000 on Oct. 29 for "inconsistent" statements about Embiid's availability.

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## SPORTS

inquirer.com/sports

# 1-4 Sixers seek answers as they head out West

By Keith Pompey  
Staff Writer

Things are about to get real for the 76ers. And if Paul George and Joel Embiid don't return in the coming days, things could get ugly.

After struggling against the league's worst teams, the Sixers (1-4) are embarking on what could be a doomsday road trip against the Phoenix Suns, Los Angeles Clippers, and Lakers.

At 5-1, the Suns are tied with the Golden State Warriors for the Western Conference's second-best record. After facing Phoenix on Monday, the Sixers will head to Los Angeles to face the struggling Clippers (2-4) on Wednesday. Then they'll remain in Southern California to face the

conference's fourth-place Lakers (4-2) on Friday.

The expectation was that perennial All-Stars Embiid (left knee injury management) and George (left knee bone bruise) could make their season debuts at some point during his trip. However, the NBA is investigating an incident involving Embiid in the Sixers' locker room following Saturday's 124-107 home loss to the Memphis Grizzlies. The 7-foot-2, 280-pound center confronted and shoved Inquirer columnist Marcus Hayes after taking exception to one of his recent columns.

Even if Embiid is healthy, one has to wonder if his availability will depend on the results of the investigation. So far, the Sixers have shown that they're not very competitive without the All-Star

center and George.

Veteran point guard Kyle Lowry thinks the team will find its rhythm and become more connected as players continue to learn to play with one another.

"Being on the same page on the court and also trying to get the same way mentally," Lowry said. "I think we have a very talented group. But we have to continue to get better. This is not the start we all expected and we all want, but we're a fairly new team. We have to continue to preach patience with everything and we'll get better."

The Sixers did show some improvement Saturday, making a season-high 19 three-pointers and tying a season-best mark with five blocked shots.

Tyrese Maxey scored 23 points to increase his 20-point game

streak to eight games dating back to April 7 of last season. It's tied for the league's fifth-longest active streak.

But the Sixers were dominated in most categories. In addition to that, Andre Drummond and Caleb Martin struggled.

Drummond had four points on 1-for-7 shooting to go with nine rebounds and four turnovers. Martin had nine points on 1-for-7 shooting while being a minus-26 in 27 minutes, 42 seconds.

"The offense is a major problem," coach Nick Nurse said. "When we draw one-and-a-half or two [men], we have to move [the ball] to the next man a lot better. I think guys are trying to make plays, maybe a little too much."

"Again, I don't ever see that as they're being selfish in trying to

get there. I think they're trying to make a play to help. But sometimes the play is to get off it and get it moving and get it into the next action."

The Sixers have also been out of sorts on four-on-two and three-on-two fast breaks. Instead of capitalizing on their advantages, the Sixers have committed turnovers and missed layups. And missed shots have led to giving up transition buckets at the other end.

"We're going to miss shots," Lowry said. "But we can't put our heads down. We can't let our offense control our defense and the habits we are trying to instill."

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## Hurts

→ CONTINUED FROM C1

Hurts is playing so well that sometimes you don't even notice him. His passer rating is 128.9 in the past four games. He hasn't been perfect, but he hasn't needed perfection.

After accounting for nine touchdowns and no turnovers in the three wins that preceded Sunday afternoon, Hurts accounted for four more scores, two each by land and air, and no more turnovers against the Jaguars. His 18-yard touchdown run gave the Eagles a 22-0 lead in the third quarter. His 25-yard teardrop to DeVonta Smith in the fourth quarter made it 28-16 midway through the fourth.

It was a three-phase win.

Saquon Barkley logged his fifth 100-yard rushing game and his third in a row, with 159, and two scores, one on the ground, one a wondrous, 20-yard catch. He was the best player on the field. His signature play came early in the second quarter, when he spun away from two tacklers then hurdled another — backward.

The defense dropped Trevor Lawrence twice, both sacks by Josh Sweat. The linebackers picked him off twice; first, a dropped pass deservedly landed in the hands of linebacker Zach Baun, who played brilliantly; then, with 1 minute, 38 seconds to play, Nakobe Dean made an acrobatic grab in the end zone.

Sydney Brown forced a fumble on punt coverage that led to the Eagles' first first-quarter score in nine games.

It should have been easier. Sirianni made sure it was not so. It was good for drama but bad for the blood pressure.

The Birds held on without the services of their best player, A.J. Brown, who didn't play in the second half due to a knee injury. They held on despite an apparently egregiously botched fumble ruling that went against Barkley; the fumble was returned for a score.

They held on like great Eagles teams of yesteryear held on.

It was a night of nostalgia. The players wore kelly green. LeSean "Shady" McCoy got his Eagles Hall of Fame jacket, and Doug Pederson, who won the franchise's only Super Bowl, visited Lincoln Financial Field for one last loss.

Hurts' play brought back memories, too; memories of a bygone era, back when he didn't give the ball away, when he managed the talent around him, and when he played like a winner, not a hero.

You know. Way back in 2022, when — sometimes in spite of Sirianni — the Eagles went to the Super Bowl.

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Jalen Hurts waves while leaving the field with a smile after his fourth straight brilliant game. Steven M. Falk / Staff



Eagles wide receiver DeVonta Smith makes a one-handed touchdown catch against Jaguars cornerback Ronald Darby in the fourth quarter. Yong Kim / Staff Photographer

# Barkley, DeVonta Smith to the rescue for Birds

By Mike Sielski  
Staff Columnist



Saquon Barkley caught what appeared to be a routine pass from Jalen Hurts in the flat. It was third-and-6 for the Eagles from the Jaguars' 30-yard line, early in the second quarter Sunday, and Barkley was about to turn the routine into the extraordinary.

That ability is the reason Eagles chairman Jeffrey Lurie is contractually obligated to pay Barkley as much as \$37.75 million over the next three years. That ability is the reason New York Giants chairman John Mara would have paid Barkley twice that ... and is probably going through a bottle of antacids daily. That ability produced maybe the most breathtaking play of this season, maybe the most thrilling moment of the Eagles' wild 28-23 win over the Jaguars, and a moment that will be added to every Eagles highlight sequence and edited into a meme and rerun on an infinite online loop, if all those things haven't happened already.

And then ...

DeVonta Smith lined up across from Jaguars cornerback — and former Eagle — Ronald Darby. It was third-and-22 for the Eagles from the Jaguars' 25-yard line, midway through the fourth quarter, and Smith was about to turn the tense into the extraordinary.

That ability is the reason Lurie is contractually obligated to pay Smith as much as \$75 million over the next three years. That ability is the reason that Lurie felt comfortable signing Smith, who is good enough to be just about any NFL team's No. 1 wide receiver, to such a contract even though the Eagles already have A.J. Brown, who might be the No. 1 wide receiver in the entire league. That ability produced maybe the most breathtaking play of this season, maybe the most thrilling moment of the Eagles' wild win over the Jaguars, and ...

**The importance of marvelousness**

Detecting a pattern here? The Eagles are 6-2, and they seem fond of setting up obstacles along their road to victory just to knock them down. Sunday was about as egregious an example of this tendency as they could offer. Nick Sirianni kept having his offense go for it on fourth down and in two-point-conversion attempts, as if he wanted

to prove to Lurie and Howie Roseman that he could be as aggressive in chasing points as they could have ever hoped. He passed up chances to have Jake Elliott kick extra points and run-of-the-mill field goals, then sent Elliott out there to try a 57-yarder with just more than two minutes left in regulation. The Eagles' refusal to take the easy route against an inferior opponent almost cost them.

What saved them, ultimately, was the sheer talent of two players: Barkley and Smith. The former had a remarkable day: 199 yards of total offense, a rushing touchdown, a receiving touchdown. Even his biggest mistake was a barnburner: a fumble that might not have been a fumble that Jaguars defensive end Tavon Walker returned 35 yards for a TD. But there was that one moment in the second quarter that everyone will remember.

Barkley was at the 31, a yard behind the line of scrimmage, when he caught the ball. Jaguars cornerback Tyson Campbell closed in on him quickly, but Barkley, like a matador sidestepping an angry bull, darted to his right just a hair to dodge him. Linebacker Devin Lloyd zoomed in from Barkley's right. Somehow, Barkley saw him, planted his right foot, and spun to the left, leaving Lloyd to tackle a few oxygen molecules and nothing more. Having advanced the ball far enough to earn the Eagles a first down,

Barkley saw cornerback Jarrian Jones approaching and decided — *Eh, why not?* — to turn his back to him and jump over him. It was the kind of aerial maneuver that a human being usually can't pull off without a pommel horse. Had Barkley been a member of this year's U.S. Olympic team, the breaking event wouldn't have been such a dud.

Then, two quarters later, Smith topped him, or came close. He surged into his route toward the middle of the field, then swerved to the outside, past Darby. Hurts lofted the ball to the deepest corner of the end zone, and Smith hauled it in with one hand while still tapping his toes inbounds. To watch the play in real time was to wonder how he did it. *There's no way he caught that ball. ... Lemme look at the replay. ... Holy cow, he did.*

Barkley, Smith, Brown — these three are the Eagles' separators. They are so gifted that they can allow this team to overcome its shortcomings, at least against a team like the Jaguars, against an opponent now 2-7 and going nowhere. The Eagles got away with one Sunday. Two of their players made two of their finest plays. Otherwise, this would have promised to be one downcast week at One NovaCare Way.

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SPORTS

NFL | WEEK 9

# Daniels leads Commanders over Giants, 27-22

Associated Press

Sensational rookie Jayden Daniels threw two touchdown passes to Terry McLaurin, and the Washington Commanders beat the bumbling New York Giants, 27-22, in East Rutherford, N.J., on Sunday for their best start to a season in almost 30 years.

Daniels hit McLaurin on scoring passes of 1 and 18 yards in the first half, and Austin Ekeler, filling in for the injured Brian Robinson, scored on a 1-yard run as the Commanders completed a season sweep of the NFC East rival Giants (2-7). Washington is 7-2 for the first time since 1996.

Austin Seibert, who kicked seven field goals in the Commanders' 21-18 win in September, added two more, and linebacker Dante Fowler had a big strip-sack early to set up the opening touchdown. The Giants have lost four straight and fell to 0-5 at home.

Daniels finished 15 of 22 for 209 yards and iced the game with a 42-yard pass to Olamide Zaccheaus after New York got within five.

Giants quarterback Daniel Jones finished 20 of 26 for 174 yards. Malik Nabers, Daniels' LSU teammate, had nine catches for 59 yards. Nabers had a friendly exchange with Daniels after an incomplete pass in the fourth quarter.

**Falcons 27, Cowboys 21** — In Atlanta, Kirk Cousins threw three touchdown passes and the Falcons (6-3) maintained their hold on first place in the NFC South with a win over struggling Dallas (3-5), which took its third straight setback and lost quarterback Dak Prescott to a hamstring injury in the third quarter.

Cousins completed 19-of-24 passes for 222 yards, including 13 in a row at one point.

The Cowboys tried to rally behind Cooper Rush after Prescott



Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels threw two touchdown passes to lead Washington to its best start since 1996. John Munson / AP

was ruled out, having completed 18 of 24 for 133 yards and a touchdown.

**Ravens 41, Broncos 10** — In Baltimore, Lamar Jackson threw for 280 yards and three touchdowns to finish with a perfect passer rating. Derrick Henry surpassed a few more rushing milestones as the Ravens (6-3) had little difficulty with Denver (5-4).

Henry scored the 100th and 101st rushing touchdowns of his career, and he surpassed 1,000 yards on the ground on the season for the sixth time. He rushed for 106 yards on 23 carries. Jackson completed 16-of-19 passes. The perfect 158.3 passer rating was the fourth of his career.

**Chargers 27, Browns 10** — Justin Herbert passed for 250 yards and two touchdowns — all in the first half — to lead visiting Los Angeles (5-3) over Cleveland (2-7), which couldn't get anything going with quarterback Jameis Winston.

Herbert connected on a 66-yard TD pass to Quentin Johnston and a 27-yarder to Joshua Palmer as the Chargers built a big halftime lead and rolled to their fifth straight win over Cleveland. Herbert finished 18 of 27 for 282 yards and was sacked six times.

**Panthers 23, Saints 22** — In Charlotte, N.C., Chuba Hubbard scored on a 16-yard run with 2 minutes, 18 seconds left and Carolina (2-7) snapped a five-game losing

streak, beating New Orleans (2-7).

Bryce Young completed 16-of-26 passes for 171 yards and a touchdown to improve to 1-3 against the Saints in his career. Coach Dave Canales would not say after the game if Young would start next Sunday against the New York Giants in Munich.

**Bills 30, Dolphins 27** — In Orchard Park, N.Y., Tyler Bass kicked a career-best 61-yard field goal with 5 seconds left, Josh Allen threw three second-half touchdown passes in a back-and-forth duel, and Buffalo continued its domination of Miami.

Buffalo (7-2) has beaten Miami (2-6) six straight times and 13 of 14, including playoffs. The Dolphins

have also lost nine straight trips to Buffalo, a skid that dates to Dec. 24, 2016.

**Bengals 41, Raiders 17** — Joe Burrow tied a career-high with five touchdown passes. Chase Brown rushed for a career-high 120 yards, and Cincinnati (4-5) got their first home win by routing Las Vegas (2-7).

Burrow was 27-for-39 for 251 yards. He threw touchdown passes to Brown, Andrei Iosivas, Drew Sample, and the last two to Mike Gesicki. But he also had an interception that was returned by Jack Jones for a TD early in the fourth quarter.

**Titans 20, Patriots 17** — Nick Folk kicked a 25-yard field goal with 2:32 left in overtime and Tennessee (2-6) beat New England (2-7), giving coach Brian Callahan his first victory at home this season.

New England had a final chance after Maye forced overtime with a 5-yard TD pass to Rhamondre Stevenson. But Amani Hooker's second interception of the game clinched the victory for the Titans with 2:07 left.

**Lions 24, Packers 14** — Kerby Joseph scored on a 27-yard interception return and Detroit converted two fourth downs into touchdowns as they continued one of the best starts in franchise history by beating Green Bay (6-3).

The NFC North-leading Lions are 7-1 for the first time since 1956. Lions quarterback Jared Goff had another efficient day, finishing 18 of 22 for 145 yards.

**Cardinals 29, Bears 9** — In Glendale, Ariz., Emari Demercado ran 53 yards for a touchdown just before halftime. James Conner added 107 yards on the ground, and surging Arizona (5-4) put together a dominant victory over Chicago (4-4).

The Cardinals have won three in a row for the first time in three seasons.

## Eagles

→ CONTINUED FROM (FROM)

defenders who bit inside as the running back cruised into the end zone for a 19-yard touchdown. The Eagles were unsuccessful on the two-point conversion and pulled ahead 16-0.

Barkley's early performance was nearly marred by a fumble late in the third quarter. He lost the ball on a three-yard run as he was being tackled by Jaguars linebacker Ventrell Miller. Defensive end Travon Walker recovered the loose ball and ran it into the end zone as the Jaguars drew closer, 22-16. The play was reviewed but despite Barkley appearing to be tripped to the ground before the ground caused the fumble, the officials upheld the call and ruled Barkley was not down.

The running back finished the day with a season-high 27 carries for 159 yards and a touchdown, plus three receptions for 40 yards and a touchdown. Barkley has surpassed 1,000 all-purpose yards, becoming the third Eagle since the 1970 merger to reach that milestone in the first eight games of a season (LeSean McCoy in 2011 and 2013; Brian Westbrook in 2007).

### Early splash defensive plays prove critical

One week after forcing a pair of takeaways against the Cincinnati Bengals, the Eagles defense continued to help the Eagles win the turnover battle on Sunday. On the first play of the Jaguars' fifth possession, with just under two minutes remaining in the first half, Lawrence targeted running back Travis Etienne over the middle of the field. The pass bounced off of the running back and landed in the hands of a diving Zack Baun, marking his first interception in an Eagles uniform.

The 6-foot-3, 225-pound inside linebacker, who signed with the Eagles in free agency, made plays all over the field, finishing the day with a team-high 10 tackles and two pass breakups in addition to the pick. He wasn't the only newcomer to make an impact on the defense — for a second consecutive week, rookie slot cornerback Cooper DeJean made another fourth-down stop, which Vic Fangio considered as valuable as a takeaway in his weekly press conference following the Bengals game. On fourth-and-1 at the Jaguars' 39-yard line, DeJean forced an incompletoion to tight



Eagles running back Saquon Barkley leaps backward over Jaguars cornerback Jarrian Jones in second-quarter action Sunday at the Linc. Yong Kim / Staff Photographer

end Evan Engram.

### Too close for comfort

After jumping out to a 22-0 lead early in the third quarter, the Eagles let the Jaguars hang around. Lawrence led a 10-play, 61-yard scoring drive in the third quarter, which he capped off with a one-yard keeper for a touchdown and a successful two-point

conversion to make it 22-8. Barkley fumbled on the Eagles' first play on the ensuing drive, leading to Walker's recovery for a touchdown.

On the following possession, the Eagles offense stalled in Jaguars territory. On fourth-and-1 from the Jacksonville 25, instead of running the Tush Push or attempting a field goal, Hurts attempted a pass to DeVonta Smith that fell incomplete. It was a relatively quiet night for Elliott, as the Eagles went for a trio of two-point conversions — unsuccessfully — on three of their four touchdowns.

However, Smith came up big on the next possession, hauling in a one-handed 25-yard touchdown reception to put the Eagles up, 28-16. The Birds were unsuccessful on the two-point conversion attempt, but the Jaguars couldn't pull off the comeback despite scoring on their next drive.

in the second quarter while being evaluated for a concussion and was later ruled out. He had caught his first reception as a fullback for no gain in the first quarter.

A.J. Brown went back to the locker room early in the third quarter with a knee injury before the Eagles offense ever took the field out of halftime. The Eagles' top receiver had taken a hard hit on a reception right before the two-minute warning, but he did not leave the game. He was downgraded to out at the start of the fourth quarter.

Fred Johnson went down while blocking for Hurts on his 18-yard touchdown run after Jaguars safety Andre Cisco made a low hit on the left tackle. However, after a visit to the medical tent, Johnson returned to game action on the ensuing Eagles possession.

### Injury report

Ben VanSumeren exited the game

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### EAGLES 28, JAGUARS 23

Jacksonville	0	0	16	7-23
Philadelphia	7	9	6	6-28

**First Quarter**  
Phi—Barkley 20 pass from Hurts (Elliott kick), 10:22.  
Drive: 2 plays, 20 yards, 00:48.

**Second Quarter**  
Phi—FG Elliott 43, 9:20. Drive: 15 plays, 68 yards, 8:53.  
Key Plays: Hurts 20 pass to A.Brown on 3rd-and-3; Barkley 11 run; Hurts 14 pass to Barkley on 3rd-and-6; Hurts 7 run on 3rd-and-7.  
Phi—Barkley 19 run (run failed), :22. Drive: 7 plays, 42 yards, 1:16. Key Play: Baun 0 interception return to Jacksonville 42.

**Third Quarter**  
Phi—Hurts 18 run (run failed), 9:25. Drive: 7 plays, 84 yards, 3:56. Key Plays: Barkley 13 run; Hurts 1 run on 3rd-and-1; Hurts 36 pass to Dotson.  
Jac—Lawrence 1 run (B.Thomas pass from Lawrence), 5:26. Drive: 11 plays, 61 yards, 3:59. Key Plays: Bigsby kick return to Jacksonville 39; Etienne 16 run; Lawrence 18 pass to Trammell; Lawrence 12 pass to Washington on 3rd-and-12; Lawrence 14 pass to Ingram.  
Jac—Walker 35 fumble return (Ingram pass from Lawrence), 5:32.

**Fourth Quarter**  
Phi—D.Smith 25 pass from Hurts (pass failed), 7:43. Drive: 8 plays, 91 yards, 5:08. Key Plays: Barkley 21 run; Hurts 7 pass to D.Smith on 3rd-and-6; Hurts 46 pass to D.Smith.  
Jac—Lawrence 4 run (C.Little kick), 4:04. Drive: 10 plays, 70 yards, 3:39. Key Plays: Lawrence 18 pass to Washington; Bigsby 10 run; Lawrence 16 pass to B.Thomas on 4th-and-13; Lawrence 24 pass to Ingram.

	Jac	Phi
FIRST DOWNS	14	21
Rushing	4	9
Passing	9	11
Penalty	1	1
THIRD DOWN EFF	3-10	9-17
FOURTH DOWN EFF	1-2	0-2
TOTAL NET YARDS	215	447
Total Plays	51	73
Avg Gain	4.2	6.1
NET YARDS RUSHING	60	237
Rushes	18	46
Avg per rush	3.333	5.152
NET YARDS PASSING	155	210
Sacked-Yds lost	2-14	3-20
Gross-Yds passing	169	230
Completed-Att.	16-31	18-24
Had intercepted	2	0
Yards-Pass Play	4,697	7,778
KICKOFFS-EndZone-TB	4-4-3	6-6-4
PUNTS-Avg.	5-47.6	3-48.667
Plays blocked	0	0
Fgo-PATs blocked	0-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE	80	34
Punt Returns	3-11	0-0
Kickoff Returns	2-69	1-34
Interceptions	0-0	2-0
PENALTIES-Yds	4-17	8-67
FUMBLES-Lost	1-1	1-1
TIME OF POSSESSION	21:48	38:12

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
RUSHING—Jacksonville, Etienne 3-24, Bigsby 8-22, Lawrence 5-6, D.Johnson 2-6. Philadelphia, Barkley 27-159, Hurts 13-67, Gainwell 5-9, A.Smith 1-2.  
PASSING—Jacksonville, Lawrence 16-31-2-169. Philadelphia, Hurts 18-24-0-230.  
RECEIVING—Jacksonville, Engram 5-45, Washington 3-41, Trammell 2-40, B.Thomas 2-22, Etienne 2-6, T.Jones 1-10, Farrell 1-5. Philadelphia, Calcuttara 5-30, D.Smith 4-87, Barkley 3-40, A.Brown 2-36, Dotson 1-36, Gainwell 1-1, A.Smith 1-0, VanSumeren 1-0.  
PUNT RETURNS—Jacksonville, Trammell 2-7, Washington 1-4. Philadelphia, None.  
KICKOFF RETURNS—Jacksonville, Bigsby 2-69. Philadelphia, Gainwell 1-34.  
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS—Jacksonville, Okunokun 8-0-0, Lloyd 6-2-0, Walker 6-1-0, Miller 4-4-0, Campbell 4-1-0, Hines Allen 4-0-2, Arnette 3-0-0, Darby 3-0-0, Lucy 2-3-0, Ledbetter 2-3-0, Cisco 2-0-0, Savage 2-0-0, Hamilton 1-3-0, Jefferson 1-0-1, Cole 1-0-0, Johnson 1-0-0, J.Jones 1-0-0. Philadelphia, Baun 7-3-0, Gardner-Johnson 4-0-0, Sweat 3-2-2, DeJean 3-0-0, Blankenship 2-3-0, Rodgers 2-2-0, Carter 1-3-0, Davis 1-1-0, Mitchell 1-1-0, N.Smith 1-0-0, Dean 0-2-0.  
INTERCEPTIONS—Jacksonville, None. Philadelphia, Baun 1-0, Dean 1-0.  
MISSED FIELD GOALS—Philadelphia, Elliott 97.

## SPORTS

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## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Villanova's vibes for Big East climb

By Jeff Neiburg  
Staff Writer

Two seasons down, two trips to the NIT — with consecutive first-round exits — for Villanova men's basketball coach Kyle Neptune after taking over the program from Jay Wright.

Third time's the charm? That's the hope on the Main Line after the Wildcats retooled their roster in the transfer portal. Neptune thinks this is the best team he's had yet, but it's all hypothetical until the games are played.

That starts Monday, when Villanova opens its 2024-25 season in a home game vs. Lafayette (8 p.m., FS1).

Here are three reasons for optimism, and three reasons for pessimism.

**Why you should be optimistic****1. Dixon is back, and may be better than ever.**

Eric Dixon is back on campus for his sixth year at Villanova and fifth as a college basketball player. He had a great summer of workouts, tested the NBA waters, and has made improvements to his game. More importantly, Villanova brought in a real center, Enoch Boakye (Fresno State), that will allow Dixon to play a more natural position for him at power forward. We've already seen in scrimmages and an exhibition game how different that looks, as Dixon, a plus-shooter, has taken plenty of three-pointers — some of the catch-and-shoot variety — and is getting the ball in different spots.

He's obviously Villanova's best player and has the potential to be Big East player of the year. Like last year, the Wildcats will be in a lot of games strictly because of his skills.

**2. There's a cast of potential X factors.**

Maybe Dixon would have had a good running mate in Justin Moore last season if Moore wasn't consistently banged up. But he was, and Villanova didn't have many reliable second options on most nights.



Villanova head coach Kyle Neptune (left) and assistant Dwayne Anderson on the sideline during the Blue/White scrimmage at Finneran Pavilion on Oct. 8. Charles Fox / Staff Photographer

This time around there are a handful of potential secondary scoring options. Miami transfer Wooga Poplar is an NBA prospect who shoots well from deep. La Salle transfer Jhamir Brickus is the first real point guard Neptune has had, and should immediately make Villanova's pick-and-roll game more effective. Jordan Longino is finally healthy and looks like he'll be a key contributor. Penn transfer Tyler Perkins looks like a do-it-all guard Villanova can use in different situations.

**3. The vibes are generally good.**

Eight months after what looked like rock bottom, things might actually be looking up for Villanova and Neptune. A pretty successful transfer portal haul — even considering the Max Shulga fiasco — combined with a 2024 recruiting class that 247Sports ranked 24th nationally has the positive vibes moving in Wildcat world. Neptune also recently got a commitment from

top-50 2025 prospect Dante Allen for next year. Now, the Wildcats just need to win some games.

**Why you should be pessimistic****1. Dixon is back, and he's still Villanova's best player.**

We've seen this movie before. Dixon, who will serve a one-game suspension to start the season, has been Villanova's best player for the last two seasons and we know how they ended. Maybe that's unfair to Dixon, who is, again, an all-league player, but the proof is in the pudding as they say. Perhaps the secondary options above make the difference, but they're going to need to show it before anyone really believes it.

**2. The climb up the Big East ladder is challenging.**

Villanova was picked seventh in a preseason poll of Big East coaches. Look, no one knows anything about

anyone's teams until the games start and the film is out there, but the other 10 coaches in the conference suspect there are six better teams than Villanova.

Remember, only three Big East teams made the NCAA Tournament last season. Maybe that was an anomaly, but other teams got better, too.

**3. Neptune may be coaching for his job.**

Villanova is searching for its next athletic director, and athletic directors sometimes like to make their own hires. Bad news for Neptune? Maybe. Regardless, the pressure is on. The Wildcats have too many resources (NIL and the like) to consistently miss NCAA Tournaments, and Neptune knows he needs to guide this team to the field of 68. Maybe he thrives under pressure, but it's certainly not a comfortable spot to be in as a season tips off.

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## Hawks are building on success

By Mia Messina  
Staff Writer

Both the St. Joseph's men's and women's basketball teams earned postseason berths last season. The men's team received a bid to the NIT, and the women competed in the inaugural Women's Basketball Invitation Tournament following a historic season.

Expectations are high on Hawk Hill this season as they enter into men's head coach Billy Lange's sixth season and women's head coach Cindy Griffin's 24th season.

With the start to the season just days away, here are 10 questions surrounding St. Joe's basketball for the 2024-25 season:

**Men's basketball****What role will transfers and underclassmen play?**

St. Joe's welcomed two transfers (Derek Simpson and Justice Ajogbor) and five freshmen (Kevin Kearney, Khaafiq Myers, Steven Solano, Billy Rayer, and Mekai Johnson). Dasear Haskins, who redshirted last season, also is poised to debut. On a team that already features Xzayvier Brown, Erik Reynolds II, and Rasheer Fleming, Lange has room to play with combinations.

**Will Erik Reynolds II become an all-time great?**

"Will Reynolds stay at St. Joe's?" has been answered. So what now? He is less than 500 points away from becoming the program's leading scorer and has the skill to lead the Hawks to the NCAA Tournament. Those achievements would put him among the Hawks' best.

**How will the Hawks' three-point shooting compare to last season's?**

Lange has always favored the three-ball. Last season the Hawks led the A-10 in three-point attempts and averaged 10 threes per game. St. Joe's knows how to score from beyond the arc but needs to stay consistent in this area.

**Will Xzayvier Brown step up?**

With the loss of guard Lynn Greer III, who transferred to Temple, sophomore guard Xzayvier Brown will have to step into a bigger role for the Hawks. The A-10 Rookie of the Year has already shown what he's capable of, now he's just expected to build on that.

"The thing with him is he wants to be coached," Lange said following Brown's A-10 honors last season. "He wants to get better. He wants critical feedback. He loves to watch film. He just wants the truth all the time. Like you don't always have guys like that."

**Women's basketball****How will they build on last season?**

Last season was historic for the Hawks, with the most wins in program history and a trip to the quarterfinals of the WBIT, where they lost, 67-59, to eventual runner-up Villanova. St. Joe's is returning a veteran core, and expectations are high for the Hawks to build upon last season's success.

**How will roster retention help?**

Speaking of that veteran core, St. Joe's returns 11 of its 13 players from last season, including Talya Brugler, Mackenzie Smith, Laura Ziegler, and Julia Nyström. That's four of its starting five. The Hawks are the only Big 5 team to not lose anyone to the transfer portal. The fifth starter from last season, Chloe Welch, graduated and now serves as a graduate manager.

**What are some of their biggest challenges?**

After 15 road wins last season, the Hawks will face a pair of early nonconference tests in Syracuse (Nov. 10) and Utah (Nov. 22) on the road. These games are big for the Hawks, who continuously fell short of cracking the AP Top 25 last season, much to the consternation of Griffin.

"I suppose it's well-deserved," she said of the prospect of Top 25 recognition following a key 59-47 win over George Mason last season. "I mean, I don't know what more we have to do, to be honest."

**Will the Hawks defend their Big 5 title?**

Both the men's and women's teams won Big 5 titles last season. Both rosters are equally equipped to defend the title. The women will be playing under the pod format for the first time, following what the men implemented last season. The women's Big 5 Classic is Dec. 6 at Villanova's Finneran Pavilion, while the men's is Dec. 7 at the Wells Fargo Center.

## TEMPLE BASKETBALL

## Owls have momentum after strong finish

**Here are 10 of the biggest questions surrounding Temple's men's and women's teams this season.**By Declan Landis  
Staff Writer

Eight months ago, Temple's basketball programs had the most momentum they've seen in half a decade.

The men's team finished its 2024 campaign one win short of the NCAA Tournament. Weeks earlier, the women claimed their share of the American Athletic Conference regular-season championship for the first time in program history.

Both teams have plenty of questions surrounding their 2024-25 season, which begins with a doubleheader Monday at the Liacouras Center. The men face Sacred Heart at 5:30 p.m. (ESPN+), and the women take on Richmond in the nightcap (8 p.m., ESPN+).

Here are 10 questions facing Temple's men's and women's teams.

**Can the men continue their momentum?**

Coach Adam Fisher turned around his team's fortunes last March. The Owls won four of their final six regular-season games, then beat four opponents in four games during the American Athletic Conference Tournament before losing to Alabama-Birmingham in the championship game.

The team lost leading scorer Hysier Miller and forward Jahliil White. White transferred to La Salle. Miller went to Virginia Tech before being removed under the cloud of an ongoing gambling investigation into Temple's program stemming from last season. Fisher replaced them with former All-Mountain West guard Jamal

Mashburn Jr., former St. Joe's guard Lynn Greer III, and former Penn State guard Jameel Brown.

Fisher's team has a new core, but guards Zion Stanford and Shane Dezonie could be key after playing significant roles last season. The Owls' new lineup must gel quickly to maintain its momentum.

**Which young guards get playing time?**

Stanford enters his sophomore year as one of the men's team's most prolific scorers, and redshirt sophomore Quante Berry has earned praise from coaches and teammates this offseason.

Women's coach Diane Richardson signed freshmen Adena Webster, Kelian Cedano, and former Westtown guard Savannah Curry, while redshirt freshman Drew Alexander will also play this season after sitting out due to the NCAA's transfer rules.

**How will Temple replace Aleah Nelson?**

Richardson hasn't coached a team without Aleah Nelson since Richardson's third season at Towson in 2019. Five years later, the third-year Owls coach must replace her former starter.

Tiarra East led the Owls in scoring last season and seems poised to play off the ball. Tristen Taylor played increased minutes at the end of last season and could slide into the starting lineup.

Richardson also brought in former Alabama A&M guard Kaylah Turner, who averaged 11 points for the Aggies as a freshman last year.

**Who steps up for Greer?**

Greer was expected to be the starting point guard before earning a nine-game suspension for NCAA rules violations while at St. Joe's.

Dezonie was the secondary ball-handler last season, but Quante

Berry's improvement could lead him to earn more opportunities.

Mashburn could also handle the ball, but the role seems to be up in the air ahead of the opening game.

**Who should redshirt?**

One player on the men's team who could, and maybe should, redshirt is Aidan Tobiason.

With a crowded backcourt, Tobiason may not get playing time when Greer returns. He averaged about 19 points in high school and still has plenty of eligibility left. Redshirting would allow him to play college ball while developing without pressure.

Richardson's team is also crowded, but her younger players have a greater chance to make an immediate impact. The Owls have 13 players who could play significant minutes, and several are entering their freshman season.

**Will rebounding be a problem?**

Temple's women's team finished seventh in the country in offensive rebounds largely thanks to forwards Rayne Tucker and Ines Piper. However, Tucker joined UAB this offseason, and Piper went to South Florida.

The Owls brought in Towson's Anissa Rivera and USC's Amaya Oliver to supplement the losses. They also added Sheyenne Swain-Price to the active roster and recruited freshman Felicia Jacobs.

The men's team finished near the bottom of every AAC rebounding category. However, the Owls added more height with Fordham forward Elijah Gray (6-8), center Mohamed Keita (7-1), and freshman forward Dillon Battie (6-8).

**Who should start for each squad?**

Greer's suspension likely changed the men's game plan. However, some combination of Dezonie,

Mashburn, Stanford, Steve Settle III, and Gray would be likely. Brown, Berry, Battie, and guard Matteo Picarelli could rotate in.

Richardson's unit might be more solid. East, Taylor, and guard Taryonna Gary will probably anchor the backcourt, and two of either Oliver, Rivera, or forward Jaleesa Molina could lead the frontcourt.

**Who should fans look out for?**

Battie is athletic and could immediately contribute. The 6-foot-8 forward will likely play solid backup minutes in the nonconference schedule.

Similarly, Turner showed her scoring ability and could thrive in a bench role where she isn't the primary scorer.

**Can the women's team live up to its potential?**

The Owls had a strong regular season in 2023 but fell apart in the postseason, losing to Rice in the AAC semifinals. At their best, the Owls play strong defense and force opponents to make mistakes. At their worst, they forced bad shots and beat themselves.

Richardson's team found success in her second year. They know what it takes to compete in the AAC and have the roster to do so.

**Is the men's squad an NCAA Tournament team?**

Temple's nonconference schedule seems to be geared toward building a strong NET ranking. Victories over teams like Boston College, Florida State, Rhode Island, and any Big 5 opponent could be quality wins by February.

Fisher had a winning formula and conjured just enough magic to knock on the door of the postseason. A higher-quality roster could push the Owls over the hump toward their first NCAA Tournament appearance in five years.

COMICS & PUZZLES

WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MAKE A FRIEND Solution: 9 letters
S H A R E E T A I C E R P P A
G I G G L E M O C L E W O C C
E N N B G E N E R O U S C O A
N T T C E T O R P I E N M R
O R I R E S E N I T P F C M I
I O Y L O U R T K I T I F T U N
T D O L O E V N D O R L N G
A U J G A P E E E R O A A I B
S C N R G U M N G P U O I T U
R E E O U I T I P G R A C Y L
E P L U L E V U H G Y A O A C
V O I P A E S I M E F D S L K
N H M M F A I R N E S S D P O
O O S E N I U N E G A M E U O
C O N S I D E R A T E V A R B

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Accept, Appreciate, Best, Book Club, Brave, Buddy, Café, Caring, Community, Compliment, Confident, Considerate, Conversation, Enjoy, Fairness, Forgive, Game, Generous, Genuine, Giggle, Giving, Group, Hope, Introduce, Laugh, Like, Mutual, Play, Polite, Positive, Protect, Share, Sincere, Smile, Social, Support, Team, True, Welcome
Last Saturday's Answer: Childhood

WORD GAME

Today's Word: GNASHED

(GNASHED: NASH'D: Ground the teeth together.)

Average mark: 19 words
Time limit: 30 minutes

Can you find 23 or more words in GNASHED?

Saturday's Word — MERCIFUL

mice, mile, miler, mire, mule, ecru, emir, relic, rice, rifle, rifle, rife, rime, rule, cerium, clef, clime, clue, crime, cruel, cure, curl, ireful, femur, file, filer, film, fire, firm, flier, flue, flume, fuel, fume, furl, ulcer, lemur, lice, liar, lie, life, lifer, lime, lucre, lure

DADDY DAZE



BETTER BAILEY



BALDO



ZITS



CANDORVILLE



DUSTIN



BLONDIE



MUTTS



PICKLES



BRIDGE

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
A
A Q 10 8 6 3
5 3
9 8 7 4

WEST
Q 9 7 4
7 4
K J 9 6
Q 5 3

EAST
8 6 5 3 2
K J 9 5
7 4 2
2

SOUTH
K J 10
2
A Q 10 8
A K J 10 6

South West North East
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 3 Pass
3 NT Pass 4 Pass
6 All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 4

Cy the Cynic says that just when everything appears to be going well ... life comes by and throws you its line.

Today's declarer got a taste of that. He jumped boldly to six clubs and was pleased when dummy hit with two aces plus four-card club support. The auction called for a trump lead, but West couldn't afford to lead from Q-5-3; he led a spade. Declarer won, came to the ace of diamonds, threw dummy's last diamond on the king of spades and started a joyful crossruff: diamond ruff, ace of hearts, heart ruff, diamond ruff.

Things seemed to be progressing nicely, but South next ruffed another heart with the ten of trumps. West overruffed with the queen and returned a trump, and South was sunk. He had neither the entries to set up the long hearts nor enough trumps to finish his crossruff. He lost a trick at the end.

To make the slam, South must ruff the third heart with the ace of trumps, ruff a spade and ruff a heart with the king. Then he can continue crossruffing, and West scores only his high trump.

You hold: ♠ 8 6 5 3 2 ♥ K J 9 5 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ 2. The dealer, at your left, opens one diamond. Your partner doubles, you respond ("advance") one spade, and he raises to three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has committed you to a nine-trick contract, and your hand could be worse. You have a five-card suit, a useful K-J, and no "wasted" points in diamonds opposite the likely shortness in partner's hand. Bid four spades. He may hold AK74, AQ84, 3, AJ63.

CROSSWORD: "Sudden Success" by Drew Schmenner

Crossword grid with numbers 1-72 and solution tomorrow

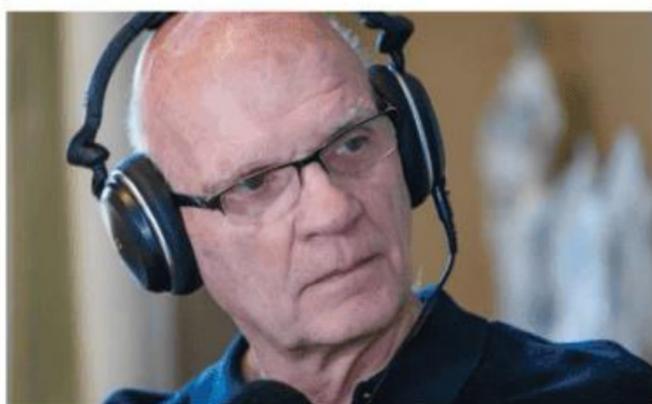
© Andrews McMeel Syndication 11-4

- ACROSS
1 Get a move on
5 Golfer's ride
9 Demean
14 "Tell Mama" singer James
15 "Not a chance"
16 Lip ointments
17 Lima's land
18 "Stop talking!"
20 Grad student's major hurdles
22 Big Aussie bird
23 Depend (on)
24 Postnatal alternatives to baby showers
27 Hurricane's center
28 Narrow incision
29 Powdery mineral
31 "Boo" accompaniment
34 Ages and ages
37 Old Testament song
40 Old Testament transport
41 "How's it goin', bro?"
43 Long Island iced \_\_\_
44 Site of Acadia National Park
46 "Ditto"
47 "This can't wait!"
48 \_\_\_ de gallo
50 Slightly open
52 Tic-\_\_\_toe
53 Leader with a periscope
59 Reference
60 Baton Rouge sch.

Saturday's Puzzle
SPRY DAMP ALGAE
LUAU ORAL NOIRS
OSCAR NOODS NOVEL
WHYNOTME HONEY
MFA DAY BOY
MARSHES PLUS
PINE ONT ROIL
SUN SALUTATION
MEME KIN LOUD
ALPS OLDSAWS
IFSGUYTVA
CIVET HAIR MASK
MARIE CULS DESAC
DROPS GELT GURU
TENSE ISSA ASAP



SPORTS



Former St. Joe's coach Phil Martelli cohosts a podcast with his nephew Jared Phillips. Alejandro A. Alvarez / Staff Photographer

# Martelli's new podcast goes beyond hoops

By Jeff Neiburg  
Staff Writer

Phil Martelli and John Calipari were in their element as they took a trip down Memory Lane, back to when Atlantic 10 basketball had a larger profile, in large part because of John Chaney's larger-than-life personality. The stories were flowing and so were the laughs, especially when Martelli recalled chasing after an official whom he described as being "built like a soda machine."

Martelli, the longtime St. Joseph's coach, was sitting in his Media living room with headphones around his ears and a microphone at his mouth, and Calipari, who made his name at Massachusetts before moving on to bigger things, was inside his new home in Arkansas, where he now coaches. Their conversation was briefly interrupted a few times by technical problems, but the glitches of Martelli's scrappy podcast start-up didn't impact the tenor of it all.

Podcasts are made for storytelling, for laughter, for talking about tough issues, for advice, and for so much more. This one, Martelli's new *Make a Difference* podcast, had components of all of those.

It seems like everyone has a podcast these days, so it makes sense that Martelli, now back home after five seasons working as an assistant coach at the University of Michigan, would have one as he transitions into a new phase of life at age 70. When Martelli spoke in April about what was next, he talked about wanting to give back and about continuing to "make a difference." So the podcast is aptly named, just like his new *Making a Difference* business venture, which includes speaking engagements that focus on relationships, teamwork, and more.

But why the podcast, when the podcast market seems so saturated? "Because it fits under the umbrella," Martelli said, "the idea of *Make a Difference*."

To be clear, this wasn't all his doing. The man sitting to his left as they taped the episode with Calipari on Wednesday was Jared Phillips, Martelli's nephew, a 30-year-old former television reporter who was looking for something new and approached his uncle, the brother of his late mother, Pattiann, with the idea. *Make a Difference*, the brand, is a family thing. Phillips produces the podcast, and another nephew, Tommy Chawluk, is the company's general counsel. Each morning, around 6:30, Martelli sends his daughter, Elizabeth, his daily "Martelli Minute," some words of advice that go on his Instagram page. "To work with them has been

great," Martelli said of his family members being involved. Then he gestured toward Phillips and said: "I know his late mom would be really proud of what he's doing."

As the producer, Phillips helps Martelli in planning episodes. This isn't just a basketball podcast, although Martelli and Calipari chopped it up plenty on the state of the game they love — "the Wild, Wild West," Calipari called college basketball — and much more, and next week's guest is Geno Auriemma, the longtime Connecticut women's coach with roots, like Martelli, at Norristown's Bishop Kenrick.

Martelli will eventually have on Isaiah Thomas Sr., the Philadelphia councilman who happens to double as a high school basketball coach. Last week's guest was Randall Miller, a St. Joseph's professor, historian, and political scientist. Martelli plans to have on David Kelleher of local car dealership fame to talk about his community outreach around the holidays. He'll dip back into the basketball pool, too, with Jameer Nelson.

"I didn't want it to be a coach's podcast," Martelli said. "I didn't want it to be a coach's program where people say I need to know more about zone defense or practice planning. If I'm honest and I say, what have I taken? I've taken memories and relationships. Those memories and relationships go way beyond coach Coach Calipari or [Tom] Izzo."

"My interest in doing the podcast was to stay true to that."

Martelli will still have plenty of time to get up to Bryant University to see his son Phil Jr. coach, and to watch his grandson Phillip play basketball. He'll get to Penn State, too, where his other son, Jimmy, is an assistant.

There are some similarities in this new world to coaching, Martelli has found. Planning a podcast is like coming up with a game plan, in a similar way that planning for a speaking engagement can be.

"Not that I'm uncomfortable on my feet," he clarified.

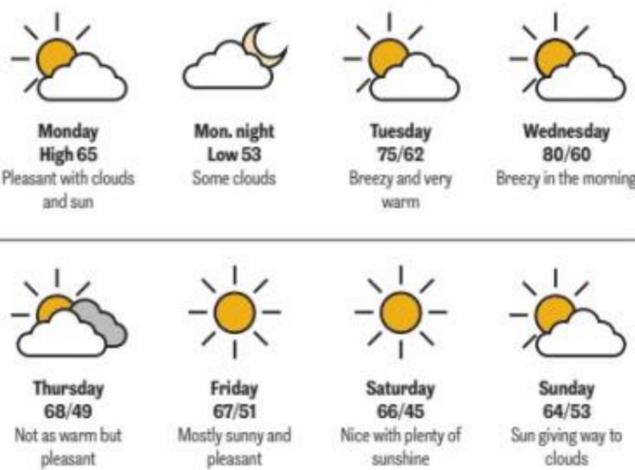
He'll need to be, since he's also preparing for some television gigs. He traveled to Washington a few weeks ago to do some broadcasting at the Atlantic 10's basketball media day, and his first Fox Sports telecast is Nov. 9, when he'll be an analyst on the call for the Fordham at Seton Hall game in South Orange, N.J.

Martelli said he also has a contract with ESPN and his schedule with that network is to be determined. For now, he's rolling with the podcast episodes, speaking engagements, and game broadcasts. "My sense is that there will be ripples from this," he said.

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## REGIONAL FORECAST

AccuWeather Visit AccuWeather.com



**Poconos:** Clouds and sun Monday; a warmup is on the way. High 54 to 60. Turning cloudy Monday night. Low 43 to 51.

**Jersey Shore:** Nice Monday with intervals of clouds and sun. High 62 to 66. Mostly cloudy Monday night. Low 49 to 57.

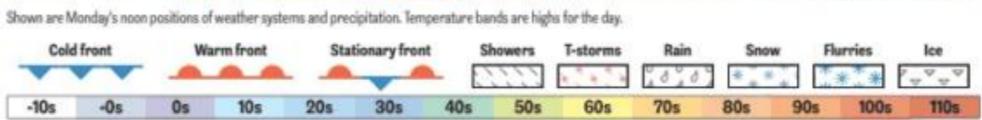
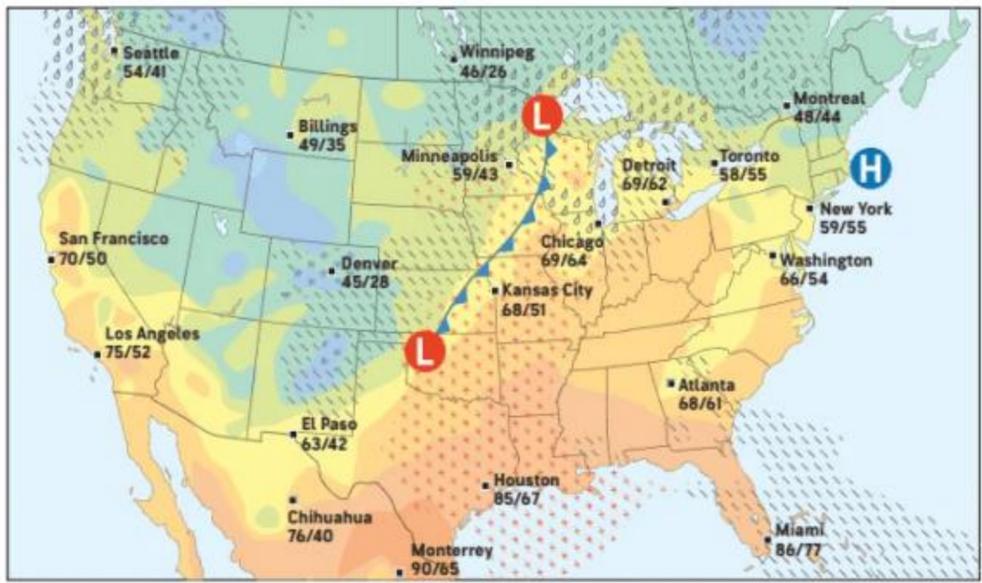
**Delaware:** Times of clouds and sun Monday. High 63 to 69. Partly cloudy Monday night. Low 49 to 58.

**Manasquan to Cape Henlopen:** Wind from the east-southeast at 7-14 knots Monday. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility unrestricted.

**Delaware Bay:** Wind from the southeast at 8-16 knots Monday. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility generally clear.

**Cape Henlopen to Va. Beach:** Wind from the east-southeast at 7-14 knots Monday. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility generally clear.

## NATIONAL FORECAST



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2024

## SUN & MOON

Sun rises 6:34 a.m., sets 4:55 p.m.  
Moon rises 9:50 a.m., sets 6:38 p.m.



## AIR QUALITY

The worst pollutant in the region Sunday was not available.

Key

Good (G)	0-50
Moderate (M)	51-100
Unhealthy/sensitive (S)	101-150
Unhealthy (U)	151-200
Very Unhealthy (V)	201-300
Hazardous (H)	301-500
Carbon monoxide	CO
Nitrogen dioxide	NO2
Particulates	PM
Sulfur Dioxide	SO2
Ozone	O3

Sunday's Pollution Index	Sun. High	Mon.
Bristol	M51	NO G
Burlington	M51	NO N.A.
Camden	M53	NO G
Chester	M53	NO G
Norristown	M52	NO G
Philadelphia	G48	NO G
Trenton	G48	NO N.A.
Wilmington	M51	NO M

Ozone forecast available at 1-800-872-7261 and www.dvpc.org.

## POLLEN

Nov. 1 information:

Grasses	high
Ragweed	very low
Other weeds	moderate
Trees	very low
Mold spores	very high

SOURCE: www.asthmacenter.com

## U.S. CITIES

City	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	City	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
Albany	55/50/c	72/57/pc	74/48/c	Las Vegas	66/46/s	68/46/s	60/45/pc
Albuquerque	44/31/sh	55/37/c	50/38/pc	Lincoln	58/44/sh	59/36/pc	59/39/pc
Allentown	62/47/pc	71/57/pc	75/52/pc	Los Angeles	75/52/s	75/55/pc	71/51/pc
Anchorage	37/29/af	39/36/an	40/32/sh	Memphis	78/68/c	75/61/t	73/62/c
Atlanta	68/61/pc	78/67/c	75/66/sh	Miami	86/77/sh	88/80/sh	85/78/t
Atlantic City	64/56/pc	72/63/pc	75/60/pc	Milwaukee	69/63/r	66/47/sh	55/43/s
Baltimore	63/51/pc	73/58/pc	81/62/pc	Minneapolis	59/43/sh	46/40/sh	52/39/pc
Boston	53/48/c	71/60/pc	76/52/pc	New Orleans	85/73/t	85/72/t	84/74/pc
Buffalo	61/57/pc	74/61/pc	65/45/sh	New York	59/55/pc	74/64/pc	78/57/pc
Charleston, S.C.	78/67/pc	81/69/s	84/68/sh	Orlando	83/71/sh	84/73/pc	83/75/t
Charlotte	67/58/pc	74/63/s	76/64/sh	Phoenix	72/51/s	74/52/s	75/48/c
Chicago	69/64/r	67/45/sh	56/43/s	Pittsburgh	72/56/pc	80/63/pc	71/48/sh
Cincinnati	74/61/pc	77/59/c	69/51/t	Portland, Maine	47/44/pc	64/56/pc	75/45/pc
Cleveland	71/62/pc	78/61/c	61/47/c	Portland, Ore.	56/46/r	55/42/c	59/43/s
Dallas	77/55/t	68/51/pc	76/61/pc	Richmond	69/53/pc	79/60/s	82/63/pc
Denver	45/28/af	54/26/pc	32/24/an	St. Thomas	88/79/pc	88/79/t	88/79/t
Des Moines	67/49/t	56/39/pc	60/42/s	St. Louis	73/67/t	69/50/t	65/47/s
Detroit	69/62/c	74/51/c	60/42/pc	Salisbury	68/54/pc	78/61/s	80/61/pc
Harrisburg	63/50/pc	75/62/pc	77/58/pc	Salt Lake City	46/37/pc	43/27/pc	44/26/pc
Helena	51/37/pc	41/26/an	40/23/pc	San Diego	73/50/s	72/52/pc	73/51/pc
Honolulu	87/75/sh	86/75/sh	85/75/sh	San Francisco	70/50/s	67/56/pc	74/51/s
Houston	85/67/t	76/63/t	81/68/c	San Juan	91/79/t	88/78/t	87/78/t
Indianapolis	73/63/sh	71/48/t	64/48/pc	Scranton	60/51/pc	73/59/pc	71/47/c
Jackson, Miss.	84/68/pc	84/68/pc	85/69/t	Seattle	54/41/r	53/39/c	53/39/s
Jackson Hole	35/24/pc	30/16/an	31/1/s	Tampa	86/72/pc	87/75/sh	84/75/t
Jacksonville	83/68/sh	82/70/sh	82/73/t	Washington	66/54/pc	77/62/pc	80/64/pc
Kansas City	68/51/t	58/42/c	63/45/s	Wilmington	63/51/pc	75/61/pc	77/59/pc

Bold = in our region; r=rainy, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, t=thunderstorms, r=rain, f=flurries, s=snow, i=ice

## MONDAY'S TIDES

<b>Philadelphia (Chestnut St.)</b> High: 3:02 a.m., 3:03 p.m. Low: 9:29 a.m., 10:21 p.m.	<b>Cape May</b> High: 9:12 a.m., 9:32 p.m. Low: 2:29 a.m., 3:28 p.m.	<b>Little Egg Inlet</b> High: 9:56 a.m., 10:19 p.m. Low: 3:11 a.m., 4:22 p.m.
<b>Delaware Breakwater</b> High: 9:59 a.m., 10:20 p.m. Low: 3:24 a.m., 4:16 p.m.	<b>Atlantic City (Steel Pier)</b> High: 8:39 a.m., 8:59 p.m. Low: 2:10 a.m., 3:09 p.m.	<b>Barnegat Inlet</b> High: 8:51 a.m., 9:17 p.m. Low: 2:38 a.m., 3:37 p.m.

## PHILADELPHIA ALMANAC

<b>Temperatures</b> High Sunday ..... 59 (3:14 p.m.) Record high ..... 80 (1990) Humidity at 4 p.m. .... 30% Low Sunday ..... 41 (7:00 a.m.) Record low ..... 28 (1961) Normal high/low ..... 61/43 High/low Nov. 3, 2023 ..... 59/37	<b>Sunday's Barometer</b> 6 a.m. .... 30.45 steady Noon ..... 30.47 steady 4 p.m. .... 30.43 rising Daylight sky conditions: 40% clouds with 60% sunshine
<b>Heating degree days</b> This season ..... 160 Last season ..... 228 Normal season ..... 307	<b>Precipitation in inches</b> 24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Sun. .... 0.00 Month to date ..... 1r Year to date ..... 33.43 Normal year to date ..... 37.63 Deficit ..... -4.20

# Blaney secures spot in NASCAR championship to defend title

Associated Press

Ryan Blaney earned a chance to defend his NASCAR championship with a victory Sunday at Martinsville Speedway that pushed the Team Penske driver into the winner-take-all season finale.

Blaney passed Chase Elliott with 15 laps to go to win at the Virginia track for a second consecutive year and take a spot in the championship race next week at Phoenix Raceway. Blaney will race Penske teammate Joey Logano, Tyler Reddick of 23XI Racing, and was awaiting a decision by NASCAR to see if Christopher Bell of Joe Gibbs

Racing or William Byron of Hendrick Motorsports took the final spot.

The title goes to the highest-finishing driver next Sunday.

"To have another shot at the championship is really special," Blaney said. "Try to go back-to-back next week. I've got nothing left. Oh my God, I'm tired."

Blaney last week lost an automatic berth into the finale when Reddick passed him in the final turn at Homestead-Miami Speedway. His victory gives team owner Roger Penske two chances to win a third title this year: Penske teams won the sports car championships in both IMSA and on Saturday the

World Endurance Championship.

Bell passed Byron on the final lap and rode the wall for a portion — the same way Ross Chastain did two years ago in a move that was ultimately banned by NASCAR. The pass of Byron at the end left the two tied in points for the final spot in the championship race, with NASCAR left to decide who earned the final spot in the finale on a tie-breaker.

Both drivers stood silently outside their cars waiting for a NASCAR decision.

"This is weird," Bell said.

Added Byron: "There's a rule against it. I don't see how they can call it any different."

A decision for Bell would be disastrous for Hendrick Motorsports, which started the round of eight with three drivers vying for the four spots in the finale. Instead, Byron, Elliott, and Kyle Larson were eliminated.

Elliott finished second at Martinsville, Larson finished third, and Penske driver Austin Cindric was fourth but not eligible for a championship berth.

Denny Hamlin was fifth and eliminated from the finale and Byron was sixth.

## Formula 1

Red Bull driver Max Verstappen

took a major step toward securing his fourth straight F1 title by winning the Brazilian Grand Prix, despite starting 17th, and increasing his lead over McLaren's Lando Norris with three more races remaining.

The Dutchman could secure the trophy in Las Vegas later this month. Verstappen earned his first victory since June and his eighth Grand Prix win of the year. The Dutchman increased his lead from 44 points to 62 over Norris, who won Saturday's sprint race. He also clocked the fastest lap at Interlagos, which he did 17 times during the race, and received an extra point. \*