



The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



ELECTION 2024

Democrats maintain narrow majority in Pa. House

By Gillian McGoldrick
Staff Writer

Democrats will narrowly maintain control of the Pennsylvania state House — one of the only bright spots for the party after a red wave led by President-elect Donald Trump's election successes ushered in GOP wins down the ballot.

House Democrats will again control the chamber with a 102-101 majority, after all incumbents running for reelection on Tuesday won. House Democrats believe they held onto their narrow majority — while Dems higher on the ticket failed — because they focused on hyper-local issues and successfully communicated their legislative wins.

Meanwhile, House Republicans will shake up their leadership in response to their failure to flip the chamber, with Minority Leader Bryan Cutler announcing he would not run for leadership elections next week, according to a letter sent to his colleagues Friday afternoon.

The Associated Press called the final state House race and declared that Democrats would hold onto their majority on Friday morning, after ballot issues in Cambria County delayed results.

House Speaker Joanna McCClinton (D., Philadelphia), the first woman to ever hold the role, said House Democrats' success in such a tough election is a "testament to [Democrats'] delivery of constituent services" and their reputations in solving residents' problems.

"It was a tough week. It was a very tough week, and with every democratic process, there's a winner and a loser," said McCClinton. "I'm very excited to be able to return to Harrisburg knowing there are 101 additional Democrats coming with me."

→ SEE HOUSE ON A7

A call to arms (and legs)

Members of the Truck Co., 25th Marine Regiment from Folsom, Delaware County, run up the Philadelphia Museum of Art steps during a Friday morning workout. The regiment is celebrating the 249th anniversary of the founding of the Marine Corps. *Jose F. Moreno / Staff Photographer*

Three charged in Iranian plot targeting Trump and journalist

Two were arrested on charges that they were hired to kill Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad. A third suspect is at large and remains in Iran.

By Eric Tucker and Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Friday disclosed an Iranian murder-for-hire plot to kill Donald Trump, charging a man who said he had been tasked by a government official before this week's election with planning the assassination of the Republican president-elect.

Investigators learned of the plan to kill Trump from Farhad Shakeri, an accused Iranian government asset who spent time in American prisons for robbery and who authorities say maintains a network of criminal associates

enlisted by Tehran for surveillance and murder-for-hire plots.

Shakeri told investigators that a contact in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard instructed him this past September to set aside other work he was doing and assemble a plan within seven days to surveil and ultimately kill Trump, according to a criminal complaint unsealed in federal court in Manhattan.

The official was quoted by Shakeri as saying that "We have already spent a lot of money" and that "money's not an issue." Shakeri told

investigators the official told him that if he could not put together a plan within the seven-day timeframe, then the plot would be paused until after the election because the official assumed Trump would lose and that it would be easier to kill him then, the complaint said.

Shakeri is at large and remains in Iran. Two other men were arrested on charges that Shakeri recruited them to follow and kill prominent Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad, who has endured multiple

→ SEE PLOT ON A4

Since Oct. 7 attack, more Jewish Americans have moved to Israel

By Rachel Chason
Washington Post

TEL AVIV — Yocheved Ruttenberg was living in a mostly Christian community in Dallas and feeling largely disconnected from her Jewish identity when she woke one morning in October last year to a friend's text: "Have you seen what's happening in Israel?"

Ruttenberg, a 23-year-old who had grown up in an Orthodox Jewish home in Baltimore but drifted from religion as a teenager, felt paralyzed in her bed as she watched videos of Hamas fighters attacking Israeli civilians. Eventually, she shocked her friends by declaring: "I need to go to Israel."

Within two weeks, Ruttenberg was in Tel Aviv for what was meant to be a two-week trip. Now, more than a year later, she's still in Israel and in the process of becoming a citizen — one in the surge of Jewish Americans seeking closer ties to the country, despite uncertainty and risk as war engulfs the region.

"I couldn't imagine not being here," Ruttenberg said. "It was just this gut feeling — I felt pulled."

Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas fighters streamed out of Gaza to kill an estimated 1,200 Israelis in communities and kibbutzim near the enclave, was the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. The Israeli government has responded with a military campaign that has killed more than 43,000 people in Gaza, authorities there say, and has launched attacks in Lebanon aimed at destroying Hezbollah, raising the specter of an all-out regional war. The election of Donald Trump has injected further uncertainty into the direction of Israel's multifront conflict, including its escalating confrontations with Iran.

Since the Hamas attack, more than 11,700 Americans have opened applications for aliyah, the Israeli naturalization process for people with at least one Jewish grandparent. That's nearly double the number from the year before, according to Nefesh B'Nefesh, a nonprofit that facilitates aliyah — literally, "ascending" or "going up" — from the United States and Canada. In the past year, new arrivals, known as olim, are up 20%.

"Jewish people are drawn to

→ SEE ISRAEL ON A6

Chesco DA: No firm proof of homicide in Ellen Greenberg's stabbing death

By Stephanie Farr
Staff Writer

More than two years after the Chester County District Attorney's Office was charged with reinvestigating the case of Ellen Greenberg — whose death by 20 stab wounds in 2011 was ruled homicide then switched to suicide by Philadelphia authorities — it announced Friday that "based on the current state of evidence" it can't prove beyond a reasonable doubt a crime was committed.

"Because we cannot meet our burden of proof with the information and evidence presently available, we placed this investigation in an inactive status," an emailed news release said. "There is no statute of limitations for criminal homicide in Pennsylvania, and because investigations can take new directions, we are not closing the case."

Joseph Podraza Jr., the lawyer for Greenberg's parents, Joshua and Sandra Greenberg of Harrisburg,



Ellen Greenberg's death on Jan. 26, 2011, was ruled a homicide then switched to suicide by Philadelphia authorities. The Chester County District Attorney's Office was asked to review the case in 2022 on a conflict-of-interest referral from the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. Courtesy of the Greenberg family

said in an emailed statement they remain steadfast in their belief Ellen Greenberg was murdered and called the Chester County DA's

investigation "extremely limited and constrained."

"The Office told us that they did

→ SEE GREENBERG ON A7

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Featuring Philly

NEWS



Joseph S. Clark Jr. (left) and Richardson Dilworth on Nov. 7, 1951, after Clark was elected mayor and Dilworth district attorney. Temple University Libraries

A PHILLY LOOK BACK Dive into the archives

This week in Philly history: The Republican political machine loses control of the city after a nearly century-long reign.

For nearly a century, Republicans ruled Philadelphia. Power was controlled by the pay-to-play GOP political machine in the years after the Civil War. The party's grip can be traced back to 1884, when Republican William B. Smith took the mayoral oath of office, and symbolically kicked off the city's new and fraught political and economic era. Between the 1880s and the early 1950s, the donkey's party served as a mere appendage to the elephant's organization. The kings of the Republican machine took turns picking mayors, and election "tickets" were ceremonial at best. Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal arrived in the 1930s amid the Great Depression, and as the city's Republican leaders were unwilling to accept aid from a Democratic White House. And it's when the machine would start leaking oil. The "New Deal Democrats" and their zeal for national reform helped fan the local flames of political revolution, and spurred a movement to bring about profound changes to the framework of Philadelphia's ineffective government. The movement was spearheaded by two lawyers: University of Pennsylvania-educated Joseph S. Clark Jr., from Germantown, and Yale-educated Richardson Dilworth, from Pittsburgh. The duo helped craft a modern Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, a constitution-like document that established new ground rules for how the city should operate and be led. Among the changes: It put

more power in the hands of the mayor, and required civil service exams for patronage jobs. Voters approved the charter in April 1951. Seven months later, on Nov. 6, 1951, Democratic candidates Clark and Dilworth were elected as mayor and district attorney, respectively. These victories represented the first true Democratic wins in the city in 67 years. The Inquirer ran an editorial on the front page the next day with the headline, "The People Win!" "The people had made up their minds to get rid of the unsavory gang of grafters and incompetents that had controlled the local government for so many years," the editorial said, "and they have done just that in unmistakable fashion." Seventy-two years later: The charter, despite a few amendments and calls for overhaul, is still in use today. Meanwhile, Democrats outnumber Republicans in the city, 7-1. And since that 1951 election, no Republican since has taken the mayoral oath. —By Tommy Rowan

COMING TOMORROW

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Ukraine suffers casualties as Russian strikes mount

At least 14 were killed and a 100 injured in the attacks around the country that also left the building where a European ambassador lives in flames.

By David L. Stern, Serhiy Morgunov, and Kostiantyn Khudov
 Washington Post

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia has launched a barrage of attacks over 24 hours, pummeling cities in Ukraine's east, south, and center with missiles, glide bombs, and waves of drones — the latest onslaught in a deadly aerial campaign that intensified two months ago.

The building where the Estonian ambassador to Ukraine lives in the capital Kyiv was also hit and left burning by a drone.

Overnight, Russian glide bombs struck a building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, wounding more than 20, while drones struck the southern city of Odessa, killing one person and injuring nine, officials said.

The previous day, glide bombs hammered five locations in Zaporizhzhia in eastern Ukraine, injuring at least 40 people and killing 10, including a 1-year-old child, officials said on Friday.

In total, at least 14 people were killed and close to 100 injured in the attacks.

On Thursday, after the assault in Zaporizhzhia, President Volodymyr Zelensky repeated calls for Ukraine's Western allies to provide more air defense systems and allow Kyiv's forces to conduct long-range strikes into Russian territory.

"Each such Russian attack not only kills people and destroys lives, but also destroys the meaning of any words about the alleged lack of talks with Russia or calls to the Kremlin," Zelensky said in a post on Telegram.

Photos posted on social media by Ukraine Emergency Services showed a heavily damaged residential building in Kharkiv and the rubble of a building that was leveled in Zaporizhzhia. Officials also said that a cancer clinic was struck in Zaporizhzhia.

Altogether, Moscow forces launched overnight one ballistic missile, four guided missiles and 92 drones, with Ukrainian air defenses shooting down all four guided missiles and 62 drones, Ukraine's air force said on Telegram on Friday.

In Kyiv, an air raid alert lasted eight hours, with debris causing damage in five city districts,



Police and emergency workers survey pieces of a drone that damaged a five-story apartment building in Kharkiv on Tuesday. Oksana Parafeniuk / Washington Post

officials said. Large-scale drone attacks have been an almost daily occurrence since the beginning of September; officials said there were assaults every day from then until Oct. 14.

Zelensky said in Telegram posts this week that Russia launched about 2,000 drones against Ukraine in October and "now uses about 10 times more self-destructing drones than the previous fall."

But the recent days have been particularly intense.

Overnight from Wednesday to Thursday, Russian forces launched about 106 drones against Ukraine, of which 74 were shot down by air defenses, Ukrainian officials said.

In Kyiv a "massive attack" that lasted about eight hours sparked fires and damaged "residential and nonresidential buildings" in six districts, with "more than 30 drones" shot down, the head of the Kyiv military administration, Serhiy Popko, said on Telegram on Thursday.

"Enemy drones entered Kyiv both singly and in groups," Popko wrote. "The attack took place in waves, from different directions, drones entered the city at different heights — both very low and high."

In the early morning, a drone struck an apartment building where Estonia's ambassador, Annely Kolk, lives, Estonian Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna said in a post on X. Estonian media showed video footage of the heavily damaged upper floor of the building.

"She was lucky not to be harmed," Tsahkna said. "No one is safe in Ukraine until Russia stops its aggression. Ukraine needs more air defense to protect its residents. We must not get used to this."

Russian drone attacks, which rely heavily on Iranian-made Shahed self-destructing drones, have been a regular characteristic of the war, now more than 2½ years old.

Earlier this year, Moscow forces

launched similar mass assaults against Ukrainian cities and especially the country's energy infrastructure, before switching to targeting the country's power stations with guided and ballistic missiles — with devastating effectiveness.

For their part, Ukrainian forces this week struck two locations inside of Russia with long-range drones, Ukrainian media reported, citing sources in the intelligence services: an oil refinery in the southwestern region of Saratov and a naval base in the city of Kaspiysk on the Caspian Sea, almost 1,000 miles from the Ukrainian border.

Andriy Kovalenko, of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said that Russia was using drones, "a low-cost method of aerial assault," while it preserved its missiles.

"Purely as military tools, their [drones'] effectiveness is low, yet they do achieve some hits, which is evident in publicly reported incidents, such as in Sumy and recently in Zhytomyr, where energy infrastructure was struck," Kovalenko told the Post.

In addition to targeting Ukraine's energy system, Kovalenko said the drones carry out reconnaissance throughout Ukraine and pressure the population.

The drones "can loiter ... along varied flight paths for extended periods, making them difficult to intercept," he said. Sending them in waves "triggers prolonged air raid alerts, creating sustained psychological pressure on civilians."

Some drones have been equipped with thermobaric explosives, which increase their ability to cause fires, Kovalenko said.

In the meantime, Kovalenko said that Russian forces had accumulated 117 Kh-101 guided missiles — "enough missiles for two large-scale attacks."

William recounts 'hardest year' after family cancer diagnoses

By Karla Adam
 Washington Post

LONDON — Prince William has opened up about his own annus horribilis in coping with the illnesses of his wife, Catherine, the Princess of Wales, and his father, King Charles, who is still undergoing treatment for cancer.

"It's been dreadful. It's probably been the hardest year in my life," he told reporters at the end of a visit to South Africa, when asked about how his year has been. "So trying to get through everything else and keep everything on track has been really difficult," he added, according to the BBC.

In February, the palace revealed that Charles was diagnosed with cancer, and a month later, Catherine said that she was in the early stages of treatment for the disease. In September, Catherine said she had finished chemotherapy and was seeking to "stay cancer free."

"I'm so proud of my wife, I'm proud of my father, for handling the things that they have done," William told reporters. "But from a personal family point of view, it's been brutal."

While William's estranged brother, Prince Harry, has been open about his feelings on various matters, it's unusual to hear Prince William open up about his personal life.

His remarks have been compared to his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, who referred to 1992 as



Britain's Prince William (right) speaks to local fisherman in Kalk Bay Harbour, near Cape Town, South Africa on Thursday. Gianluigi Guercia / Pool photo via AP

her "annus horribilis" — the Latin phrase for horrible year — after a fire at Windsor Castle, the separation of three of her children from their spouses and tabloid scandals involving the royal family.

William was in South Africa for the annual awards ceremony for the Earthshot prize, the environmental initiative he launched in 2020. On Wednesday, the prize awarded \$1.2 million grants to five businesses to help them develop eco-friendly innovations.

He was also asked by reporters about his role as Prince of Wales, heir to the throne, and the responsibility that came with it.

"Do I like more responsibility? No," William told reporters, though

he said he liked the freedom that allowed him to "build something like Earthshot."

"And that's the future for me. It's very important with my role and my platform, that I'm doing something for good," he said.

William's role as Prince of Wales also comes with additional scrutiny. Earlier this month, Channel 4 and the Sunday Times published an extensive investigation into the huge property portfolios owned by Charles and William.

Catherine has started to return to some public duties. On Friday, the palace said she will attend a Remembrance service in London on the weekend to honor war dead, a key date in the royal diary.

ELECTION 2024

McCormick still challenging ballots in Philly

Casey has not conceded to the Republican, who was leading Friday evening by roughly 37,000 votes.

By **Jeremy Roebuck, Sean Collins Walsh and Katie Bernard**
Staff Writers

Is Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate race over? It depends on whom you ask.

And for Republican Dave McCormick, declared the winner by the Associated Press on Thursday, the answer appears to be both yes and no.

At a news conference Friday in Pittsburgh, McCormick declared victory and vowed to work with officials from both parties to secure the border and improve the economy.

"I don't care who voted for me and didn't vote for me," McCormick said. "Today, I turn the page. I am focused on serving every single Pennsylvanian."

But just hours earlier, he was selling a slightly different story in a Philadelphia court. McCormick, in a pair of petitions filed late Thursday, signaled his intent to potentially challenge tens of thousands of provisional ballots cast in the city, saying that counting those votes and others like them could "impact ... the outcome of the election."

Democratic U.S. Sen. Bob Casey Jr. has not conceded, despite the AP's call. And with the race's margins



U.S. Senate candidate Dave McCormick speaks to supporters in North Philadelphia on Oct. 4. Tyger Williams / Staff Photographer

down to roughly 37,000 votes separating the candidates as of Friday evening, he remained hopeful there was still a chance those ballots could help him regain an edge.

"The number of provisional ballots expected from areas that favor Senator Casey, like Philadelphia and its suburbs, is further proof that this race is too close to be called," Casey spokesperson Maddy McDaniel said Friday. "As the McCormick campaign admitted in their own lawsuit this morning, the counting of these ballots could have an 'impact on the outcome of the election.'"

Even if provisional votes don't help Casey make up the difference, they could be enough to trigger automatic recount provisions under Pennsylvania law in races decided by 0.5% or less. As of Friday, that margin

hovered around 0.54%, just outside that range. Whether a recount will happen likely won't be announced until Wednesday.

Still, Casey faces an uphill battle to keep the seat he has held since 2007. Recounts typically result in small changes to each candidate's vote total. But because those changes can happen in either direction, they rarely alter the outcome of an election unless it was virtually tied heading into the recount.

Casey would need to dominate the remaining ballots to be counted between now and Wednesday to make it close headed into the recount.

As of Friday morning, county officials indicated there are roughly 45,000 ballots that still need to be tallied in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, and

Montgomery Counties. In Allegheny County, home to Pittsburgh, officials reported 16,989 ballots yet to be counted.

However, some of those ballots may ultimately be rejected for procedural flaws. That number also includes an unknown number of military and overseas ballots that have not yet been returned but will still count if they arrive by Nov. 12.

Tens of thousands of voters cast provisional ballots each election for a number of reasons, ranging from confusion over whether they are registered to vote to instances in which someone may have submitted a flawed mail ballot that was rejected but later showed up to vote at the polls.

County election workers typically hold off on

reviewing such ballots until they can verify voter's eligibility and determine whether their ballots should count.

Philadelphia's City Commissioners began that process Friday morning, reviewing provisional ballots — and determining which of the roughly 20,000 cast by city voters should count and which should be rejected.

In court filings Thursday, McCormick asked a judge to mandate additional Republican access to the canvassing of those provisional ballots in Philadelphia — a request Common Pleas Court Judge Jessica Brown denied Friday morning.

Separately, the McCormick campaign sought an order allowing it to challenge provisional ballots in broad categories instead of fighting them one-by-one in

front of the city's election board.

Campaign attorneys have also asked to sequester an unspecified number of provisional ballots that were cast at the polls by voters who'd previously submitted mail ballots that were rejected for procedural defects such as missing dates or secrecy envelopes.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled last month that those provisional ballots should count, rebuffing a Republican push for their exclusion under the argument that those voters had already voted by submitting a ballot — even a rejected one — by mail.

The GOP appealed that order to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to take up the case for now. But three of the court's conservative justices — Samuel A. Alito Jr., Clarence Thomas, and Neil Gorsuch — signaled a potential willingness to reconsider the issue after the election, calling it "a matter of considerable importance."

Whether the tight Pennsylvania Senate race could be the vehicle for taking that issue back to the nation's highest court remains to be seen. But in his filing Thursday, McCormick signaled he was prepared to make it one, if necessary.

"Such a matter is ripe for appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court," he wrote.

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Judge suspends deadlines in Trump criminal case

By **Perry Stein and Spencer S. Hsu**
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The judge overseeing Donald Trump's election-interference case in D.C. federal court suspended all remaining deadlines Friday — the latest sign that the federal prosecutions of the president-elect are winding down.

In a filing Friday to U.S. District Judge Tanya S. Chutkan, special counsel Jack Smith and his team said that they needed to assess how they want to proceed with the case now that Trump is expected to be sworn in as president on Jan. 20. Justice Department policy would not allow for the prosecution of a sitting president.

Chutkan quickly granted that request and ordered prosecutors to file a report by Dec. 2 explaining how

they want to proceed with the case.

In D.C., Smith charged Trump with trying to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. The case is still far from a potential trial, and Chutkan is determining what allegations in the superseding indictment could still be prosecuted after the Supreme Court ruled this summer that presidents enjoy broad immunity.

"The Government respectfully requests that the Court vacate the remaining deadlines in the pretrial schedule to afford the Government time to assess this unprecedented circumstance and determine the appropriate course going forward consistent with Department of Justice policy," Smith's Friday filing states. "By December 2, 2024, the Government will file a status report or otherwise inform the Court of the result of its

deliberations."

Smith also indicted Trump in Florida for allegedly mishandling classified documents and thwarting officials' attempts to retrieve them. That case was dismissed by a district judge, who determined Smith was unlawfully appointed. Smith is appealing that ruling.

Trump's election win prompted Smith to start discussing how to wind down the two federal prosecutions of the president-elect.

If he terminated the criminal cases soon enough, Smith could deliver a final report detailing the findings of his two probes to Attorney General Merrick Garland before Trump becomes the next president.

Garland has previously said that he would make special counsel reports public if they reached his desk.

Levi Strauss heir pledges to make San Francisco safer

By **Janie Har**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Daniel Lurie, an heir to the Levi Strauss fortune and philanthropist who has never held public office, promised on Friday that as San Francisco's mayor he will help struggling small businesses and bring an end to the open-air drug markets.

"Your voices and your call for accountable leadership, service and change have been heard," Lurie said at a park in San Francisco's Chinatown, delivering his first public remarks since Mayor London Breed called him to concede the race.

Lurie said he chose Chinatown for Friday's event to

underscore how important the area's health is to turning San Francisco around. He walked the neighborhood the day after the election and visited again with merchants Friday. Chinese voters are also critical to winning citywide in San Francisco.

The Associated Press has not declared a winner in Tuesday's election because tens of thousands of ballots have not yet been counted and added to the ranked choice voting calculations.

But on Friday, Lurie held a commanding lead in early election results and Breed called Lurie on Thursday to congratulate him. She posted on the social platform X that she and her staff will work to ensure the

political newcomer has a smooth transition when he takes over as mayor.

"I know we are both committed to improving this City we love," Breed wrote.

Lurie's ascent was remarkable for a candidate with little name recognition who appears to have bested two San Francisco supervisors and a former interim mayor to unseat.

Lurie spent nearly \$9 million of his own money on his first-time campaign for mayor and raised more than \$16 million, including \$1 million from his mother Mimi Haas. Lurie is the stepson of the late Peter Haas, a great-grandnephew of Levi Strauss and longtime CEO of the iconic clothing company.

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NEWS

ELECTION 2024

Who is Susie Wiles? Trump calls her 'Ice Baby'

What to know about President-elect Donald Trump's pick for chief of staff.

By Emily Bloch
Staff Writer

President-elect Donald Trump announced that Susie Wiles, who managed his reelection campaign, would become his chief of staff. It makes Wiles the first woman to hold the role, the most senior political appointee in the White House with significant power and influence.

Though she's considered a "Washington outsider" by some, Wiles is a veteran of Florida politics, having worked with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Gov. Rick Scott, and two former Republican Jacksonville mayors.

Throughout Trump's campaign, Wiles earned a reputation for being able to rein in the former president, known for his desire to go off-message and lean into impulse. Wiles was credited with keeping the effort more focused than his previous campaigns.

In a statement, Trump called Wiles "tough, smart, innovative," and said she's "universally admired and respected."

Here's what you need to know about Wiles and her new gig.

Who is Susie Wiles?

Wiles, 67, was born and raised in New Jersey and is the daughter of the late NFL player and sportscaster Pat Summerall.

She graduated from the University of Maryland and began working with Republican politicians in her early 20s, starting as an assistant for the late Rep. Jack Kemp (R, N.Y.). Kemp was one of Summerall's New York Giants teammates.

Wiles married Republican consultant Lanny Wiles and the pair lived together in Jacksonville, Fla. They had two children together before divorcing in 2017.



President-elect Donald Trump sits with Susie Wiles as he attends the New York Jets football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers at Acrisure Stadium on Oct. 20. Evan Vucci / AP

She's worked as a lobbyist and in a mix of local and national campaign and staff management roles for Republican politicians over the years in Florida and beyond.

Why is she called 'Ice Baby'?

A nod to Wiles' low-key public persona, rarely giving interviews and avoiding speaking engagements, Trump quipped during his victory speech Wednesday that his team calls Wiles "Ice Baby" and "Ice Maiden."

Even when Trump asked Wiles to say a few words to the crowd that night, she looked noticeably uncomfortable and declined.

"Susie likes to stay sort of in the back," Trump said. "Let me tell you, the Ice Baby — we call her the Ice Baby ... Susie likes to stay in the background. She's not in the background."

Wiles is the first female White House chief of staff

The chief of staff role is considered the second-most-important office in the West Wing. It's one of the few remaining federal government jobs that hasn't been held by a woman — until now.

Vice President Kamala Harris was the first woman to hold her current role. As noted by CNN, women have held other senior positions in government, including almost all cabinet posts, top judicial seats, and House leadership roles.

But, amplified by Harris' loss to Trump, no woman has ever been president, and none have served on the joint chiefs of staff or as the chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Wiles will be the 32nd White House chief of staff.

"It is a well deserved honor to have Susie as the first-ever female Chief of Staff in United States

history," Trump said in his statement. "I have no doubt that she will make our country proud."

What does a White House chief of staff do?

Chief of staff is an intense and demanding role, serving as the president's top aide while also managing senior White House staff, overseeing daily operations. They're also responsible for assembling the president's staff.

It's a powerful role that can shape a president's impact and their execution of policy and vision throughout the term.

During his first term, Trump cycled through four chiefs of staff. Not all left on good terms.

His longest-serving chief of staff was John Kelly, who went on to call Trump a fascist and warn against him serving a second term as president. Reince Priebus and Mark Meadows also served in the role,

while Mick Mulvaney served as an acting chief of staff.

What's Wiles' history with Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis?

Wiles has worked for Trump on and off since 2016, when she played a key role in helping Trump win Florida, flipping the state red and sparking a conservative push that continues today.

During the 2018 Florida gubernatorial election, Trump called on Wiles to work on Republican Ron DeSantis' campaign. DeSantis called Wiles "the best in the business" in his victory speech.

But bad blood developed between the pair.

In an interview with the Atlantic, Wiles recalled being unceremoniously banished from DeSantis' inner circle and not knowing why. She's gone on to call working with DeSantis the "biggest mistake" of her career.

She rejoined Trump's Florida operations in 2020. A year later, she was named CEO of Trump's Save America PAC. She transitioned into a senior member of his team shortly after Trump announced his campaign.

Who else has Wiles worked with?

Wiles has worked for a mix of Republicans, including Ronald Reagan's Labor Department and Mitt Romney's Florida Advisory Council.

Politico described her resumé as working for Republicans "across the ideological spectrum."

She was the deputy director of operations for George H.W. Bush's 1988 presidential campaign and also ran Rick Scott's 2010 campaign for Florida governor.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush — who ran against Trump for the GOP presidential nomination in 2016 — called Wiles a "great choice" for chief of staff.

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emdrums



Donald Trump, now the president-elect, is reflected in bulletproof glass as he finishes speaking at a campaign rally in Lititz, Lancaster County, on Nov. 3. Matt Rourke / AP

Plot

→ CONTINUED FROM A1

Iranian murder-for-hire plots foiled by law enforcement.

"I'm very shocked," said Alinejad, speaking by telephone to the Associated Press from Berlin, where she was about to attend a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the tearing down of the wall. "This is the third attempt against me and that's shocking."

In a post on the social media platform X, she said: "I came to America to practice my First Amendment right to freedom of speech — I don't want to die. I want to fight against tyranny, and I deserve to be safe. Thank you to law enforcement for protecting me, but I urge the U.S. government to protect the national security of America."

Lawyers for the two other defendants, identified as Jonathan Loadholt and Carlisle Rivera, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Iran's U.N. Mission declined to comment.

Shakeri, an Afghan national who immigrated to the U.S. as a child but was later deported after spending 14 years in prison for robbery, also told investigators that he was tasked by his Revolutionary Guard contact with plotting the killings

of two Jewish-Americans living in New York and Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka. Officials say he overlapped with Rivera while in prison as well as an unidentified coconspirator.

The criminal complaint says Shakeri disclosed some of the details of the alleged plots in a series of recorded telephone interviews with FBI agents while in Iran. The stated reason for his cooperation, he told investigators, was to try to get a reduced prison sentence for an associate behind bars in the U.S.

According to the complaint, though officials determined that some of the information he provided was false, his statements regarding a plot to kill Trump and Iran's willingness to pay large sums of money were determined to be accurate.

The plot, disclosed just days after Trump's defeat of Democrat Kamala Harris, reflects what federal officials have described as ongoing efforts by Iran to target U.S. government officials, including Trump, on U.S. soil. Last summer, the Justice Department charged a Pakistani man with ties to Iran in a murder-for-hire plot targeting American officials.

"There are few actors in the

world that pose as grave a threat to the national security of the United States as does Iran," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement Friday. FBI Director Christopher Wray said the case shows Iran's "continued brazen attempts to target U.S. citizens," including Trump, "other government leaders and dissidents who criticize the regime in Tehran."

Iranian operatives also conducted a hack-and-leak operation of emails belonging to Trump campaign associates in what officials have assessed was an effort to interfere in the presidential election.

Intelligence officials have said Iran opposed Trump's reelection, seeing him as more likely to increase tension between Washington and Tehran. Trump's administration ended a nuclear deal with Iran, reimposed sanctions and ordered the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, an act that prompted Iran's leaders to vow revenge.

Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said the president-elect was aware of the assassination plot and nothing will deter him "from returning to the White House and restoring peace around the world."

Musk joins Trump's call with Ukraine's Zelensky

By John Hudson
and Siobhán O'Grady
Washington Post

Elon Musk joined a Wednesday call between President-elect Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, said four people familiar with the matter, in the latest sign that the tech billionaire intends to intertwine himself with Trump's governing apparatus.

The call began with a conversation between Trump and Zelensky, who remarked how the call was possible because of Musk's Starlink internet service, which connected the two leaders while Zelensky was on a train to Budapest, said two of the people familiar with their conversation. Trump said Starlink had provided internet access to recent hurricane victims in the United States, noted that Musk was with him, and then put him on the call.

"It was very pleasant," said a Ukrainian official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private conversation. Zelensky "thanked" Musk for the Starlink terminals Ukraine relies on for much of its military communications amid Russia's ongoing invasion of the country, the official added.

Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday. Axios first reported Musk's involvement in the call.

Ukrainian officials came away from the call feeling that Musk, one of Trump's largest donors, would join additional calls between the president-elect and world leaders as U.S. allies and adversaries scramble to prepare for a change of leadership in Washington following this week's election.

Earlier in the week, Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said his call with Trump occurred while the president-elect was having dinner with Musk and the tech mogul's child.

Trump's inclusion of the world's richest person on leader-level phone calls demonstrates Musk's extraordinary accumulation of political and economic power.

Musk, who donated well over \$75

million to Trump's campaign, provided logistical support for its voter-turnout efforts and extolled the GOP candidate on his social media platform X, has much to gain from his newfound political kinship.

His companies, which include SpaceX and Tesla, receive billions of dollars in government contracts across more than a dozen federal agencies, including the Pentagon, which relies on the tech mogul to launch its military satellites into orbit.

Musk's relationships with federal agencies have been contentious in several instances, however, with some the subject of investigation and review.

The phone call between the three powerful men also underscored how important Musk's sprawling portfolio of properties is to foreign countries.

Ukraine relies heavily on Starlink to provide secure communication among frontline troops and to allow constant battlefield monitoring in command centers, where internet access may otherwise be spotty or nonexistent.

Tens of thousands of Starlink devices, many spray-painted in camouflage colors to avoid detection from Russian drones, dot Ukraine's front lines and are often attached to the roofs of soldiers' vehicles.

They also allow soldiers to put their phones on airplane mode to use the internet, reducing the likelihood that Russian troops will detect Ukrainian positions through the presence of active phones pinging off cell towers. Starlink services were initially provided to Ukraine for free after the war began in 2022, but Musk later threatened to cut the service off entirely. He then billed the Pentagon for Ukraine's usage of the system.

Ukrainian troops say that despite Starlink being banned in Russia, Russian troops have managed to obtain some terminals, fueling their advance on the battlefield. Ukrainian troops operating inside Russia's Kursk region, where they control a large swath of territory, have felt firsthand the threat of disconnection from satellite internet.

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NEWS

Israeli soccer fans attacked in Amsterdam

Dutch and Israeli officials condemned the violence, which came amid a rise in antisemitic incidents in Europe since the start of the war in Gaza.

By Mike Corder
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — Israeli fans were assaulted after a soccer game in Amsterdam by hordes of young people apparently riled up by calls on social media to target Jewish people, Dutch authorities said Friday. Five people were treated at hospitals and dozens were arrested after the attacks, which were condemned as antisemitic by authorities in Amsterdam, Israel, and across Europe.

Reports of antisemitic speech, vandalism, and violence have been on the rise in Europe since the start of the war in Gaza, and tensions mounted in Amsterdam ahead of Thursday night's match between the Dutch team Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrators were banned by local authorities from gathering outside the stadium, and video showed a large crowd of Israeli fans chanting anti-Arab slogans on their way to the game. Afterward, youths on scooters and on foot crisscrossed the city in search of Israeli fans, punching and kicking them and then fleeing quickly to evade police, Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema said.

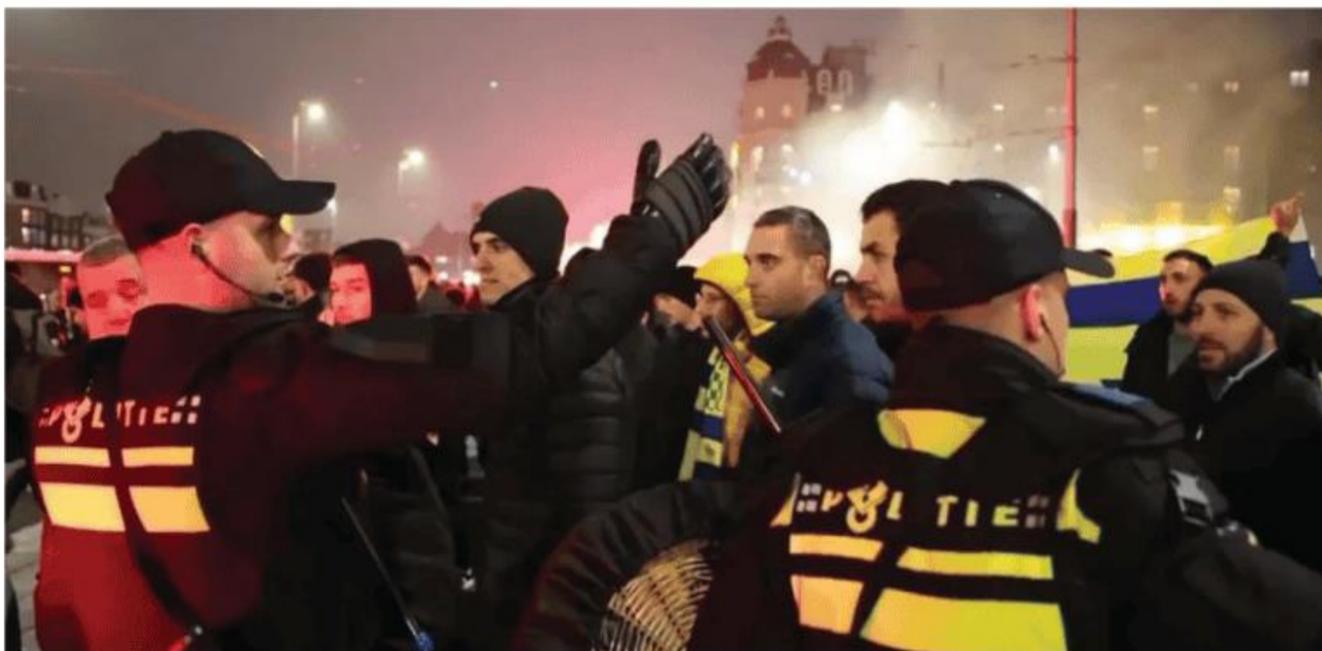
On the social media platform Telegram, "there is talk of people going on a Jew hunt," Halsema said. "That is so shocking and so despicable that I still cannot fathom it." Dutch Minister of Justice and Security David van Weel vowed to track down and prosecute the perpetrators.

Police had to escort some fans back to hotels, according to authorities.

Ofek Ziv, a Maccabi fan from the Israeli city of Petah Tikva, said someone threw a rock at his head, causing light bleeding, as he and a friend left the stadium. He said a group of men began to chase him, before he and his friend got into a taxi, picked up other fans and took shelter at a hotel.

"I'm very scared, it's very striking," Ziv said. "And the police didn't come to help us."

Another Israeli fan, Alyia Cohen,



In this image taken from video, police escort Maccabi Tel Aviv supporters to the metro station leading them to Amsterdam's Ajax stadium on Thursday. InterVision

said upon arriving back in Israel that he would go back to Amsterdam for future matches. "We are not afraid of anything, ours is the people of Israel."

Five people were treated in the hospital and released, while some 20 to 30 people suffered light injuries, police said. At least 62 suspects were arrested, with 10 still in custody, the city's public prosecutor, René de Beukelaer, told reporters at a news conference Friday.

A statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he "views the horrifying incident with utmost gravity." He demanded that the Dutch government take "vigorous and swift action" against those involved.

Condemnation of the violence poured in from around Europe. "Antisemitism has absolutely no place in Europe, and we are determined to fight it and to fight all forms of hatred," said Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission. "We want Jewish life and culture to thrive in Europe."

Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof condemned the violence and flew home early from a European Union summit in Hungary.

The attacks shattered Amsterdam's long-cherished view of itself as a beacon of tolerance and haven for persecuted religions, including Sephardic Jews from Portugal and Spain who fled to the

city centuries ago.

Police said security will be beefed up at Jewish institutions across the city, which has a large Jewish community and was home to Jewish World War II diarist Anne Frank and her family as they hid from Nazi occupiers.

Halsema, Amsterdam's mayor, described the violence as "an eruption of antisemitism that we had hoped never again to see in Amsterdam."

In the past, Ajax was known as a soccer club with links to Amsterdam's Jewish community because visiting fans had to pass the city's Jewish quarter to get to the club's former stadium. Ajax fans sometimes wave Star of David flags and chant the Dutch word for Jews.

Israel's foreign minister, Gideon Saar, flew to Amsterdam on Friday and in a message on X he said that hatred of Jews is "appearing in place after place."

Saar met with the Dutch minister for security and justice, pledging Israeli help in the investigation, and also held talks with Geert Wilders, a far right, anti-Islam lawmaker whose party won national elections last year.

Amsterdam police spokeswoman Sara Tillart said it was too early in their investigation to say if anybody other than soccer fans was targeted. Authorities outlawed demonstrations across the city for the weekend and gave police extra powers to frisk people.

Israel's government initially ordered two planes sent to Amsterdam to bring fans home, but Netanyahu's office later said it would work to help citizens arrange commercial flights.

Maccabi's CEO, Ben Mansford, spoke to reporters at Israel's international airport as some fans returned. "Lots of people went to watch a football game ... to support Israel, to support the star of David," he said. For them to be attacked, "that's very sad times for us all given the last year we've had."

Tensions had been brewing in Amsterdam for days ahead of the match. A Palestinian flag was torn down from a building in Amsterdam on Wednesday, Dutch broadcaster NOS reported, and authorities banned a pro-Palestinian demonstration near the stadium.

Ahead of the game, large crowds of supporters of the Israeli team could be seen on video chanting anti-Arab slogans as they headed to the stadium, escorted by police.

"Let the IDF win, and [expletive] the Arabs," the fans chanted, using the acronym of the Israeli military, as they shook their fists. It also showed police pushing several pro-Palestinian protesters away from a Maccabi fan gathering in a square earlier in the day.

Security issues around hosting games against visiting Israeli teams led the Belgian soccer

federation to decline to stage a men's Nations League game in September. That game against Israel was played in Hungary with no fans in the stadium.

Israel was exiled from the Asian Football Confederation in the 1970s after Arab nations refused to play against it. Israel played in European qualifying for the 1982 World Cup and has been a member of European soccer body UEFA since 1994.

The violence in Amsterdam will no doubt lead to a review of security at upcoming matches involving Israeli teams. UEFA had announced Monday that a Maccabi match initially to be played in Istanbul on Nov. 28 against the Turkish team Besiktas, would be moved to a yet-to-be-decided neutral venue.

Italian police said security was increased for Maccabi Tel Aviv's basketball game at Virtus Bologna Friday night, both for fans and for the Maccabi team.

Israel's national soccer team is scheduled to play France in Paris on Nov. 14 in the Nations League. French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said Friday the match would go ahead as planned.

"I think that for a symbolic reason we must not yield, we must not give up," he said, noting that sports fans from around the world came together for the Paris Olympics this year to celebrate the "universal values" of sports.

Israel

→ CONTINUED FROM A1

their nation when there are threats to it," said Yael Katsman, a spokeswoman for Nefesh B'Nefesh. "The interest started right after Oct. 7 — applications were up 100 percent. And even with the challenges and fears and problems with flights, the uptick in the number of olim arriving continues."

Fighting-age olim, like all Israeli citizens, are subject to mandatory military service, with some exceptions.

Olim speak of feeling compelled to support Israel in a moment of a crisis and inspired by the resilience and unity shown by the people. Some say the choice was made easier by what they described as increasingly evident antisemitism in the United States. Hate crimes against Jews last year reached their highest number since the FBI began keeping records in 1991. Less than 3% of the U.S. population identifies as Jewish, but Jews were targeted in 68% of all religion-based hate crimes.

Before Oct. 7, Ruttenberg worked in roofing sales and dated Christian guys. She went by Kim, her English name, because friends found Yocheved hard to pronounce.

She loved Israel but never planned to live there.

Now, she's cofounded and helps run a nonprofit that focuses on coordinating volunteer opportunities in Israel and, like many American Jews, is figuring out what Judaism means to her.

She's resumed observing Shabbat, lighting candles at sunset on Friday and refraining from any kind of labor for the following 24 hours. She's decided to raise any children she might have in the faith. And she's Yocheved again.

"We realize that this is our home," she said.

The new arrivals, Katsman said, represent the range of American Jewry: singles, families and retirees; the secular and the orthodox.



Yocheved Ruttenberg at Dizengoff Square in Tel Aviv, where a memorial for the victims of Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack is located. Ofir Berman / Washington Post

The most commonly cited motive for the move, Katsman said, is "Zionism and connectivity to Israel." Antisemitism is a driving factor in 5 to 6% of applications, a proportion she said has remained steady over the years.

Phoebe Rynhold, a 19-year-old from Teaneck, N.J., learned about Jewish history and the pain of the Holocaust when she was at Jewish day school. But until Oct. 7, she said, that pain had always felt distant.

"You can't help but draw comparisons," said Rynhold, who arrived in Israel three days before the attack, planning to stay only a few months before returning to the United States to start at Baruch College in New York.

"The fact that we all know people who are survivors [of the Hamas

attack] feels almost surreal to say," she said. "It 100 percent connects you to your descendants and your history."

Rynhold joined a seminary and has spent the past year studying religion and volunteering — farming the kibbutzim in southern Israel that were attacked, teaching English to displaced children and babysitting for women whose husbands have been called to serve in the Israel Defense Forces. In December, she said, she plans to join the IDF herself.

Rynhold has felt "horrible" seeing photos and videos of the dead and dying in Gaza, she said, but she firmly believes that Israel has the right to fight the war — and that often, discussion in the United States on the subject has been ill-informed and antisemitic.

Friends attending college in New

York have told her of being shouted at as they walk to class, she said. It has affirmed her own decision: "It's like, 'How could I go back there and get screamed at for having a different point of view?'"

Dave Schlachter, 43, had long dreamed of returning to Israel. As a newly married couple, he and his wife lived in Tel Aviv for two years, and they promised themselves they would come back with their three kids, ages 9, 7 and 5, when their youngest was ready to travel.

They wanted their children to develop a connection with Israel and learn Hebrew, Schlachter said. They had finalized their plans when Hamas attacked.

"Our journey here was a decision not to say no," said Schlachter, who cofounded a real estate investment firm in California. "Every day after Oct. 7, I asked myself whether

this was the right time to go. And I changed my mind two or three times a day."

Ultimately, he said, the family decided it would be difficult but meaningful to be in Israel in this moment. They arrived two months ago, shortly before Israel launched its current offensive against Hezbollah, pummeling Lebanon with airstrikes.

The atmosphere in Bolinas, Calif., the hippie town outside San Francisco where the Shlachers had a second home and his office, helped in their decision. After Oct. 7, he didn't mind when Palestinian flags proliferated there, he said. He had always supported a Palestinian state alongside Israel and saw nothing threatening in the flag.

But then the signs and graffiti grew more vitriolic, he said, with lines such as "Glory to the martyrs," "Zionists are kooks," and "Join the global intifada."

When he tried to take signs down, he said, people called him a colonizer, shouted "Free Palestine" at him outside the grocery store and trolled him on social media.

As soon as the family touched down in Israel, he said, he felt able to breathe more freely. Even when Iran fired a massive barrage of missiles this month, sending his family and millions of Israelis running to bomb shelters, he marveled at the ability of Israelis to maintain calm and even find levity in the situation. He watched as parents set up games and art projects.

It was just one of the moments of community his family has felt since arriving, the feeling of being embraced in "a tribal bear hug."

"This is exactly what I wanted," he said. "We wanted to come because of the people, to show love and contribute and to have it reciprocated. ... And in this particular era, the people are really showing up and stepping up to help this nation."

House

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Democrats surprised the state in 2022 when they flipped the state House for the first time in 12 years with a narrow majority. Officials expected the state's new redistricted maps, which gave Republicans a slight edge over Democrats, to make races more competitive, but didn't expect Democrats to flip the chamber so soon.

In the end in this election, however, Democrats' majority came down to Rep. Frank Burns (D., Cambria), who was reelected to a ninth term to represent Johnstown in his reddening county 80 miles east of Pittsburgh. He is the last of the Blue Dog Democrats in the state House, is anti-abortion and pro-Second Amendment, and often blocked social-issue bills or required Democrats to find Republicans in the collar counties who would support them.

Burns ran a Trump-style campaign himself, including attack ads that claimed his GOP opponent wanted to bring in 100 Afghan families into Johnstown and give them jobs held by locals, spend more on public housing, and thus make the community less safe — a mirror to Trump's anti-immigrant and anti-refugee rhetoric.

Burns remains a welcome and supported member of the Democratic caucus, said House Majority Leader Matt Bradford (D., Montgomery).

"He fiercely fights just for Cambria County and we would ask him nothing else but to do that," Bradford said. "Pennsylvania and our caucus is lucky to have him."

Burns and other Democrats across Pennsylvania were able to win — despite voters rejecting Democrats everywhere else on the ballot — because they were able to separate themselves from the national narrative, said Joe Corrihan, a Democratic strategist who works with House Democrats.

State House Democrats emphasized constituent services and their efforts in their own communities, whether it be by securing grant funding or hosting surprisingly popular events for people to shred their sensitive documents, Corrihan added. And each Democratic member has their own personal brand they can run on, besides their party affiliation.

"Would Philadelphia vote for someone with the profile of Frank Burns? Probably not in a primary," Corrihan added. "But he fits his district."

The Democratic failures at the top of the ticket will help House Democrats' calculus on how they



House Speaker Joanna McCClinton (D., Philadelphia) celebrates after a special election in Bucks County on Feb. 13, 2024. Democrats will hold onto their one-seat majority. Charles Fox / Staff Photographer

approach their jobs this year, leaders said.

Bradford said despite his and others' opposition to Trump, he believes leaders need to continue to focus on the issues constituents are most concerned with, such as affordability. Democrats will come into session next year ready to "double down on bipartisanship and pragmatism," he added.

"The Democratic Party has to be a very big tent, and this week was a great reminder of that," Bradford said.

McCClinton said her party will need to revisit those who voted for Democrats in 2020 and 2022, but who voted for Republicans this election to understand "why they are no longer with us" and "work very hard to earn their support in the future."

House Democrats currently control the lower chamber by only one vote, and at times have had to lean on moderate Republicans from Bucks County to pass bills when they couldn't get their whole membership to support them. Lawmaking halted on multiple occasions throughout the two-year legislative session because of more than a half-dozen resignations that put Democrats under their numeric majority.

Only about 10 races statewide were competitive in this year's election. Republicans targeted

seats held by vulnerable Democrats in other parts of the state that are leaning redder, such as Burns, who held onto his seat by approximately 1,000 votes in a county that Trump won by 35 percentage points.

Meanwhile, Democrats had hoped to pick up some of the few remaining GOP-held seats in the collar counties — like Rep. Craig Williams' seat as the last Republican representing parts of Delaware County or two Lower Bucks seats represented by Republican Reps. K.C. Tomlinson and Joe Hogan — as ones they thought they could flip to maintain and expand their narrow majority. Williams, Tomlinson and Hogan all won reelection, but Bradford said he believes these seats and others across the state are still winnable in future elections where Trump is not at the top of the ticket.

Changes in the House GOP

Republicans also had their eyes on several seats across the state that they thought they could flip, including Rep. Brian Munroe (D., Bucks). House Republicans and a political action committee backed by Jeff Yass, Pennsylvania's richest man, poured more than \$600,000 in ads in support of GOP-challenger Dan McPhillips. Munroe ultimately won reelection by a small margin, and

Republicans were unable to win back their majority.

Cutler, a Republican from Lancaster County who previously served as House speaker and caucus leader, noted in his Friday letter that national GOP support was not enough and that leaders "fell short."

"I strongly believe we have to make changes from the top down to ensure our future success, and for that reason I will not be seeking the position of Republican Leader for the upcoming Session," Cutler wrote.

At least three GOP members are seeking the nomination to be the next Republican minority leader, including Reps. Jesse Topper (R., Bedford), Josh Kail (R., Washington) and Milou Mackenzie (R., Northampton), according to a source familiar with the leadership elections.

Shapiro holds onto his Democratic House

Gov. Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, spent \$1 million to help his party retain and expand its state House majority, made 20 endorsements, and campaigned across the state in districts Democrats hoped to flip or to protect vulnerable incumbents.

In his endorsements earlier this fall, Shapiro noted the Democratic priorities he and the slim

Democratic majority in the state House — in concert with the GOP-controlled state Senate — had been able to pass, including an increased property tax and rent rebate for seniors, an expanded child care tax credit, and major investments in public education to respond to a court order requiring officials to create a new school funding system.

"The Governor fought to protect the House Democratic majority, and he looks forward to continuing to work with leaders in both parties to get stuff done for all Pennsylvanians," said Manuel Bonder, Shapiro's press secretary, in a statement.

In recent years, Democrats have dominated the fast-growing collar counties around Philadelphia, electing Democrats to 31 of the 39 districts in Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware and Chester Counties.

Bucks remains an outlier in the increasingly blue Philadelphia suburbs, as the only collar county with a GOP voter registration advantage. For this reason, many of the competitive House races are in Bucks County, and Republicans represent more districts in Bucks than in any other collar county.

Staff writer Anna Orso contributed to this article.

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Greenberg

→ CONTINUED FROM A1

not investigate the core issues which we have raised which establish Ellen was murdered, and that evidence remains unchallenged," Podraza said. "These unfortunate limitations and constraints notwithstanding, we do appreciate the District Attorney's professional courtesy of speaking with the family and candidly acknowledging all these limitations and constraints."

A civil suit filed by Greenberg's parents about whether they have the right to challenge the suicide ruling on their daughter's death certificate was taken up on appeal this year by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and remains ongoing. The Greenbergs also have a second ongoing civil suit seeking monetary damages from the city and several people involved in the investigation into their daughter's death.

In its news release, the Chester County DA's Office, which is led by District Attorney Christopher DeBarrera-Sarobe, noted that the standard of proof for a criminal investigation — beyond a reasonable doubt — is "different than other legal cases or issues that surround Ms. Greenberg's death."

Greenberg, then 27, a first-grade teacher, was discovered by her fiancé, Samuel Goldberg, in the kitchen of their locked Manayunk apartment with 20 stab wounds to her body and a 10-inch knife lodged in her chest on Jan. 26, 2011.

Investigators on the scene investigated her death as a suicide because the apartment door — which Goldberg said he broke down — was locked from the inside, there were no signs of an intruder, and Greenberg had no defensive wounds, police have said.

But the next morning, the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office discovered a total of 20 stab wounds to Greenberg's body — including 10 to the back of her neck



Ellen Greenberg's parents, Joshua and Sandra Greenberg, hold up a scrapbook of their daughter in their Harrisburg home. David Swanson / Staff Photographer

— along with 11 bruises in various stages of healing, and ruled her death a homicide.

Police publicly disputed the findings and the ME's Office later changed the ruling to suicide, with no explanation to Greenberg's parents.

In the years since, the Greenbergs have retained experts who've raised questions about the suicide ruling and the investigation into the case, as first detailed in a 2019 Inquirer report.

When the Greenbergs' former attorney, Larry Krasner, became the district attorney of Philadelphia in 2018, they reached back out to see if he'd reopen the investigation into their daughter's death.

Given his conflict of interest, Krasner's office referred the case to the state Attorney General's Office, which was then helmed by now-Governor Josh Shapiro.

After more than a year, the AG's Office said it found the evidence supported suicide and closed its investigation.

In 2019, the Greenbergs sued the Philadelphia ME's Office and the pathologist who conducted the autopsy, seeking to have the manner of their daughter's death changed back to homicide or undetermined, given the new information and forensic experts they obtained.

As a result of that civil suit, additional details and records about the case and the unusual investigation into it came to light. In 2021, Podraza gave that information to the AG's Office, which was still run by Shapiro, but the office stood by the suicide ruling.

The following year, theories started to swirl online about possible connections Shapiro had with family members of Greenberg's

fiancé. While the AG's Office said no conflict existed, it referred the case back to the Philadelphia DA's Office due "the appearance of a conflict."

Unable to take the case due to Krasner's own conflict of interest, the Philadelphia DA's Office then referred it to the Chester County DA's Office, where it has remained since August 2022.

According to the office's news release, detectives "pursued additional investigative steps, including but not limited to, conducting new interviews and consulting with an independent forensic expert."

In his statement, Podraza said the expert the office consulted has an undergrad degree in entomology (the study of insects) and a masters in criminal justice, but no medical or forensic pathology training.

The Chester County DA's Office said its detectives also conducted a review of the previous investigations by the Philadelphia Police Department and AG's Office.

But the validity of the police department's investigation has already been called into question by the Commonwealth Court, which called it "deeply flawed" in a 2023 ruling.

That court heard the case on appeal after the city challenged the Greenbergs' first civil suit in 2019. The city argued the Greenbergs did not have standing to seek a change in their daughter's death certificate. In its 2-1 ruling last year, the Commonwealth Court said it had "no choice under the law" but to grant the city's appeal to prevent a civil suit from going to trial.

But the Greenbergs and Podraza appealed the Commonwealth Court ruling and in July, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania — the state's highest court — agreed to hear the case. The court will not rule on the manner of Greenberg's death, but will consider the issue of whether her parents have standing to challenge the listed manner of death.

A date for arguments in the Supreme Court case has not yet been set, but they are expected to be held next year.

A second civil suit the Greenbergs filed against members of the ME's Office, the Police Department, and the DA's Office seeking monetary damages for intentional infliction of emotional distress remains ongoing in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

"We now look forward to an upcoming trial where a full and forthright examination of the core issues surrounding Ellen's murder may be publicly conducted before an independent Judge and jury of our peers," Podraza said.

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PHILLY & REGION

Philly woman found dead a week after disappearing

Pings from GPS anklet worn by her paroled ex-boyfriend led investigators to a shallow grave in Fox Chase.

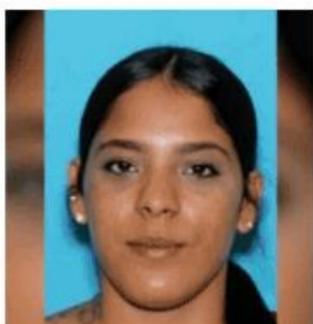
By Ellie Rushing and Rodrigo Torrejón
Staff Writers

The body of a 29-year-old woman was found buried in a shallow grave in the woods of Fox Chase on Thursday, one week after

investigators believe her ex-boyfriend abducted her, police said.

Police recovered the remains of Melody Rivera, covered with twigs and leaves, Thursday afternoon on the 900 block of Tustin Avenue, near Pennypack Park, said Deputy Police Commissioner Frank Vanore.

Rivera's family had been posting online and searching the Northeast area for days, holding out hope they might find her unharmed. But their worst fears were confirmed as soon as they learned of the body recovered, said Martha Fred, Rivera's sister.



Melody Rivera, 29, was reported missing on Oct. 31. Philadelphia Police Department

"It's her," she said solemnly Friday morning.

Rivera was last seen by her family on Halloween in the Sumnerdale section of the city, police said. According to posts from relatives on Facebook, the woman called her mother to say she was being held against her will by a man known as "G."

Police believe that man to be 29-year-old Geovanni Otero, Rivera's ex-boyfriend, said a law enforcement source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

Vanore said investigators are

looking to speak with him about the case. He said Rivera's family told police Otero had been harassing and threatening the woman in recent weeks.

According to the source, Rivera was driving with her girlfriend when Otero attacked them, threw the girlfriend out of the car, and drove off with Rivera. Police found the car abandoned days later, said the source, but did not find Rivera.

Investigators believe she was likely killed on Nov. 1, said the source, and that her body has been in the woods since then. Her cause

→ SEE FOUND ON A9



A New Jersey Forest Fire Service warden sprays water as he works an edge of the forest fire Friday in the Glassboro Wildlife Management Area in Gloucester County. Elizabeth Robertson / Staff Photographer

Fires raising alarms

A red flag warning for the Philly region comes as a sustained drought has made conditions ripe for wildfires. Some rain Sunday might help.

By Frank Kummer
Staff Writer

The National Weather Service has issued a red flag warning for the Philadelphia region, and most of N.J., as a continued extreme drought, combined with high winds and lack of moisture, has pushed fire conditions from bad to critical. The weather service issued its

statement Friday as the New Jersey Forest Fire Service was already battling at least three sizable wildfires in South Jersey, though crews were making progress. The red flag warning included all or parts of Delaware, Philadelphia, Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks counties until 6 p.m. when it expired. The agency warned against lighting any outdoor fires, which could escape and spread quickly.

A red flag warning means that weather conditions have combined to enhance the danger of wildfires.

"Any fires that develop may quickly get out of control and become difficult to contain," the weather service said.

New Jersey officials banned open fires in October, but wildfires have continued to break out.

Although the causes of most are yet undetermined, 99% of wildfires are started by humans.

The red flag warning was in effect for much of South Jersey, including Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, counties, as well as counties farther north, until 6 p.m. The weather service cited a relative humidity as low as 25% and wind gusts of 20 to 30 mph as a key factor. But the weather service was warning of an increased risk of fire Saturday because of the possibility of more gusty winds.

Although there have been hundreds of fires since October, crews are continuing to battle three active blazes in Southern New Jersey. Officials say residents can expect to smell or see smoke for several days.

There is some possible relief: rain is forecast for Sunday night with one-quarter to a half-inch possible. While that could provide enough moisture to quell fires, it is unlikely to refill drained waterways. Some counties are suffering from 10-inch rain deficits the past 90 days.

The active fires, all under investigation, are:

- A fire broke out Thursday afternoon at Glassboro Wildlife Management Area near Carpenter Avenue in Gloucester County. On Thursday night, what's been dubbed the **Pheasant Run** fire was reported to be 133 acres in scope and 50% contained as of Friday morning. New Jersey

→ SEE RED FLAG ON A12

More arrests in car meetup mayhem

Among those charged is a Bucks County man police say organized the event, dubbed Project X.

By Rodrigo Torrejón
Staff Writer

Four people have been charged in a series of massive and chaotic car meetups that swept through Philadelphia in late September, drawing unruly crowds of hundreds of spectators, damaging cars, and leaving police officers frustrated and in some cases injured, police said.

Among those arrested was Joseph Cavanaugh, 21, of Levittown, who police said was the top organizer of the sprawling series of illegal car meetups dubbed Project X that ran late night Sept. 21 into early morning Sept. 22, said Police Deputy Commissioner Frank Vanore. Juawarn Williams, 21, of Rosedale, Md., who filmed much of the night's events using a drone and high-tech goggles, profiting off the viral footage, also was arrested, along with James Hare, 20, and David French, 21, both of Philadelphia.

All four men face charges of conspiracy, causing and risking catastrophe, and related crimes, police said. Cavanaugh and Hare are out on bail, according to court records. French and Williams are still in custody, court records show.

In all, nine people have been charged in connection with the meetups so far, and more arrests are expected. Police Commissioner Kevin Bethel said Friday. Standing in front of some of the sports cars police say were driven during the meetups and were later impounded, Bethel pledged at a news conference to continue aggressively move against meetups as they pop up in the city.

"We're not playing today, tomorrow, or under my tenure and I know the mayor's tenure," he said.

Authorities said the meetups in September, which included people drag racing, doing doughnuts, and exploding fireworks, spread across the city, with at least 11 events from the Northeast to Southwest to right outside City Hall.

Cavanaugh organized Project X over Instagram, selling the list of 11 to 13 locations for the illegal meetups to interested users, said Police Inspector Raymond Evers. Through his social media account, Cavanaugh called on people from Philadelphia, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland to join in, Evers said.

Over a span of more than seven hours, police chased after groups as they tried to disperse the crowds in what they described as a game of "whack-a-mole," arriving at a location just as the crowd moved to another spot.

In some cases, including in front

→ SEE MEETUP ON A12

Downed tree cited in fatal rail crash

The operator tried to stop her River Line train before slamming into a tree already on the tracks, NTSB says.

By Nick Vadala
Staff Writer

ANJ Transit River Line operator who died in a crash in Burlington County last month was killed when a branch from a fallen tree on the tracks penetrated the train's windshield, federal authorities have found.

Jessica Haley, 41, of Levittown, was killed and 23 passengers were injured in the crash, which occurred just after 6 a.m. in Mansfield Township on Oct. 14. The train had been traveling southbound from Trenton when it struck a tree that had already been on the tracks at the time of the crash, the National Transportation Safety Board said in a newly released preliminary report.

Immediately following the crash, it was not clear whether the tree had already been down, or if it had fallen and hit the train as it was traveling.

The NTSB found that the train

had been traveling at 64 mph through a curve in dark conditions as it approached the tree. Haley, the NTSB said, activated the train's track brakes and emergency brakes, causing it to decelerate for about 430 feet before hitting the tree. The train stopped roughly 880 feet past the point of impact, the NTSB said.

The train was carrying 41 passengers in addition to Haley at the time of the crash. While nearly two dozen passengers were hurt, their injuries were described as not life-threatening, and they were treated at a nearby hospital before being released, the NTSB said.

Haley was a single mother with three young boys, family members said in a statement announcing their intent to sue NJ Transit and others following the crash. She had worked as an operator on the River Line for about two decades prior to her death, her family said.

The NTSB said its investigation into the crash remains ongoing, and would focus on NJ Transit's right-of-way maintenance and the crashworthiness of its trains' design.

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

BUSINESS & MONEY



Temperatures in the apartment building at 2121 Market St. have been uncomfortably high, according to tenants, due to unseasonably warm weather and the building's switch from air-conditioning to heat in October. Jake Blumgart / Staff

Montco home health-care agency owes pay

By Ariana Perez-Castells
Staff Writer

A Montgomery County home health-care agency failed to pay workers overtime, according to an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor. The company was ordered to pay \$810,320 in back wages and damages to 196 workers, according to a consent judgment.

Wyncote Wellness LLC paid employees with separate checks for each client, instead of grouping their hours together, the DOL investigation found. The company paid for overtime when workers were employed over 40 hours with a single client.

The investigation also found that workers often reported working more hours than they were paid for and were not paid for the time spent traveling between clients. The company also failed to properly record hours employees worked, the DOL found.

"Home health-care workers provide vital services to the most vulnerable members of our communities, and their work deserves respect and fair compensation," James Cain, DOL's wage and hour division director in Philadelphia, said in a statement. "This enforcement action will help to ensure workers are paid their total earnings and remind other employers of their obligations under the law."

The company will pay \$810,320 in back wages and damages to employees for violations that occurred between Aug. 12, 2019, and Aug. 7, 2022, according to court documents. The money owed to employees ranges from \$22 to \$26,319 according to a spokesperson for the DOL. The company will also pay a \$10,000 civil fine.

The company did not respond to requests for comment.

The Philadelphia area has seen several overtime wage violations in the home health-care industry in recent years. A key issue is that Medicaid doesn't pay agencies extra for overtime in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Inquirer reported in 2022. Overtime is hard to avoid because of the shortage of health-care workers.

In January, a Northeast Philadelphia home health-care company was ordered to pay over \$1.64 million in back wages to workers after not paying employees proper overtime wages. In May, a Delaware County home-care business was ordered to pay over \$1 million for failing to pay workers overtime.

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Sweltering apartments as Philly law requires heat on after Oct. 1

As temperatures become more volatile due to climate change, sweating tenants urge revision of regulations about building temperatures.

By Jake Blumgart
Staff Writer

When Tasha Kuronen returned to her apartment Nov. 3 after five days away, she walked into a wall of heat.

The temperature in her second-floor apartment at 2121 Market St. was 85 degrees, which would be uncomfortable even if it were seasonably cooler outside.

Instead, in the midst of a historically long dry spell, with temperatures reaching a record of 80 degrees Wednesday, the environment in her building is suffocating.

"I walked in and was flooded by this wave of heat," said Kuronen.

2121 Market is owned by PMC Property Group, which did not respond to a request for comment. The building also houses a Trader Joe's.

Building managers told Kuronen that nothing could be done. They said it's standard procedure under city law, that on Oct. 1 they turn on the heat and that means they turn the cooling systems off.

Kuronen posted notes in the elevators and hallways asking whether other tenants were having similar experiences. Answers came in a tidal wave of texts, calls, and emails — over 40 in all. Tenants

couldn't sleep or cook, and some families were having to take their uncomfortable kids elsewhere.

"It was a little eerie because after I posted my notes, I would come into the hallways and find other fliers that were like chicken scratched with pen saying, 'Please help me. The heat is killing me,'" said Kuronen.

The situation shows the challenges that climate change is presenting to the apartment rental market, and the laws that regulate it.

Philadelphia's code requires that between Oct. 1 and April 30, operators of multifamily dwellings like apartment buildings must provide heating capable of maintaining a room temperature of 68 degrees. The requirement extends to September and May if temperatures fall below 60 degrees in those months. The provision is waived if each unit has its own separate climate control system.

There is a caveat that while the heat must be capable of being turned on in those months, it does not have to be activated unless the outdoor temperature hits 68 degrees or less.

Tenants at 2121 Market St. say the heat is stifling on days like this Halloween, when temperatures hit 82 degrees, but even some evenings when weather is more seasonally appropriate.

"They tell me they are going off this ordinance, but I think it's a gross misinterpretation of the ordinance," Kuronen said. "They have to provide equipment that allows a space to be heated to a minimum of 68 degrees. Nobody's requiring

that they're blasting it so that it's 85 degrees."

Other tenants say that the problem is simply that the air-conditioning, which in the warmer months they can control in their rooms, is off despite soaring autumn temperatures.

Many tenants in the building have been dragging their mattresses out of the windowless bedrooms to sleep. The situation has been especially hard on older residents, families with small children, and pet owners.

"For the last maybe two or three weeks, I've been sleeping in my living room because our apartments don't have windows in the bedroom," said Malique Killing, who has lived at 2121 Market for five years. "I sleep in my living room on the couch, with my windows open."

PMC offered window units to tenants, but Kuronen fears that will spike utility prices and the solution wouldn't help those who can't open their windows or who can't sleep in their living rooms.

"Maybe it's a broken or outdated system, but I told management that as global warming is changing the temperatures, it's their responsibility to make changes to the building, policies, or equipment," Kuronen said.

As the reality of climate change is increasingly felt, other cities have contemplated changing state and local laws that govern heating in residential buildings. In Chicago in 2022, three elderly women died during a May heat wave because the heating in their building was still on.

In Massachusetts, there has been debate over changing the state law that requires that heat be available in residential buildings between Sept. 15 and June 15. Landlord organizations have argued that the heat availability standard in Massachusetts should be rolled back to the end of May and that air-conditioning should be required for more of the year.

"Given the impacts of global warming and climate change, it's important to reassess existing regulations to ensure they effectively protect all Philadelphians," said Steve Chintaman, vice president of government affairs at the Pennsylvania Apartment Association. "The rise in temperatures in recent years is more evident than ever before. PAA is committed to collaborating with local government to review these measures."

Unsatisfied with PMC's response so far, Kuronen is seeking outside help. She's called the Department of Licenses and Inspections, the Better Business Bureau, and an HVAC specialist to see if they can diagnose a particular problem with the building's heating.

Kuronen would also like to see City Council address building regulations to set a maximum temperature, similar to Massachusetts where building owners are supposed to ensure that temperatures do not exceed 78 degrees.

"There's no maximum to what they can do, and I just feel like that's gross negligence on all parts," said Kuronen.

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Giant at Eighth and Market Streets will close in December

By Ariana Perez-Castells
Staff Writer

The Giant Heirloom Market at 801 Market St. will shut its doors on Dec. 28, according to a layoff notice required by federal law.

"Unfortunately, this store has not performed to our expectations, and when coupled with the challenges we and others have faced in the neighborhood, it no longer makes sense to continue operating at this location," John Ruane, the company's president, said in the statement.

Ruane called the closure a "difficult decision" and noted it was a "business decision" that had been made after efforts to improve performance.

When the company announced plans to open the store on Market Street in 2021, it was seen as a vote of confidence in the city's

pandemic recovery.

At the time of the announcement, then-company president Nicholas Bertram noted, "Our strategy of growing inside of the city has not really been shaken by the pandemic."

When the 32,000-square-foot store opened in December 2021, it was the largest Heirloom Market-branded store for the company.

"This location will meet a real need for the growing residential population in our exciting new Fashion District and will serve as a convenient dining destination to those visiting our great city," former Mayor Jim Kenney said in a statement at the time.

Giant previously focused its efforts outside the city, and for years, the company's sole store in Philadelphia was on Grant Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia. It opened in 2011. The company currently has nine locations

in Philadelphia, according to its website.

The closure comes as the grocery chain is set to open a location in South Philly by the end of the year. The company had not shared an opening date for the store when The Inquirer reported the opening in October, but said this week that it expects to open it on Dec. 13.

The Center City closure will affect 61 employees who collectively make on average \$28,000 a week, according to the notice. Employees will be offered positions at other Giant locations in Philadelphia, and those who do not accept them will be paid through Jan. 4, after which time their benefits will also expire. As of October, the company had more than 35,000 employees, with over 1,000 in Philadelphia.

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Giant Heirloom Market is shown at 801 Market St. "Unfortunately, this store has not performed to our expectations," said the company's president in a statement. Jose F. Moreno / Staff Photographer

BUSINESS & MONEY

Trader Joe's is coming to Berwyn

By Ariana Perez-Castells
Staff Writer

Another Trader Joe's is coming to the Philly suburbs.

The grocery store chain announced Tuesday that a store will open in Chester County at 550 Lancaster Ave. in Berwyn.

"Our crew is working hard so we can open our doors in 2025," reads a note on the company's website about the store. The new supermarket will join the Berwyn Shopping Center, but details on the expected opening date were not available.

The Berwyn store is the latest Trader Joe's planned for the area. In June, the company announced a store in King of Prussia, and there are already several other stores in and around Philadelphia. Those include two in Center City as well as others in Media, Ardmore, Jenkintown, and Cherry Hill. The Wayne Trader Joe's is roughly three miles away from the planned Berwyn store.

California-based Trader Joe's got its start in 1967 and is known for its popular store-branded foods such as Korean kimbab which went viral on TikTok last year and



A new Trader Joe's is set to open in Chester County roughly three miles from another location. Pictured here is one of the two Center City locations. Rachel Molenda / Staff

sold out nationwide. The grocery store chain doesn't have sales or coupons, and touts that it is committed to offering the best prices to all customers, according to its website.

Other supermarket chains have also announced plans to open more stores in the Philadelphia region recently. Giant is bringing

new stores to the area, including a South Philly location expected to open by the end of the year. In 2023, Sprouts announced plans to open at least six new stores in the Philadelphia region in the coming two years.

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Wall Street closes its best week in a year

By Stan Choe
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks cruised to more records as they closed their best week in a year on Friday.

The S&P 500 rose 0.4% to cap its biggest weekly gain since early November 2023 and briefly crossed above the 6,000 level for the first time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 259 points, or 0.6%, while the Nasdaq composite added 0.1%.

The relatively quiet trading followed huge gains earlier in the week after Donald Trump won the presidential election and the Federal Reserve cut interest rates again to make things easier for the economy.

Axon Enterprise, which sells Tasers and body cameras used by police officers, helped lead the market. It jumped 28.7% after delivering stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. It also raised its revenue forecast for the full year to \$2.07 billion, which would mean 32% growth.

Expedia Group rose 3.8% after likewise topping profit expectations. It said booked room nights rose 9% from a year earlier.

Helping to keep the market in check was Airbnb, which sank 8.7% after the online vacation rental platform posted a mixed third-quarter earnings report and issued forecasts for the fourth quarter that disappointed investors.

Digital pinboard and shopping site Pinterest slid 14% after the company's revenue guidance came in lower than investors expected, even as it easily beat Wall Street's sales and profit targets.

All told, the S&P 500 rose 22.44 points to 5,995.54. The Dow gained 259.65 to 43,988.99, and the Nasdaq composite edged up 17.32 to 19,286.78.

In the bond market, longer-term Treasury yields eased.

A preliminary report in the morning suggested sentiment among U.S. consumers rose for a fourth straight month to its highest level in six months. The survey from the University of Michigan, which was conducted before Tuesday's election, also said expectations for inflation in the coming year eased to the lowest level since 2020.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury

slipped to 4.30% from 4.33% late Thursday. But it's still well above where it was in mid-September, when it was close to 3.60%.

Treasury yields climbed in large part because the U.S. economy has remained much more resilient than feared. The hope is that it can continue to stay solid as the Fed continues to cut interest rates in order to keep the job market humming, now that it's helped get inflation nearly down to its 2% target.

Some of the rise in yields has also been because of Trump. He talks up tariffs and other policies that economists say could drive inflation and the U.S. government's debt higher, along with the economy's growth.

Traders have already begun paring forecasts for how many cuts to rates the Fed will deliver next year because of that. While lower rates can boost the economy, they can also give inflation more fuel.

In stock markets abroad, Trump's talk about tariffs has raised worries about possible trade tensions and disruptions to the global economy.

European indexes mostly sank to close out a losing week.

Markets in Hong Kong and Shanghai fell as investors awaited much-anticipated steps by Beijing to rev up the slowing Chinese economy following a meeting of the legislature's Standing Committee. Officials announced a 6 trillion yuan (\$839 billion), three-year plan to help local governments refinance their trillions of debt that ballooned during the pandemic and a collapse of the property market.

Financial markets worldwide have swung sharply as investors lay bets on what Trump's plans for higher tariffs, lower tax rates, and lighter regulation could mean for the global economy. But many professional investors have also urged caution, saying snaps back in prices could occur as it becomes more clear what proposals will become policy vs. just starting points for negotiations.

"Our experience is that such narrow reactions have not historically made for durable investment opportunities, and we favor pausing to look more closely at the likely main policy initiatives," according to Paul Christopher, head of global investment strategy at Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Jefferson Health postpones raises for Philadelphia-area employees

By Harold Brubaker
Staff Writer

Jefferson Health is postponing annual pay raises for more than 42,000 employees in the Philadelphia region from January to July, the Center City-based nonprofit said Friday.

The delay is designed to align "salary increases with our fiscal year to help us synchronize our financial planning, budgeting, and benefits processes," Jefferson said in an emailed statement.

Jefferson has 32 hospitals and \$14 billion in annual revenue, making it the biggest nonprofit health system based in the Philadelphia region.

More than 23,000 employees at Lehigh Valley Health Network, which Jefferson acquired in August, are not affected by the

change.

A 3% pay increase scheduled for July 1 will not be retroactive to the beginning of the year, according to guidance provided to managers. They were told of the change before a message from Lisa Satterson, Jefferson's head of human resources, went out to all employees.

"We understand that this news may come as a surprise and want to acknowledge that the decision was not made lightly," Satterson's email said. "Our goal is to ensure the long-term stability and health of the organization while continuing to support our Jefferson colleagues."

It's not clear how much money the delay will save Jefferson, which effectively broke even in the fiscal year ended June 30. It will boost financial results for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30.

The announcement of timing shift for annual raises came as Jefferson completed a \$1 billion bond refinancing this month. A big chunk of those proceeds was used to refinance Lehigh Valley debt.

Jefferson's bond offering statement also said it is planning to expand the emergency department at its flagship Thomas Jefferson University Hospital as part of \$530 million in capital projects.

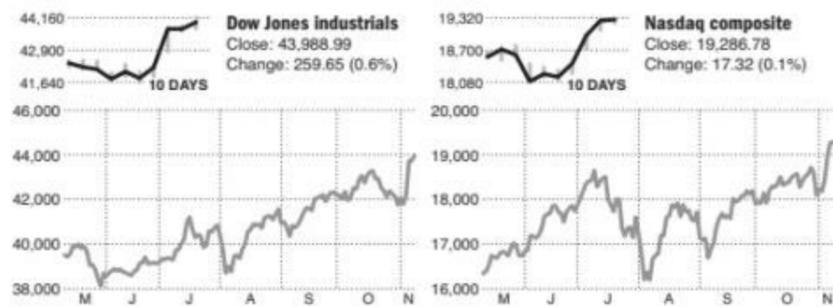
A frequently-asked-questions document provided to managers said such capital projects are paid for through "different financial channels" than salary increases "and are essential for our growth, competitiveness, and sustainability."

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MARKET WATCH

by the Associated Press

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



Stocks Recap

	NYSE	NASD
Vol. (in mil.)	4,441	6,458
Pvs. Volume	4,695	8,693
Advanced	1,390	1,907
Declined	920	1,614
New Highs	251	299
New Lows	47	91

	High	Low	Close	Chg	%Chg	%YTD
DOW	44,157.29	43,733.86	43,988.99	+259.65	+0.59%	+16.71%
DOW Trans.	17,422.77	17,170.99	17,353.94	+143.48	+0.83%	+9.15%
DOW Util.	1,035.01	1,015.57	1,031.92	+20.02	+1.98%	+17.04%
NYSE Comp.	19,990.34	19,850.45	19,937.13	+61.03	+0.31%	+18.30%
NASDAQ	19,318.56	19,224.65	19,286.78	+7.32	+0.09%	+28.48%
S&P 500	6,012.45	5,976.76	5,995.54	+22.44	+0.38%	+25.70%
S&P 400	3,303.39	3,274.84	3,297.36	+15.97	+0.49%	+18.54%
Wilshire 5000	60,458.27	60,057.57	60,309.18	+251.61	+0.42%	+24.88%
Russell 2000	2,401.91	2,376.42	2,399.64	+16.95	+0.71%	+18.38%

Largest gains

Stock	Last	Chg	%Chg
Innodata	42.78	+18.44	+75.8
Sezzle	431.48	+181.01	+72.3
SonderHL	4.38	+1.67	+61.6
PorchGr	3.62	+1.29	+55.4
Autozi A n	2.53	+0.90	+55.2

Largest losses

Stock	Last	Chg	%Chg
EvientH	13.36	-11.21	-45.6
Earlywkr rs	3.74	-3.01	-44.6
Chanson A	5.79	-3.28	-36.2
Trump	3.70	-2.08	-36.0
Marval A	5.08	-2.77	-35.3

Most Active

Stock	Volume (00)	Last	Chg
Tesla	2030738	321.22	+24.31
Nvidia s	1743629	147.63	-1.25
LucidGrp	1027362	2.21	-0.1
Trump	1027236	31.91	+4.22
Palantir	835282	58.39	+2.51

Commodities

Fuel	Last	Chg
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.01	-0.4
Crude Oil (bb)	70.38	-1.98
Natural Gas (mm btu)	2.67	-0.2
Heating Oil (gal)	2.24	-0.5

Metals

Aluminum (ton)	Last	Chg
Aluminum (ton)	2561.75	-92.75
Copper (lb)	4.29	-0.2
Gold (oz)	2687.50	-10.90
Platinum (oz)	978.50	-20.60
Silver (oz)	31.36	-0.4
Palladium (oz)	988.90	-28.50

Agriculture

Cattle (lb)	Last	Chg
Cattle (lb)	1.84	-0.2
Coffee (lb)	2.53	-0.7
Corn (bu)	4.31	+0.3
Cotton (lb)	.71	-
Lumber (1000 bd ft)	558.50	-6.50
Soybeans (bu)	10.17	+0.2
Wheat (bu)	5.73	+0.1

Interest Rates

Treasuries	Last	Chg
3-mo T-bill	4.54	-
6-mo T-bill	4.45	+0.2
2-yr T-note	4.26	+0.6
5-yr T-note	4.20	+0.3
10-yr T-note	4.31	-0.2
30-yr T-bond	4.48	-0.5

Consumer Rates

Consumer Rates	Nat'l Avg	Wk Ago
48-mo new car loan	7.21 ▲	7.20
Money mkt acct	0.44 ▲	0.42
1-year CD	2.65 ▲	2.63

Rates

Rates	Rate	Last Year
Fed-funds rate	4.63	5.38
Prime rate	7.75	8.50
Discount rate	5.25	6.00

U.S. Savings Bonds

Series	Rate
Series EE	2.7
Series I	4.28

Top local stocks

Stock	Last	Chg	%Chg
AmWtrWks	136.09	+3.25	+2.4
Ametek	190.92	+1.97	+1.0
Aramark	39.11	+0.14	+0.4
AstraZen	64.49	-0.20	-0.3
BncpBnd I f	54.59	+1.01	+1.9
BioAm	45.13	+0.36	+0.8
Boeing	151.68	+0.70	+0.5
Brandyw	5.42	+0.01	+0.2
CampSp	45.59	+0.47	+1.0
Cencora	248.41	+0.65	+0.3

ChubbLtd	281.36	+3.37	+1.2
Comcast	43.91	-0.28	-0.6
Corteva	58.33	-0.31	-0.5
CrownHold	93.40	+0.48	+0.5
CubeSmart	48.88	+1.13	+2.4
Dorman	137.76	+4.41	+3.3
DuPont	84.17	-2.42	-2.8
EPAM Sys	233.45	+0.53	+0.2
EgyptInsr	17.30	+0.21	+1.2
EssentUtil	39.67	+0.57	+1.5
Exelon	38.11	+0.02	+0.1
FMC Corp	59.70	-1.14	-1.9
FiveBelow	86.28	-5.24	-5.7
GlobusMed	80.88	-1.09	-1.3

PSEG	85.82	+1.59	+1.9
QuakerCh	169.95	+0.05	-
QuarRet A	0.45	-0.03	-6.3
RadianGrp	33.48	-0.38	-1.1
SAP SE	237.56	-2.63	-1.1
SEI Inv	80.11	-0.06	-0.1
SLM Cp	23.21	-0.50	-2.1
TE Connect	155.06	-0.14	-0.1
Teleflex	195.55	-2.48	-1.3
TelePhm	17.11	-0.39	-2.2
TollBros	157.59	+3.75	+2.4
TorDBk	56.66	-0.13	-0.2
TriumphGp	15.90	+0.57	+3.7
UGI Corp	23.81	-0.05	-0.2

Unisys	8.07	-0.13	-1.6
UnvHR	42.55	+0.33	+0.8
UnivHthS	207.50	-0.91	-0.4
UnivFinl	30.84	+0.38	+1.2
UrbanOut	37.72	+0.41	+1.1
VerizonCm	40.48	-0.09	-0.2
VishayInt	17.89	-	-
WSFS	55.96	+0.12	+0.2
WellsFargo	70.04	+0.22	+0.3
WestPhm	324.10	+0.68	+0.2

Phila. Stock Exchange

Index	Last	Chg
Gold and Silver	156.73	-2.52
SemiConductor	5290.52	-43.47
Banks	131.73	+0.41
Oil Service	79.37	-1.19

Widely held stocks

Stock	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD
AT&T Inc	22.34	+3.0	+14	+33.1
Alphabet C	179.86	-2.42	-1.3	+27.6
Alphabet A	178.35	-2.40	-1.3	+27.7
Amazon	208.18	-1.87	-0.9	+37.0
Ambev	2.17	-0.6	-2.7	-22.5
Apple Inc s	226.96	-2.7	-1.2	+17.9
AstraZen	64.49	-0.20	-0.3	-4.2
BcBlVArg	9.77	-2.5	-2.5	+7.2
BcoBrades	2.10	-0.6	-2.8	-34.0
BcoBnd	2.34	-0.4	-1.7	-33.1
BcoSantSA	4.74	-1.1	-2.3	+14.5
BcoSBrasil	4.69	-0.9	-1.9	-28.4
BioAm	45.13	+0.36	+0.8	+94.0
Barclay	13.09	-0.8	-1.4	+66.1
Broadcom s	183.64	-1.7	-1	+64.5

Cisco	58.06	-0.2	-0.4	+14.9
CocaCola	63.92	+2.6	+4	+8.5
Comcast				

PHILLY & REGION

Red flag

→ CONTINUED FROM A8
Forest Fire Service crews built a fire line and conducted backfiring, which means they strategically burning fuel such as dead branches and brush in the fire's path to slow its advance.

- Thursday morning's blaze, which the fire service has dubbed the **Bethany Run Wildfire**, ignited along 75 acres at the border of Evesham Township in Burlington County and Voorhees Township in Camden County and had grown to 360 acres and was 90% contained as of Friday evening. The fire broke

out along a wooded area of Kettle Run Road in Evesham Township near the popular Black Run Preserve and a residential area, threatening 104 buildings. A helicopter capable of dropping 350 gallons of water was deployed. Sycamore Avenue was closed, as was Kettle Run Road from Braddock Mill Road to Hopewell Road. Smoke from the fire could be seen from Philadelphia.

- And a fire that broke out Wednesday in the Pinelands near Colliers Mills Wildlife Management area

dubbed the **"Shotgun Fire,"** because it started near a shooting range, was initially 175 acres that grew to 350 acres. The fire raced along the area of Stump Tavern Road in Jackson Township, and was 80% contained as of Friday morning. Six buildings had been threatened and evacuated before people were allowed back in Wednesday night. However, Stump Tavern Road remained closed as of Thursday night from Route 571 to Route 528.

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New Jersey State Forest Service firefighters battle a blaze in Evesham Township on Wednesday night. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Meetup

→ CONTINUED FROM A8
of City Hall, responding officers were outnumbered by the crowds. Videos on social media in one instance showed dozens of people surrounding an officer's car and jumping onto the hood while filming themselves.

From street level, Williams, using goggles to see through the lens of a camera mounted on a drone, piloted the device over many of the meetups, filming footage he would later post on social media, said Evers.

In video footage on social media, some people can be seen throwing traffic cones at the patrol car's windshield and even opening its rear door. One video shows a group of officers with batons running through smoke-filled streets as people scattered in different directions.

Five police cars were

damaged through the night, police said, and one 39th District officer suffered minor injuries after his vehicle was struck by another car, which then fled the scene.

Police said 15 spectators were cited and nine were fined under the city's nuisance car ordinance — which carries a \$2,500 penalty — in Southwest Philadelphia.

The meetups, also known as "slide shows" or "takeovers," come together quickly through social media and involve waves of cars and large crowds of spectators moving from location to location on short notice. They are not new to Philadelphia or other parts of the country, but the September series of events was on a larger scale than what police normally have to deal with, authorities said.



Impounded cars police say were driven during a series of chaotic car meetups in September. Rodrigo Torrejón / Staff

In June 2023, one series of meetups ended in the fatal shooting of 18-year-old Anthony Allegrini by a Pennsylvania state trooper. Authorities said Allegrini struck two troopers with his Audi S4 and one of the troopers fired a shot through the

windshield, striking Allegrini. Authorities have not named the trooper who killed Allegrini and no charges have been filed as the investigation continues. Allegrini's family has sued the Pennsylvania State Police, Philadelphia police



Confiscated drone equipment police say a Maryland man illegally flew over the series of car meetups in Philadelphia in late September. Rodrigo Torrejón / Staff

officers who responded to the scene, and the trooper who killed Allegrini, alleging he used excessive force and did not render potentially lifesaving aid.

The continuing arrests in the September meetups, Bethel said, are part of a

concentrated police effort to crack down on the illegal and often dangerous events and combating quality of life crimes in the city such as illegal ATVs and dirt bikes.

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Upper Darby students were among those reportedly targeted with racist text messages. Matt Slocum / AP

Racist texts sent to students investigated

Officials say Lower Merion and Upper Darby students received messages similar to others sent nationwide.

By Maddie Hanna
Staff Writer

The Lower Merion and Upper Darby school districts said some of their students received racist text messages Thursday — mirroring reports of messages sent to people in other states.

In Lower Merion, Acting Superintendent Megan Shafer said in a message to families Thursday that the district was aware of about six middle school students who reported receiving racist text messages. The texts were "almost identical" to those reported in other states, Shafer said.

Shafer's message linked to news reports about women in the Detroit area who received texts on

Wednesday saying they had been "selected to pick cotton at the nearest plantation," and that a van or bus would be arriving to pick up them and their belongings.

The same messages were reportedly received by people in Georgia and Virginia, as well as Black students on college campuses, including at the University of Alabama.

"The racist nature of these text messages is extremely disturbing, made even more so by the fact that children have been targeted," Shafer said. "While the source of these messages has not been determined, we want to unequivocally state that racist language is unacceptable in our schools and will not be tolerated."

She said the district had reported the messages to Lower Merion Township police for investigation, and told families that if their student had received one of the messages, they should reach out to their principal or guidance counselor "so that we can provide whatever is needed to help them feel

safe in our schools."

The principal of Upper Darby High School, Craig Parkinson, said in a message to families Thursday that the district had "become aware of a racist and derogatory text message that has been sent to some of our high school students."

Parkinson said the district, which also reported the messages to police, "does not tolerate hateful and racist behavior" and would discipline any students involved.

"At this time, however, we believe the text message students are receiving is from a source outside of our school district and other states are reporting that their students have also received this text message," Parkinson said. A district spokesperson did not say whether the messages were the same as the texts referring to plantations being reported nationally.

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

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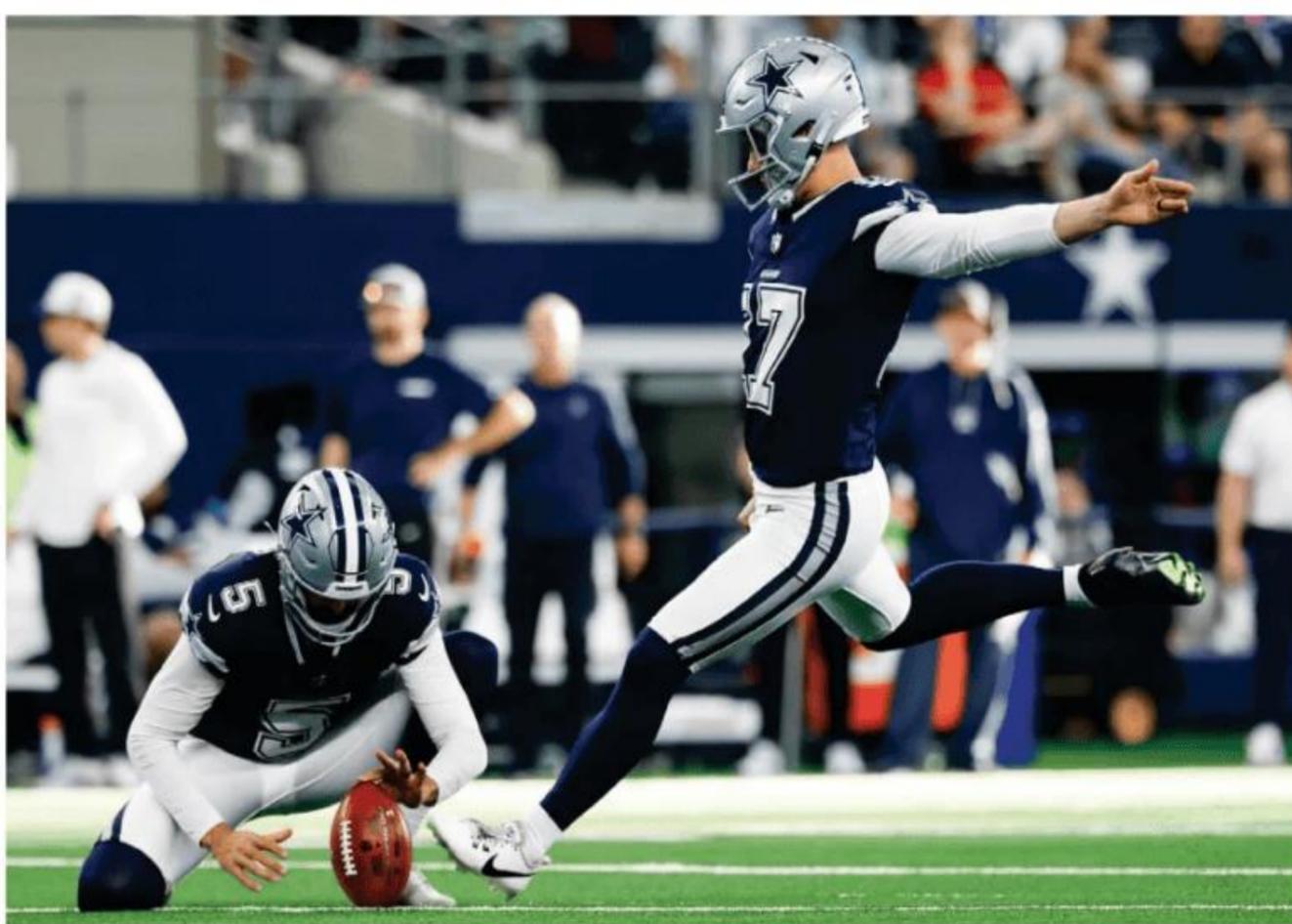


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COLLEGE FOOTBALL B3 PENN STATE, TEMPLE, PENN PREVIEWS | SIXERS B2 INJURED MAXEY REMAINS CONFIDENT

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SPORTS



Dallas kicker Brandon Aubrey was released by the Union in the 2018. He became Cowboys' kicker last season and hasn't looked back. AP



Jalen Hurts and the Eagles have a quick turnaround to play the Commanders on Thursday. Monica Herndon / Staff Photographer

Does Hurts have an ankle issue?

The quarterback was listed as out Wednesday to 'rest,' but that's not what Sirianni said Friday.

By Jeff Neiburg
Staff Writer

Nick Sirianni on Friday indicated that Jalen Hurts is dealing with an ankle issue, despite the quarterback being listed on the injury report with a "rest" designation.

The Eagles coach may have slipped up when asked Friday about what went into his quarterback's load-management day two days prior.

Here's the awkward exchange that followed:

Sirianni: "He was dealing with — it was on the injury report — dealing with the ankle. Just making sure we're precautionous with everything."

Eagles PR: "It was a rest."
Sirianni: "That was a rest, yeah. Sorry. I thought you were talking about something else."

Reporter: "Is Jalen dealing with an ankle problem?"

Sirianni: "No. Rest."

It is rare for Hurts to take a load-management day. In fact, it has never happened. But the Eagles on Wednesday listed their quarterback as a limited participant due to

→ SEE HURTS ON B4

EAGLES AT COWBOYS: SUNDAY, 4:25 P.M. (CBS3)

Dallas kicker's soccer dream ended with Union

By Matt Breen
Staff Writer

Brendan Burke returned home on a Sunday last fall from coaching soccer, put an NFL game on his TV, and could not believe what he saw.

"I was like 'That can't be the same guy,'" Burke said. "Oh my God. That's the same guy."

The guy was Brandon Aubrey, whom Burke coached years earlier with the Union's second-division soccer team that played home games in front of a few hundred people and sometimes rode buses

12 hours to away games.

Aubrey, once an MLS first-round pick, was vying for a spot on the Union in 2018 but decided to retire after the team released him. And now he was kicking field goals on Burke's TV for the Dallas Cowboys.

Aubrey, a Pro Bowler last season as a 28-year-old rookie, is one of the NFL's best kickers. He has made nine of his 10 kicks this season from 50 yards or longer this season, and his 65-yarder in Week 3 is a yard shy of the NFL record. Aubrey has converted 93.3% of his field goals in the last two seasons, fourth-best among all kickers.

Not bad for a guy who learned how to kick footballs only after the Union turned him away.

"Don't be afraid to take chances on yourself," said Aubrey, who will kick Sunday against the Eagles. "It was pretty apparent to me that I had the raw talent. I just had to hone it in and refine it. I knew eventually that it would take as long as I got the opportunity."

Aubrey could have kept his soccer dream churning after the Union released him, but it no longer made financial sense. He made \$35,000 in 2018 to play for Bethlehem Steel, then the Union's

affiliate in the United Soccer League. He shared an apartment with teammates in King of Prussia, rode shuttles to practice and games, and no longer felt like the guy who left Notre Dame as a top prospect when Toronto drafted him 21st overall in 2017.

"I had already embarrassed myself in the MLS," said Aubrey, who was released by Toronto without playing in a game. "The way that flamed out pretty quickly was a shot to the pride. The whole time I was in Bethlehem, I thought 'Why am I not in the MLS?' I thought

→ SEE KICKER ON B4

Jameer Nelson charting front-office goals with the Delaware Blue Coats

By Gina Mizell
Staff Writer

As the Delaware Blue Coats began shooting drills following a practice last January, Jameer Nelson hopped in line.

That may be an unsurprising move for the Chester native and former St. Joseph's All-American, whose 14-year NBA career included an All-Star and Finals appearance with the Orlando Magic in 2009. But it is atypical for the general manager of a G League team. That is Nelson's role today, entering his second season leading the front office of the 76ers' affiliate whose opener is Saturday against Raptors 905.

Since 2020, Nelson has been working his way up to guide one of the G League's more successful franchises, which won the 2023 championship and boasts recent success stories such as Sixers wing Ricky Council IV.

Nelson was not shy about sharing with The Inquirer that his goal is to become a lead front-office executive for an NBA team, deliberately shifting "trying to be" to "I know, at some point, I'm going to be" during a conversation last month. He vows to be continued proof that former players can



Jameer Nelson (right), sharing a laugh with Temple great Lynn Greer last season at Hagan Arena, was promoted to Delaware Blue Coats general manager last year. Charles Fox / Staff Photographer

successfully transition to such jobs but did not want to skip steps, holding scouting and assistant general manager positions within the organization before being promoted to his current post.

Those around Nelson praise his relatability to players, and his collaborative "don't call me 'Boss'" approach. Nelson describes it "as humbly as possible, I'm myself."

"I always had to walk into the door, observe, and find out where I

can lead and help," he said. "I'm not a guy that's going to come in and pound my chest. I'm not the loud speaker. But if there's something I need to say, I'll say it. I'll get it off my chest in the right way."

Nelson did not necessarily have these aspirations as his playing career wound down with the 2017-18 season. He credits Sixers general manager Elton Brand — another player-turned-executive — with bringing Nelson into the front

office and saying, "We'll figure it out."

Though joining that side of the organization came with a learning curve, it also sparked intrigue. Nelson thought back to moves by teams he was on that may have occurred because of the salary cap, or all the what-ifs that never crossed the finish line. He enjoyed the problem-solving aspect of building a roster.

The toughest adjustment, he said, was managing a larger group of people once he was elevated to general manager after Prosper Karangwa was promoted to the Sixers' vice president of player personnel. As a point guard, Nelson was used to directing his teammates on the court. Now, he feels accountable to the full roster and staff and welcomes feedback through what he calls "bottom-up leadership."

"You're worrying about not just the basketball part of it," Nelson said. "You're responsible for other people's livelihood."

Blue Coats coach Mike Longabardi pointed to Nelson's "instant credibility" as a former player, which his demeanor has enhanced. The coach recently recalled a game in Toronto last season, when the Blue Coats were down to seven

→ SEE NELSON ON B6

PHILLIES

Mattingly, Fuld get promoted

By Lochlahn March
Staff Writer

The Phillies announced some major changes in their front office on Friday.

Sam Fuld, who serves as vice president and general manager, is set to transition to the Phillies president of business operations following his graduation from Wharton's MBA program in May 2026. Until then, Fuld's duties will be divided with Preston Mattingly, who was promoted to vice president and GM.

Fuld said he has always had an interest in the business side of baseball, despite not having any formal business experience. After discussions this spring with president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski and managing partner John Middleton about a new opportunity in that realm, Fuld enrolled at Wharton to further his education.

"It's been a bit of a whirlwind since, and I've got lots to learn," Fuld said. "The educational component of this is really valuable, but

→ SEE PHILLIES ON B12

SPORTS

ON DECK

	SATURDAY NOV. 9	SUNDAY NOV. 10	MONDAY NOV. 11	TUESDAY NOV. 12	WEDNESDAY NOV. 13
EAGLES		at Cowboys 4:25 p.m. CBS3			
76ERS		vs. Hornets 7 p.m. NBCSP		* vs. Knicks 7:30 p.m. TNT	vs. Cavaliers 7:30 p.m. NBCSP
FLYERS	at Panthers 6 p.m. NBCSP		vs. Sharks 7 p.m. NBCSP		

Home game * NBA Cup



THE SCORE ONLINE

Scan the QR code to access all of your favorite Philadelphia teams' stats, schedules, and standings in real time. Dive deeper for the latest box scores, play-by-plays of each game, and more. Questions? Contact customerservice@inquirer.com.

TV/RADIO

SATURDAY

AUTO RACING
NASCAR Xfinity Series: Qualifying, Phoenix Raceway, Avondale, Ariz., 4 p.m. (USA)
NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, Phoenix Raceway, Avondale, Ariz., 5 p.m. (USA)
NASCAR Xfinity Series: The NASCAR Xfinity Series Championship, Playoffs — Championship 4, Phoenix Raceway, Avondale, Ariz., 7:30 p.m. (CW)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)
Tennessee at Louisville, noon (ACCN)
Fordham at Seton Hall, noon (FS2)
Quinnipiac at St. John's, 2 p.m. (FS2)
Omaha at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m. (Peacock)
Fairfield at Georgetown, 4 p.m. (FS2)
Stonehill at Providence, 6 p.m. (FS2)
Baylor vs. Arkansas, Dallas, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)
New Hampshire at UConn, 8 p.m. (FS2)
Auburn vs. Houston, Houston, 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Florida at Texas, noon (6abc)
Syracuse at Boston College, noon (CW)
Miami at Georgia Tech, noon (ESPN)
Navy at South Florida, noon (ESPN2)
Texas St. at Louisiana-Monroe, noon (ESPN)
Purdue at Ohio St., noon (Fox29)
West Virginia at Cincinnati, noon (FS1)
Minnesota at Rutgers, noon (NBC10)
Florida at Texas (Command Center), noon (SECN)
Liberty at MTSU, 1 p.m. (CBSSN)
Georgia at Mississippi, 3:30 p.m. (6abc)
Duke at NC State, 3:30 p.m. (ACCN)
Michigan at Indiana, 3:30 p.m. (CBS3)
San Jose St. at Oregon St., 3:30 p.m. (CW)
Clemson at Virginia Tech, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Army at North Texas, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Iowa St. at Kansas, 3:30 p.m. (FS1)
Temple at Tulane, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Colorado at Texas Tech, 4 p.m. (Fox29)
South Carolina at Vanderbilt, 4:15 p.m. (SECN)
Jacksonville St. at Louisiana Tech, 4:30 p.m. (CBSSN)
Maryland at Oregon, 7 p.m. (BTN)
Mississippi St. at Tennessee, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
UCF at Arizona St., 7 p.m. (ESPN2)
Oklahoma St. at TCU, 7 p.m. (FS1)

Alabama at LSU, 7:30 p.m. (6abc)
Florida St. at Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m. (NBC10)
Oklahoma at Missouri, 7:45 p.m. (SECN)
Virginia at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m. (ACCN)
Nevada at Boise St., 8 p.m. (Fox29)
Washington at Penn St., 7 p.m. (Peacock)
UNLV at Hawaii, 9 p.m. (CBSSN)
Fresno St. at Air Force, 9:45 p.m. (FS1)
BYU at Utah, 10:15 p.m. (ESPN)
UC Davis at Montana, 10:15 p.m. (ESPN2)
Utah St. at Washington St., 10:30 p.m. (CW)

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)
Penn St. at Wisconsin, 3:30 p.m. (NBC10)
Oregon at Minnesota, 4 p.m. (BTN)
Nebraska at Washington, 10:30 p.m. (BTN)

COLLEGE WRESTLING
Stanford at Iowa, 2 p.m. (BTN)

GOLF
PGA Tour: The World Wide Technology Championship, Third Round, El Cardonal Golf Course, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, 2 p.m. (GOLF)
PGA Tours Champions: The Charles Schwab Cup Championship, Third Round, Phoenix Country Club, Phoenix, 5 p.m. (GOLF)
LPGA Tour: The Lotte Championship, Final Round, Hoakalei Country Club, Ewa Beach, Hawaii, 7 p.m. (GOLF)

NBA
Utah at San Antonio, 5 p.m. (NBATV)
Brooklyn at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m. (NBATV)
Toronto at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m. (NBATV)

NHL
Flyers at Florida, 6 p.m. (NBCSP, Fanatic 97.5 FM)
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m. (NHLN)

SOCCER (MEN'S)
English League One: Mansfield Town at Wrexham AFC, 7:30 a.m. (CBSSN)
Bundesliga: Bayern Munich at FC St. Pauli, 9:25 a.m. (ESPN2)
Premier League: Fulham at Crystal Palace, 10 a.m. (USA)
Premier League: Manchester City at Brighton & Hove Albion, 12:30 p.m. (USA)

SOCCER (WOMEN'S)
NWSL Playoffs: North Carolina at Kansas City, Quarterfinal, noon (CBS3)

TENNIS
WTA Finals Singles and Doubles Finals; Belgrade-ATP Final, 8 a.m. (TENNIS)

SIXERS AT LAKERS: COVERAGE AT INQUIRER.COM

Maxey planning 'to fight through' injury, rough start

By Keith Pompey
Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — Tyrese Maxey sat inside the gym at the John Wooden Center on UCLA's campus, wearing a compression sleeve on his right hamstring.

The 76ers All-Star point guard felt a little better Friday morning, two days after injuring that hamstring against the Los Angeles Clippers.

"It's a little frustrating," he said of being unable to play. "But at the end of the day, it's life. You got to keep continuing on. That's how it goes, kind of continuing to fight through it. I mean we had to fight through the Joel [Embiid] stuff and the [Paul George] stuff. And this is something I have to keep going through."

"It will make us better in the long run."
Maxey will be reevaluated in one week. The expectation is that he could miss up to two weeks.

If so, he could miss six or seven games, starting with Friday night's contest against the Los Angeles Lakers at Crypto.com Arena.

Maxey doesn't know how his injury happened.

"But I felt it early in the third [quarter]," he said. "I kept playing, just trying to see if I could loosen up. But I realized that it was still tight, and [I] couldn't really accelerate like I wanted to."

With that, the 24-year-old didn't return to the game in the fourth quarter.

Embiid will make his season debut in Tuesday's NBA Cup matchup against the New York Knicks at the Wells Fargo Center. This comes after serving a three-game suspension for an altercation with Inquirer columnist Marcus Hayes. He missed the entire preseason and first six games of the regular season because of load management of his left knee injury.

The Sixers took a 1-6 record and a four-game losing streak into Friday's contest. Even though he's sidelined, Maxey thinks the Sixers can buck their current trend.

"Taking it day by day, honestly, one step at a time," he said. "We got to get one. We have to get one game. We can't focus on getting back to .500 or focus on getting back to a certain level or a standard or anything like that. You got to focus on getting one game at a time."

"Once you get one game at a time, build our habits back. And then you can start going on a run."

George up to challenge

For the immediate future, the 76ers are in a rough spot.
Friday's game against the Los



Sixers guard Tyrese Maxey (right) was injured in the loss to the Clippers on Wednesday. Ryan Sun / AP

Angeles Lakers only would be Paul George's third game back from a left knee bone bruise. Joel Embiid is out while serving the second game of a three-game suspension for his altercation with Inquirer columnist Marcus Hayes. And Tyrese Maxey will be sidelined for around two weeks with a sprained right hamstring.

This isn't the position George envisioned he would be in when he signed a four-year, \$211.5 million contract in July.

Back then, he spoke about meshing with Embiid and taking pressure off Maxey. Instead, the 34-year-old entered Friday possibly having to carry the load for three of the next four games.

Embiid also will miss Sunday's game against the Charlotte Hornets at the Wells Fargo Center as part of the suspension. The 2023 NBA MVP will make his season debut at home in Tuesday's NBA Cup game against the New York Knicks. However, Embiid is expected to miss Wednesday's home matchup against the Cleveland Cavaliers since he stated he won't play on back-to-back nights.

If that's the case, the Sixers will unveil some version of PG and the Miracles against the Lakers, Hornets, and Cavs.

And that's a lot of responsibility for someone still trying to mesh with teammates and get back into playing shape.

"Yeah, I mean, I'm still trying to get my body back," said George, who averaged 16.5 points, six rebounds, three assists, two steals and five turnovers in his first two games back. "Just rhythm. I think my execution is just off, and my rhythm, my timing with ballhandling is just off, and just trying to get a feel for that. These are really, like, my first real, real, real-live situations playing these games."

George did show improved shooting from his first game to his second.

He shot 4-for-14 — including making just 1 of 7 three-pointers — on Monday against the Phoenix Suns. He then shot 7-for-9 while making 2 of 3 three-pointers against the Clippers on

Wednesday. But he still was sloppy with the ball, with six turnovers against the Suns and four against L.A.

"So they're throwing a lot of stuff at me that I'm not quite ready for at this moment because I'm still trying to get back healthy and lungs together and cardio together," George said. "I'll be better. I'll put the work in, but it is a rough patch, I would say for myself, and then I got to be better for these guys."

The Sixers publicly discussed the benefits of having a veteran team to lean on when dealing with this rough stretch. They also stress that they have to communicate better, be more focused, and give effort to cut down on opponents' scoring runs.

"We got to go play," coach Nick Nurse said. "That was about our third game [Wednesday against the Clippers], third almost carbon-copy game where we are not playing great, but we are playing well. It's 64-62 with [5 minutes, 57 seconds] to go in the third quarter, or something like that, I'm not exact on that, but it's another game where we have either a lapse in transition and they go on an 8-0 run or something that all happens in transition. And then we get a little discouraged."

"We can't do that. We can't turn the ball over..."

Nurse wants the Sixers to keep fighting. He's imploring his players to improve their ball movement and better take care of the ball.

"Again, there's moments in time where our halfcourt defense is very, very, very good," he said. "But we need to extend that. It's got to be like this is. Play a little harder to take up for some of these guys being gone."

"Everybody's got to chip in to provide a little offense to make up for some of these guys being gone. And you got to keep fighting. That's it."

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Gauff upsets Sabalenka, will face Zheng in finals

Associated Press

Coco Gauff defeated top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka, 7-6 (4), 6-3, and set up a showdown with Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen in the final of the WTA Finals in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Friday.

Gauff generated six break points to Sabalenka's four and built on early momentum in the opening set's tiebreak that she carried through to the second set.

She's the youngest player at 20 to make the final at the WTA Finals since Caroline Wozniacki in 2010.

Zheng earlier defeated Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejckova, 6-3, 7-5, to book her place in Saturday's final.

Zheng continued her remarkable season by reaching the decider in her first appearance. The Chinese player has won 31 of her 36 matches since Wimbledon, more than anyone else on the tour.

Zheng struck nine aces as she defeated a tired-looking Krejckova in 1 hour, 40 minutes.

NFL

Washington Commanders running back Brian Robinson Jr. will not play Sunday against the Pittsburgh Steelers because of a hamstring injury.

This is the second consecutive game the team's leading rusher will miss after he was a late scratch last week at the New York Giants.

Will Levis will start for the Tennessee Titans on Sunday when they visit the Los Angeles Chargers after the second-year quarterback missed the last three games with an injured shoulder, coach Brian Callahan said.

Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence is "trending toward not playing" because of an injury to his nonthrowing shoulder, coach Doug Pederson said.

New York Jets interim coach

Jeff Ulbrich said Spencer Shrader likely will be the team's kicker Sunday at Arizona after another shakeup at the position. Riley Patterson, who made all three of his extra point attempts last week against Houston, was released after just one game filling in for the injured Greg Zuerlein.

Bills coach Sean McDermott said rookie receiver Keon Coleman could miss multiple weeks with a wrist injury, ruling out the player for Buffalo's game at the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday.

College Basketball

Florida basketball coach Todd Golden is facing allegations of sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, stalking, and cyberstalking multiple women — including students — over the past 12 months, according to a report published in the school's student newspaper.

The newspaper based its report on a copy of a Sept. 27 Title IX complaint against Golden it said it had obtained. The Associated Press contacted the university to request a copy of the complaint.

Under federal law, the school cannot comment on or even confirm any Title IX inquiries, complaints, or investigations. It was not immediately known if Golden has legal representation, and he did not return a text message seeking comment.

Baseball

Aaron Boone will return for an eighth season as New York Yankees manager after the team exercised his 2025 option.

Boone has led the Yankees to a 603-429 record, three American League East titles, and one pennant. New York reached the World Series this year for the first time since 2009 and lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers in five games.

By Jeff Neiburg
Staff Writer

Villanova freshman Matthew Hodge has been ruled academically ineligible by the NCAA, and an initial waiver to change his eligibility status has been denied, leaving the school and Hodge with one last resort: an appeal, and a final decision is expected on Wednesday, the school announced in a detailed news release Friday afternoon.

If the appeal is denied, Hodge will be unable to play this season and will take a required redshirt year.

Hodge's eligibility status is in question because the 6-foot-8 forward initially attended high school in his native Belgium before moving to New Jersey in 2022 to go to school and play at St. Rose in Belmar, N.J.

The NCAA, according to Villanova, "reviewed his transcripts from both his time in Belgium and the United States and ruled that Hodge was deficient in meeting its qualifier requirements. Under NCAA rule, student athletes must complete 10 core courses, seven of which must be in English, math and science, before the start of their fourth year of high school. Hodge spent four years in high school in Belgium, taking English, French, ethics and a general studies class

that encompassed subjects such as math, science and social studies. St. Rose considered all of his classes from Belgium and upon review, deemed Hodge a high school junior upon his arrival in New Jersey."

The NCAA initially ruled Hodge as a nonqualifier, but Villanova retained the services of an Indianapolis-based law firm, Church Chapin Hittle and Antrim, to file a waiver. They resubmitted other coursework for consideration. But the NCAA ruled that Hodge still fell short of its 10-7 standard.

Villanova's appeal also argued that:

- "Hodge's ability to pass advanced math and science courses in New Jersey (including Algebra II and biology) that proved he had received the educational foundation necessary in Belgium to be a successful high school student in the United States."
- "Hodge has no say in determining his standing in the U.S. high school system, and that the New Jersey school system deemed his Belgium coursework and grades good enough to make him a junior in good standing."
- "COVID severely disrupted Hodge's studies in Belgium, as schools there shut down for a

long period of time and later went to online courses."

But those pleas did not result in the NCAA changing course. The appeal, and its decision Wednesday, are all that remains.

"We have been working with Villanova for a few months to answer every question about my school in Belgium three years ago," Hodge said in a statement posted on social media. "My grades improved at St. Rose. I graduated on time and am off to a good start in my classes at Villanova. I'm genuinely frustrated and the uncertainty weighs on me when I'm not on the court. I respect the NCAA process. I just hope this is resolved soon."

Hodge is still allowed to practice and travel with the team, now and if the appeal ultimately is denied.

He was expected to be a contributor right away, a versatile piece in a four-player recruiting class that was ranked 24th nationally by 247Sports.

The Wildcats are 1-1 to start the 2024-25 season after losing Wednesday at home to Columbia. Villanova's season continues Friday night with a home game vs. NJIT. The Wildcats then play at St. Joseph's on Tuesday, and the decision on Hodge's future is expected the following day.

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SPORTS

Penn State still needs to fix its wideout issue

By Avery Hill
Staff Writer

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State's receivers were the most-questioned position group going into the season, after KeAndre Lambert-Smith, the team's only wide receiver with more than 300 yards in 2023, transferred to Auburn.

While redshirt junior Harrison Wallace has 24 catches for 395 yards eight games in, the receivers lack consistent production. Redshirt junior Liam Clifford (14 catches for 246 yards) and junior Omari Evans (11 catches, 236 yards) started the year with 100-yard games but have since disappeared.

Add fifth-year player Julian Fleming (11 catches, 152 yards), who has struggled with dropped passes, to the mix.

The group's struggles have limited the offense as teams stack the box. A lot of the offense's big plays come from offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki's knack for creativity and the breakthrough season senior tight end Tyler Warren is having.

As the sixth-ranked Nittany Lions (7-1, 4-1 Big Ten) prepare to host a talented Washington team on Saturday (8 p.m., Peacock), they'll certainly look for their receivers to step up.

Tough secondary

Coach James Franklin said the receivers have "improved" from last season, but it isn't enough.

"We have got to be able to threaten people," Franklin said Monday. "We've got to be able to make plays and create separation and make tough catches."

Washington's secondary excels limiting just that. The Huskies (5-4, 3-3) have allowed 142 passing yards per game, the second-lowest average in the Big Ten, and have eight interceptions. Junior quarterback Drew



Penn State wideout Harrison Wallace III (6) leads a struggling receiving corps with 395 yards in eight games this season. Barry Reeger / AP

Allar called Washington's secondary "one of the best." Linebacker Carson Bruener leads the Huskies with three interceptions. Even defensive lineman Jacob Bandes has one.

"No matter if it's zone coverage, man coverage, they're always around the ball trying to make plays on [it]," Allar said Wednesday. "We're going to have to [mind] our p's and q's this week when it comes to the pass game."

'A confident group'

A way to eliminate Washington's strength is by getting separation.

Evans is a deep threat, so he'd be the answer, while the rest of the group will do their work in traffic. Franklin is hopeful that they'll get the job done.

"We need them involved and want them involved," Franklin said. "Hopefully Saturday will be the weekend. I was hoping this past Saturday ... it would be one of those games where they all kind of came together."

Even with the group's struggles, the team remains confident. Warren believes the key to unlocking the

receivers' production might be getting more plays.

"They're a confident group," Warren said. "There's been multiple guys who have gone over 100 yards in games. They've shown what they can do."

The group showed flashes, albeit against weaker competition. The receivers still have done their job in other ways.

Fleming stands out as the unit's best blocker, and his experience and acumen have allowed Kotelnicki to scheme other players open.

Blocking may be key if the Huskies shut things down in the air. Allar said there aren't many teams with receivers blocking as well as the Lions' are. Still, he aims to do his part to prove that the receivers will come down with the ball when it matters on Saturday.

"Our receivers get a lot of harsh criticism about their performance, but I don't find it necessary," Allar said. "I'll defend them to the day I die. I love being around those guys. They're really fun to be around, and they don't get enough credit for how many plays they make on a weekly basis."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Temple visits Tulane, hoping to recharge bowl dreams

By Declan Landis
Staff Writer

It's been a tough season for Temple football, and this Saturday might be the team's toughest challenge of the season.

And it has nothing to do with their opponent.

The Owls (2-6, 0-3 American Athletic Conference) emerge from their second bye week of the year after a 56-34 loss to East Carolina on Oct. 26. Right now, if there is a goal to qualify for its first bowl game since 2019, Temple will need to come out as a reenergized team against Tulane (4 p.m., ESPN) on Saturday.

Temple quarterback Evan Simon believes his team is capable of extending its season.

"Our record doesn't justify how we've played," Simon said. "We've played some really good teams, and we've played very well against them. It's tough knowing it's 2-6. Obviously, you want it to be better, but you just have to keep pushing forward."

Here are three keys to watch against Tulane (7-2, 5-0).

Strong defensive line play

One of Temple's most consistent units this season has been its defensive line. The Owls had more than four tackles for loss and two sacks in both of their wins against Utah State and Tulsa, and the defensive line held strong in close losses to UConn and Coastal Carolina.

Tulsa enters as the eighth-best scoring offense in the country and a top-five total offense in the AAC. Running back Makhii Hughes averages 142.8 yards per game and leads the Green Wave with 13 touchdowns.

The Owls will need big performances from their defensive line in both the run game and affecting quarterback Darian Mensah's ability to get the ball to playmakers.



Temple coach Stan Drayton is pushing for a turnaround that would secure the Owls' first bowl appearance since 2019. Heather Khalifa / Staff Photographer

Clean up secondary mistakes

Temple's defense allowed a season-high five passing touchdowns against East Carolina. The Owls' previous season-high came against then-No. 15 Oklahoma, which scored four times through the air.

"I felt like that was one of the first times our defense didn't execute at a high level," said linebacker D.J. Woodbury. "We got out of sorts a little bit. There was a little confusion, but we got back to the drawing board and fixed the problems."

Mensah averages fewer than 200 yards in the air, but the Owls likely will be committed to stopping the run on Saturday.

The Owls' secondary will need to force mistakes to remain in the game. More importantly, each element of the unit will need to stay on task, which did not happen against the Pirates, Temple head coach Stan Drayton said.

"Our defense — our entire defense — has to have a really good sense of what they're doing on offense," Drayton said. "We have to stop the run to the best of our ability. That's exactly what Tulane is going to do; they're going to lean on the run."

Score every drive

Ultimately, Temple's

defense has a tough matchup this weekend. The Owls have not fared well against more balanced attacks like Oklahoma, Army, and East Carolina, and Hughes poses a big threat to the Cherry and White defense.

Temple's offense has started to click in recent games, and the unit will need to step up against Tulane to give its defense a shot against the Green Wave.

Tulane's defense has held opponents to about 325 yards and 20 points per game this year, which are near the top of the AAC. The Green Wave also has 11 interceptions, 22 sacks, and seven fumble recoveries this year.

Wide receiver Dante Wright is questionable with a knee injury, so the Owls will need their rushing attack to take a step up and find playmakers to potentially fill Wright's place. However, any slowing down against the Green Wave could mean disaster in New Orleans.

A potent offense starts with Simon and radiates the rest of the unit. Fortunately for Temple, he believes this team can keep it a tight game against Tulane.

"I think we're starting to click on all cylinders," Simon said. "In some of these games, we've hurt ourselves, and we just have to eliminate that."

Quakers want to keep rolling against Cornell

By Conor Smith
Staff Writer

After a statement victory with its backup quarterback, Penn is headed back on the road to face Cornell on Saturday (1 p.m., ESPN+).

Penn (3-4, 1-3 Ivy) is coming off its highest scoring output of the season, a 38-28 win over Brown. Junior quarterback Liam O'Brien made his first career start, as senior Aidan Sayin was out with an elbow injury. O'Brien finished with 247 passing yards, two passing touchdowns, and one rushing touchdown. With Sayin's availability still in question for this Saturday, O'Brien's name may be called again.

"[O'Brien] knows the playbook; he knows everything like the back of his hand," junior wide receiver Jared Richardson said. "Normally, you see a drop-off in the starting quarterback to the backup. There's no drop-off at all [with O'Brien starting]."

Title aspirations for Cornell (3-4, 2-2) are still alive with two conference losses. However, it likely needs to go undefeated in its remaining three games for a chance at the Ivy League championship game. The Big Red are trailing Dartmouth, Harvard, and Columbia, which all have one conference loss. Last week, Cornell took care of business against Princeton and won, 49-35.

Here's what to watch for ahead of Penn's trip to Ithaca, N.Y.

Richardson and Owens show

Last week, Penn's receiving yards leader had his best showing of the season. Richardson caught seven balls for 113 yards and a touchdown. This was a welcome sign for Penn's offense as he had struggled following an impressive start to the season.

In his first two outings, Richardson averaged 97 receiving yards per game. In the ensuing four games, though, he averaged 37 yards.

"It was kind of a little frustrating, but you got to keep your head down," Richardson said. "I just kept my head down. I kept pushing through it because I know in a big game, this team is going to need me. I'm just going to have to make a play. My name's going to get called. Last week, my name was called, and I delivered."

Junior wideout Bisi Owens also had his best statistical game last week, with six receptions for 89 yards.

The 6-foot-4 Owens and the 6-foot-2 Richardson give their quarterback, no matter the starter, a large target in the red zone. Cornell ranks last in the Ivy League in red zone defense, and opponents score within the 20-yard line 90.3% of the time.

"We have two receivers who both have almost 40-inch verticals and ball skills, so it's pretty hard to cover them when you throw it up," Sayin told The Inquirer earlier this season.

130th rendition of the rivalry

Saturday marks the 130th game between Penn and Cornell. The Quakers are 77-47-5 against the Big Red. Since 1995, the two schools have played for the Trustees' Cup — Penn has won the cup 20 times to Cornell's eight.

The Quakers beat Cornell, 23-8, at home to win the trophy last year. Notably, Penn running back Malachi Hosley broke program records for longest offensive play on a 96-yard rush and most rushing yards by a freshman in a single game with 261 yards.

Cornell has matched its win total from last season already under head coach Dan Swannstrom. Before moving to Ithaca, Swannstrom served as Penn's offensive coordinator for two seasons.

"There's going to be a lot of emotion," said Richardson, who was recruited by Swannstrom. "He's the reason why I got here. But at the end of the day, he's on the other side. We're going up against him. He's on an opposing team. So during the game, I mean, we're not going to be buddy-buddy."

Swannstrom has gotten the most out of his senior quarterback Jameson Wang. This season, Wang has thrown for 1,776 yards, 17 touchdowns and only three interceptions. A rushing threat as well, Wang has run for 314 yards and five touchdowns.

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Wellford Gorgeous private setting on 6 acres of heavy wooded grounds with professionally landscaped specimen trees & gardens with circular driveway & wrap around side driveway to a 4-car garage. Custom home is a one of a kind neighborhood by Stan Meyer which is neighboring a nature preserve that can never be built on. This custom home has a newer 30 yr shingle roof-2022. 3 newer skylights in the kitchen-2022, one of the HVAC systems was recently updated newer white oak hardwood flooring flows in the great room & family room & recently painted throughout. You enter the house through a large 2-story foyer with marble floors and a curved staircase. In the great room there is a brand new bar area with a soapstone countertop and sink with a waterstone faucet, floating oak shelving and antique mirror backsplash, all custom designed, with a new mini wine fridge in the cabinet and storage underneath. The Great room & family room share a double-sided gas fireplace, the office has custom built ins, along with the entry from having high ceilings. The large kitchen has Viking double wall ovens, stainless steel fridge, stainless steel cooktop, and new floor dishwasher. 4 burner cooktop with custom hood, eating area, pantry, granite countertops along with being open to the great room. The large primary bedroom has 2 walk-in-closets, a sitting area, private bathroom & its own balcony allowing you to relax while looking out at the beautiful backyard & pool. In addition, there are an additional 3 great sized bedrooms along with 2 full baths. The finished walkout basement has multiple areas for storage, with gray marble-look concrete flooring, two staircases, a full nature bathroom w/ walk-in shower & built in fire bench. There is custom molding throughout along with new longy posts along the driveway, & European light fixtures on the outside of the house. The custom backyard is an oasis of privacy with a multi-level concrete deck (you would deck with a staircase leading to the large inground granite pool. There is a custom screened-in porch off the kitchen overlooking the backyard with blue slate flooring. There is EP heavy duty power gates in backyard, plenty of space for bills or toys to run around and play. There is both normal and door fencing. There is a 25 cone sprinkler system that is fed by private well. ... Realistically priced at \$1,275,000

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SPORTS

EAGLES AT COWBOYS

Hunt progressing as a rookie pass rusher

By Olivia Reiner
Staff Writer

After a long workday of practice, weightlifting sessions, and meetings at the NovaCare Complex, Jalyx Hunt goes home, fires up YouTube, and immerses himself in more football.

The rookie outside linebacker pulls up pass rushes from around the league that week and hones in on techniques that he can emulate in practice, especially as he works to develop his power rush. He listed T.J. Watt, Nick and Joey Bosa, and Myles Garrett as some of the league's best who excel at putting their entire bodies behind their arms to generate force in their rushes.

For Hunt, poring over their clips is how he prefers to spend his free time.

"Might as well," Hunt said Thursday. "I like watching rushes. You love watching clean rushes when you win. You learn a lot from ones that you miss on."

This education is all part of Hunt's acclimation to the NFL, which has mostly occurred away from the game-day spotlight thus far. Hunt, the Eagles' third-round pick out of Houston Christian, has played just 17 defensive snaps total in three games out of the seven in which he's been active.

But Nick Sirianni hinted Wednesday that Hunt's usage could increase in the near future. Howie Roseman's inaction at the trade deadline backs up that notion, keeping the edge rushers group of Hunt, Josh Sweat, Bryce Huff, Brandon Graham, and Nolan Smith intact.

By not adding anyone to the unit, the Eagles general manager left the door open for Hunt to potentially assume a spot in the rotation.

"We'll see Jalyx getting into the mix as well," Sirianni said. "I think he's been doing a good job at practice to be able to go. So we feel like



Rookie Jalyx Hunt has made an impression on Nick Sirianni, who said Friday that Hunt could be in line for more playing time. David Maialetti / Staff Photographer

we have five guys in that rotation that can get after the passer, that can crush the edge on the run."

Practice has provided the 6-foot-3, 252-pound Hunt with the opportunity to build confidence in his rushes. For Hunt, it all starts with having a plan instead of figuring out his precise move at the top of his rush. He works with Eagles staffers Jeremiah Washburn, Connor Barwin, and Matt Leo to figure out which moves work best against offensive tackles the Eagles will face in the upcoming game. Hunt reps those moves throughout the week of practice.

Brett Toth, who faced Hunt in practice Thursday for the first time

this year as he worked in at tackle, can sense Hunt's comfort in his defensive role through the speed of his play.

"It's just like the eagerness out there," Toth said. "You can see guys that kind of take days off, kind of just trying to look out for their health going into Week 10. But for Jalyx especially feeling it [on Thursday], you can feel the eagerness to get better. The speed off the ball. Not trying to do the same move over and over. 'Cause today, in between speed rush, speed-to-power, cross chop, you can see him trying to work on multiple ones as opposed to just falling into the trap of what you're comfortable with."

While Hunt has a plan for his rushes, he's also learning to take what the offensive line gives him. Fred Johnson learned that the hard way in practice.

"He beat me on a couple reps where I overset him, he goes inside, and then sometimes I'll set too shallow or whatever, and he'll bull rush me," Johnson said. "He's just figuring it out, and I think he's doing a good job."

But Toth emphasized that the game environment is less controlled than the one created in practice, as offensive coordinators try to dictate the tempo in game action. It's imperative that edge rushers have a sense of whether

a play will be a run or a pass by keying in on different indicators, which members of the show team on the offensive line try to emulate in practice.

Still, even though Hunt's in-game experience at the NFL level is limited, Toth said the rookie is ready for a bigger role if called upon.

"For Jalyx, it would be going out there and, honestly, if he has a bad rep or if the tackle wins a rep, it's how he responds the next one," Toth said. "Using that rep not as a loss, but an influence into the next one. [If an offensive tackle] gets you on a jump set, being able to see his mannerisms at the line of scrimmage to know, oh, it's coming again, and making him pay on a quick move inside."

"So until he's out there, you really don't know. But I do think he has that in him, even from just seeing [on Thursday]. If I had a good rep on him, it's not like he's overthinking the play. He takes it to the next one."

Even with limited snaps, Hunt has taken advantage of his opportunities. He notched his first career strip-sack against the New York Giants in Week 7, coming unblocked off the edge to take down Drew Lock and knock the ball out of his hands in the process.

With nine games left in the regular season, Hunt is staying patient and poring into his preparation as he awaits another chance to get after the quarterback again.

"Soak in all the knowledge, and then be where I'm needed," Hunt said. "Whether that's my reps coming on special teams or my reps coming giving them looks, practice looks. Holding the bag and giving the best tackle set I can give them. So wherever I'm needed, whatever I can do to help them be prepared."

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Hurts

→ CONTINUED FROM B1

"rest," and Hurts when asked about it after a walk-through that day said: "I just do what I'm told."

The Eagles play Sunday in Dallas and won't return home until the wee hours of Monday morning. They then face a quick turnaround before hosting Washington on Thursday night in a game that could determine who heads into Week 12 as the NFC East leader.

Hurts was listed as a full participant on Thursday, and a rest day on Wednesday, while rare, didn't raise too many eyebrows. That is, until Friday.

The Eagles do have two players listed on the injury report this week

with ankle injuries: Mekhi Becton and Aini Smith. There are no other Jalens on the injury report. Defensive tackle Jalen Carter was on last week's report with a shoulder injury.

Hurts spent the opening portion of practice stretching on a side field along with trainers mostly out of view of cameras before jogging over to rejoin the rest of the Eagles quarterbacks during the part of practice open to media.

He didn't have any apparent taping over his cleats and took his usual spot in the group's throwing drills while the rest of the team went through stretches.

The Eagles try to keep injury

statuses close to the vest for competitive advantage, but the NFL does have specific rules about how injuries are to be reported and shared.

The league "requires that teams provide credible, accurate, and specific information about injured players to the league office, their opponents, local and national media, and the league's broadcast partners each week during the regular season and postseason."

There are punishments for not following those rules.

The 49ers were in the spotlight when the season started because of how they treated the reporting of Christian McCaffrey's injury

designation before their Week 1 game, but the league ultimately ruled that San Francisco had not violated the policy.

Last year, the Atlanta Falcons were fined \$75,000 and then-coach Arthur Smith was fined \$25,000 for violating the injury report policy. Running back Bijan Robinson was not listed on the injury report and barely played because of an illness.

Similar fines were handed out to the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2019 — \$75,000 for the team, \$25,000 for coach Mike Tomlin — when quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was, similarly to Hurts, listed on the practice report with a rest designation and ended up having an elbow

injury.

Injury report

The Eagles did not have any players on the active roster miss practice in any capacity Friday. Every player whose name appeared on the injury report this week was a full participant.

Only one player, Ben VanSumeren, is carrying an injury designation into Sunday's game. VanSumeren is questionable with a concussion.

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Kicker

→ CONTINUED FROM B1

about that a lot."

Aubrey played well for the Steel, who played in a nearly empty 16,000-seat football stadium at Lehigh University. He lost his starting job late in the season after being slowed by injuries, and the team lost in the playoffs to the eventual champion. The squad was filled with guys who would climb the soccer ladder, like South Jersey's Brenden Aaronson, who played for the United States in the 2022 World Cup, and John McCarthy, the goalie from Mayfair who was the MVP of the 2022 MLS Cup.

"We had a shared goal," Aubrey said. "All of us wanted to play at the next level."

The Steel dissolved after the season, the Union terminated Aubrey's contract, and he headed home to Texas. Aubrey passed on other USL offers, deciding that it was time to use his computer science degree and earn more money than he did playing soccer.

"I didn't really know if I really had the desire to chase it anymore with the likely possibility that I would never make it up to the MLS," Aubrey said. "And even if I made it to the MLS, I would've made less as a minimum-salary player there than I would've as a first-year software engineer."

Three months after his final soccer game, Aubrey was searching for software-engineer jobs and watching football with his wife. Aubrey was a huge fan, watched



Brandon Aubrey (right), during his final game with Bethlehem Steel in October of 2018. He retired from soccer later that year and started chasing a career in the NFL as a placekicker. Philadelphia Union

NFL RedZone every Sunday, and played fantasy football with his old soccer teammates. They saw a kicker miss a field goal, and his wife, Jenn, told Aubrey that he could do that.

"I didn't believe her at first," Aubrey said. "But I went with it."

He bought a football and a kicking tee the next day at a second-hand sporting goods store, went to a local field, and tried to see whether field goals were as easy as they seemed from the couch. He drilled them, booming it through the uprights from 60 yards out.

His wife was right.

"I had no form, and I was taking a long approach, but the theory was there," Aubrey said. "It was

like, 'Yeah, I can do this.' It gave me something to focus on and to grind toward and replace the itch that soccer had."

Aubrey searched on the internet for a coach who was offering a clinic nearby. The former professional soccer player was joined there by kids.

"I showed up not really thinking about what the market would be for kicking lessons," Aubrey said. "Then it was middle school and high schoolers and a couple of kids who were committed to [Division I] schools. It was a good batch of kids but still kids. I was like, 'I have nothing to lose.'"

He kicked with the kids and then

asked the instructor whether he thought he had a shot. Brian Egan, who kicked in college, told Aubrey that his leg could do it. He trained for nearly two years with Egan, meeting him in the afternoon after Aubrey left his cubicle at GM Financial in Arlington, Texas. The company let Aubrey — who still has a LinkedIn profile — start his shift early so he could practice his kicking before sunset.

Egan eventually told Aubrey that there was nothing more to learn. It was time for him to try and catch the attention of an NFL team. He traveled to various kicking combines — "Every vacation my wife and I took had to do with kicking," Aubrey said — and kept coming up empty.

Scouts loved his leg, but his story was far-fetched. An NFL team didn't feel comfortable just handing a job to a guy who never kicked in a game before and was working a 9 to 5. It wasn't a Tony Danza movie.

"They said they wouldn't give me an opportunity because 'You don't have game film, so we don't know if you can do it in a game,'" Aubrey said. "That was that."

Aubrey finally got his break when the United States Football League returned in 2022. The USFL's kicking tryout was organized by longtime NFL kicker John Carney, who kicked at Notre Dame and had become a connection for Aubrey.

Aubrey crushed the combine and signed a contract with the

league. But the teams were unsure. They had former NFL kickers to choose from. Who is this soccer guy? Carney told Skip Holtz, his old Notre Dame teammate and coach of the Birmingham Stallions, to give Aubrey a chance. Holtz drafted him.

"That's all I needed," Aubrey said. "It took about 3½ years. If the USFL never popped up, this probably would've never happened."

He told his bosses at GM Financial that he was leaving. They were thrilled. The guy in the cubicle was getting the chance to kick.

"They gave me a nice little going-away party and wished me luck," Aubrey said.

Aubrey played two seasons in the USFL and helped Birmingham win back-to-back championships. He signed with the Cowboys in July 2023, joining the team that plays home games just a short drive from his old office at GM Financial.

He wasn't guaranteed anything but a chance in training camp. And that's all he needed. He won the job, becoming an NFL kicker five years after his soccer dream ended. He was front of TV kicking field goals in front of 93,000 fans. To his old coach's surprise, it was the same guy.

"I almost fell out of my chair," Burke said. "I hadn't talked to him since he left Bethlehem. I had no idea."

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SPORTS

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Krieger's new life behind mic

The Penn St. grad retired from pro soccer last year and now works for ESPN.

By Jonathan Tannenwald
Staff Writer

It's no surprise to people who've known Ali Krieger for a while that she's made an easy move into broadcasting.

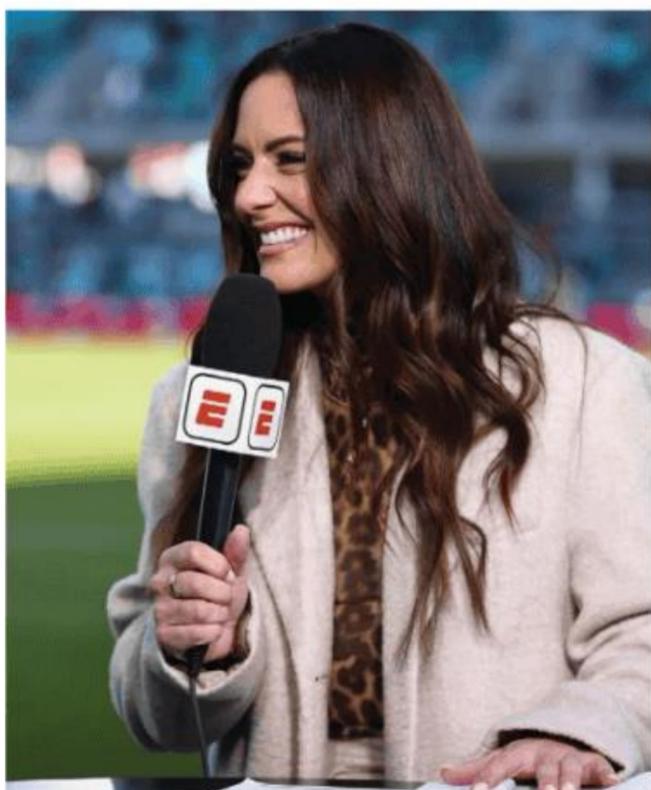
After ending her playing days by winning last year's NWSL championship with Gotham FC, the Penn State product (and current university trustee) started doing studio work with CBS. In March, ESPN hired her full time. On Sunday, she'll be a studio analyst for ABC's NWSL playoff quarterfinal doubleheader, with the Washington Spirit hosting Bay FC at 12:30 p.m. and Gotham hosting the Portland Thorns at 3 p.m.

"You have about 20 seconds to really make your point and hit your opinion, but I've found it to be amazing because I love just talking soccer anyway," Krieger told *The Inquirer*. "I think it's an easier transition after I retired.... It's such a different dynamic, not physically participating but just kind of analyzing and talking about it. I'm just getting used to it, and I'm getting better every time."

Krieger started doing some on-camera work while still an player with the Orlando Pride in 2021, working with MLS sibling Orlando City for team-produced content. But she knew well before then she might move to broadcasting some day, having been on camera so often as an U.S. national team stalwart.

"You get thrown in front of the camera since Day 1, and you start to learn and do all that media training where you just get kind of used to it," the now-40-year-old said. "I watch a lot of games too, so you get tidbits here and there. But I think it was always in the back of my mind that it would be a better fit."

Being in the spotlight has allowed her to take in the scale of her playing career, too: 2015 and 2019 World Cup titles with the U.S., that NWSL title with Gotham, and, way back in 2008, becoming the



ESPN hired Penn State alum and former U.S. women's soccer team star Ali Krieger earlier this year. Mikayla Schmidt

first American to win a European club championship with Germany's 1. FFC Frankfurt.

"I needed to kind of take some time away from the game a little bit," Krieger said. "I felt like I jumped into that right away, then I would have maybe burned out pretty quickly, and I think I just needed some time to do other things and be with my kids and prioritize myself. And kind of just look back and think about all the career moments that I had, and just kind of let that soak in and process what had just happened."

(That was, in part, a reference to her divorce last year from former U.S. teammate Ashlyn Harris after four years of marriage. They adopted two children, who live with Krieger in northern New Jersey.)

She would like to get into coaching some day, perhaps starting as a defense-focused assistant — naturally, since she played centerback

and outside back. For now, she said, broadcasting is "a good transition."

Stars across the playoffs

All four quarterfinals feature major attacking talent. First was Friday night's opener between the No. 1 Orlando Pride and No. 8 Chicago Red Stars (8 p.m., Prime Video), with Barbra Banda and Brazilian legend Marta for the hosts and U.S. star Mallory Swanson for the visitors.

Saturday's matchup of the No. 4. Kansas City Current and No. 5. North Carolina Courage (noon, CBS3) will have Kansas City's Temwa Chawinga, who broke the league's single-season scoring record with NWSL's first 20-goal campaign, facing North Carolina's young American Ashley Sanchez and Brazilian Kerolin.

Then comes Sunday, with No. 2 Washington's Trinity Rodman

first atop the marquee. Three years after she helped the Spirit win the 2021 title, the U.S. superstar and Colombian playmaker Leicy Santos will face a No. 7 Bay team that made the playoffs in its first season. Banda's Zambia teammate, Racheal Kundananji, carried the San Jose, Calif.,-based club into the postseason with two goals in the regular-season finale.

Last up is the most star-studded clash of all. No. 3 Gotham vs. No. 6 Portland pits Rose Lavelle, Lynn Williams, Crystal Dunn, and Esther González against Sophia Smith, Olivia Moultrie, and Canadian legend Christine Sinclair in her last postseason before retiring.

If you were to bet the chalk on all four games, you'd stand good odds of winning. Orlando finished 28 points ahead of Chicago in the standings, and Kansas City finished 16 points ahead of North Carolina. But Krieger expects at least one upset.

"Bay FC is actually in pretty good form, and I know D.C., they have excellent players — but they've been injury-prone a little bit here, and I don't know if everyone's going to be fully fit," she said. "Portland against Gotham, that is kind of a revenge game from last year's semifinal [a 1-0 Gotham win at Portland]. And also, you're fighting for Christine Sinclair. You don't want her to have this be her last game. You want to take her all the way to the final and see her go out on top, like Gotham did for me last year."

A new era on and off the field

It has been a big year for women's sports having spotlight platforms, from the WNBA to the Olympics. American women's soccer stars have long been familiar with such stages: the historic 1999 World Cup champs, the 2015 squad whose title-game win drew nearly 27 million viewers, the 2019 squad that triumphed after suing U.S. Soccer and clashing with then-and-President-elect Donald Trump.

Rodman and Smith are heading toward the marquee: both were on last year's World Cup squad and this year's Olympic gold medal-winner, and each already has

a NWSL title (Rodman in 2021, Smith in 2022). But they haven't yet reached the heights gained by Krieger, Megan Rapinoe, Alex Morgan, and the rest of that era.

Is that because of soccer's place in the U.S. landscape relative to basketball or because of something more? Krieger wondered if it's partially because the U.S. team's new era of players hasn't yet raised its voice off the field the way those of past eras have. It certainly got her team attention over time, often more than its results on the field.

"We've all had to use our platforms and fight a little bit more than maybe these younger generations have — which is supposed to happen, right? But it's also a choice to do that," Krieger said. "All those things that we kind of tacked on to our star power, using the platforms that we've had over the years, I think has kind of catapulted most of these players, like a Megan Rapinoe, to where she is now."

One can argue the new era of players doesn't have to be as outspoken because the national team has now achieved equal pay. They're also still young, Rodman at 22 and Smith at 24. Though Rapinoe was always outspoken (and still is), Morgan didn't step up until later in her career. Krieger admitted that she was the same.

"I don't necessarily think that a lot of the younger players are doing that currently," Krieger said. "Maybe they will in the future."

What is certain, though, is their talent. It started to show at the Olympics, and new U.S. manager Emma Hayes has shown in games since then that the talent pool is even deeper. Now Smith and Rodman have a moment to star with their clubs.

"They are already stars in their own right and known around the world as some of the best players that will ever play for the U.S. women's national team and football in general," Krieger said. "I'm so grateful that they're getting exactly what they deserve, because of a lot of the work that not only they put in every day, but that we've put in and paved the way for them."

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FLYERS

Hoping better starts set the tone for wins

By Jackie Spiegel
Staff Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Who wants to set the tone?

It's not just a line from the hockey comedy series *Shoresy*. It's a critical element of every game. Who wants to establish the way the team will play that night? For the Flyers, who will forecheck, keep the other team penned in, and set the tone for how the Flyers will play that night?

Center Sean Couturier, defensemen Travis Sanheim, and Jamie Drysdale have been ready, which is good because they were going in each of the past two games. Against the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday, it was Couturier centering Matvei Michkov and Tyson Foerster with the top pairing. On Thursday, it was Couturier between Travis Konecny and Owen Tippett, with the same blueliners.

The Flyers beat the Lightning, 2-1, in a shootout and lost, 6-4, to the Hurricanes but in each game, for the majority of the time, they just played better.

"I think that the biggest improvement we need to make as a team is our mindset, as far as being on our toes, and pinching," coach John Tortorella said after the win at Tampa Bay. "We've talked about it enough here the past couple of weeks, not letting teams dictate play to us. I think there's some guys there that, with TK and Tippett especially, who can skate and pressure pucks."

"It's not by design starting them ... but it's important when we start a game to get right into that type of style of game. Hopefully, we'll continue, [and] hopefully we'll stay consistent with it."

Being on one's toes is critical in any hockey game. And no, it's not just about where your feet are in your skates. It's about constantly moving, shifting, getting into lanes, and covering your teammates. It's about playing with some speed, forechecking, and being in the proper position while finding



John Tortorella is much happier with his team's starts the past two games. Yong Kim / Staff Photographer

the open ice.

"All I want us to do right now with this team is consistently be on our toes," Tortorella said Friday after the Flyers' quick practice in Fort Lauderdale. "I want us to take some chances. I want us to close out, even if you're over-aggressive and you give up an odd-man rush, I'd rather have it that way than us be in between. I still think there are some players that are still a little bit too safe. ... It's our mindset, I want us aggressively

thinking."

That's what they did on the first shift the past two games. They played aggressive. They closed out. They set the tone.

On Tuesday, Couturier won the opening faceoff and the Flyers got the puck deep. The trio then provided puck support as Sanheim not only pinched at the left point but continued down low to keep the pressure on. Foerster then created some havoc behind the net and got a wraparound chance

on his backhand in front before getting the puck up to Drysdale at the right point for another shot attempt. At the half-wall on the left wing, Couturier forechecked and Sanheim kept it in the zone.

The puck did not leave the Hurricanes' zone for 53 seconds.

Against the Lightning, Couturier again won the opening faceoff and Sanheim got the puck deep. Couturier bore down on Lightning defenseman Ryan McDonagh forcing him to play the puck up the

boards right to a waiting Konecny who sent it around the net. Sanheim came down the left boards as Tippett covered him at the point before the puck ended up a few seconds later on the stick of Drysdale at the right point.

This time the Flyers kept the Lightning in their end for 32 seconds.

But how does it set the tone? It shows the 13 guys on the bench, and especially the next line, how to play the right way. It sets the formula for the night.

"You want to continue to keep that going," forward Scott Laughton said. "Continue that pace and continue the good shifts."

It doesn't hurt that the captain was the main force establishing the Flyers' style of play in the last two games — two games where, again, they played much better.

"I wouldn't say I sent the message or talked it out loud but it's definitely something that we want to establish our game from the start," Couturier said. "If I get the start, whoever gets the start, needs to get the momentum on our side and get going. We don't want to sit back and wait to get into it."

"Yeah, these were two great starts but we just got to keep going."

Breakaways

Tortorella did not commit to Michkov getting back into the lineup Saturday against the Florida Panthers (6 p.m., NBCSP). "When he goes back in we'll see," he said Friday. "Again, as I said the other day, it's part of the process, and we'll just take it day by day." ... Goalie Sam Ersson and defenseman Cam York participated in practice Friday. York stayed on after for extra work. ... Goalie Aleksei Kolosov did not skate. ... Tortorella was not sure who his starting goalie would be Saturday as he did not have a medical update on Sam Ersson or Kolosov.

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SPORTS



Gavin Sidwar and La Salle College have a high-stakes game against St. Joseph's Prep on Saturday. Tyger Williams / Staff Photographer

La Salle has one obstacle to playoffs

By Aaron Carter
Staff Writer

No matter what happens on the field when bitter rivals La Salle College High and St. Joseph's Prep meet Saturday, Gavin Sidwar likely won't get rattled.

In some ways, the 6-foot-3, 190-pound La Salle junior quarterback with a rocket for a right arm has been preparing for this moment since before he could crawl.

"He was a baby that could just sit up in diapers," Sidwar's father, Bryan, said in a phone interview. "He took a Matchbox car, sitting on his butt, and fired it across two rooms into a wall.

"My wife [Tara] was like, 'No, we don't throw in the house, Gavin.' And I was like, 'No, maybe we do throw in the house!' I put a foam ball in his hand, and I was like, 'Throw it again!' He's been throwing ever since."

Sidwar, who finished the regular season with 2,487 passing yards, 29 touchdowns, and five interceptions on 71% passing, seems to possess all the skills a quarterback could need.

"As a former quarterback and quarterback coach," said his coach, Brett Gordon, a hall of fame quarterback at La Salle College High School and Villanova, "accuracy in my opinion, is the most important aspect of throwing the football, and Gavin does it as well as anybody I've ever seen."

Some skills have come naturally. Others have been hard-earned, while still others were born from techniques borrowed from the fathers of famous athletes.

Sidwar likely will need them all against the Prep at Wissahickon High School at 1 p.m. Saturday in a PCL Class 6A classification game. The winner continues to the PIAA playoffs. The loser's season is over.

This season, La Salle won its first Catholic League title since 2021, finishing undefeated (10-0, 6-0).

The Prep (6-2, 4-1) suffered its only league loss in the Oct. 5 contest in which La Salle needed a desperate two-point conversion in the fourth overtime to win, 35-34.

La Salle receiver Joey O'Brien found fellow junior Desmond Ortiz after the Explorers' attempt at recreating the Eagles' famed "Philly Special" fell flat.

The poise O'Brien wielded during that sequence was what Bryan Sidwar has been nurturing within his son for years.

Bryan played safety at Berwick under legendary coach George

Curry, who died in 2016 at age 71.

Curry, who earned coach of the year honors 28 times during his 46-year career, coached 12 teams that finished the regular season undefeated.

Curry's Bulldogs once had a 47-game winning streak from 1981 to 1985. Curry, who played football at Temple, also led the Bulldogs to USA Today national championships in 1983, 1992, and 1995.

Bryan Sidwar won two state titles in three years under Curry before graduating in 1996.

Among Curry's most notable lessons, Bryan said, was about having mental toughness.

So when Gavin Sidwar told his dad that he wanted to let go of baseball and focus on football at around 12 years old, Bryan trained his son with tips gleaned from the fathers of other athletes.

"I actually would read up on Tiger Woods' dad," Bryan said. "I'd read up on Bryce Harper's dad. I would read up on a lot of these people's dads that were able to identify they had really talented kids and then see what they were doing differently."

When father and son threw in the backyard, fundamental form always was essential. Eventually, Bryan also added distractions the way Earl Woods famously dropped clubs, jiggled change, or coughed during his son's backswing.

"Think about me standing right against your shoulder looking into your ear hole," Bryan said. "I would just be that close to him and he still had to make a throw. And sometimes I'm going to push you. Sometimes I'm not. So you're going to get hit sometimes and sometimes you're not. Or I'd have his brother run into him."

When push comes to shove on Saturday, that poise under pressure might serve Sidwar well.

It already seems to inform the maturity with which he's approaching Saturday's contest. Before the Explorers won last month, the Hawks had dominated La Salle the previous three seasons.

"It's a rivalry," Sidwar said. "I mean, yeah, it's a big game. We know what's at stake. It's win or go home. But it wasn't really a rivalry until we won. That's what we said this year. It's not a rivalry until we win. They're a great team, great program, but our goal is just to win each week. So we're not going to make it bigger than it is. We just want to go out and win."

"I became a student of the game and saw football in a different light, especially when you have a dad who's played in the NFL, it definitely helps."

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How Sacca became the QB of St. Joe's Prep's defense

By Isabella DiAmore
Staff Writer

Anthony Sacca vividly remembers the first varsity football game he played in a St. Joe's Prep uniform.

Then a freshman safety, Sacca's name was called midway through the first quarter against Catholic League rival La Salle College High School in 2021. He stayed on the field till the final minute, but the Hawks wouldn't be walking away with a win.

"At first, I didn't understand the magnitude of what happened," Sacca said of the team's 28-21 loss to the Explorers. "Before that, they hadn't lost to them in seven years. There were a lot of tears shed in that locker room, a lot of tears shed on the field after that game."

Three years later, he gets it.

The senior captain, the son of former NFL and Penn State quarterback Tony Sacca who's committed to Notre Dame, felt accountable for its recent 35-34, four-overtime loss to La Salle. It was the first time the Hawks lost to La Salle since that 2021 game.

Sacca transitioned to linebacker his junior year, and coach Tim Roken refers to him as "the quarterback of our defense."

He takes the blame if someone isn't lined up correctly or messes up, but he also knows that he sets the tone for the rest of the defense, which is why he's putting the Oct. 5 matchup behind him. Sacca and the Hawks have a chance at redemption on Saturday at Wissahickon High School.

"It was definitely a tough loss. Nobody wants to lose the way that we lost," said Sacca, who has recorded 3½ sacks, 47 total tackles, and a forced fumble this season. "It [stank] for about two hours after the game. But you got to go to bed, wake up the next morning, and reset."

"We watch the film, then we close the notebook. ... There's always heightened emotions around this game because it's a rivalry game, but I feel like we've done a really good job at getting prepared."

He's been doing his part. Since Sacca was a kid, he remembers spending most of his downtime watching film and drawing plays, those habits haven't changed. The Delran native played quarterback throughout his youth football career, which started at age 6. He played other sports as well, including basketball and baseball. But nothing really compared to his love for football, and he thanked his dad for that.

"I kind of always wanted to be like my dad," he said. "I remember hearing all these great stories from my aunts, uncles, and grandparents talking about how awesome my dad was in high school. That's something that I really wanted to chase. We both really bonded over football, like every Saturday and Sunday, waking up watching college and NFL football together right before I would head over to Summer Hill [Sports Complex] and go play in some games."

"I became a student of the game and saw football in a different light, especially when you have a dad who's played in the NFL, it definitely helps."



Prep linebacker Anthony Sacca is headed to Notre Dame. Jose F. Moreno / Staff Photographer

Tony Sacca was a standout at Delran High School and later was inducted into the school's hall of fame. He was a four-year starter at Penn State and was drafted in the second round by the then-Phoenix Cardinals (now Arizona) in 1992, and spent one season in the league. He then played two seasons with the Barcelona Dragons of the World League of American Football.

Once his professional career ended, he moved back to the Delran area and was involved in the high school coaching scene for many years, which included stops at Pennsauken, Willingboro, and Burlington City, where he currently works as a physical education teacher.

"I don't coach anymore because it's really just following my son around at this point," Tony Sacca said. "That's where my focus is. ... For me, it's the greatest thing that could ever happen to have your son have similar success like you did, and hopefully a lot more than I did."

For the most part, Tony Sacca took a hands-off approach when it came to coaching his son on the field. Though, he did coach a season of his son's sixth-grade team, and some nights Anthony left those practices walking home.

"I would get [ticked] off that he yelled at me at practice," Anthony Sacca said. "We had typical run-ins you would have with a 12-year-old and their father. It was a learning experience, growing experience, and for the most part, we had a good time."

After that year, he joined the Pennsauken Youth Athletic Activities. Tony Sacca is friendly with Derek McCord, who played quarterback at Rutgers and lives in Mount Laurel. His son, Prep grad Kyle, now a quarterback at Syracuse, competed in the league, and McCord said it would prepare Anthony "to go play big-time high school football."

Through the McCord family, the Saccas also became familiar with St. Joe's Prep, and decided to send Anthony there, but Roken saw Anthony's immediate potential on the defensive side of the field and didn't have an opportunity for him at quarterback.

"He's an unbelievable athlete," Roken said. "Just being coachable, going out, correcting the mistakes that he made the day before, and getting better each and every single week. At some point, the conversation became what is best

for our defense and what is best for him and his future — he was being recruited as a linebacker."

Anthony was glad to make the switch. Playing quarterback, he said, was a lot of pressure and took the fun out of the game at times. It was "the biggest relief of my life."

He also felt more confident on defense, and eventually as he went from a 6-foot-4, 185-pound freshman to a 6-6, 240-pound senior, Sacca grew out of the safety position and had moved up to linebacker.

"Midway through my junior year, I kind of started hitting my stride," he said. "I would take on the role of getting the defense lined up. Not just worrying about myself, but worrying about the guys around me."

College coaches took notice of Sacca early on. His first scholarship offer came from Temple his freshman year, but of his 18-plus Division I offers, Sacca narrowed his options to Duke, Wisconsin, Ohio State, Alabama, and Notre Dame, to which he announced his commitment in March.

And Penn State did offer him a scholarship. But the Fighting Irish seemed to be the best landing spot, Anthony Sacca said, considering coach Marcus Freeman's defensive mind and his relationship with former Temple coach Al Golden, who's the defensive coordinator of the Fighting Irish.

"If you ask middle-school Anthony Sacca if he had an offer from Penn State, would he go there?" He would say "Yes," Sacca said. "Then if you asked him as a sophomore in high school, he probably say, 'I'd have to think about it. My dad never put pressure on me to going to Penn State. He was completely hands off — he's like, 'Go where you want to go.'"

The stakes are high on Saturday, the winner will continue its post-season play for a PIAA Class 6A championship and face Imhotep Charter or Lincoln in the District 12 title game. But Anthony Sacca is ready for the moment. Roken, his Prep teammates, and, most importantly, his dad have helped prepare him for it.

"The goal is just stay together one more week," Anthony Sacca said. "This could possibly be our last week together. Playing for our seniors is a big message. ... We write our own chapter. We want to go out the right way."

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Nelson

→ CONTINUED FROM B1

players because David Duke Jr. had just signed a two-way deal with the San Antonio Spurs and multiple others were out with illness.

"He's like, 'Nah, we're going to be fine, and everything's going to work out,'" Longabardi told The Inquirer. "And it did. That's where, to me, just being in those experiences, obviously you can't put a price on it. ..."

"His confidence is extremely high, but his poise is what stands out. He never overreacts."

Former Blue Coats coach Coby Karl, meanwhile, loved swapping stories about the late Kobe Bryant and legendary coach Phil Jackson with Nelson, yet appreciated that he also could dive into more difficult conversations. Former forward Darius Bazely said that whenever Nelson dropped by last season, "it's not like headmistress is coming in and we're all [on our] Ps and Qs. It helps with the culture." Jeff Downtin Jr. added that Nelson sent an "any-advice-you-need" text when he joined the Sixers and Blue Coats on a two-way contract last season, and then received real-time tidbits

from him on opponent schemes during halftimes of games.

"For him to just reach out, first and foremost," Downtin said, "and say things like that, it means a lot to me to have somebody that's in my corner. Somebody that I can talk to, somebody that I can ask questions if I don't know and he can give me the rundown in certain situations. Just somebody that you can look up to."

On the court, Nelson prioritizes positional versatility, rather than prototypical guards, forwards, and centers. That meshes with the G League's tandem goals of individual player development and winning, which must be achieved with constantly fluctuating rosters as players float back and forth to the Sixers or get picked up by other NBA teams. The Blue Coats advanced to the playoffs' second round last spring.

That success also requires recruitment and building trust with agents. Nelson regards persuading Bazely, a former first-round pick now playing overseas, to join the Blue Coats last season as one of his initial front-office wins. Later, the

previously undrafted Council had his two-way contract converted to a standard four-year NBA deal, while Downtin's two-way also was converted for the end of the 2023-24 before he signed another two-way for this season. Last March, Bazely and fellow former Blue Coat Kenneth Lofton Jr. were signed by the Utah Jazz on late-in-season deals.

"There's a ton of scouts from other teams that call," Nelson said. "And you already know when somebody's going to get taken, because they're playing so well. It's like 'Gah,' but [we are] able to have those relationships because of the success, and because of just being real and transparent with the agents, like, 'This is what I see.'"

Nelson always secretly hoped he could play for his hometown Sixers, a dream he is unsure his family even realized existed. His current job is another way of fulfilling that, estimating about 20 loved ones come out to Wilmington for each Blue Coats home game.

He also feels supported by the "big club." Sixers coach Nick Nurse's wide-ranging career includes a seven-year stint in the

G League (then the D-League), including winning the 2011 championship with the Iowa Energy. Much of Nurse's staff — including Karl, who is now a Sixers assistant — took similar paths. That means Nurse welcomes conversations with Nelson about when younger players — which this season could include rookie guard Jared McCain, and two-way players Downtin, Justin Edwards, and Lester Quinones — could get time with the Blue Coats. Nelson also sits in on meetings helmed by Brand and president of basketball operations Daryl Morey and is appreciative when they ask for his opinion.

"I bounce things off of everyone that's in the front office," Nelson said. "For me, it's just about learning as much as I can, continue to grow ... I have a unique role and perspective. I'm not sure every general manager of a minor league team, whatever sport, is as involved as I've been allowed to be involved by Daryl and EB over the last few years."

That's why Nelson was with the Sixers for training camp in the Bahamas, along with much

of the Blue Coats' staff. At one point during the week, he stepped away to acquire the rights of guard Armoni Brooks in a trade, a reminder of the logistics of his roster-building responsibilities. Nelson also spent time with the young players on two-way and Exhibit 10 deals, observing how they handled sharing the same floor as All-Stars Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey, and Paul George, and took in information from the Sixers' coaching staff before heading to Wilmington to prepare for the Blue Coats' season.

And Nelson still occasionally grabbed a ball to fire those post-practice shots. After three consecutive misses inside an Atlantis Resort ballroom one day, Quinones playfully asked if Nelson's still got it.

It represented Nelson's transition from player to this front-office path — by being himself.

"I accept the challenge," Nelson said. "I accept the role, and I love it."

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OBITUARIES



JanSport cofounders Murray McCory and Jan Peterson circa 1968. They married the next year, after meeting as students at the University of Washington in Seattle. Family photo

Murray McCory, 80, JanSport cofounder and backpack creator

By Harrison Smith
Washington Post

Murray McCory, a free-spirited outdoorsman who cofounded the rugged gear and pack company JanSport, designed a widely imitated dome tent, and created a durable but lightweight backpack that revolutionized the way students carry books, died Oct. 7 at a hospital in Seattle. He was 80.

The cause was complications from congestive heart failure, said his daughter, Heidi Van Brost.

A Seattle-area native who grew up hiking, camping, and tinkering with industrial equipment in his father's auto shop, Mr. McCory was studying at the University of Washington when he entered a 1967 design competition sponsored by the company Alcoa. Tasked with creating a marketable product using aluminum, he came up with an adjustable aluminum-frame backpack with flexible joints, designed to move with the body as a person hiked, crouched, or climbed. He won.

Mr. McCory's pack was lighter and more versatile than existing backpacks made with wooden or welded-metal frames. Later that year, he capitalized on news coverage of his design and started JanSport out of the top floor of his father's transmission repair shop.

The company, which later shortened its name to one word, was named after Mr. McCory's cofounder and then-girlfriend, fellow UW student Janis "Jan" Peterson, who had used her mother's home sewing machine to do the stitching for his award-winning pack.

While still in college, the couple began developing a catalog's worth of gear, creating sleeping bags, jackets, tents, and snowshoes that were inspired by their adventures — and occasional mishaps — in the Cascade Range outside Seattle.

"When we needed something, we made it," said Peterson, now known as Jan Lewis, who recalled that the duo often put up a sign in their office window: "Closed: In the Mountains Product Testing."

Mr. McCory, who was then known as Murray Pletz, focused on the design side, at times consulting local climbers and guides such as Lou Whittaker, who went on to lead expeditions to the Himalayas. Lewis, whom Mr. McCory married in 1969, handled the sewing and selected fabrics, shaping the look of backpacks that were offered in a psychedelic floral pattern or featured a hefty front pocket emblazoned with the Stars and Stripes. Mr. McCory's father pitched in as well, creating tools that JanSport used to manufacture pack frames. By 1970, Mr. McCory's cousin Skip Yowell had also joined the company, developing a focus on sales and marketing.

"There was no business plan," Yowell recalled in a 2006 memoir, *The Hippie Guide to Climbing the Corporate Ladder & Other*

Mountains. "We had no special training. We had even less money. We didn't even have a store. All we had was Murray's innovative design, Jan's skill, my creative instincts and love of people, and a shared affinity for Dylan music and beer."

The company's rise coincided with a surge of interest in camping and the outdoors, as families and young people flocked to the woods, rivers and mountains.

But JanSport became better known for its school backpacks than its alpine gear. The company was widely credited with helping bring an end to an era when students would lug their books around in a single-strap satchel or simply carry them by hand, clutching paperbacks or heavy textbooks that were often tied together with a leather belt or loop of fabric.

That hand-held method could be especially frustrating in Seattle, where it often rained. So in 1970, while still students, Mr. McCory and his wife pitched the University of Washington bookstore on a new "bookstore model" of their nylon daypack.

The bag — which had been designed for hiking, skiing and biking trips but was wide enough to hold books — had nylon zippers, an adjustable waist belt and a large outside pocket for smaller items. Crucially, it also had a reinforced, water-resistant bottom made of vinyl.

The bookstore was thrilled, Lewis recalled in an email, and ran an ad for the bags on the back of local buses. "When we first saw a bus with the ad, Murray and I looked at each other and he said, 'This is going to be big!'"

The store sold more than 400 of the backpacks in the first three months, and in 1971 the packs were brought out for wide release as the University Bookstore Rucksack. Over the next few years, Mr. McCory refined the bag further, making the opening wider and adding a leather patch — an aesthetic signature that was initially intended to hold a strapped-on umbrella, raincoat, or trekking pole.

Mr. McCory's backpack was released a few years after another lightweight nylon pack designed by the Colorado company Gerry. But the JanSport design became ubiquitous, taking off in college bookstores across the Pacific Northwest before finding a mass market nationwide and inspiring competitors like L.L. Bean to launch lightweight backpacks of their own. Day packs accounted for half of JanSport's sales in 1985, and by 2015 the company was reportedly selling 8 million backpacks a year.

The oldest of three brothers, Murray John Pletz was born in Shoreline, a Seattle suburb, on July 15, 1944. His mother made oil paintings and watercolors, and his father spent part of his free time building a miniature hydroplane boat that Murray raced on Lake

Washington.

Mr. McCory traced his love of the outdoors to childhood summers spent at his grandparents' cabin on Lake Cavanaugh, and to years he spent in the Boy Scouts. By 1970, he was working on JanSport full time, after graduating from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in industrial design.

Starting out, he and his wife also ran an antique business called Pokeweed, which they closed down — keeping the antiques for themselves — as orders grew for JanSport backpacks. The company remained a family business after the birth of their first child, Heidi, who was brought to the office in a travel bed and watched over by Mr. McCory's mother, who did the bookkeeping.

While the company was initially known for its aluminum-frame backpacks, it found increasing success in the early 1970s after manufacturing a free-standing dome tent. Designed by Mr. McCory, the tent was modeled after an igloo and inspired by a cross-country ski trip in which his traditional A-frame tent was ripped apart in a snowstorm. A dome shape, he concluded, was far more likely to survive in those conditions.

"We tested on Rainier in variable 80-mph winds," Mr. McCory told Backpacker magazine in 1973. "A wind tunnel just can't tell you what your tent will do in a real wind."

Although dome tents are now a camping staple, the design was never patented by JanSport. The company had been sold in 1972 to the ski manufacturer K2, which didn't want to pay for a patent, according to Mr. McCory's family. JanSport is now owned by VF, a Denver-based apparel and footwear company that also owns the brands North Face, Timberland and Vans.

Mr. McCory's marriage ended in divorce in 1979. He changed his surname around that time, coming up with McCory because he didn't like the way Pletz sounded and "was feeling like a change was necessary," his daughter said. His second marriage, to Becky Morris, also ended in divorce.

In addition to his daughter, Heidi Van Brost, survivors include a son from his first marriage, Jeremy McCory; a stepson, Neal Bishop; and five grandchildren.

Mr. McCory left JanSport in the early 1980s, amid an economic downturn, and went on to design outdoor apparel for brands including Helly Hansen, while continuing to hike and ride horses and motorcycles. Tired of the Seattle rain, he moved east of the Cascades to Tonasket, Wash., where he worked as a grant writer and helped secure funding for an Okanogan County rail trail, creating opportunities for biking and hiking along the Similkameen River.

"Throughout his life, he was making sure that this gift of nature was being preserved for the future," his daughter said.

Elwood Edwards, voice of AOL's 'You've got mail'

By John Seewer
Associated Press

Elwood Edwards, who voiced America Online's ever-present "You've got mail" greeting, has died. He was 74.

He died Tuesday at his home in New Bern, N.C., said his daughter Heather Edwards. The cause was complications from a stroke late last year, she said.

Mr. Edwards taped his AOL greeting in 1989 into a recorder while sitting in the living room of his home. "You've got mail" became a pop culture catchphrase in the late 1990s and served as the title of the 1998 Tom Hanks-Meg Ryan film.

"He would still blush anytime someone brought it up," his daughter said. "He loved the attention, but he never got used to it."

He was also the voice of AOL's "Welcome," "Goodbye," and "File's done" messages. He made \$200 from the recordings.

He got the gig while working at an independent TV station in Washington, D.C. His second wife, Karen, was a customer service representative for the internet provider that later became known as AOL. She heard the company was looking for someone to be the voice of its software and suggested her husband.

"They were so impressed, they didn't have him go in a recording booth," his daughter said.

While few people knew his face, his voice was heard by millions of people each day.

"For a while, America Online was keeping it a secret, making me a man of mystery. But finally it was released, and there you go," Mr. Edwards said in 1999.

He did appear on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* in 2015 to repeat the famous catchphrase, smiling broadly and chuckling as the studio audience cheered. He also added his voice to an episode of *The Simpsons* in 2000.

Mr. Edwards first worked in radio and then moved into television. He had a brief stint as a weatherman and worked as an announcer, but mostly he spent his time behind the camera, Heather Edwards said.

"He would say, 'I have a face for radio,'" she said, adding that her dad "always had a ready smile anytime you'd see him."

He later worked at WKYC-TV in Cleveland as a "graphics guru, camera operator, and general jack-of-all-trades," the station said. Mr. Edwards also did freelance voice-over work for radio and television commercials.

Survivors include another daughter, Sallie Edwards; granddaughter Abbie Edwards; and a brother, Bill.

Funeral Announcements

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COOPER
DONALD



On November 7, 2024, Don Cooper, loving husband, devoted father, and friend passed away at age 88. He was born on June 16th, 1936, to Morris and Esther Cooper in West Phila. Don attended West Phila. High School where he met his beautiful and his love Judy Goldfarb. Don and Judy formed a successful Latin dance team that taught and performed in the Phila. area at weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, and clubs. They also performed at many of the famous resorts in the Catskills. Don continued his education at Temple Univ. School of Pharmacy. Soon after graduation, he and Judy were married in 1958. They were married for 58 years until June 16th, 2017, when Judy passed away. Don had a successful career in Pharmacy starting with Burlington Pharmacy in NJ. He later was asked by then Frankford Hospital to build 2 pharmacies at their campuses. He became Director of Outpatient Pharmacy and created a new type of specialty pharmacy. The business was sold to Priority Healthcare (a NASDAQ company) and Don became a vice president until his retirement in 2003. After Judy's passing, Don later met Susan Luper in Florida and found a happy life in Boynton Beach, FL, Warwick, PA, and Margate, NJ. He is survived by Susan and his loving daughter, Lisa. Relatives and friends are invited to Funeral Services Sunday 11:45 A.M. precisely at GOLDSTEIN'S ROSENBERG'S FUNERAL DIRECTORS SUBURBAN NORTH, 310 2nd Street Pike, Southampton. Int. Roosevelt Memorial Park. Please make any contributions to the Penn Foundation, 807 Lawn Ave., Sellersville, PA 18960, www.pennfoundation.org.

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GARONZIK
ARNON ELL, ESQ.



November 7, 2024 of Cherry Hill, NJ. Husband of Nancy D. Gold, Esq. Father of David (Melissa) Garonzik and Sarah (Justin) Ross. Grandfather of Foster Garonzik, Carson Garonzik, Lyla Ross and Theodora Ross. Brother of Elan Garonzik (Steve Palmer) and Ronnie (Shuli) Garonzik. Relatives and friends are invited Sunday, November 10th, beginning 11:30 A.M. to PLATT MEMORIAL CHAPELS, Inc. 2001 Berlin Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ where Funeral Services will begin promptly at 12:00 noon. Contributions may be made to Samaritan Healthcare & Hospice, www.samaritannj.org or the Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer Research, www.lustgarten.org or JNF, www.jnf.org.

Platt
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S. ROSEANN QUINN, SSJ

Formerly S. Joan Rosaire, on October 21, 2024, at the age of 83. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Catherine (nee Riley) Quinn, her brothers Leonard, James, and Timothy Quinn and her sisters Anastasia Sillett, Susan Dawson, and Cathy Hazzard. She is survived by her brothers Michael, Kevin, Dennis, Phillip, and Sean Quinn and her sisters Mary Ellen Brown, Regina Igo, and Anne Vanneman, nieces, nephews, and members of her Congregation, the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Visitation by relatives and friends will begin at 9:30 A.M. on Monday, November 11th at Saint Joseph Villa in Flourtown. A Funeral Mass will follow at 10:30 A.M. Services will be live-streamed from the Saint Joseph Villa website www.stjosephvilla.org. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Sister's name to Saint Joseph Villa, 110 W. Wissahickon Ave., Flourtown, PA 19031. Condolences may be shared at www.kollerfuneralhome.com

<p>Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Funeral Directors Eileen Norman Perice, Supervisor</p>	<p>Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Funeral Directors Suburban North Bruce Goldstein, Supervisor</p>
<p>Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Funeral Directors Ambler Robert Weinstein, Supervisor</p>	<p>Goldsteins' Rosenberg's Funeral Directors Conshohocken Brett Schwartz, Supervisor</p>
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LIFE & CULTURE



Donald Trump and his wife, Melania, attend an election-night party in West Palm Beach, Fla., early Wednesday morning. Jabin Botsford/Washington Post

Trump won. I'm packing my cape and leaving the fight to others

By Elizabeth Wellington
Staff Columnist



The election of Donald J. Trump as the 47th president of the United States hurt my soul.

I thought America was serious about her ideals. She's not. I thought she learned her lesson after Trump was elected in 2016. She didn't.

America reelected a convicted felon. America reelected a man who urged his supporters to bum-rush the Capitol. America reelected a man who promised to seek revenge against those who opposed him. America voted a sex offender into its highest office.

America doesn't care. So now, neither do I.

I'm folding up my Superwoman cape. I'm putting it away and tucking it into my hope chest. I can't worry about America anymore. I can't help save the democracy. Democracy made its choice. And it wasn't for the good of all of her people.

It was in service of one man.

A lot of you are happy. Pennsylvania picked Trump. He received more statewide votes than any Republican candidate in history, a performance fueled by working-class voters including majority-Latino communities and Rust Belt areas. One out of five Philadelphians voted for Trump. Pockets matter more than mean, violent rhetoric. Cheap food matters more than felonies. Lower gas prices matter more than women's reproductive rights.

Fascism matters more than democracy.



Vice President Kamala Harris and President Joe Biden at a campaign event Sept. 2 in Pittsburgh. Jeff Swensen/Washington Post

What about souls? What about the soul of America?

Despite all that Black women have endured at the hands of this country — enslavement, rape, unequal wages, and maternal health disparities, just to name a few — we thought goodness had a shot. We rallied behind Kamala Harris. We believed she could win. We thought the best of America would prevail.

How could it not? Trump was impeached twice. He treated COVID-19 like it was a harmless cold. Harris, a district attorney, California senator, and the vice president of the United States, was qualified. She embodied what it meant to be a true, hardworking American.

She had an annoying laugh. He had 34 felony counts.

America's moral compass would win. It had to win.

It didn't. It's over. America made up its mind. Time to settle in for another tumultuous four years.

All of us — Black women and white women, gay and straight, old and young — who really believed in the power of democracy, the good of America, the hope of her future, all of us who believed that America couldn't — or wouldn't — make the same fool-headed decision again, should sit back, pour a glass of wine, watch a Hallmark movie, and let this drama play itself out.

This is not our problem. This is who America is. This is who she wants to be.

I pray hotheaded Trump doesn't start World War III. I pray his wild

economic policies that include not taxing overtime and tips and slapping tariffs on goods made in China don't sink us into an economic depression rivaling the 1930s.

It's out of my hands now. I accept it. This is what radical acceptance is — the ability to accept things outside of my control without judging them in order to reduce suffering. It is what it is.

In her concession speech, Harris asked her supporters to accept the results of the election. I do. She promised that the light will remain if we don't give up and keep fighting.

I won't give up. I'll keep fighting. But not now, not for this America. My light has been dimmed. If I want to see it shine bright again, I must take care of myself.

I'm turning my energy inward.

Don't ask me to rant and rally. Don't ask me to picket. Take your pussy hat back.

I don't care if you don't think Black lives matter. I know they do. I'm preserving my Black life. I'm focusing on my Black job.

I suggest that all of us — especially Black women — do the same. Girl, meditate, start your business, write your book, stop putting your dreams on hold. America doesn't want our help. Let her work this mess out on her own.

We no longer have a choice.

We can only follow our dreams. Put ourselves first. And put our capes away.

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LIFE & CULTURE

inquirer.com/life

The scorching hot chicken scene in Philly is showing no sign of a chill

By Michael Klein
Staff Writer

To see a food trend on fire, head to Northeast Philadelphia and drive west on Cottman Avenue from Roosevelt Boulevard.

It's home to what may be the city's highest concentration of hot chicken shops per square mile.

This chicken alley starts just beyond a gas station on the edge of Roosevelt Mall's parking lot, where you'll see a former shipping container painted flaming red with "Asad's Hot Chicken" in huge white letters. There will be a line of people at the window — there's always a line outside Asad's, a local chain.

Continue a few blocks, and more shops come into view. Next to the library on the left is a new building advertising Hot Clucks, another local chain. On the next block is yet another local, Nanu's. Also on that block are the nationally known Popeyes, Tex's Chicken & Burgers, and Jollibee. Ten minutes away on Frankford Avenue is a new OK Hot Chicken, an offshoot of local restaurants in Olney and South Philadelphia. A block from OK, national chain Hangry Joe's is planning its sixth location in the region.

Fried chicken sandwiches are not new to Philadelphia. We've had twice-fried Korean chicken for at least a decade, and they formed the basis of Federal Donuts & Chicken. Southern-style sandwiches began a national surge in 2020 when Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen rolled them out, and the trend heated up during the takeout and delivery spike that defined the pandemic.

Today's popular poultry product is hot chicken — specifically, sandwiches styled after Nashville hot chicken.

The national leader, the fast-growing Dave's Hot Chicken, has surpassed 200 locations in the United States and Middle East since opening in 2017 in an East Los Angeles parking lot. Its first Philadelphia store, the first of four so far in the region, opened earlier this year.

Locally, the trend can be traced to summer 2022, when Asad Khan, a then-23-year-old clothing manufacturer who enjoyed hot chicken during a trip to California, opened his first takeout at Cottman and the Boulevard. He signed on with third-party delivery services, fired up his social media, and watched the lines grow outside Asad's Hot Chicken, which now has 10 locations in Pennsylvania and South Jersey.

Then came the competitors, notably Nanu's, which opened last year and now has nine locations in the region, and Hot Clucks, which opened its first shop in



Asad Khan opened his first takeout at Cottman and the Boulevard. Asad's Hot Chicken now has 10 locations in Pennsylvania and South Jersey. Michael Klein / Staff

Germantown last year.

The homegrown companies like Asad's, Nanu's, OK, and OMG (another upstart) are scaling as they grow, relying on extended families for efficient labor, setting up commissaries, and buying chicken — whose prices have moderated after a few spikes — in bulk.

Khan, of Asad's, said he was unsure exactly why hot chicken sandwiches took off around Cottman and the Boulevard. "People thought [hot chicken] was a trend, I guess, and started opening them," he said, suggesting a chicken-and-egg scenario.

One theory, supported by OK owner Berry The, is that the local chains, which all serve halal hot chicken, are catering to a growing Muslim population in lower Northeast Philadelphia.

"When I made the recipe, I wanted to make it for everyone, not just one group," said Khan, who grew up nearby.

Asad's, with its 203,000 followers on Instagram, seems to be the destination that the local newcomers are looking to emulate. Other shops have followed Asad's lead by giving away sandwiches at their grand openings and courting influencers.

Where did hot chicken start?

Nashville has been the home of hot chicken since a Depression-era lothario named Thornton Prince reportedly woke one morning to a plate of fried chicken prepared extra-spicy as punishment by a jealous lover. Her move backfired, as Prince enjoyed the heat so much

that he created a restaurant, which great niece Andre Prince Jeffries now runs throughout the South as Prince's Hot Chicken Shack.

In its original form, Nashville hot chicken is cut-up chicken, brined in pickle juice and buttermilk, dredged in seasoned flour, fried in lard, and mopped with a glaze of butter, salt, and spices. It's served with pickle slices atop pieces of white bread, alongside plenty of napkins.

Today's hot chicken sandwiches

Most of today's "Nashville hot" outlets build their menus around spicy boneless breasts and tenders, fried in vegetable oil, served with pickles on a brioche or potato roll, with a pinkish, mayo-based sauce and usually a rich, cooling slaw.

For the most part, the sandwiches are similar, despite their unique spice blends. OK's sandwich, for instance, calls to mind just a hint of sambal, the chile paste from Indonesia — which is where OK's owners are from.

All the shops offer chicken amped by spice levels whose scales top out as "scorchin'" (at Asad's), "insane hot" (at OK), "reaper" (at Nanu's), and "unbelievable" (at Hot Cluck's), plus fries, sides, sweet drinks and smoothies, and desserts.

The region's flock also includes one-offs such as Red Rooster Hot Chicken in Warminster. The field is getting more crowded by the day, and brands are scaling and expanding, seemingly overnight. OK is expanding into University City and Bensalem. Fire Nashville

Hot Chicken, which opened in West Chester in 2022, now serves parts of Philadelphia through a ghost kitchen at 3300 Fairmount Ave. in West Philadelphia. Captain's Hot Chicken, also known as Doctor Hot Chicken, took off in Olney and is now open in Fishtown and is headed next to Bensalem. IDK Smash Burgerz & Nashville Hot Chicken, which opened several months ago in Old City, is teeing up locations in North and South Philadelphia.

At Nanu's, Ikram Rashid and his brothers were running halal food carts when they decided to jump on the hot chicken trend last year. Rashid said he developed the recipe in his commissary kitchen and enlisted friends and family members to get involved in the business. They opened on Cottman Avenue, down the street from the original Asad's. "Thank God people liked it," Rashid said. "We were just like, 'Let's go for it.'" They have at least three more locations on the way.

Rashid says that his motivation is his sibling Adan, nicknamed Nanu, the youngest of the four brothers. He has Down syndrome, and "our parents were always worried about him," Rashid said. "They'd say, 'What's going to happen to him when he grows up and we're not alive?'" Rashid said. He and the other two brothers — Imran and Haroon — decided to set up the business to help support him. "They don't have to worry about it," Rashid said. "We got [his] back."

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ADVICE

Retiree's dream of long hike prompts a half-joke of divorce

By Carolyn Hax
Washington Post



Adapted from an online discussion.

Question: I'd love to hike something long, five to six months, like the Appalachian Trail someday soon now that I'm retired, but my wife half-jokingly said she'd have to divorce me. This bothers me.

Answer: So ... have you said this to her yet?

If your extended hike would cause financial strain or add significantly to her domestic workload, or you're suggesting it just as she's dealing with a bunch of other big stuff of her own, or if you're always the one to go off on adventures while she handles the boring work of stability, then she has standing to object.

If she's just anticipating feeling abandoned or worried about you — in other words, if she's making you responsible for her feelings — then she doesn't have fair claim on your sense of adventure. And potential life and marital refresh.

This is why you talk about it instead of letting a half-wisecrack become the last word.

Unless she was making a Mark Sanford joke? In which case you take her with you, for the comic relief.

Re: Hike: What's wrong with not wanting your spouse to leave for six months? I would not want that, whether it's to hike the Appalachian Trail or for any other reason. Not because of any chores or financial hardship, just because I don't want to be away from my spouse for six months. If my spouse were planning that kind of solo trip, I would absolutely have to rethink a lot of things about my marriage, including whether to stay in it. What's wrong with that?

Answer: That to avoid losing six months with this person, you'd throw out your lifetime with this person. It's some weird math.

Re: Hike: Certainly talk it through with your wife, but it would be hard not to take it personally if my spouse were considering an adventure that would separate us for six months. I enjoy being with my spouse, and if I didn't have that because of a choice, not a necessity, then I would definitely be sad and hurt. Perhaps they can find a good compromise for length or for meeting up during the hike.

Answer: I see what you're saying — but a full-trail hike is a quest, which is not about wanting or not wanting to be with a spouse for X amount of time. Instead, it's a desire to test our limits. An entirely different facet of being human.

If anything, the high quality of the partnership at home can make a quest more attractive or feel more achievable.

Meeting points along the way might be necessary for resupply.

Re: Hike: People in the military, among other jobs, are away from their spouses for six months all the time. But they usually knew about that going in.

Answer: True on both counts. Though there can still be a lot of space between what we know going in and where life takes us. That should hit my understatement quota for the month.

Re: Hike: My husband is going to Europe on sabbatical at my suggestion for two months. I'll be alone with the dogs for seven weeks of that time. I can't wait. Of course, we've been married for decades, so.

Answer: I don't know how he's leaving the dogs for two months.

Chat with Carolyn Hax online at noon Fridays at www.washingtonpost.com.

tellme@washpost.com

MOVIE REVIEW

Telling a ghost story in 'The Piano Lesson'

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

An heirloom piano takes on immense significance for one family in 1936 Pittsburgh in August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*. Generational ties also permeate the film adaptation, in which Malcolm Washington follows in his father Denzel Washington's footsteps in helping to bring the entirety of the Pittsburgh Cycle — a series of 10 plays — to the screen.

Malcolm Washington did not start from scratch in his accomplished feature filmmaking debut. He enlisted much of the cast from the recent Broadway revival with Samuel L. Jackson (Doaker Charles), his brother, John David Washington (Boy Willie), Ray Fisher (Lymon), and Michael Potts (Whining Boy). Berniece, played by Danielle Brooks in the play, is now beautifully portrayed by Danielle Deadwyler. With such rich material and a cast for whom it's second nature, it would be hard, one imagines, to go wrong. Jackson's own history with the play goes back to its original run in 1987 when he was Boy Willie.

It's not the simplest thing to make a play feel cinematic, but Malcolm Washington was up to the task. His film opens up the world of the Charles family beyond the living room. In fact, this adaptation, which Washington cowrote



Samuel L. Jackson in a scene from "The Piano Lesson." Netflix

with *Mudbound* screenwriter Virgil Williams, goes beyond Wilson's text and shows us the past and the origins of the intricately engraved piano that's central to all the fuss. It even opens on a big, action-filled set piece in 1911, during which the piano is stolen from a white family's home. Another fleshes out Doaker's monologue in which he explains to the uninitiated, Fisher's Lymon, and the audience, the tortured history of the thing. While it might have been nice to keep the camera on Jackson, such a great, grounding presence throughout, the good news is that he really makes narration shine as well.

Wilson purists will certainly have opinions on these artistic choices, but they let the film breathe a bit, offering some

respite from the living room with the looming piano. And most of the film stays right there, in 1936. Boy Willie and Lymon descend early one morning, uninvited, on the Pittsburgh home of Berniece and her uncle Doaker. It's a family reunion with an agenda: They've driven a truck full of watermelons up north from Mississippi, and Willie, Berniece's younger brother, wants to sell the watermelons and then the piano. The dusty old instrument represents to him a chance to let the past go and start a future. With the money, he wants to buy the land that his enslaved ancestors worked. Berniece has other ideas about the piano, namely keeping it. It's a connection to the past, not an anchor. Besides, it might be haunted.

The Piano Lesson, in theaters Friday and streaming on Netflix on Nov. 22, isn't just a meditation on family history. It's also a literal ghost story, with creaks, spooks, and shadows lurking when the piano is disturbed. Deadwyler is electric as Berniece, who bears the brunt of the haunting, walking on eggshells in her life, trying to care for her young daughter and fend off passes from men who assume she can only be fulfilled with one at her side. Now she must deal with her somewhat manic brother who might, Doaker wisely reminds, actually, annoyingly, have a point. Perhaps the film academy will make up for their snub of her performance in *Till* with this turn.

Regardless of your familiarity with Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle, *The Piano Lesson* is a worthwhile, captivating, and moving watch full of charismatic performers. Talent isn't always genetic, but the Washington family is putting in the work to prove otherwise. And with *Fences*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and now *The Piano Lesson*, they're making a mark with a bold and ambitious project that is probably long overdue. Only seven more to go.

"*The Piano Lesson*" is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "strong language, violent content, some suggestive references, and smoking." Running time: 125 minutes. Three stars out of four.

COMICS & PUZZLES

inquirer.com/comics

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.

123'S RESIDENCY AT THE SPHERE Solution: 9 letters

S P E C T A C L E D G E T U V
D P A R A D I S E M U L O V E
A O E C N E I D U A U D I O N
R P S A V A T A R A T I U G E
R U T E K C I T L R Y F N I T
E L U V O E M A R B E I L T I
N O D I N T R O A S U L U R A
O U I D O O T B I S N M F E N
I S O E B C G N W A E U S V O
S O A O E N G O B B V S S I T
S U T R U L H S I R I I E S Y
I N I T E S C R E N C U A
M D H R U O T R E C N O C A L
D C A M E R A M E N I C U L C
A Y R O S N E S A G E V S A L

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Achtung Baby, Admission, Album, Audience, Audio, Avatar, Bass, Bono, Bram, Camera, Cinema, Clayton, Concert, Darren, Director, Edge, Film, Guitar, Irish, Las Vegas, Music, Paradise, Populous, Robot, Screen, Sensory, Shows, Sing, Sound, Speaker, Spectacle, Studio, Successful, Ticket, Tour, Venetian, Venue, Vertigo, Video, Visual, Volume
Yesterday's Answer: Treatment

WORD GAME

Today's Word: **MORTISE**
(MORTISE: MOR-tis: A hole, groove or slot into or through which another part fits or passes.)

Average mark: 43 words
Time limit: 60 minutes
Can you find 54 or more words in MORTISE?

The list will be published Monday.

Yesterday's Word — **LOUNGED**
lend, lode, loden, lodge, loge, lone, long, longed, loud, lounge, luge, lune, lung, lunge, ogle, olden, udon, undo, node, nodule, noel, nude, nudge, geld, glen, glue, gold, golden, gone, dole, done, dongle, duel, dune, dung

DADDY DAZE



BEETLE BAILEY



BALDO



ZITS



BRIDGE

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 7 2
♥ A J 3
♦ Q J 10 8 6 2
♣ 7 2

WEST
♠ J 9
♥ 8 5 2
♦ A K 3
♣ J 10 9 8 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 8 6 4
♥ Q 9 7 6
♦ 7 4
♣ 5 4

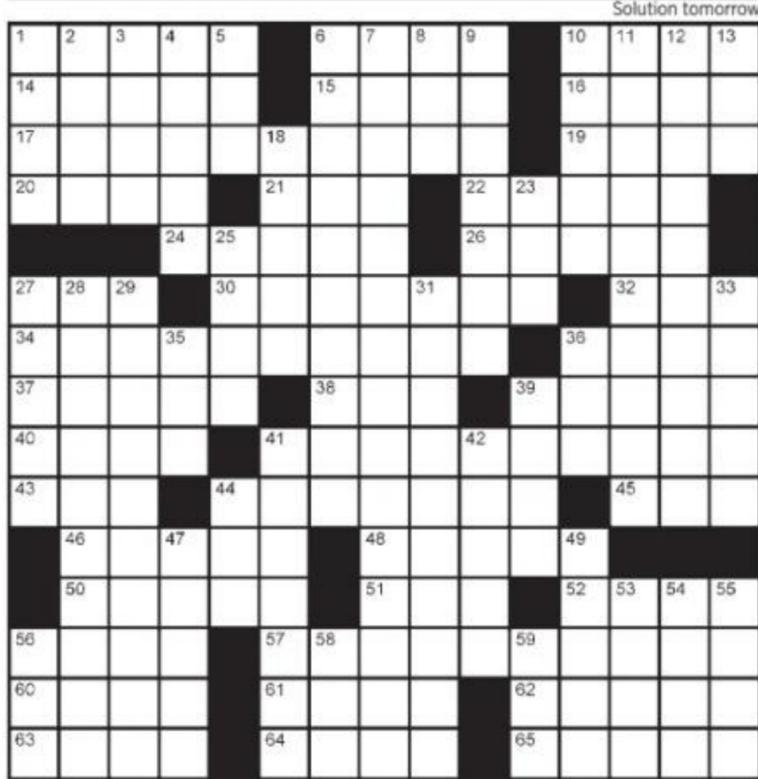
SOUTH
♠ A K 5 3
♥ K 10 4
♦ 9 5
♣ A K Q 6

North 2♦ East Pass South 3NT West All Pass

Opening lead - ♣ J

For bridge players, the recap of their life is an "oughtabiography." We should have done this or that but, for reasons unknown, we didn't.
At today's 3NT, South took the ace of clubs and led a diamond, starting on dummy's long suit. West played low, won the next diamond and continued clubs.
Declarer won and needed two dummy entries: one to set up the diamonds, one to return to cash the winners. He tried leading the four of hearts to the jack, but East took the queen and led a spade. Since South couldn't bring in the diamonds, he took only eight tricks: two spades, two hearts, a diamond and three clubs.
To make at least 3NT, South leads the ten of hearts at Trick Five. If West had the queen and covered, South would have nine tricks; if West played low, South would let the ten ride. If East had the queen and won, dummy's ace and jack would serve as entries so South could use the diamonds.
We all have "I shoulda" moments. Nobody ever played a perfect session. The aim is to learn from your mistakes.
You hold: ♠ J 9 ♥ 8 5 2 ♦ A K 3 ♣ J 10 9 8 3. Your partner opens one spade, you respond 1NT, he bids two hearts and you return to two spades. Partner next bids three clubs. What do you say?
ANSWER: Partner has tried for game despite your weakish preference, and your hand is a maximum. A club contract - even six clubs - might be best, but because you have so much strength in diamonds opposite partner's shortness, bid 3NT. That may be best if his hand is KQ1083, AK103, 2A54.

CROSSWORD: "Universal Freestyle 148" by Jess Rucks



© Andrews McMeel Syndication 11-9

ACROSS

1 Greeting word
6 Slimy mollusk
10 Big gulp
14 Place to find the most schools on earth?
15 Colombian coin
16 "___ Sutra" (book said to be written by a celibate man)
17 "Hmm, really?"
19 Cozy lodgings
20 Prescribed amount
21 Window appliances: Abbr.
22 "Not sure..."
24 Lovingly indulged, with "on"
26 What -(means
27 FedEx rival
30 Cracks, as a cipher
32 Also
34 Romantic meetings with strangers
36 Black-and-white dolphin
37 Reduces, as a burden
38 FedEx rival
39 Some sausages, informally
40 Deli breads
41 Phrase of negative agreement
43 Sloth or wrath
44 Embark on a voyage
45 Hosp. triage spots

46 Sacred emblem, from the Ojibwa
48 Insurer with a spokeduck
50 Origami bird
51 Fooled
52 First man in the Bible
56 Cook 39-Across in beer, say
57 Having a fangirl moment, perhaps
60 Repetitive learning method
61 The ___ Carle Museum of Picture Book Art
62 Country with the Dharma Chakra on its flag
63 "Sorry to say..."
64 "Auld Lang ___"
65 Clingy, say

DOWN

1 Warm sweatshirt feature
2 Boomerang of a "boom" that rang?
3 Flowery garlands
4 Zapped, as hair
5 Receiving certain hormone therapy, for short
6 Head-in-the-clouds sort
7 Remark after some successful
34-ACROSS
8 Pearl Harbor's ___ Arizona Memorial

9 Yummy treats
10 Potato peeler targets
11 Question posed after opening a lunch box
12 "No degree needed for me to give THIS medical advice..."
13 Helium, e.g.
18 "Really" disliked
23 Speech fillers
25 Chances
27 Gets a lift (but not a Lyft)
28 Act chill
29 Spanish for "Yes, miss"
31 Special operations unit whose existence has never been confirmed by the U.S. government
33 Rest stop in the desert
35 "Super Mario Bros." console
36 Hockey legend Bobby
39 ___ Fleck and the Flecktones
41 Archenemies
42 Sword handles
44 D.C. VIP
47 Stories
49 ___ asada fries
53 "Bro..."
54 Corrosive substance
55 "You tracking?"
56 One may be wireless
58 Attempt
59 Durable roofing choice

Yesterday's Puzzle

M	C	S	P	A	N	G	S	P	E	S	C	I	
A	O	L	O	M	A	H	A	A	V	I	O	N	
P	L	A	Y	B	E	A	R	W	E	L	L	S	
L	M	A	O	N	A	A	N	L	O	T			
J	I	M	Y	O	Y	A	N	G	N	Y			
O	D	E	S	K	U	E	N	A	M	E			
T	E	R	A	A	M	M	O	A	D	E	L	E	
			S	A	Y	M	Y	N	A	M	E		
M	I	L	K	S	Y	A	K	S	R	O	L	O	
A	G	A	T	H	A	E	S	S	R	E	M		
Y	O	Y	O	C	O	P	Y	T	Y	P	I	N	G
B	T	S	O	S	H	A	N	A	G	S			
A	C	O	R	N	W	I	S	E	C	R	A	C	K
C	H	U	T	E	O	N	C	U	E	M	A	I	
H	A	T	E	S	W	E	I	R	D	I	P	A	

CANDORVILLE



DUSTIN



BLONDIE



MUTTS



PICKLES



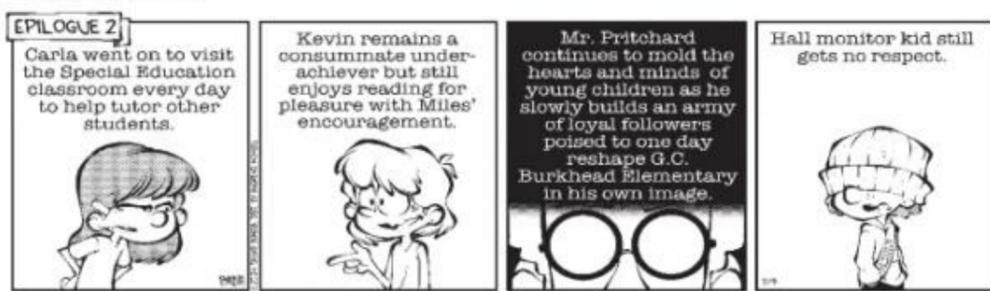
COMICS & PUZZLES

inquirer.com/comics

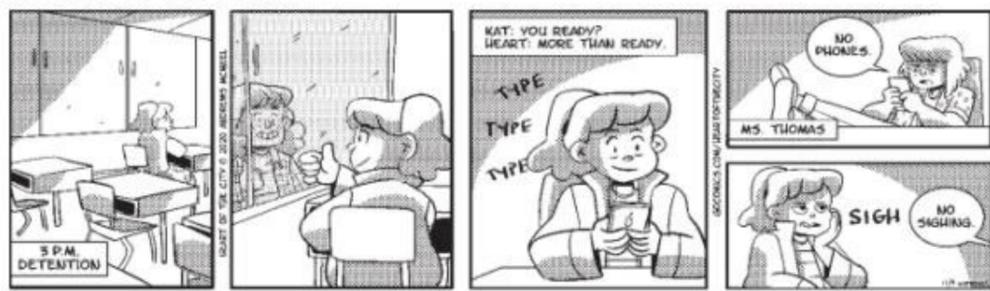
PEANUTS



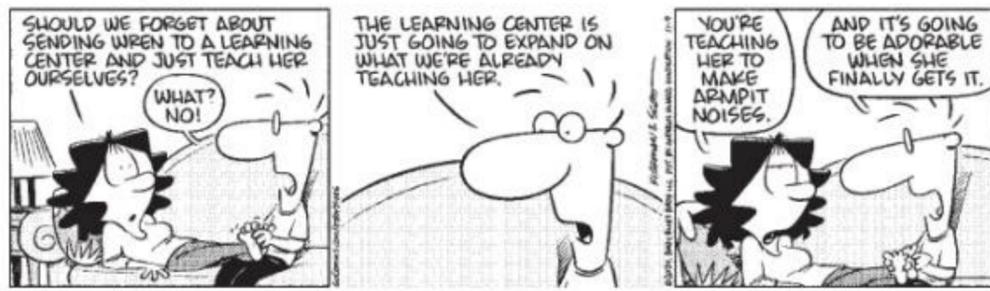
CRABGRASS



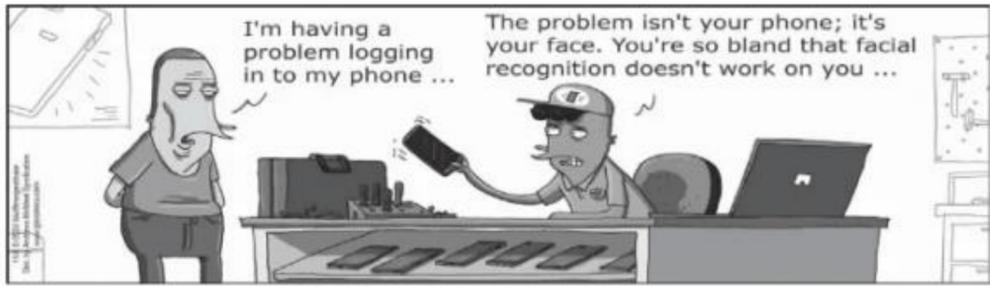
HEART OF THE CITY



BABY BLUES



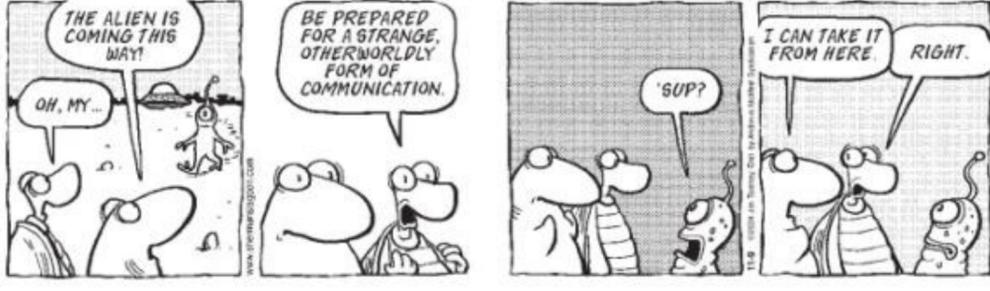
WUMO



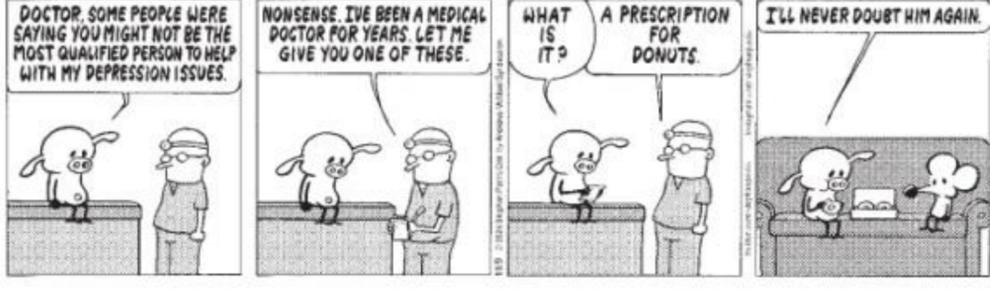
JUMP START



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



LOOSE PARTS



BIZARRO

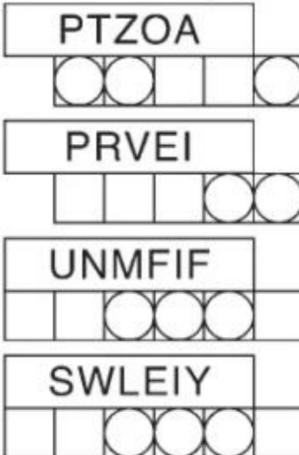


PARDON MY PLANET



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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THE CHEF WHO ENJOYED USING SEASONINGS TO CREATE BOLD FLAVORS HAD A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: PATIO SOUPY HUMANE GENDER Answer: For the Jumble's play on words to make sense, the creators need — GOOD "PUNMANSHIP"

KING CLASSIC SUDOKU

8						7	2
	9	7			4		
	4			7		6	3
3		9	1	5	8		
		4				5	1
			7	4	6		9
	1			6			4
					1	9	
9	2			3			

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

1	9	4	6	5	3	8	7	2
3	8	5	9	2	7	4	6	1
7	6	2	1	4	8	5	9	3
9	5	3	4	6	2	7	1	8
2	1	8	3	7	5	9	4	6
6	4	7	8	9	1	3	2	5
8	7	9	5	1	6	2	3	4
5	2	1	7	3	4	6	8	9
4	3	6	2	8	9	1	5	7

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle

Clues	Solutions
12032 Olympics host (8)	_____
2 Irish actor Paul (6)	_____
3 "cup holder" (6)	_____
4 writing right (11)	_____
5 sell, informally (4)	_____
6 pulling out with pincers (8)	_____
7 South American tea (4)	_____

SAU	OG	IS	EZ	BR	GRA	ING	NE
HO	BA	TWE	PHY	ME	TE	ORT	L
FL	CER	SCA	MA				

Friday's Answers: 1. TRIPOLI 2. MONARCHICAL 3. HOME 4. JACKSON 5. PINE 6. MERLIN 7. SWIFT

CRYPTOQUOTE

WDD GZJB DS HK ZPX JDW OLFLJC DHP

RPXZGK AXVZHGX IX ZPX OLFLJC DHP

SXZPK. — OXK APDIJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. — Thomas Paine

DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



SPORTS

inquirer.com/sports



Lucas Kopecky played lacrosse for the Wildcats for four seasons, and now is a wide receiver for the football team. Villanova Athletics

Double the fun for Villanova athlete

By Katie Lewis
Staff Writer

Four years ago, Lucas Kopecky came to Villanova as a highly touted lacrosse recruit who would play for the Wildcats as a defensive midfielder and faceoff specialist.

But this year, his graduate season, Kopecky returned to Villanova as a wide receiver on the football team.

During his lacrosse career, Kopecky appeared in every game for Villanova, and as a senior in 2024, he became a four-time Big East all-academic team honoree. Yet after a successful four years that ended in the Big East final, Kopecky hadn't lost sight of his initial goal of playing football for the Wildcats.

Although Kopecky arrived at Villanova during the 2019-20 season as a preferred walk-on for football, he had been recruited by lacrosse coach Mike Corrado to be a dedicated lacrosse player. The football and lacrosse schedules conflicted because of the pandemic, so Kopecky had to put football aside.

"I still had a love [for football] my sophomore and junior year," Kopecky said. "I wanted to play so bad. In college, I always kept a ball in my hands even when I wasn't on the football team and threw whenever I had the chance."

Kopecky finally received an opportunity to join the football team as a graduate player this season. So far, he has appeared in six games, averaging 24.2 receiving yards per game and scoring two touchdowns.

He's expected to be featured this weekend when No. 13 Villanova (7-2, 4-1 Coastal Athletic Association) hosts North Carolina A&T (1-8, 0-5) at 1 p.m. (FloFootball) in its continued push to the FCS postseason.

At Montgomery High School in Skillman, N.J., Kopecky's time was always split between football and lacrosse. He led his lacrosse team to a state championship and also set multiple school records as a wide receiver on the football team.

Last season at Villanova, Kopecky ended his lacrosse career by scoring his only two goals of the season in the Big East Tournament after spending most of the season as a faceoff specialist. Villanova lost to Georgetown, 11-10, in the championship game on May 4.

'A nice graduation present'

As he finished lacrosse season, joining the football team remained a flickering possibility. Despite not playing competitive football since high school, Kopecky decided to take a chance during his senior year. He started talking again with wide receivers coach Nate Pagan about walking on for his fifth and final year of NCAA eligibility.

On May 17, the day of Villanova's commencement ceremony, Kopecky got the call he had been waiting for from head coach Mark Ferrante. The coaches recognized Kopecky's persistence and enthusiasm. He was invited to join the

team for offseason training on June 1 — just two weeks later.

"Coach Ferrante solidified [my spot on the team on] the day of my graduation, which was awesome," Kopecky said. "It was definitely a nice graduation present. I've always wanted to play football, and now I'm here."

Accustomed to the endurance level required of a defensive midfielder in lacrosse, Kopecky started transferring his agility and stamina back to the football field.

"[Kopecky] could run for days," Ferrante said. "Obviously, running up and down the lacrosse field, he's well-conditioned."

However, adjusting to the specialized skills of a wide receiver proved to be a different kind of challenge. At first, Kopecky's goal was to simply get on the field and play without any expectations of starting — or scoring touchdowns.

Kopecky credited much of his development over the summer to the support of his teammates, especially fellow wide receiver Kenyon Miles and graduate quarterback Connor Watkins.

"All my teammates are so open to helping me, always giving me tips, telling me what I'm doing wrong, and I need that," Kopecky said. "One thing I love about Kenyon is that he would always want to see me do well and push me to be better. Without him, I wouldn't be the player that I am."

The intense training and team camaraderie during camp helped Kopecky shake off the high school rust, progressing from a summer walk-on into a promising member of the wideout rotation.

Quick adjustments

Kopecky is not the only player making adjustments this season, as he is one of several new members of Villanova's offense. The only returning starter among wide receivers is junior Jaylan Sanchez, who leads the Wildcats in receiving yards (363). Graduate transfer Devin Smith is second (306), with Kopecky third (146).

"I think the biggest adjustment is for Connor," Kopecky said. "We've been doing a good job getting the extra time watching film with him, getting the extra reps. Our chemistry has definitely developed from the beginning of the season."

Kopecky didn't appear in the first three games, but his role on Villanova's offense has developed since. He made his debut at Maryland on Sept. 21, when he had one reception for 9 yards.

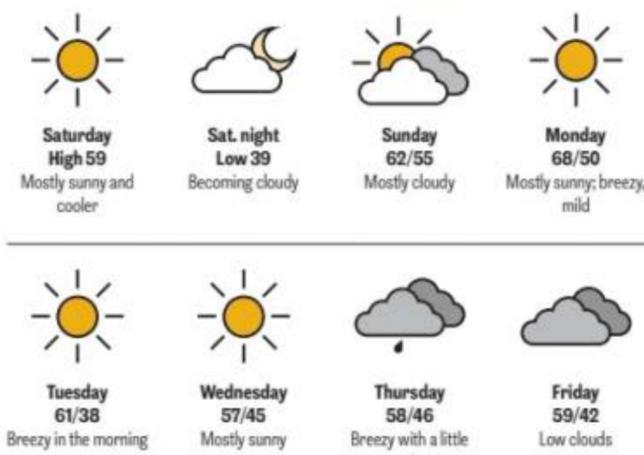
Ferrante took notice of Kopecky's progress in the last few games. Against New Hampshire on Oct. 26, he caught a 25-yard touchdown pass from Watkins in the end zone on fourth down.

"[Kopecky] is starting to get a little more comfortable with the program and what we're trying to do," Ferrante said recently. "It's resulted in him getting on the field more for us. So I think he's doing a really nice job for us, and I think we will start seeing more of him each week."

REGIONAL FORECAST



Superior Accuracy™ means you will make better decisions. Get the AccuWeather app



Poconos: Sunny much of the time Saturday. High 47 to 52. Increasing clouds Saturday night. Low 27 to 33.

Jersey Shore: Breezy Saturday morning; otherwise, cooler with plenty of sunshine. High 56 to 60.

Delaware: Sunny to partly cloudy and cooler Saturday. High 57 to 61.

Manasquan to Cape Henlopen: Wind from the north at 7-14 knots Saturday. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility unrestricted.

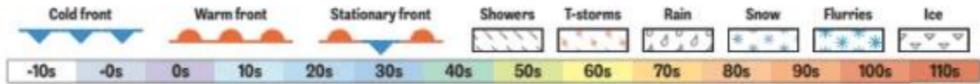
Delaware Bay: Wind from the north-northwest at 7-14 knots Saturday. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility unrestricted.

Cape Henlopen to Va. Beach: Wind from the north at 8-16 knots Saturday. Seas 3-5 feet. Visibility generally clear.

NATIONAL FORECAST



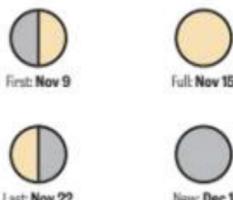
Shown are Saturday's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2024

SUN & MOON

Sun rises 6:39 a.m., sets 4:50 p.m.
Moon rises 1:33 p.m., sets none



AIR QUALITY

The worst pollutant in the region Friday was not available.

Key	0-50
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

Friday's Pollution Index	Fri. High	Sat.
Bristol	038	02 G
Burlington	039	02 N.A.
Camden	044	02 M
Chester	M92	02 G
Norristown	039	02 G
Philadelphia	048	02 G
Trenton	043	02 N.A.
Wilmington	040	02 G

Ozone forecast available at 1-800-872-7261 and www.dvpc.org

POLLEN

Nov. 8 information:	N.A.
Grasses	N.A.
Ragweed	N.A.
Other weeds	N.A.
Trees	N.A.
Mold spores	very high

SOURCE: www.asthacenter.com

U.S. CITIES

City	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	City	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.
Albany	50/27/s	53/47/pc	61/46/sh	Las Vegas	67/47/s	71/47/pc	73/52/s
Albuquerque	48/30/s	53/33/s	58/35/s	Lincoln	56/41/r	60/40/s	63/39/pc
Allentown	56/27/s	58/50/c	66/43/pc	Los Angeles	76/51/s	75/51/pc	71/53/s
Anchorage	34/29/pc	33/23/s	32/20/s	Memphis	70/66/r	74/57/t	73/51/s
Atlanta	72/58/pc	65/60/c	75/54/sh	Miami	86/76/pc	86/76/t	87/75/sh
Atlantic City	58/45/s	60/57/pc	69/50/s	Milwaukee	55/52/pc	61/48/c	58/43/pc
Baltimore	58/37/s	59/51/c	72/46/s	Minneapolis	49/45/c	53/42/sh	49/34/c
Boston	52/35/s	57/50/pc	66/49/sh	New Orleans	83/73/c	80/69/t	80/66/t
Buffalo	50/37/s	56/50/r	55/41/c	New York	55/42/s	59/54/pc	65/51/pc
Charleston, S.C.	76/61/pc	80/66/c	80/64/c	Orlando	85/71/pc	84/69/pc	88/70/sh
Charlotte	71/50/pc	59/56/c	76/53/c	Phoenix	76/50/s	82/52/s	83/53/s
Chicago	58/52/pc	60/45/pc	59/43/pc	Pittsburgh	58/46/pc	58/50/r	62/44/pc
Cincinnati	63/54/pc	64/47/r	61/45/pc	Portland, Maine	48/29/s	53/45/pc	62/44/sh
Cleveland	57/45/pc	60/48/r	59/45/pc	Portland, Ore.	58/49/r	57/50/r	55/48/sh
Dallas	72/54/s	77/55/s	76/56/s	Richmond	64/41/pc	63/55/sh	71/50/s
Denver	38/32/sn	47/31/s	49/34/s	St. Thomas	87/78/sh	86/79/t	87/79/sh
Des Moines	50/44/r	56/41/c	59/38/pc	St. Louis	58/55/r	67/46/pc	67/45/s
Detroit	56/46/pc	60/48/r	58/39/pc	Salisbury	61/34/pc	66/57/c	71/49/pc
Harrisburg	58/36/s	56/50/r	69/49/s	Salt Lake City	54/36/s	58/41/c	61/38/pc
Helena	52/34/pc	47/31/c	53/36/c	San Diego	73/48/s	72/51/pc	68/55/pc
Honolulu	85/74/sh	85/73/sh	87/73/sh	San Francisco	65/52/pc	65/55/pc	63/49/sh
Houston	77/67/t	81/65/c	83/59/t	San Juan	88/77/sh	86/78/t	88/78/sh
Indianapolis	62/56/pc	64/44/r	58/39/pc	Scranton	51/33/s	55/48/sh	62/43/c
Jackson, Miss.	83/70/t	77/64/t	80/55/t	Seattle	56/47/r	55/48/r	52/47/sh
Jackson Hole	43/78/s	42/72/pc	45/29/pc	Tampa	86/72/pc	86/73/pc	85/74/pc
Jacksonville	82/69/sh	83/66/sh	84/66/pc	Washington	62/45/pc	58/55/c	73/53/s
Kansas City	60/43/r	63/42/s	66/43/pc	Wilmington	59/35/s	60/54/c	69/45/s

Bold = in our region; r=rainy, pc=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, t=thunderstorms, r=rain, s=snow, fl=flurries, sn=snow, i=ice

SATURDAY'S TIDES

Philadelphia (Chestnut St.)	Cape May	Little Egg Inlet
High: 7:09 a.m., 7:25 p.m. Low: 1:40 a.m., 1:43 p.m.	High: 1:12 a.m., 1:31 p.m. Low: 6:51 a.m., 7:58 p.m.	High: 1:58 a.m., 2:36 p.m. Low: 7:41 a.m., 8:46 p.m.
Delaware Breakwater	Atlantic City (Steel Pier)	Barnegat Inlet
High: 1:51 a.m., 2:15 p.m. Low: 7:42 a.m., 8:40 p.m.	High: 12:39 a.m., 12:58 p.m. Low: 6:32 a.m., 7:39 p.m.	High: 12:55 a.m., 1:3 p.m. Low: 7:05 a.m., 8:09 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA ALMANAC

Temperatures	Friday's Barometer
High Friday: 72 (3:45 p.m.) Record high: 78 (1975) Humidity at 4 p.m.: 23% Low Friday: 49 (6:17 a.m.) Record low: 25 (1960) Normal high/low: 59/41 High/low Nov. 8, 2023: 56/43	6 a.m.: 30.09 steady Noon: 30.00 falling 4 p.m.: 29.90 steady Daylight sky conditions: 10% clouds with 90% sunshine
Heating degree days	Precipitation in inches
This season: 77 Last season: 285 Normal season: 380	24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Fri.: 0.00 Month to date: 0.00 Year to date: 33.43 Normal year to date: 38.09 Deficit: -4.66

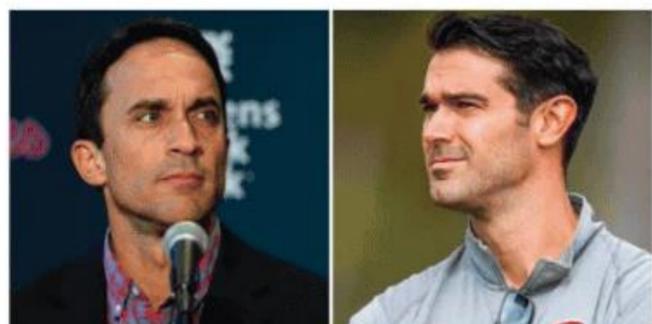
Phillies

→ CONTINUED FROM B1

as I sort of gradually get more and more exposure, and ownership of various processes on the business side. I'm excited to take on this challenge."

Fuld, 42, has been Phillies GM since 2020, and will oversee all business operations departments in his new role. Mattingly, 37, joined the organization as director of player development in 2021 and was promoted to assistant general manager in 2023.

"[Fuld] and [Mattingly] are two really, really talented guys," Middleton said Friday. "I've been in baseball 30 years. Dave Dombrowski has been in baseball even longer than that, close to 40-plus years, and he's remarkably



Sam Fuld (left) and Preston Mattingly will be taking on new roles. AP

successful. He's told me from the beginning that these two are very special guys. ... We've had people asking, teams asking about these guys for years. ... We've put them in

a place, in a position where they're never going to have to be going to some other place for a promotion."

Dombrowski's role as president of baseball operations is not

changing. Fuld will continue to be involved on the baseball operations side, collaborating with Dombrowski and Mattingly, while his business responsibilities grow. Fuld said the formal title transition will not occur until his graduation.

"It's a situation, as Sam transitions more toward that time in the business, it's great to have him still working with us, and even as time goes on, he's right down the hallway," Dombrowski said. "So it's not like we don't get a chance to stay in contact, and also, with Preston, allows him to continue to grow."

The Phillies also promoted Luke Murton to director of player development, and Edwar Gonzalez to director of hitting development.

Murton worked with Mattingly in

scouting roles in the Padres organization and was brought over to the Phillies in 2022 as director of hitting development. As a player, Murton spent five seasons in the Yankees' minor league system. He graduated from Georgia Tech in 2019.

"I think [Murton] has a very unique skill set, his ability to connect with staff, but also connect with players," Mattingly said. "... He's worked on the hitting side the last couple years — we've seen tremendous growth there — and I think he's well-equipped to take over the entire minor league organization."

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