



The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.

31ST PHILADELPHIA MARATHON



Philly woman rallies for title

Katie Florio, 30, of Center City, mounted a late comeback to win the women's race in the 2024 Philadelphia Marathon on Sunday. On the men's side, a Pittsburgh native placed first. Story in Sports, C5. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

Black voters in Philly explain how Trump gained some ground

By Layla A. Jones
and Lizzie Mulvey
Staff Writers

Standing outside of a West Philadelphia Aldi with bags of groceries, Aaron Bryant said he didn't vote. But if he had, he probably would have voted for President-elect Donald Trump. The reason?

"I believe he was the best person for the job," said Bryant, a West Philadelphia resident. "[A]nd the economy was much better when he was in office, as well."

On Election Day, Trump's most loyal demographic base in Philadelphia remained in the city's majority-white neighborhoods and wards, where he won nearly 30% of the vote. But that doesn't discount the citywide shift of the city's neighborhoods of color toward the right,



While the crowd at Donald Trump's Philadelphia rally over the summer at the Liacouras Center was overwhelmingly white, a higher concentration of Black people were seated in the section behind him. Yong Kim / Staff Photographer

movement that's been happening since 2016.

That rightward trend wasn't driven solely by increased Republican support among voters of

color, but it also reflected low voter turnout in majority-Black precincts like West Philadelphia's Mill Creek neighborhood, where the Aldi grocery store is. Bryant has never

voted, though as a Black man he's part of one of the Democrats' most loyal bases, one the party failed to turn out.

According to an Inquirer analysis of election results, Democrats performed worse in 649 of the 688 majority-Black precincts in Philadelphia while Trump grew his share of votes in 635 majority-Black precincts as compared with 2020.

Black neighborhoods also had some of the lowest turnout in the city. Of the about 22,600 people who sat out the election, about 80% lived in Black-majority precincts.

Citywide, Trump enjoyed increased support across racial lines in less affluent neighborhoods with fewer college graduates. And marginal growth in support for Trump in some majority-Black precincts, coupled with lower-than-expected turnout, helped him

→ SEE BLACK VOTERS ON A9

N.J. AG: Let jury hear Norcross corruption case

Prosecutors urged a Superior Court judge to allow their case to proceed, pushing back on the power broker's efforts to toss a 13-count racketeering indictment.

By Andrew Seidman
and Jeremy Roebuck
Staff Writers

New Jersey prosecutors balked at George E. Norcross III's efforts to recast tactics he used to prevail in Camden waterfront land deals as nothing more than "hardball business negotiations" and urged a judge to allow a jury to decide whether the Democratic power broker had broken the law in his pursuit of lucrative property.

That argument, laid out in a 146-page court filing late Friday, came two months after Norcross — an insurance executive and board chairman at Cooper University Health Care — pushed Mercer County Superior Court Judge Peter Warshaw to toss a 13-count racketeering indictment brought against him and five others this summer, arguing the charges were fatally flawed.

But prosecutors, in their court papers, insisted those claims were better suited for a jury and

→ SEE NORCROSS ON A5



George E. Norcross III is accused of manipulating a state tax credit program for his benefit and muscling out rivals in pursuit of Camden land deals Alejandro A. Alvarez / Staff Photographer

Deeds from sheriff sales continue to languish

Buyers are waiting up to a year after auction to take possession of properties. Sheriff Rochelle Bilal's office had pledged in July to resolve delays.

By William Bender
and Ryan W. Briggs
Staff Writers

First, they said there was no problem. Then, they acknowledged there was a major problem, but promised to fix it.

They have not fixed it. Four months after Philadelphia Sheriff Rochelle Bilal's office pledged to take "corrective action" to resolve widespread delays in recording deeds after property auctions, the process remains broken. For some buyers, it's gotten even worse.

Banks, real estate attorneys, construction financiers, real estate

agents, and individual buyers tell The Inquirer they are having to wait for up to a year after sheriff sales to take possession of buildings and land.

The problem: Properties are being auctioned off at sheriff sales, but Bilal's office is not finalizing the sales until many months later, when it finally sends the deeds to the city's records department.

Why it matters: During that period, empty homes cannot be renovated, demolished, rented, or resold. Vacant lots go undeveloped. Stalled construction sites accumulate trash. Buildings sustain weather damage or are taken over by squatters.

"It's keeping new owners from doing anything with the properties," said Mary Jo Potts, a foreclosure specialist at Elfant Wissahickon Realtors who resells properties on behalf of banks. "They're sitting there and failing apart. It's causing a lot of blight in Philadelphia."

In suburban counties, the process of drafting and recording a deed to complete a sheriff sale

→ SEE DEEDS ON A5

Dried waterways stun residents, choke fish, and hurt outdoor tourism

From Lehigh Valley to the Pinelands, water systems are experiencing severe rain deficits. It could take months to recover.

By Frank Kummer
Staff Writer

Vince Spaits took a recent three-mile hike along the Coplay and Jordan Creeks in Lehigh County, and what the avid outdoorsman saw astonished him — dried sections of creek beds lined with hundreds of dead fish.

"I walked in places where there should have been three and four feet of water. I looked for lower spots that were still a little damp.



Angela Vaughn, of Milford Township, Bucks County, walks on a dried-up portion of the Green Lane Reservoir in Montgomery County. Water levels throughout the region are critically low. Rob Vaughn

And that's where you find all these dead fish," said Spaits. "As the stream dried up, the fish kept on heading towards where they could find water, and they ended

up in these little ponds of water that eventually dried up. They were trapped and died right there."

Spaits, vice president of the

→ SEE DROUGHT ON A4

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Featuring **Philly**



A turkey float glides down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway at the start of last year's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Heather Khalifa / Staff Photographer

HOW TO PHILLY Tips to make your week better

What's open and closed in Philly on Thanksgiving?

Thanksgiving is Thursday, and if you're making last-minute plans or prepping for Black Friday, here's what's open and closed across Philly:

Grocery stores

- **Acme Markets:** Open 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Whole Foods:** Open 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Giant Food Stores:** Open 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Sprouts Farmers Market:** Open 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Trader Joe's, Aldi, and Reading Terminal Market:** Closed

Liquor stores

- **Fine Wine & Good Spirits:** Closed

Mail and packages

- **USPS, UPS, FedEx, and DHL:** Closed

Banks

- Most banks, including TD, Wells Fargo, and PNC, are closed.

Transit

- **SEPTA:** Sunday schedule; some bus detours from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- **PATCO:** Holiday schedule

Pharmacies

- **CVS:** Non-24-hour locations close early (check local hours)
- **Rite Aid:** Open until 5 p.m.
- **Walgreens (non-24-hour locations):** Closed

Trash collection

- No pickup on Thanksgiving. Service resumes a day later.

Retail and malls

- **Costco, Target, Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart:** Closed
- **Shops at Liberty Place, Fashion District, Philadelphia Mills, King of Prussia Mall, Cherry Hill Mall:** Closed. Malls reopen early on Black Friday.

Plan ahead and enjoy your holiday stress-free! —By Sam Ruland

COMING TOMORROW
Trivia Tuesday



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NEWS

Climate talks reach finance deal blasted as inadequate

By Chico Harlan and Maxine Joselow
Washington Post

BAKU, Azerbaijan — Negotiators from nearly 200 countries agreed early Sunday in a nonbinding commitment that wealthy nations would aim to provide at least \$300 billion annually by 2035 to help poorer nations suffering the most from climate change.

But many delegates from developing countries blasted the agreement minutes after it was adopted, capping an acrimonious U.N. Climate Change Conference, known this year as COP29.

The deal requires no specific pledges from any countries and falls short of the \$1.3 trillion poor nations say that they will need every year a decade from now.

While it triples rich nations' current commitment to help vulnerable ones cope with mounting climate disasters, the new vow comes after more than a decade in which they struggled to meet that \$100 billion pledge.

After spending two weeks inside a labyrinthine, windowless soccer stadium, sleep-deprived diplomats agreed to the finance deal at 2:40 a.m. Sunday local time — with many feeling outrage rather than relief and labeling the sum insufficient. In the most blistering critique, Indian delegate Chandni Raina called the finance target “too little, too distant,” and said her country could not support it.

“This document is nothing more than an optical illusion,” Raina said to cheers and applause.

The \$300 billion coming from the governments of rich countries would help developing countries transition to cleaner energy by installing sprawling fields of solar panels and other projects. It also would help them become more resilient to escalating extreme weather, including rising seas, destructive droughts, and stronger storms.

The deal embodies the disappointment and distrust that many developing nations have expressed at these annual climate negotiations. After three decades, the talks have put the planet on a safer trajectory in terms of its overall temperature rise. And yet humanity is still on track to blow past its goal of keeping warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to preindustrial levels, ushering in an era of increasingly frequent and costly climate disasters.



Activists participate in a demonstration for climate finance at the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit on Friday in Baku, Azerbaijan. Sergei Grits / AP

Scientists say they are virtually certain 2024 will rank as the hottest year on record.

Negotiators for the United States, the world's biggest historical emitter of planet-warming greenhouse gases, made no firm commitment to contributing to the new finance target. President-elect Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress are unlikely to approve more international climate aid, with many GOP lawmakers already balking at sending more U.S. military aid to Ukraine.

The deal also declines to require contributions from China, which ranks as the biggest annual emitter of greenhouse gases. Instead, the agreement merely encourages emerging economies like China to pitch in, despite their classification as developing countries by the United Nations.

Less than 24 hours before the agreement was struck, the talks seemed on the brink of collapsing.

On Saturday afternoon, delegates from many developing countries and low-lying island nations stormed out of the negotiating room in protest of an earlier draft deal.

Poorer countries said they were being left alone to deal with deadly heat waves, droughts, floods, and fires, while nations that had built modern economies by burning fossil fuels could afford to withstand them.

Again and again, U.N. officials framed the money given to the Global South as an investment, not as charity, given the cataclysms that proper funding might prevent: unchecked migration flows, ever costlier disasters, or even a breakdown in the global economy.

Even \$300 billion pales in

comparison to what independent assessments say is needed. The deal — which says that developing countries should receive a total of \$1.3 trillion from “all actors” by 2035 — also leaves plenty of latitude about who will provide the money.

European Union Climate Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra described the \$300 billion goal as “realistic” and “achievable.” He predicted the target would be met.

“No country got everything they wanted,” said Simon Stiell, the executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. “So this is no time for victory laps.”

In an email, Rep. August Pfluger (R-Texas), who led a delegation of House lawmakers to COP29, called the final agreement a “horrible deal.”

“China, the world's largest polluter, self-identifies as a ‘developing country,’” Pfluger said. “The last thing we need is to be shackled by another harmful, America-last climate pipe dream.”

While delegates approved the final deal on climate finance, they declined to adopt another text that centered on the contentious issue of curbing fossil fuel use. Diplomats from Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, had successfully blocked that text.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev proposed Sunday that “in view of these concerns from the parties,” countries should take up the fossil fuel language again at next year's climate talks in Belem, Brazil.

In his closing remarks after 4 a.m. local time, Babayev added that “we have reached the end of a defining chapter in the climate crisis.”

Trump taps Rollins for agriculture secretary, rounds out cabinet picks

By Maegan Vazquez
Washington Post

President-elect Donald Trump announced on Saturday that he had picked Brooke Rollins, a former Trump White House policy adviser, to serve as agriculture secretary.

“It is my Great Honor to nominate Brooke L. Rollins, from the Great State of Texas, to serve as the 33rd United States Secretary of Agriculture,” Trump said in a statement, later adding, “Brooke's commitment to support the American Farmer, defense of American Food Self-Sufficiency, and the restoration of Agriculture-dependent American Small Towns is second to none.”

Rollins is president and CEO of the America First Policy Institute, a group that has put together proposals for a second Trump term. The institute, which has nonprofit status, was launched in 2021 by a group of Trump administration veterans.

Like the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, AFPI has sought to provide policy recommendations for the next Republican presidential administration to efficiently stand up an executive branch that will swiftly undo President Joe Biden's legacy. The organization's work has comparatively flown under the radar and has not been as publicly scrutinized by Democrats as Project 2025. The organization is chaired by Linda McMahon, Trump's pick for education secretary.

Rollins was also one of the names floated to serve as Trump's incoming White House chief of staff, but that role ended up going to Susie Wiles, his top campaign adviser.



Brooke Rollins speaks at a campaign rally at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 27 in New York. Evan Vucci / AP

Rollins previously led the White House Domestic Policy Council during Trump's first term. Before joining the first Trump administration she led the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank.

In his statement on Saturday announcing Rollins' appointment, Trump highlighted her “practitioner's experience” with agriculture, including pointing to her “upbringing in the small and Agriculture-centered town of Glen Rose, Texas” as well as her involvement in “guiding her four kids in their show cattle careers.”

Rollins subsequently thanked Trump, writing on X, “It will be the honor of my life to fight for America's farmers and our Nation's agricultural communities. This is big stuff for a small-town ag girl from Glen Rose, TX.”

The agriculture secretary is responsible for overseeing various farm, ranching, and forestry industries as well as regulating aspects

of food quality, safety, and nutrition labeling. More than 70% of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's budget is used to oversee several crucial welfare programs such as free school lunches and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly called food stamps.

The president-elect's incoming agriculture secretary is also expected to play a role in shaping Trump's plans for sweeping tariffs, which in his last term saw the U.S. agriculture industry hit hard with huge countertariffs by allied countries and rivals alike.

Trump's pick to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has vowed to play a role in the administration's shaping of the agriculture industry, but Trump and his allies have also proposed making large cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

With Rollins, Trump has now announced the full lineup of his proposed cabinet secretaries. On Friday night, Trump announced a flurry of new picks to his administration, including three proposed cabinet secretaries: Scott Turner to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Scott Bessent to lead the Treasury Department, and Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R. Ore.) to lead the Labor Department.

Clearing the Record

An article in Sunday's Inquirer about Sen. Bob Casey's legacy inaccurately described a meeting between Larry Ceisler and Bob Casey Sr. It was a meet and greet that Bob Casey Jr. did not attend.

ANALYSIS

Trump will be coming for the executive branch

With Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy leading the charge, how much will they be able to accomplish?

By Dan Balz
Washington Post

President-elect Donald Trump is coming for the executive branch. Eight years ago, he thought he could shake up federal agencies and left after four years with little to show for it. This time, with Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy leading the charge, he is talking about even more radical changes. Will he do any better the second time around?

Trump isn't the first president to try to shrink or reorganize the executive branch, or the first to claim to be leading an assault on waste, fraud, and abuse that would deliver significant cost savings and more efficient government. Richard M. Nixon had his Ash Commission. Ronald Reagan had the Grace Commission. Bill Clinton had his National Performance Review, known as "reinventing government," or REGO, led by then-Vice President Al Gore.

Trump, Musk, and Ramaswamy have huge ambitions and no humility about what they are undertaking. What they have talked about amounts to a wholesale attack on federal agencies designed to eliminate thousands of regulations, reduce the federal workforce by an order of magnitude that could cripple the delivery of vital services, and effect cost savings that would amount to nearly one-third of the federal budget, or the entire discretionary part of the budget and then some.

All government bureaucracies need occasional overhaul and rejuvenation. Trump's motivation is more about punishment and retribution. His cabinet choices point to that. At the Justice Department, as the Washington Post reported, he is prepared to fire the team that worked with special counsel Jack Smith on two indictments of the president-elect. More broadly, he looks to dismantle what he regards as an unresponsive and oppositional administrative state.

Previous attempts to make the government smaller or more efficient have fallen far short of what was promised. Of those earlier efforts, Gore's reinventing



Entrepreneur and former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has said that there is much waste in what he calls the "administrative state." Jabin Botsford/Washington Post

government initiative might have been the most successful. The Grace Commission, named for businessman J. Peter Grace, by contrast, came up with recommendations that promised \$424 billion in savings over three years. Closer scrutiny by the Congressional Budget Office and the General Accounting Office (now renamed the Government Accountability Office) pegged the savings at about \$98 billion. Most of what the Grace Commission recommended went nowhere.

Could that be the outcome for Trump in his second term in the White House, roughshod attacks with little to show for it? Experts say what Trump, Musk, and Ramaswamy are talking about — both in terms of money saved and workforce reductions — is unrealistic and that they will soon bump into political and economic realities that will leave them far short of what they claim. That doesn't mean, however, that at the outset the president-elect should not be taken seriously about how disruptive he will try to be in his efforts. Musk has claimed he can cut the budget by roughly \$2 trillion, but analysts say that would require drastic (and unpopular) cuts in entitlements programs, defense, or other vital services.

Trump has created what he calls the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, which is not an official agency of government but simply a unit designed to empower Musk, the world's richest person, and Ramaswamy, the entrepreneur and former presidential candidate, to begin their work. The two wrote an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal on Wednesday that outlined their plan. It is worth a read for anyone wondering about their intentions.

Rhetorically, it is a call to arms "to cut the federal government down to size" and attack "the entrenched and ever-growing bureaucracy [that] represents an

existential threat to our republic." The plan is premised, in part, on recent Supreme Court rulings that limit the power of the agencies to write and impose regulations and that Musk and Ramaswamy say give the president considerable latitude to make big changes.

Musk and Ramaswamy said they will serve as outside volunteers. They will oversee the hiring of "a lean team of small-government crusaders" who will work with "legal experts embedded in government agencies, aided by advanced technology, to apply these [Supreme Court] rulings to federal regulations enacted by such agencies." They expect that work to identify vast numbers of regulations that can be eliminated — and that with that will come a reduction in the federal workforce.

The DOGE duo dispute what they say is conventional wisdom that says presidents can't fire federal workers, that those protections are there to protect workers only "from political retaliation," but not from broader reductions that don't target individuals. Further, they say, the president has the power to make other administrative changes, such as the relocation of agencies outside of Washington, which likely would result in many workers choosing to leave government service rather than uprooting. Congress might want a word on anything like that.

The Wall Street Journal opinion piece does not mention cost savings of nearly \$2 trillion. Instead, the piece mentions taking aim at the \$500 billion-plus in spending "unauthorized by Congress or being used in ways that Congress never intended."

Musk and Ramaswamy also said that their initiative would identify "pinpoint executive actions that would result in immediate savings for taxpayers." Whether this is a scaling back of ambitions or an oversight in failing to cite the full

scope of the cuts previously described isn't clear.

Elaine Kamarck of the Brookings Institution, who oversaw Gore's reinventing government initiative, offered counsel to the incoming administration in a piece on the Brookings website entitled, "Cut the government with a scalpel, not an ax." That was the approach taken during the Clinton administration, which resulted in the elimination of 640,000 pages of internal agency rules and a reduction in the federal workforce of 426,000 employees.

In an interview on Friday, Kamarck applauded the Trump team's determination to review federal regulations. "A regulatory review is a very sensible and good thing to do and ought to be done periodically anyway," she said. But she had reservations about some of the other things Musk and Ramaswamy have talked about.

As a candidate for the Republican nomination this year, Ramaswamy claimed the federal workforce could be cut by three-quarters over eight years, with a 50% reduction achievable in the first year or two, along with a 40% reduction in the number of agencies and units in the executive branch. "I'm probably the candidate in the last 30 years who has the deepest understanding of how to actually shut down the administrative state," he told Washington Post editors and reporters in June 2023.

Musk has a reputation for cutting budgets or workers at companies he owns, including Tesla, X, and Space X. A recent New York Times article said he was often willing

"to cut too much rather than too little" and also described him as having spent six hours going line by line through Twitter's budget with the company's executives, ordering cuts along the way and brooking no resistance.

Kamarck, however, questioned whether the federal bureaucracy is truly bloated, as Ramaswamy and the Trump team claim. There are, she noted about 19,000 Border Patrol agents. How many of those would Trump cut while still making good on his promise to secure the border and deport millions?

There are about 1,800 air traffic controllers, she said. Would Trump's team cut that workforce significantly, causing potential flight cancellations and disruption? "It will take about a week and Congress will say, 'Hey, you can't do this,'" she said.

And how deeply would he try to cut the workforce at the Social Security Administration, at the risk of checks not being sent out promptly or other breakdowns in a program that he has otherwise vowed not to touch?

Kamarck offered other examples of where the Trump team could produce only symbolic victories. Trump has targeted the Department of Education for elimination. Kamarck said the department could be eliminated but two key programs likely would remain — the student loan program and Title 1, which adds to state and local governments for low-achieving students in areas of higher poverty.

The student loan program could be shifted to the Treasury Department and Title 1 to the Department of Health

and Human Services, she said, which means a portion of its budget would be shifted rather than cut. Its workforce is the smallest of any Cabinet agency. Kamarck's point is that after programs are shifted, the money saved might not be significant and the number of workers eliminated would be tiny.

Kamarck also cautioned the Trump team about its notion that the best approach is to rely primarily on people outside of government to lead the effort, if that is their plan. The Grace Commission did that, using people in the private sector to bring a business sensibility to the federal government. Gore's operation worked closely with people in the agencies, which Kamarck argued produced better results. "The fat in the government is like the fat in good piece of steak," she said. "It's marbled through it."

Musk and Ramaswamy claimed that with his electoral college majority and a 6-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court, Trump is poised for "a historic opportunity for structural reductions in the federal government." In the face of expected opposition, they said, "We expect to prevail."

Those words no doubt reflect the aggressive approach the president-elect and his advisers hope to take once he is sworn in. Meanwhile, executive branch employees are bracing for what could be coming and opponents are preparing to resist through legal and other channels. Whether Trump's shock troops, led by Musk and Ramaswamy, are truly ready will be known soon.

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Republicans lash out against Democrats' Gabbard claims

By Adriana Gomez Licon
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Republican senators pushed back on Sunday against criticism from Democrats that Tulsi Gabbard, President-elect Donald Trump's pick to lead U.S. intelligence services, is "compromised" by her comments supportive of Russia and secret meetings, as a congresswoman, with Syria's president, a close ally of the Kremlin.

Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Illinois), a veteran of combat missions in Iraq, said she had concerns about Gabbard, Trump's choice to be director of national intelligence.

"I think she's compromised," Duckworth said on CNN's *State of the Union*, citing Gabbard's 2017 trip to Syria, where she held talks with Syrian President Bashar Assad. Gabbard was a Democratic House member from Hawaii at the time.

"The U.S. intelligence

community has identified her as having troubling relationships with America's foes. And so my worry is that she couldn't pass a background check," Duckworth said.

Gabbard, who said last month she is joining the Republican Party, has served in the Army National Guard for more than two decades. She was deployed to Iraq and Kuwait and, according to the Hawaii National Guard, received a Combat Medical Badge in 2005 for "participation in combat operations under enemy hostile fire in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III."

Duckworth's comments drew immediate backlash from Republicans.

"For her to say ridiculous and outright dangerous words like that is wrong," Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-Oklahoma) said on CNN, challenging Duckworth to retract her words. "That's the most dangerous thing she could say — is that a United States lieutenant colonel in the United States

Army is compromised and is an asset of Russia."

Mullin and others say the criticism from Democrats is rooted in the fact that Gabbard left their party and has become a Trump ally. Democrats say they worry that Gabbard's selection as national intelligence chief endangers ties with allies and gives Russia a win.

Rep. Adam Schiff, a California Democrat just elected to the Senate, said he would not describe Gabbard as a Russian asset, but said she had "very questionable judgment."

"The problem is if our foreign allies don't trust the head of our intelligence agencies, they'll stop sharing information with us," Schiff said on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-Missouri) said he thought it was "totally ridiculous" that Gabbard was being cast as a Russian asset.

"It's insulting. It's a slur, quite frankly. There's no evidence that she's an asset of another country," he said.



A view of the Mullica River at mile marker 0 near Atsion Recreation Area on Nov. 18. A U.S. Geological Survey gauge said the river was at 0.31 feet, well below normal, as seen by the riverbanks. Many waterways in the region are at or near record low levels. Allison Hartman / Pinelands Adventures

Drought

→ CONTINUED FROM A1

nonprofit Lehigh River Stocking Association, estimates he saw 300 to 400 dead fish along his walk. He knows almost every stream, creek, and river in the area intimately, having stocked them with trout over decades.

"I can never remember a time where this many streams have gone dry for this many months," said Spaits, who is 65.

Residents throughout the region, from the Lehigh Valley to the Philly suburbs and New Jersey's Pine-lands, have taken to social media with pictures of once-vibrant waterways reduced to puddles. They have crossed on foot what were once lakes. And, for some, it has meant a financial hit as kayak-ing tourism dwindled with drought.

The recent rain has no doubt helped, but not enough to replenish struggling waterways, some of which are at or near record low levels. Many parts of the region have hovered near 10 inches of rain deficit, which could take months to recover, despite more rain in the forecast for the days ahead. Precipitation as measured at Philadelphia International Airport was well above normal through mid-August. Since then, rainfall has been 81% below normal, even with the 1.1 inches of rain that fell last week.

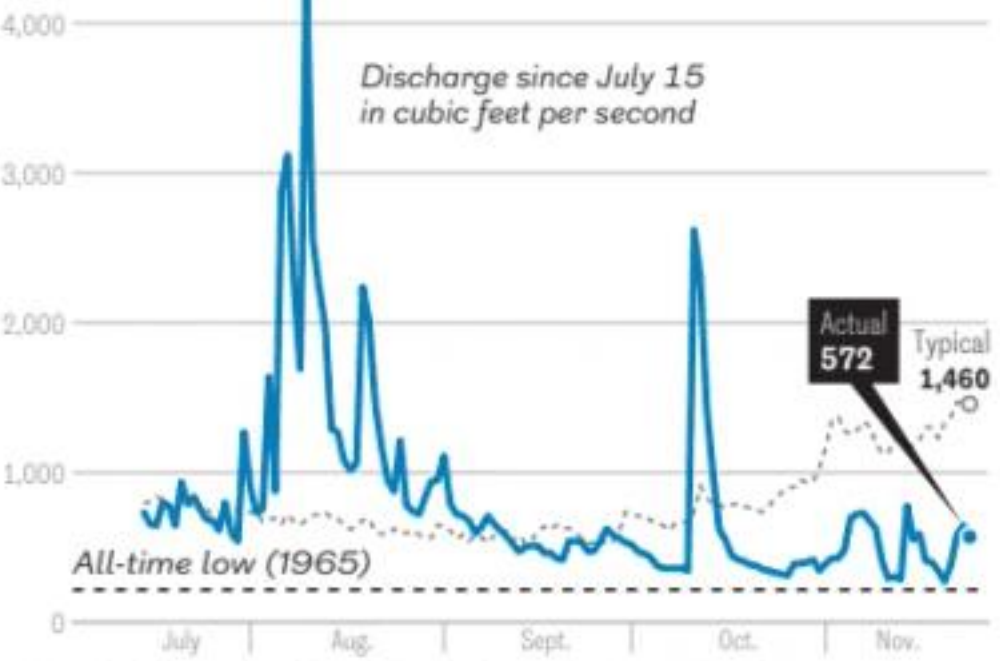
The drought

The drought that began in August, but intensified in September, October, and November, has taken its toll. Both Pennsylvania and New Jersey have declared drought watches, asking people to voluntarily conserve water.

Officials said last week that the flow of the Delaware River had dropped 40% by Tuesday, prior to Wednesday's rain. That has had the effect of driving the salty water coming up the river from the Atlantic Ocean northward to within 20 miles of an intake for drinking water for Philadelphia. The salt line is a measurement of the concentration of salinity that separates salt and fresh water.

The Lehigh River Should Be Rising. Instead, It's Disappearing.

A water monitoring station near Walnutport along the Lehigh River was at 20% of its typical discharge on Nov. 20, 72 cubic feet per second away from its lowest discharge reading in 78 years of recordkeeping. Discharge is a measure of the amount of water flowing through a station's sensor.



"Typical" refers to the daily median discharge for the station, which has 78 years of recorded data. Daily data spans one year, ending on Nov. 23, 2024.

Source: USGS Stephen Stirling / Staff



Dead fish are seen along Coplay Creek in Lehigh County. As the creek dried up, the fish became trapped in puddles that ultimately evaporated. Vince Spaits

Consider that the Lehigh River's flow last week was 20% of what is typical this time of year, according to U.S. Geological Survey gauge data. In October, Perkiomen Creek dropped well below its 43-year low record discharge of 7.92 cubic feet per second and is currently at 40% of normal. The Wading River in the Pinelands set a low flow record this year, and is currently flowing at 26% of the typical level.

Lehigh Valley

Tom Gyory, 63, treasurer of the Lehigh River Stocking Association, said that he has never seen water levels so low in the Lehigh Valley and that the drought has taken a toll on the thousands of fish stocked by his organization, a non-profit that helps the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stock trout within the watershed.

"Due to the low flow and warm temperatures over the summer, we lost about half our fish," Gyory said. "We raise 2,000 fish a year. So that was the highest mortality that we

ever had in the 10 years I've been the co-op nursery manager."

The Fish and Boat Commission resupplied the association.

Gyory, of Slatington, Lehigh County, said the drought has taken a toll throughout the animal food chain. The fish become more susceptible to disease, but they also depend on bugs who live in and around the water for food. Bigger predators, as well as herons and other birds, depend on the fish for food.

Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery County

Rob and Angela Vaughn have driven by or hiked the Green Lane Reservoir in Montgomery County many times over the decades.

But never before had they been able to get out of their car and amble across parts of the 814-acre reservoir bottom. The reservoir is fed by a branch of Perkiomen Creek and one of hundreds of struggling waterways in the area since the drought began in August.

Rob Vaughn, 67, a retired anchor for WFMZ-TV in Allentown and a former WIP radio host, lives in Bucks County, 10 minutes from the reservoir.

"We have been in the area for a long time," said Vaughn. "Some people said there was a phenomenon like this about 15 years ago. But I don't have any recollection of it being as low as this, where you could look out from the bridge over the reservoir and see nothing but lake bottom dirt as far as you can see to the other shore."

He had heard from a friend that the lake was walkable.

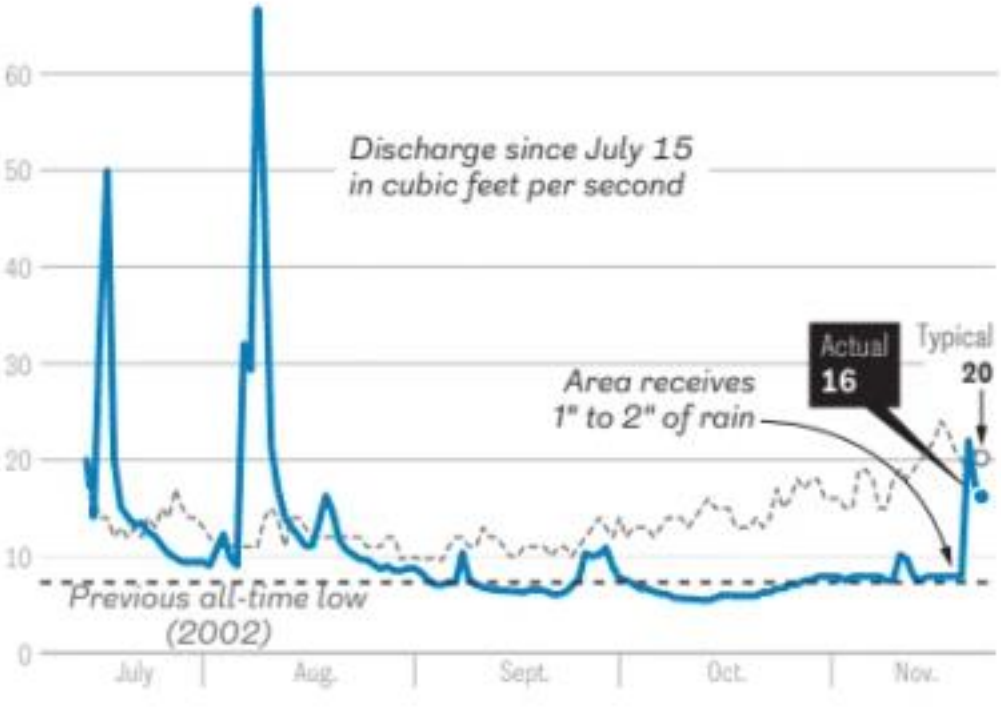
"So I said to my wife, 'Let's try that just to check it out,'" Vaughn said of his Nov. 7 trip. "We did and it was a real shock."

Green Lane Reservoir is just one of many waterways within the Delaware River Watershed that have been affected.

Aqua Pennsylvania, which owns the reservoir, in October began encouraging customers to voluntarily conserve water because of the drought. Company spokesperson

A Branch of Perkiomen Creek Set A Record Low Flow this Year

A water monitoring station in Upper Hanover, Montgomery County, unofficially recorded its lowest reading in 43 years in October, dipping below 5.5 cubic feet per second of discharge, a measure of the amount of water passing through the station's sensor.



"Typical" refers to the daily median discharge for the station, which has 43 years of recorded data. Daily data spans one year, ending on Nov. 23, 2024.

Source: USGS Stephen Stirling / Staff

Amanda Burge said the reservoir is safe and not close to drying up.

"While the edges appear dried out, there is still plenty of water in the deeper areas of the reservoir," Burge said in an email.

Burge said the reservoir's normal storage is 4.4 billion gallons. As of Thursday, it was at 3 billion gallons, or 69% full. She said the reduced level has not affected customers.

The Pinelands

People, such as farmers and outdoor adventure groups, count on the intricate latticework of waterways in the Pinelands — the Mullica, Batsto, and Wading Rivers — for their livelihood.

Cranberry farmers depend on irrigation from the rivers. When the waterways dry up, the farmers must pump water from the aquifer. It's costly to run pumps almost around the clock at harvest time in October into early November. The cranberry farmers say this is the worst drought they have ever experienced.

But the Pinelands also draw tourism, and the lack of rainfall has caused some businesses to lose money.

A statewide prohibition against campfires dampened enthusiasm for popular fall camping spots.

Allison Hartman, education director for Pinelands Adventures, which runs paddling, hiking, and nature tours, said the outdoor-trip outfit depends on the Mullica and Batsto Rivers for kayaking tours. Normally, the kayak season ends Oct. 31. This year, Hartman said the group abruptly halted trips on the Mullica on Aug. 23.

"We were not able to reopen it for the rest of the season because the water levels were so low," Hartman said.

Trips on the Batsto River, a tributary of the Mullica, continued because the water levels were higher.

Pinelands Adventures offers multiple trips on the Mullica, including a short two-mile paddle that's popular with beginners, as well as a longer 11-mile overnight trip.

"We were disappointed that on either end, our beginners and our pro paddlers, were not able to do the trips for two and a half months of our season," Hartman said. "We had to adjust, and I know it was frustrating and difficult for some of our customers to have to change their plans."

Hartman said some parts of the Mullica River "right now are more of a hike than a paddle."

Pinelands Adventures uses a USGS gauge on the Mullica River to determine whether water levels are acceptable for paddling. The gauge height must show between 2.7 feet to .65 feet. Anything above 2.7 can mean the river is running too fast to ensure the safety of paddlers. Anything below 0.65 feet is too low. Last week, the gauge read 0.29 feet.

"The drought has definitely had an impact this year," Hartman said.

Data Editor Stephen Stirling and Graphics Editor John Duchneskie contributed to this article.

Norcross

→ CONTINUED FROM A1

maintained the indictment was clear in its description of how Norcross and his codefendants criminally profited from their control over Camden government and gained the upper hand in business deals.

“By exploiting Norcross’s reputation for untrammelled control over local government and overpowering political influence across New Jersey, the Norcross Enterprise essentially took the Camden waterfront for itself,” Assistant New Jersey Attorney General Michael D. Grillo and Deputy Attorney General Adam D. Klein wrote. They later added: “That is not hard bargaining by any stretch, and the grand jury was well within its rights to call it extortion.”

How Warshaw decides in the coming months will determine the future of one of the most ambitious corruption probes the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office has pursued in years. The judge has set a date in January to hear arguments on whether to allow the case to proceed.

A grand jury indicted Norcross and the others in June, alleging they manipulated a state tax credit program to benefit themselves and used threats and intimidation to muscle out rivals in pursuit of Camden land deals.

Since then, Norcross and his allies have relentlessly attacked the case — in court and in the press — and accused Attorney General Matt Platkin of carrying out a “legal jihad” against them. They maintain he’s abusing his power to criminalize normal business negotiation tactics and lawful lobbying of government officials.



New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin at a news conference at his office in December in Trenton. Mike Catalini

“This indictment has no business in a court of law,” their lawyers wrote in September. “It is both too trite and too generous to call it an indictment in search of a crime.”

At this stage in the case, prosecutors must only show that the indictment lays out theoretical crimes that if proven at trial would constitute violations of state laws. Arguments over whether the evidence backs up the notion that Norcross and his codefendants committed those crimes are typically reserved for the jury phase of the proceedings.

In their court papers Friday,

prosecutors said that the conduct of the unelected Norcross and his allies far exceeded the bounds of the law and accused them of using their “raw political power and functional control over the levers of government” to threaten rivals and gain leverage in business negotiations.

“Nowhere should the promise of a level playing field be more straightforward than with elected government — yet the Norcross Enterprise extorted property and coerced action by intimidating to its victims that, unless they did what George Norcross wanted, ‘they

would forfeit any potential business opportunity’ in Camden and indeed suffer harm at the hands of the City,” they wrote.

They also rejected Norcross’ claim that many of the charges — which are based in part on allegations that date to 2012 — are time-barred under state law. They said the Norcross-led racketeering conspiracy continued to profit from their illegal activities to this day — chiefly through the obtaining and selling of tax credits tied to many of the business deals implicated in the indictment.

Also charged in the case are

Norcross’ brother Philip, CEO of the law firm Parker McCay; former Camden Mayor Dana L. Redd; William Tambussi, an attorney who has represented Norcross and local government entities; and businessmen Sidney R. Brown and John J. O’Donnell, who partnered with Norcross on waterfront development deals. Each has pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney General’s Office on Friday also responded to the defense team’s disclosure last week of a 2023 letter from the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Philadelphia showing that federal prosecutors declined to pursue a case against Norcross last year.

Lawyers for Tambussi wrote in a court filing that the letter said Norcross and his codefendants “had committed no crime” and cast the current case against them as one built on evidence previously rejected by federal authorities.

The N.J. attorney general’s office noted that the letter included no such language. “That defense counsel would suggest that the federal prosecutors’ letters say ‘no crime’ occurred signals his intent to circumvent the legal process and indoctrinate the press, the public, and, worst of all, the prospective jury pool, with a slanted version of the investigations,” prosecutors wrote.

They added that the attorney general’s probe “generated new evidence entirely distinct from” other investigations by federal prosecutors in Philadelphia and New Jersey.

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Deeds

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typically takes a month or two after an auction. That used to be the case in Philadelphia. But, under Bilal, the system has slowed to a near halt at times.

Why is it happening? No one will say.

Neither Bilal nor anyone in Mayor Cherelle L. Parker’s administration would provide an explanation for what has gone wrong. Bid4Assets, a private company contracted to conduct online auctions for the sheriff’s office, did not respond to a request for comment.

One attorney representing a lender to commercial developers recently notified the city’s law department that he intends to depose Bilal if he cannot get answers.

“I don’t know what they’re doing at the sheriff’s office at this point,” Potts said. “We’re like a year behind.”

An Inquirer analysis in July found that, in February and March of this year, the sheriff’s office submitted just 29 deeds for recording, nearly all of which corresponded to auctions that took place 200 to 300 days prior.

Bilal’s staff at the time had claimed that the numbers were wrong — “You insist there is a widespread delay, but that is incorrect,” spokesperson Teresa Lundy said in a statement in July — but later backtracked and attributed the delays to an unspecified “staffing error.”

They announced a plan over the summer to conduct an audit of all deeds filed since January 2024.

“Once completed,” Lundy said in July, “the result of the audit and our updated policy will be made public.”

Bilal’s office has subsequently not responded to any requests for information. Attorneys representing banks and other auction winners are now being forced to petition the courts on a case-by-case basis to try to obtain property deeds for their clients.

“I feel like I’ve been robbed,” said one woman who purchased an investment property in March and



Neither Sheriff Rochelle Bilal nor Undersheriff Tariq El-Shabazz, the office’s top lawyer, have provided any public explanation for why auction winners cannot get deeds to properties. Some have waited up to a year. Bilal’s staff said in July it would conduct an audit, but they have since gone silent. Jose F. Moreno / Staff Photographer

has yet to receive the deed. She and her husband, like several other buyers who have reached out to The Inquirer this year, requested anonymity out of concern that Bilal’s office could retaliate by deliberately withholding the deeds or causing them problems in future auctions.

“This was from our savings,” she said Thursday of the money they used to bid on the house. “It really bothers me. This was our first property that we purchased, and we were not expecting this to happen.”

In response to questions from The Inquirer, Ava Schwemler, a spokesperson for the city’s law department, provided a one-sentence statement on Thursday that she said was approved by Undersheriff Tariq El-Shabazz: “The Law Department acts as legal counsel to the Sheriff’s Office and therefore represents the Sheriff’s Office in litigation.”

Schwemler said the law department and the mayor’s office had no additional comment.

Daniel Bernheim, a lawyer who is suing the city and Bilal over the delays and is seeking a systemic fix, said he had recently received a “startling” number of calls and emails from people and companies trying to get their deeds after auctions — some waiting up to a year.

“Everybody has a war story,” Bernheim said. “It’s crazy.”

Property auctions climb, but deed processing still lags

Although the sheriff’s office has recently increased the number of sales it handles each month by restarting auctions of tax-delinquent properties — they had been

on hold for years due to a bureaucratic dispute — city records show that the pace of deed processing has failed to keep up.

In October, for example, only 36 deeds from sheriff sales were recorded. But the office has already listed 672 properties for tax or mortgage foreclosure sales next month. The office is also still working through an old backlog, with deeds being recorded this month for auctions that occurred as far back as December 2023.

Bernheim, who also serves as a Lower Merion commissioner, said the city has not provided any specifics about possible solutions.

“I really want to see that this gets resolved. I requested a seat at the table, if there really is a table, to get it done,” Bernheim said. “I’ve had no response.”

James Leonard, the city’s commissioner of records, said the delays are not occurring in his department, which is responsible for finalizing sales by publicly recording deeds.

“All deeds, including Sheriff’s Office deeds, that are submitted in recordable form (i.e., in compliance with state law recording requirements) are recorded within 24 hours of submittal,” Leonard said in an email on Tuesday.

Some institutional buyers have started taking things into their own hands.

A subsidiary of lender Lima One Capital foreclosed on a North Philly investment property in April 2023. After waiting nearly a year without word from the sheriff’s office, lawyers for the firm obtained a court order in February, forcing the sheriff to process a deed within five days. (The sheriff finally submitted

a deed 12 days later.)

But smaller buyers can’t always afford legal representation to obtain a deed. These delays can be especially costly for investors who purchase properties with borrowed money — then have to continue paying interest on the loan for months with no property to show for it.

“I’m taking a hit on this. I used a home equity line of credit, and I’m paying for that,” Dave Brown, who purchased a rowhouse at a sheriff sale as a first-time renovation project, told The Inquirer in June. He was supposed to get the deed within 60 to 90 days. It ended up taking seven months.

The problem also affects banks and other lenders who reclaim properties that fail to sell at auction, and it trickles down to would-be homeowners who subsequently enter into contracts to purchase those properties. Those buyers are often not willing to wait a year to settle on a home. Weather damage can occur in empty homes.

“I’ve lost a lot of sales,” said Helene Lazarus, a real estate agent who has been hired to resell foreclosed properties. “People are just not waiting. They’re dropping out.”

“We have not seen any improvement,” a manager at a capital provider for construction projects and investment properties said last week. He requested anonymity to protect his clients from possible retaliation. “In fact, the delays have worsened over time.... These delays have a direct bearing on our ability to sell these properties to provide additional housing options and growth for a sorely needed boost for the city.”

The ongoing delays are the

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latest in a series of breakdowns in the sheriff’s office, including misappropriated funds, lax courthouse security, mishandled domestic-abuse cases, and allegations of missing guns.

Clayton Pronold, a lawyer who represents mortgage servicing companies, said he has sat on dozens of properties throughout the year that would have been resold if the sheriff’s office would have recorded the deeds. He said earlier this month that the problem hasn’t gotten any better.

He gets calls from out-of-state clients who are unaware of the level of dysfunction in the Philadelphia Sheriff’s Office. They think there is someone he can talk to to move things along.

“They’re saying, ‘Why isn’t the deed recorded?’” Pronold said. “And I’m like, ‘You don’t understand.’”

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“This was from our savings. It really bothers me. This was our first property that we purchased, and we were not expecting this to happen.”

A woman who bought an investment property in March

Hezbollah bombards Israel for Beirut strikes

Some of the rockets fired from Lebanon struck Tel Aviv in the heart of Israel.

By Kareem Chehayeb and Tia Goldenberg
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Hezbollah fired about 250 rockets and other projectiles into Israel on Sunday, wounding seven people in one of the militant group's heaviest barrages in months, in response to deadly Israeli strikes in Beirut while negotiators pressed on with cease-fire efforts to halt the all-out war.

Some of the rockets reached the Tel Aviv area in the heart of Israel. Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on an army center killed a Lebanese soldier and wounded 18 others in the southwest between Tyre and Naqoura, Lebanon's military said. The Israeli military expressed regret, saying that the strike occurred in an area of combat against Hezbollah and that the military's operations are directed solely against the militants.

Israeli strikes have killed over 40 Lebanese troops since the start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah, even as Lebanon's military has largely kept to the sidelines.

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, condemned the latest strike as an assault on U.S.-led cease-fire efforts, calling it a "direct, bloody message rejecting all efforts and ongoing contacts" to end the war.

Hezbollah fires 250 rockets in retaliation

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles, and drones into Israel after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack out of the Gaza Strip ignited the war there. Hezbollah has portrayed the attacks as an act of solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas. Iran supports both armed groups.

Israel launched retaliatory airstrikes at Hezbollah, and in



An Israeli bomb squad policeman carries the remains of a rocket that was fired from Lebanon in Kibbutz Kfar Blum, northern Israel, on Sunday. Ohad Zwigenberg / AP

September the low-level conflict erupted into all-out war as Israel launched airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon and killed Hezbollah's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

The Israeli military said about 250 projectiles were fired Sunday, with some intercepted.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said it treated seven people, including a 60-year-old man in severe condition from rocket fire on northern Israel, a 23-year-old man who was lightly wounded by a blast in the central city of Petah Tikva, near Tel Aviv, and a 70-year-old woman who suffered smoke inhalation from a car that caught fire there. In Haifa, a rocket hit a residential building that police said was in danger of collapsing.

The Palestine Red Crescent reported 13 injuries it said were caused by an interceptor missile that struck several homes in Tulkarem in the West Bank. It

was unclear whether injuries and damage were caused by rockets or interceptors.

Sirens wailed again in central and northern Israel hours later.

Israeli airstrikes without warning on Saturday pounded central Beirut, killing at least 29 people and wounding 67, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Smoke billowed above Beirut again Sunday with new strikes. Israel's military said it targeted Hezbollah command centers in the southern suburbs of Dahiyeh, where the militants have a strong presence.

Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,700 people in Lebanon, according to the Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million people, or a quarter of Lebanon's population.

On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by bombardment in northern Israel and in battle

following Israel's ground invasion in early October. Around 60,000 Israelis have been displaced from the country's north.

EU envoy calls for pressure to reach a truce

The European Union's top diplomat called Sunday for more pressure on Israel and Hezbollah to reach a deal, saying one was "pending with a final agreement from the Israeli government." U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein was in the region last week.

Josep Borrell spoke after meeting with Mikati and Lebanese Parliament speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally who has been mediating with the group. Borrell said the EU is ready to allocate 200 million euros (\$208 million) to assist the Lebanese military.

But Borrell later said that he did not "see the Israeli government interested clearly in reaching an

agreement for a cease-fire" and that it seemed Israel was seeking new conditions. He pointed to Israel's refusal to accept France as a member of the international committee that would oversee the cease-fire's implementation.

The emerging agreement would pave the way for the withdrawal of Hezbollah militants and Israeli troops from southern Lebanon below the Litani River in accordance with the U.N. Security Council resolution that ended the monthlong 2006 war. Lebanese troops would patrol with the presence of U.N. peacekeepers.

One year since the only hostage-release deal

With talks for a cease-fire and hostage release deal in Gaza stalled, freed hostages and families of those held marked a year since the war's only hostage-release deal.

"It's hard to hold on to hope, certainly after so long and as another winter is about to begin," said Yifat Zailer, cousin of Shiri Bibas, who is held along with her husband and two young sons.

Around 100 hostages are still in Gaza, at least a third believed to be dead. Most of the rest of the 250 who were abducted in the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack were released in last year's cease-fire.

Talks for another deal recently had several setbacks, including the firing of Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, who pushed for a deal, and Qatar's decision to suspend its mediation. Hamas wants Israel to end the war and withdraw all troops from Gaza. Israel has offered only to pause its offensive.

The Palestinian death toll from the war surpassed 44,000 this week, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count.

On Sunday, six people were killed in strikes in central Gaza, according to AP journalists at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah.

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

BUSINESS & MONEY

A proposal for development near stadiums

A site near Live! Casino and Hotel would have six buildings, including 1,367 residential units and an entertainment complex.

By Jake Blumgart
Staff Writer

A mammoth new development is being planned in South Philadelphia's stadium district, featuring six buildings, 1,367 residential units, an office tower, and an entertainment complex.

The proposal, from international development group Hines, would be built just to the east of the Live! Casino and Hotel, on land owned by Mark Nicoletti's Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation

(PSDC). Until recently it was occupied by Parx Casino's South Philadelphia Race & Sportsbook and Packer Avenue Foods.

"Hines, an international real estate firm ... has a history of developing best-in-class communities and great spaces in Philadelphia, and their desire to build a multi-million-dollar project in the sports stadium district is exciting," said City Council President Kenyatta Johnson, who had legislation introduced to enable the project.

"The collective partnership between Hines and PSDC ... will finally give Philadelphia an opportunity to live, work, and play in the stadium district," Johnson said.

PSDC is a major landholder in Philadelphia and owns many parcels across the city. Neither Nicoletti nor his zoning lawyer

→ SEE DEVELOPMENT ON A8



The site that included the former South Philadelphia Race & Sportsbook on Packer Avenue would become a new mega development for the stadium complex area. Jake Blumgart / Staff

At some grocery stores, egg shortages amid surge in bird flu

By Hannah Ziegler
and Shannon Najmabadi
Washington Post

While most grocery prices have stabilized this year, one supermarket staple keeps getting pricier and tougher to track down: eggs.

It was frustrating to shoppers at a Trader Joe's in a neighborhood of Washington, D.C., one day last week as they walked past an empty refrigerator case with a sign that read: "Temporarily out of eggs."

One customer, Donella Brockington, worried that she wouldn't have eggs to bake for Thanksgiving. "I hate going to grocery stores, so when I go and I can't get what I want, it's unpleasant," she said.

Not too far away, at a Whole Foods Market, only duck eggs, quail eggs, and organic pasture-raised eggs were available. A sign informed shoppers that the store was limiting egg purchases to three cartons per customer. "We are currently experiencing difficulty sourcing eggs that meet our strict animal welfare standards," it said.

Eggs have vanished from many U.S. grocery shelves in recent weeks, sparking consumer fears that a shortage could coincide with the holiday season. Egg production in the United States dropped 2.6% in October from a year ago and is projected to decline 1% in 2024 compared to 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported recently.

The most recent shortage has a familiar culprit: bird flu.

A devastating outbreak of highly pathogenic bird flu first hit birds in the U.S. in February 2022 and has since impacted more than 108 million poultry in 48 states, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Outbreaks in Utah, Washington state, and Oregon last month resulted in the loss of 2.8 million birds and forced the USDA to reduce its egg production estimates for the end of 2024 and start of 2025. More hens are dying from avian flu, and the remaining flock isn't growing fast enough to compensate, the USDA said.

"Bird flu is by far the biggest factor involved with egg prices," said Bernt Nelson, an economist at the American Farm Bureau Federation. "As bird flu comes and goes, our egg prices ride the wave."

Shrinking numbers of hens for the last two years have left retailers scrambling — and egg prices climbing. The average price for a dozen large eggs was \$3.37 in October — up 30.4% from the same month last year — but lower than September's average of \$3.82. Egg prices have risen more than any other consumer staple in the last year and far outpaced last month's overall food inflation level of 2.1%.

The USDA said in its release that it expects the price of eggs to increase in late 2024 and early 2025, meaning high costs could



In some areas of the country, an increase in avian flu is leading to egg shortages in many stores. The average price for a dozen large eggs was \$3.37 in October — up 30.4% from the same month last year — but lower than September's average of \$3.82. Haven Daley / AP

plague consumers into the new year. The challenge with avian flu is that it keeps changing and mutating — and as long as it stays unpredictable, the outbreak will weigh on supply and drive price volatility, Nelson said.

Avian flu usually spreads most in the fall and spring as wild birds like turkeys, ducks, geese, and swans migrate for the season. These birds can easily carry the disease between farms and infect both backyard and commercial flocks.

Any seasonal infection uptick usually stays isolated to the Midwest. But this fall, more birds migrated through the Pacific region, worsening outbreaks on the West Coast, Nelson said.

Egg supply last faced a massive disruption in late 2022 and early 2023, where the average cost for a dozen eggs surged to a record \$4.82 during the initial outbreak of the current avian flu strain. While prices won't hit such records this fall, consumers can expect a slight tightening of egg supply through

the holiday season, said Emily Metz, the chief executive and president of the American Egg Board, which markets and promotes eggs and egg products.

"This is a virus that is very wily," Metz said. "It affects farms regardless of production, style, shape, size, and whether it's cage-free or conventional or pasture-raised."

The cost of cage-free

Increased feed, labor, transportation, and packaging costs have also contributed to the death of the 99-cent carton of eggs, Metz said.

Still, consumer egg demand is typically stable despite price changes and for now is holding up. Through October, egg sales are up 4.6% year-on-year, according to the American Egg Board, citing NielsenIQ data.

Egg demand usually surges before the holidays, but as prices rise at the end of this year, the USDA said it expects "a level of consumer resistance to current shelf prices."

At some stores, eggs are harder to find because of cage-free specifications, which prohibit egg-laying hens from being confined to cages. This change is especially visible at stores like Trader Joe's and Whole Foods, both of which have made strides to go cage-free.

More than a dozen states have implemented or are set to enact cage-free requirements — with the catch that they limit the pool of potential egg suppliers they can use, Nelson said.

Many recent avian flu outbreaks have happened in cage-free states, which have a harder time making up for lost egg production because they have to source all eggs from cage-free facilities, even when importing eggs from another state, Metz said.

Avian flu has had an outsized impact on cage-free hens because they have more free movement, which generally makes them more susceptible to disease, Nelson said. Less than half of U.S. hen flocks are cage-free, yet they account for more

than 60 percent of those impacted by avian flu. Infection slows a hen's egg production if it doesn't kill the bird first, and infected flocks are typically euthanized to avoid further spread.

Because of the virus' impact, farmers are limited in the number of cage-free eggs they can produce to meet demand. The USDA says the U.S. would need to produce 66.7 billion cage-free eggs each year to meet full demand, which would require 221.4 million cage-free hens. But right now, there are only 106.6 million cage-free hens, leaving a shortage of 114.8 million hens.

Still, current USDA data on chick hatches is encouraging and suggests egg production will rebound early next year, Nelson said, meaning there are "replacements in the pipeline" that will help compensate for this season's drop in production.

"Any shortages that people are experiencing are going to be intermittent," Metz said. "To the consumers looking for eggs: Don't panic."

BUSINESS & MONEY

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McDonald's to expand value menu in January

By Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

McDonald's will expand its U.S. value menu early next year as it continues to try to win back inflation-weary customers.

Starting Jan. 7, the burger chain will let customers who buy one full-priced item from a specified value menu to get another item on that menu for \$1. Items on the menu include a Sausage McMuffin, hash browns, a McChicken sandwich, and small fries.

McDonald's will also continue to offer its \$5 Meal Deal through next summer. That deal was introduced in June and, in September, extended through the end of this year. The company, which is based in Chicago, said it will also continue to offer local specials and in-app deals like free drinks.

McDonald's \$5 Meal Deal offer in the summer was matched by other fast-food restaurants. As grocery



Starting Jan. 7, McDonald's will let customers who buy one full-priced item from a specified value menu to get another item on that menu for \$1. Jenny Kane / AP

price inflation has eased, McDonald's says it has seen more diners shifting to eating at home instead

of going out. In October, prices for food eaten away from home were up 3.8% from the prior year,

while prices for food eaten at home were up 1.1%, according to the U.S. government.

Development

→ CONTINUED FROM A7

responded to requests for comment. Hines declined to comment.

Johnson, whose district includes the site just northeast of Citizens Bank Park, had a bill introduced on Nov. 14 that would change the site's zoning from allowing only industrial businesses to a category that would allow dense residential and commercial development.

The bill would also create an overlay — essentially a patch on the zoning code to create hyperlocal rule tweaks — to allow changes that wouldn't otherwise be allowed under the new zoning, like "assembly and entertainment" uses and roof decks on a nonresidential building. Those overlay provisions will expire within two years of the bill becoming law if zoning permits have not been issued at the site, which includes about half the land south of Packer Avenue toward Pattison Avenue between Darien and Seventh Streets.

The project would include 1,234

parking spaces in the base of the six buildings. A "restaurant and entertainment complex" would include much of the 65,000 square feet of dining space. And 125,000 square feet of retail would be spread among the buildings. Four of the six buildings would be largely residential.

"This would create a mixed-use neighborhood that would provide amenities to support itself, as well as those visiting the sports complex," said Dan Farrell, a municipal transportation planner, during a presentation to the Philadelphia Planning Commission on Thursday afternoon.

At the Thursday meeting, commissioners seemed confused about the intent of the legislation's sunset clause. While the overlay for the project would sunset after two years if the project does not secure permits, it appears that the change from industrial to mixed-use residential and commercial development would remain.

"The zoning change wouldn't be contingent on this project," said Dawn Summerville of the Commerce Department, who sits on the Planning Commission, at the meeting. "So realistically, anything else could be built besides this with the new changes."

This form of so-called spot zoning — altering land-use rules to benefit a single project — is frowned upon in urban-planning best practices, as it can create the appearance of impropriety. If a politician or planner alters the land-use rules on just one property, it can juice the value of the land in a manner that benefits the property owner.

Johnson's sunset clause appears to address such concerns, although his office did not respond to a question about its intent.

And although Philadelphia's zoning code reform of 2012 was meant to reduce the practice of spot zoning in the city, it is still a common practice in City Council.

The Hines and PSDC project

comes at a time of renewed attention to the stadium complex area, as the 76ers attempt to move to a proposed arena in Center City.

The owner of their current home at the Wells Fargo Center, Comcast Spectacor, has unveiled ambitious plans to the west of the PSDC site to develop an even larger \$2.5 billion housing and entertainment project.

At present, their plans have been manifest in only a renovation and expansion of the Xfinity Live! bar. But the company, which also owns the Flyers, says it plans to transform the sea of parking lots around the stadiums.

The Hines and PSDC project could complement those ambitions.

"The project will create jobs and important economic development ... and will serve as the catalyst for the stadium district as it begins to transform," Johnson said.

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READERS' CHOICE STOCKS AND FUNDS

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Company	10.04	-.30	Arista	54.45	+1.38	Clovis	12.46	+1.42	Estimote	69.05	+6.35	Fluor	12.89	+2.20	McKesson	62.39	+6.90	PPL Corp.	34.45	+7.51	Sasol	5.59	+2.27	Travelers	302.47	+1.65
Stock	Last	Chg	AT&T	2.92	+1.24	Coca-Cola	63.92	+2.26	Exxon	63.38	+1.53	Hartman	19.73	+3.30	Medtronic	66.21	-1.32	Panther	2.97	+1.55	Sealed Air	5.59	+2.87	Trinity	30.77	+2.67
ALAC	12.36	+1.67	BP PLC	22.36	+1.24	Cummins	79.54	+2.73	Genentech	39.71	-.80	Gold	.35	+2.30	Merck	99.18	+2.97	Pallstar	64.35	-1.42	Seagate	99.62	+2.63	Tyco	63.77	-.55
AGNC Inv.	9.74	+1.36	BP PLC	22.36	+1.24	Comcast	30.45	-1.21	Expedia	19.92	+1.57	IQV	1.95	-.30	Micro	96.59	+1.35	Palladium	4.60	+2.75	Sonic	35.30	+1.04	UDR	45.09	+1.78
ASA Gold	20.18	+1.64	BP PLC	22.36	+1.24	Comcast	30.45	-1.21	Expedia	19.92	+1.57	IQV	1.95	-.30	Micro	96.59	+1.35	Palladium	4.60	+2.75	Sonic	35.30	+1.04	UDR	45.09	+1.78
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Black voters

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perform better in Black precincts. Neighborhoods throughout West Philadelphia and parts of North Philadelphia saw the largest drop in voter turnout, which mostly meant fewer votes for Democrats. In three of the top five mostly Black precincts where turnout fell, Trump increased his share of votes without actually garnering more votes himself.

In Mill Creek, 210 fewer ballots were cast. There, Trump's vote share increased from 2.9% to 5%, up 67 votes from 2020.

Several residents shopping in the neighborhood suggested one reason they didn't vote was distrust of the government; they felt like the fix was in. They also pointed to concerns about transgender rights and Harris' racial identity — two social issues over which the Republican Party attacked Harris — which they said kept them from voting Democrat or engendered them to Trump.

"I don't think the citizens determine who's gonna be in office at all so I just don't waste my time," said Cequora Jones, 34.

Jones has never voted, and said neither candidate persuaded her to go to the polls. But: "If I would have voted," she said, "I probably would have voted for Trump." Jones cited social issues, like disapproval of unisex bathrooms, as a "good point" for Trump.

Evervine Brown, 31, hasn't voted since 2012 when she helped elect former President Barack Obama. She said she sat out this election despite loved ones urging her to vote for Harris.

"I felt like I didn't want to vote for her because I really don't know her like that," Brown said. She questioned Harris' race, a point raised by Trump and parroted by conservatives to discredit Harris among Black voters. Harris' father is Jamaican and her mother was Indian.

Neither Jones nor Brown was surprised Trump won. Nor was Stephen Waters, who voted for the vice president.

"She kind of got thrown into the race by default when Biden got

sick," said Waters, 30, of Harris' candidacy, "and Trump's been around for quite a long time. So even if he's not very popular with people,...a lot of common people didn't know who Kamala was."

Until official voter rolls are released, typically several weeks after an election, it's difficult to parse out how voting behaviors differed by gender on the precinct-level. In Pennsylvania however, 26% of Black men, more than a quarter, voted for Trump according to exit polling that surveys voters as they're leaving the polls. Seventy-two percent voted for Harris. In contrast, only 3% of Black women in Pennsylvania voted for the Republican.

Trump's support among Black men in Pennsylvania was higher than the national average, where 21% of Black men voted for the Republican. It's also a staggering leap in support for the president-elect compared with 2020, when exit polling found Trump garnered support from just 10% of Black men in Pennsylvania.

Black men who voted for Trump locally offered a number of reasons they believe he grew his vote share in the city, from perceptions of an ineffective Democratic Party to inflation to immigration.

Carnel Harley, 51, the GOP leader of the 13th Ward, said Trump's signing of a bipartisan criminal justice reform law called the First Step Act, which shortens federal sentences and seeks to improve prison conditions, helped Black America. He added that Harris' ties to President Joe Biden's administration harmed her reputation.

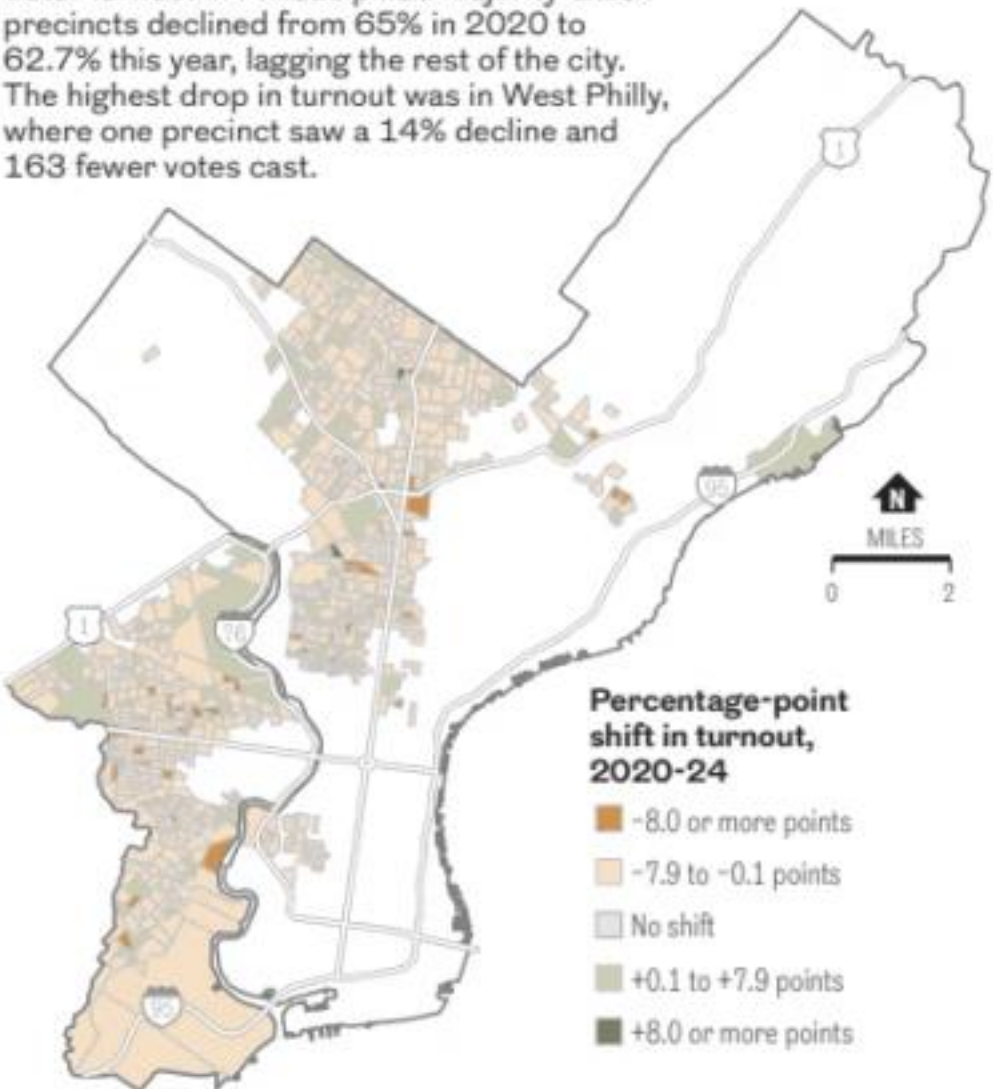
"What has the past administration done for the Black community besides [Juneteenth]," Harley asked.

John McAuley, 36, is a delivery truck driver and conservative podcaster. He said his top priorities when choosing a president were decreasing inflation and curbing immigration.

"I think Black men chose policy this time instead of race, and they stopped listening to mainstream

Voter Turnout Was Down In Majority-Black Neighborhoods

Voter turnout in Philadelphia's majority-Black precincts declined from 65% in 2020 to 62.7% this year, lagging the rest of the city. The highest drop in turnout was in West Philly, where one precinct saw a 14% decline and 163 fewer votes cast.



Figures were last updated on Nov. 22, and do not include 2,475 ballots the city reported as counted, but without a valid election precinct.

Source: Inquirer analysis of Phila. City Commissioners data

Lizzie Mulvey / Staff

media and started getting a lot of their information through X," said McAuley, of Mount Airy.

Economic experts have said Trump's two biggest proposals, widespread tariffs and mass deportation of undocumented immigrants, would be inflationary. When asked about the fact that experts said mass deportation would likely lead to inflation, McAuley said it's also a matter of national security.

Shawn Gamble Jr. said sociocultural issues could have influenced more Black men to cast a ballot for Trump or influenced Black voters to sit out the election in general. Gamble, who voted for Trump and

is an officer with the Black Conservative Federation, said a family member who did not vote at all flagged a conservative ad bashing Harris' support for transgender individuals.

"The fact that that was the first thing she told me when I talked to her, I was like, 'Wow, that stuck,'" Gamble, 26, said. "So it could've been the whole social and culture war."

He also said anxieties about the economy and immigration helped Trump. Gamble, who is from Logan and has lived in Reading since 2016, said Trump's outreach to voters of color, and Black voters specifically,

is unique.

"When I first started out, it was not this diverse," Gamble said of the Republican Party. "And to see how it has grown, it's beautiful."

This election showed people don't necessarily vote based on policy, said Timothy Welbeck, the director at Temple University's Center for Anti-Racism.

"Much of this election was not decided by policy and potential solutions because if you listen closely to President-elect Trump's rallies and statements, he offered very little policy proposals," Welbeck said.

"In many ways, the electorate demonstrated that what they say they want from their elected officials is not necessarily the same thing that they will select when they step into the voting booth," Welbeck added later.

D'Andra Orey, who studies Black political attitudes and is a professor of political science at Jackson State University, said Black people distrust the political establishment, and Trump's positioning of himself as a political outsider helped the Republican candidate.

Orey studies intraracial attitudes — or Black attitudes about Black people — and said internalized racism worked together with sexism to push Black men away from Harris.

"From the mammy, to the Jezebel, to the Sapphire," he said, "all the different stereotypes that are associated with Black women, all of these impact people's attitudes toward Black women."

Orey and Welbeck repeatedly noted that Black men still overwhelmingly supported Harris.

"I think most postelection analysis has shied away from the fact that President-elect Trump's rhetoric, messaging, and propaganda appealed to about half of the white population in this nation," said Welbeck. "Ultimately it distills down to that."

ljones@inquirer.com and lmulvey@inquirer.com
🐦 bae_lay

Israel says rabbi who went missing in the UAE was killed

By Tia Goldenberg and Jon Gambrell
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israel said Sunday that the body of an Israeli-Moldovan rabbi who went missing in the United Arab Emirates has been found after he was killed in what it described as a "heinous antisemitic terror incident."

The UAE's Interior Ministry later said authorities arrested three suspects involved in the killing of Zvi Kogan.

The statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel "will act with all means to seek justice with the criminals responsible for his death." Israeli authorities did not say how they determined the killing of Kogan was a terror attack and offered no additional details.

Kogan, 28, an ultraorthodox rabbi who went missing on Thursday, ran a kosher grocery store in the futuristic city of Dubai, where Israelis have flocked for commerce and tourism since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in the 2020 Abraham Accords.

The agreement has held through more than a year of soaring regional tensions unleashed by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack into southern Israel. But Israel's devastating retaliatory offensive in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon, after months of fighting with the Hezbollah militant group, have stoked anger among Emiratis, Arab nationals and others living in the UAE.

Iran, which supports Hamas and Hezbollah, has also been threatening to retaliate against Israel after a wave of airstrikes Israel carried out in October in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack.

The Emirati government did not respond to a request for comment. However, senior Emirati diplomat Anwer Gargash wrote on



A man walks past Rimon Market, a kosher grocery store managed by the late Rabbi Zvi Kogan, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Sunday. Jon Gambrell / AP

the social platform X in Arabic on Sunday that "the UAE will remain a home of safety, an oasis of stability, a society of tolerance and coexistence and a beacon of development, pride and advancement."

Early on Sunday, the UAE's state-run WAM news agency acknowledged Kogan's disappearance but pointedly did not acknowledge he held Israeli citizenship, referring to him only as being Moldovan. The Emirati Interior Ministry described Kogan as being "missing and out of contact."

The ministry later said that three "perpetrators" had been arrested "in record time" without giving additional details.

Netanyahu told a regular Cabinet meeting later Sunday that he was "deeply shocked" by Kogan's disappearance and death. He said he appreciated the cooperation of the UAE in the investigation and that ties between the two countries would continue to be strengthened.

Israel also again warned against all nonessential travel to the Emirates after Kogan's killing.

"There is concern that there is still a threat against Israelis and Jews in the area," a government warning issued Sunday said.

Kogan was an emissary of the Chabad Lubavitch movement, a prominent and highly observant branch of ultraorthodox Judaism based in Brooklyn's Crown

Heights neighborhood in New York City. It said he would be buried in Israel.

"The targeting of Rabbi Kogan was an attempt to destroy the sacred Jewish values that he represented: light, goodness and kindness," the movement said. "No country, no community, no society can afford the loss of these sustaining values."

The UAE has a burgeoning Jewish community, with synagogues and businesses catering to kosher diners.

The Rimon Market, a kosher grocery store that Kogan managed on Dubai's busy Al Wasl Road, was shut Sunday. As the wars have roiled the region, the store has been the target of online protests by supporters of the Palestinians. Mezuzahs on the front and back doors of the market appeared to have been ripped off when an Associated Press journalist stopped by on Sunday.

Kogan's wife, Rivky, is a U.S. citizen who lived with him in the UAE. She is the niece of Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg, who was killed in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The UAE is an autocratic federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula and is also home to Abu Dhabi. Local Jewish officials in the UAE declined to comment.

While the Israeli statement did not mention Iran, Iranian intelligence services have carried out past kidnappings in the UAE.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Black women rethink political organizer role

Dismayed by the outcome of the presidential election, many of them say they're reassessing their historical enthusiasm for politics.

By Kenya Hunter
Associated Press

ATLANTA — As she checked into a recent flight to Mexico for vacation, Teja Smith chuckled at the idea of joining another Women's March on Washington.

As a Black woman, she just couldn't see herself helping to replicate the largest act of resistance against then-President Donald Trump's first term in January 2017. Even in an election this year where Trump questioned his opponent's race, held rallies featuring racist insults and falsely claimed Black migrants in Ohio were eating residents' pets, he didn't just win a second term. He became the first Republican in two decades to clinch the popular vote, although by a small margin.

"It's like the people have spoken and this is what America looks like," said Smith, the Los Angeles-based founder of the advocacy social media agency, Get Social. "And there's not too much more fighting that you're going to be able to do without losing your own sanity."

After Trump was declared the winner over Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris, many politically engaged Black women said they were so dismayed by the outcome that they were reassessing — but not completely abandoning — their enthusiasm for electoral politics and movement organizing.

Black women often carry much of the work of getting out the vote in their communities. They had vigorously supported the historic candidacy of Harris, who would have been the first woman of Black and South Asian descent to win the presidency.

Harris' loss spurred a wave of Black women across social media resolving to prioritize themselves, before giving so much to a country that over and over has shown its indifference to their concerns.

AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters, found that 6 in 10 Black women said the future of democracy in the United States was the single most important factor for their vote this year, a higher share than for other demographic groups. But now, with Trump set to return to office in two months, some Black women are renewing calls to emphasize rest, focus on mental health, and become more selective about what fight they lend their organizing power to.

"America is going to have to save herself," said LaTosha Brown, the cofounder of the national voting rights group Black Voters Matter.

She compared Black women's presence in social justice movements as "core strategists and core organizers" to the North Star, known as the most consistent and dependable star in the galaxy because of its seemingly fixed position in the sky. People can rely on Black women to lead change, Brown



Supporters of Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris hold their fists in the air in unison after she delivered a concession speech after the 2024 presidential election on Nov. 6 on the campus of Howard University in Washington. Jacquelyn Martin / AP

said, but the next four years will look different.

"That's not a herculean task that's for us. We don't want that title. ... I have no goals to be a martyr for a nation that cares nothing about me," she said.

AP VoteCast paints a clear picture of Black women's concerns.

Black female voters were most likely to say that democracy was the single most important factor for their vote, compared to other motivators such as high prices or abortion. More than 7 in 10 Black female voters said they were "very concerned" that electing Trump would lead the nation toward authoritarianism, while only about 2 in 10 said this about Harris.

About 9 in 10 Black female voters supported Harris in 2024, according to AP VoteCast, similar to the share that backed Democrat Joe Biden in 2020. Trump received support from more than half of white voters, who made up the vast majority of his coalition in both years.

Like voters overall, Black women were most likely to say the economy and jobs were the most important issues facing the country, with about one-third saying that. But they were more likely than many other groups to say that abortion and racism were the top issues, and much less likely than other groups to say immigration was the top issue.

Despite those concerns, which were well-voiced by Black women throughout the campaign, increased support from young men of color and white women helped expand Trump's lead and secured his victory.

Politically engaged Black women said they don't plan to continue positioning themselves in the vertebrae of the "backbone" of America's democracy. The growing movement prompting Black women to withdraw is a shift from history, where they are often present and at the forefront of political and social change.

One of the earliest examples is the women's suffrage movement that led to ratification in 1920 of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Black women, however, were prevented from voting for decades afterward because of Jim Crow-era literacy tests, poll taxes, and laws that blocked the grandchildren of slaves from voting. Most Black women couldn't vote until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Black women were among the organizers and counted among the marchers brutalized on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama, during the historic march in 1965 from Selma to Montgomery that preceded federal legislation. Decades later, Black women were prominent organizers of the Black Lives Matter movement in response to the deaths of Black Americans at the hands of police and vigilantes.

In his 2024 campaign, Trump called for leveraging federal money to eliminate diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in government and discussions of race, gender, or sexual orientation in schools. His rhetoric on immigration, including false claims that Black Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were eating cats and dogs, drove support for his plan to deport millions of people.

Tenita Taylor, a Black resident of Atlanta who supported Trump this year, said she was initially excited about Harris' candidacy. But after thinking about how high her grocery bills have been, she feels that voting for Trump in hopes of finally getting lower prices was a form of self-prioritization.

"People say, 'Well, that's selfish, it was going to be better for the greater good,'" she said. "I'm a mother of five kids. ... The things that (Democrats) do either affect

the rich or the poor."

Some of Trump's plans affect people in Olivia Gordon's immediate community, which is why she struggled to get behind the "Black women rest" wave. Gordon, a New York-based lawyer who supported the Party for Socialism and Liberation's presidential nominee, Claudia de la Cruz, worries about who may be left behind if the 92% of Black women voters who backed Harris simply stopped advocating.

"We're talking millions of Black women here. If millions of Black women take a step back, it absolutely leaves holes, but for other Black women," she said. "I think we sometimes are in the bubble of if it's not in your immediate circle, maybe it doesn't apply to you. And I truly implore people to understand that it does."

Nicole Lewis, an Alabama-based therapist who specializes in treating Black women's stress, said she's aware that Black women withdrawing from social impact movements could have a fallout. But she also hopes that it forces a reckoning for the nation to understand the consequences of not standing in solidarity with Black women.

"It could impact things negatively because there isn't that voice from the most empathetic group," she said. "I also think it's going to give other groups an opportunity to step up. ... My hope is that they do show up for themselves and everyone else."

Brown said a reckoning might be exactly what the country needs, but it's a reckoning for everyone else. Black women, she said, did their job when they supported Harris in droves in hopes they could thwart the massive changes expected under Trump.

"This ain't our reckoning," she said. "I don't feel no guilt."



Olivia Gordon, shown in Yonkers, N.Y., on Saturday, says she worries about who will be left behind if Black women stop advocating. Stefan Jeremiah / AP

Even with access to obesity drugs, some don't lose weight

By Jonel Aleccia
Associated Press

Unlike scores of people who scrambled for the blockbuster drugs Ozempic and Wegovy to lose weight in recent years, Danielle Griffin had no trouble getting them.

The 38-year-old information technology worker from New Mexico had a prescription. Her pharmacy had the drugs in stock. And her health insurance covered all but \$25 to \$50 of the monthly cost.

For Griffin, the hardest part of using the new drugs wasn't access. It was finding out that the much-hyped medications didn't really work for her.

"I have been on Wegovy for a year and a half and have only lost 13 pounds," said Griffin, who watches her diet, drinks plenty of water, and exercises regularly. "I've done everything right with no success. It's discouraging."

In clinical trials, most participants taking Wegovy or Mounjaro to treat obesity lost an average of 15% to 22% of their body weight — up to 50 pounds or more in many cases. But roughly 10% to 15% of

patients in those trials were "non-responders" who lost less than 5% of their body weight.

Now that millions of people have used the drugs, several obesity experts told the Associated Press that perhaps 20% of patients — as many as 1 in 5 — may not respond well to the medications. It's a little-known consequence of the obesity drug boom, according to doctors who caution eager patients not to expect one-size-fits-all results.

"It's all about explaining that different people have different responses," said Fatima Cody Stanford, an obesity expert at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The drugs are known as GLP-1 receptor agonists because they mimic a hormone in the body known as glucagon-like peptide 1. Genetics, hormones, and variability in how the brain regulates energy can all influence weight — and a person's response to the drugs, Stanford said. Medical conditions such as sleep apnea can prevent weight loss, as can certain common medications, such as antidepressants, steroids, and contraceptives.

"This is a disease that stems from the brain," said Stanford. "The

dysfunction may not be the same" from patient to patient.

Despite such cautions, patients are often upset when they start getting the weekly injections but the numbers on the scale barely budge.

"It can be devastating," said Katherine Saunders, an obesity expert at Weill Cornell Medicine and cofounder of the obesity treatment company FlyteHealth. "With such high expectations, there's so much room for disappointment."

That was the case for Griffin, who has battled obesity since childhood and hoped to shed 70 pounds using Wegovy. The drug helped reduce her appetite and lowered her risk of diabetes, but she saw little change in weight.

"It's an emotional roller coaster," she said. "You want it to work like it does for everybody else."

The medications are typically prescribed along with eating behavior and lifestyle changes.

It's usually clear within weeks whether someone will respond to the drugs, said Jody Dushay, an endocrine specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Weight loss typically begins right away and continues as the dosage increases.

For some patients, that just



Donna Cooper holds up a dosage of Wegovy, a drug used for weight loss, at her home on March 1 in Front Royal, Va. Amanda Andrade-Rhoades / AP

doesn't happen. For others, side effects such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea force them to halt the medications, Dushay said. In such situations, patients who were counting on the new drugs to pare pounds may think they're out of options.

"I tell them: It's not game over," Dushay said.

Trying a different version of the new class of drugs may help. Griffin, who didn't respond well to Wegovy, has started using Zepbound, which targets an additional hormone pathway in the body. After three months of using the drug, she has lost 7 pounds.

"I'm hoping it's slow and steady," she said.

OBITUARIES

Chuck Woolery, 83, smooth-talking game show host of ‘Love Connection’

By Mark Kennedy
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chuck Woolery, the affable, smooth-talking game show host of *Wheel of Fortune*, *Love Connection*, and *Scrabble* who later became a right-wing podcaster, skewering liberals and accusing the government of lying about COVID-19, has died. He was 83.

Mark Young, Mr. Woolery’s podcast cohost and friend, said in an email early Sunday that Mr. Woolery died at his home in Texas with his wife, Kristen, present. “Chuck was a dear friend and brother and a tremendous man of faith, life will not be the same without him,” Young wrote.

Mr. Woolery, with his matinee idol looks, coiffed hair, and ease with witty banter, was inducted into the American TV Game Show Hall of Fame in 2007 and earned a daytime Emmy nomination in 1978.

In 1983, Mr. Woolery began an 11-year run as host of TV’s *Love Connection*, for which he coined the phrase, “We’ll be back in two minutes and two seconds,” a two-fingered signature dubbed the “2 and 2.” In 1984, he hosted TV’s *Scrabble*, simultaneously hosting two game shows on TV until 1990.

Love Connection, which aired long before the dawn of dating apps, had a premise that featured either a single man or single woman who would watch audition tapes of three potential mates and then pick one for a date.

A couple of weeks after the date, the guest would sit with Mr. Woolery in front of a studio audience and tell everybody about the date. The audience would vote on the three contestants, and if the audience agreed with the guest’s choice, *Love Connection* would offer to pay for a second date.

Mr. Woolery told The Philadelphia Inquirer in 2003 that his favorite set of lovebirds was a man aged 91 and a woman aged 87. “She had so much eye makeup on, she looked like a stolen Corvette. He was so old he said, ‘I remember wagon trains.’ The poor guy. She took him on a balloon ride.”



Chuck Woolery hosts a special premiere of *The \$250,000 Game Show Spectacular* at the Las Vegas Hilton in 2007 in Las Vegas. Ronda Churchill / AP, File

Mr. Woolery became the subject of the Game Show Network’s first attempt at a reality show, *Chuck Woolery: Naturally Stoned*, which premiered in 2003. It shared the title of the pop song in 1968 by Woolery and his rock group, the Avant-Garde. It lasted six episodes and was panned by critics.

Mr. Woolery began his TV career at a show that has become a mainstay. Although most associated with Pat Sajak and Vanna White, *Wheel of Fortune* debuted on Jan. 6, 1975, on NBC with Mr. Woolery welcoming contestants and the audience. Woolery, then 33, was trying to make it in Nashville as a singer.

Wheel of Fortune started life as *Shopper’s Bazaar*, incorporating Hangman-style puzzles and a roulette wheel. After Mr. Woolery appeared on *The Merv Griffin Show* singing *Delta Dawn*, Merv Griffin asked him to host the new show with Susan Stafford.

“I had an interview that stretched to 15, 20 minutes,” Mr. Woolery told the New York Times in 2003. “After the show, when Merv asked if I wanted to do a game show, I thought, ‘Great, a guy with a bad jacket and an equally bad mustache who doesn’t care what you have to say — that’s the guy I want to be.’”

NBC initially passed, but they retooled it as *Wheel of Fortune* and got the green light. After a few years, Mr. Woolery demanded a

raise to \$500,000 a year, or what host Peter Marshall was making on *Hollywood Squares*. Griffin balked and replaced Mr. Woolery with weather reporter Pat Sajak.

“Both Chuck and Susie did a fine job, and *Wheel* did well enough on NBC, although it never approached the kind of ratings success that *Jeopardy!* achieved in its heyday,” Griffin said in *Merv: Making the Good Life Last*, an autobiography from the 2000s cowritten by David Bender. Mr. Woolery earned an Emmy nod as host.

Born in Ashland, Ky., Mr. Woolery served in the U.S. Navy before attending college. He played double bass in a folk trio, then formed the psychedelic rock duo the Avant-Garde in 1967 while working as a truck driver to support himself as a musician.

The Avant-Garde, which toured in a refitted Cadillac hearse, had the Top 40 hit *Naturally Stoned*, with Mr. Woolery singing, “When I put my mind on you alone/I can get a good sensation/Feel like I’m naturally stoned.”

After the Avant-Garde broke up, Woolery released his debut solo single, *I’ve Been Wrong*, in 1969 and several more singles with Columbia before transitioning to country music by the 1970s. He released two solo singles, *Forgive My Heart* and *Love Me, Love Me*.

Mr. Woolery wrote or cowrote songs for himself and everyone from Pat Boone to Tammy Wynette. On Wynette’s 1971 album *We Sure Can Love Each Other*, Mr. Woolery wrote *The Joys of Being a Woman* with lyrics including “See our baby on the swing/Hear her laugh, hear her scream.”

After his TV career ended, Mr. Woolery went into podcasting. In an interview with the New York Times, he called himself a gun-rights activist and described himself as a conservative libertarian and constitutionalist. He said he hadn’t revealed his politics in liberal Hollywood for fear of retribution.

He teamed up with Mark Young in 2014 for the podcast *Blunt Force Truth* and soon became a full supporter of Donald Trump while arguing minorities don’t need civil

rights and causing a firestorm by tweeting an antisemitic comment linking Soviet Communists to Judaism.

“President Obama’s popularity is a fantasy only held by him and his dwindling legion of juice-box-drinking, anxiety-dog-hugging, safe-space-hiding snowflakes,” he said.

Mr. Woolery also was active online, retweeting articles from Conservative Brief, insisting Democrats were trying to install a system of Marxism and spreading headlines such as “Impeach him! Devastating photo of Joe Biden leaks.”

During the early stages of the pandemic, Mr. Woolery initially accused medical professionals and Democrats of lying about the virus in an effort to hurt the economy and Trump’s chances for reelection to the presidency.

“The most outrageous lies are the ones about COVID-19. Everyone is lying. The CDC, media, Democrats, our doctors, not all but most, that we are told to trust. I think it’s all about the election and keeping the economy from coming back, which is about the election. I’m sick of it,” Mr. Woolery wrote in July 2020.

Trump retweeted that post to his 83 million followers. By the end of the month, nearly 4.5 million Americans had been infected with COVID-19 and more than 150,000 had died.

Just days later, Mr. Woolery changed his stance, announcing his son had contracted COVID-19. “To further clarify and add perspective, COVID-19 is real and it is here. My son tested positive for the virus, and I feel for those suffering and especially for those who have lost loved ones,” Mr. Woolery posted before his account was deleted.

Mr. Woolery later explained on his podcast that he never called COVID-19 “a hoax” or said “it’s not real,” just that “we’ve been lied to.” Mr. Woolery also said it was “an honor to have your president retweet what your thoughts are and think it’s important enough to do that.”

In addition to his wife, Mr. Woolery is survived by his sons Michael and Sean and his daughter Melissa, Young said.

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THE HONORABLE DAVID G.



November 16, 2024, age 95, of Medford, NJ, formerly of Haddonfield, NJ. Husband of the late Carol I., father of the Honorable Linda W. Eynon, P.J.F.P. and Nancy K. Eynon Roper (Michael); grandfather of 2, great grandfather of 6. For Biographical and Service info., go to <https://kainmurphy.com/obituary/david-eynon/>.

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March 17, 1950 - Nov. 21, 2024. For a certain group of women Stephen Kerzner was Philadelphia’s muse for fashion and style. He was our Truman Capote - minus the wicked bite. He started his career in fashion at the Cloisters in Philadelphia, managed boutiques in New York City, and for more than a decade he was both buyer and manager of the gift shop at the Woodmere Museum. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and was beloved by so many.

S. MARIE PATRICIA CELLA, SSJ

Formerly S. Marian Auxilia, on November 22, 2024, at the age of 90. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Mary (nee McKeone) Cella and her brothers, Joseph, Matthew, and John Cella. She is survived by her brothers William and James, her sisters in law, many nephews, nieces, and their extended families, and members of her Congregation, the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Visitation by relatives and friends will begin at 9:30 am on Wednesday, November 27th at Saint Joseph Villa in Flourtown. A Funeral Mass will follow at 10:30AM. 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

SNYDER

STANFORD E.

We are sad to announce the passing of Stanford “Sandy” Edwin Snyder, who left us peacefully on November 20, 2024, at the age of 86. Born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, Sandy was the beloved only child of Bess (nee Frieman) and Isadore Snyder. He was a proud veteran of the United States Army, and he spent much of his career working in livestock while investing in the stock market and real estate. Sandy loved to read the paper, go on late-night runs, and devour every last piece of angel food cake he could find. Above all else, Sandy was a proud father to his three children: Randi, Marc, and Brian. He took immense pride in his family, their travels and accomplishments, and their kindness and decency. Sandy will be deeply missed by his seven grandchildren – Aaron, Lila, Vivian, Sasha, Plum, Teddy, and Sloane – as well as his extended family and the many friends who cherished his warmth, humor, and generous spirit. A Graveside Service to honor Sandy will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, November 25th, at Har Jehuda Cemetery in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. The family invites those who loved Sandy to join in celebrating his life and legacy. May his memory be a blessing.

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Fred Harris, 94, former presidential hopeful

By Rio Yamat
Associated Press

Fred Harris, a former U.S. senator from Oklahoma, presidential hopeful, and populist who championed Democratic Party reforms in the turbulent 1960s, died Saturday. He was 94.

Sen. Harris’ wife, Margaret Elliston, confirmed his death to the Associated Press. It was not immediately clear where he died, but he had lived in New Mexico since 1976 and was a resident of Corrales at the time of his death.

“Fred Harris passed peacefully early this morning of natural causes. He was 94. He was a wonderful and beloved man. His memory is a blessing,” Elliston said in a text message.

Sen. Harris served eight years in the Senate, first winning in 1964 to fill a vacancy, and made an unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 1976.

It fell to Sen. Harris, as chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1969 and 1970, to help heal the party’s wounds from the tumultuous national convention in 1968 when protesters and police clashed in Chicago.

He ushered in rule changes that led to more women and minorities as convention delegates and in leadership positions.

“I think it’s worked wonderfully,” Sen. Harris recalled in 2004, when he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Boston. “It’s made the selection much more legitimate and democratic.”

“The Democratic Party was not democratic, and many of the delegations were pretty much boss-controlled or -dominated. And in the South, there was terrible discrimination against African Americans,” he said.



Sen. Fred R. Harris (D-Okla.) holds a copy of the report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders as he and other members of the commission discuss the study on *Issues and Answers* in Washington on March 3, 1968. Bob Daugherty / AP

Sen. Harris ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1976, quitting after poor showings in early contests, including a fourth-place win in New Hampshire. The more moderate Jimmy Carter went on to win the presidency.

Sen. Harris moved to New Mexico that year and became a political science professor at the University of New Mexico. He wrote and edited more than a dozen books, mostly on politics and Congress. In 1999 he broadened his writings with a mystery set in Depression-era Oklahoma.

Throughout his political career, Sen. Harris was a leading liberal voice for civil rights and antipoverty programs to help minorities and the disadvantaged.

“Democrats everywhere will remember Fred for his unparalleled integrity and as a pioneer for instituting core progressive values of equity and opportunity for prosperity as core tenets of our party,” the Democratic Party of New Mexico said in a statement.

Along with his first wife,

LaDonna, a Comanche, he also was active in Native American issues.

“I’ve always called myself a populist or progressive,” Mr. Harris said in a 1998 interview. “I’m against concentrated power. I don’t like the power of money in politics. I think we ought to have programs for the middle class and working class.”

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham praised his work for their shared state and the nation.

“In addition to being a highly accomplished politician and professor, he was a decent, honorable man who treated everyone with warmth, generosity, and good humor,” she said in a statement. “Sen. Harris was a lesson in leadership that public officials would be wise to emulate now and forever.”

Sen. Harris was a member of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, the so-called Kerner Commission, appointed by then-President Lyndon Johnson to investigate the urban riots of the late 1960s.

The commission’s groundbreaking report in 1968 declared, “Our

nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal.”

Thirty years later, Sen. Harris cowrote a report that concluded the commission’s “prophecy has come to pass.”

“The rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer and minorities are suffering disproportionately,” said the report by Sen. Harris and Lynn A. Curtis, president of the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, which continued the work of the commission.

Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute said Sen. Harris rose to prominence in Congress as a “fiery populist.”

“That resonates with people ... the notion of the average person against the elite,” Ornstein said. “Fred Harris had a real ability to articulate those concerns, particularly of the downtrodden.”

In 1968, Sen. Harris served as cochairman of the presidential campaign of then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey. He and others pressed Humphrey to use the convention to break with Johnson on the Vietnam War. But Humphrey waited to do so until late in the campaign, and narrowly lost to Republican Richard Nixon.

“That was the worst year of my life, ‘68. We had Dr. Martin Luther King killed. We had my Senate seatmate Robert Kennedy killed and then we had this terrible convention,” Sen. Harris said in 1996.

Sen. Harris was born Nov. 13, 1930, in a two-room farmhouse near Walters, in southwestern Oklahoma, about 15 miles from the Texas line. The home had no electricity, indoor toilet, or running water.

At age 5 he was working on the farm and received 10 cents a day to drive a horse in circles to supply power for a hay bailer.



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

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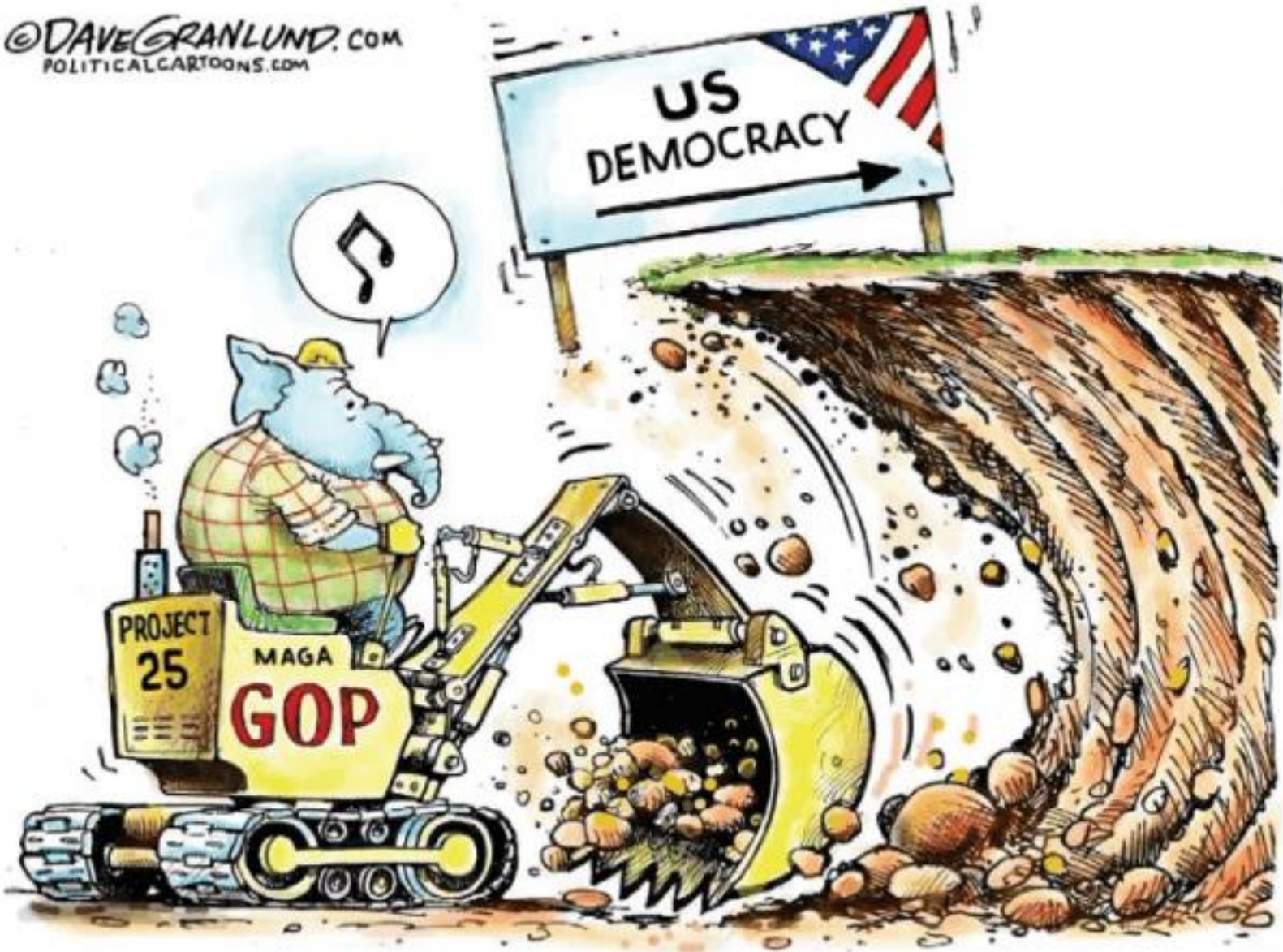
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Lead with civility

I am one of those rare and hapless birds known as a Delaware Republican. Conservative, even. I did not vote for Sarah McBride to be Delaware’s lone member of the House, nor do I subscribe to the extreme woke agenda. Nonetheless, I am embarrassed by some of my fellow Republicans’ mean-spiritedness in singling out McBride — as the sole transgender member of Congress — with new rules dictating which bathrooms she may or may not use. I do not agree with her on policy matters, but I do not believe she poses a danger to anyone. I suspect those promoting the new rule do not actually believe so, either. We should expect more civility and graciousness from our elected representatives, who must work together for the public good. Washington could learn something from the Delaware way.
Kurt M. Heyman,
Wilmington

Lessons learned

As I continue to be appalled at the cabinet nominations our next president is making, I am also appalled at the fact that in our city, three former elected officials who were convicted on corruption charges and left office in disgrace have found plushy new taxpayer-funded jobs. Are we following the example of the incoming administration and ignoring vetting standards? Are we giving up on civil service and not putting jobs out for qualified bidders to apply? We teach our children to tell the truth, to be honest and trustworthy, and not to do anything that would force them to leave a job in disgrace. What example are we setting? Let’s hope these new employees have learned something from their past and do not fall into the corruption trap again.
Jean Haskell, Philadelphia,
jean.haskell205@gmail.com

Underwhelmed

As a congressman, Bob Brady represented the poorest congressional district in America with the biggest problem in terms of hunger. Notwithstanding, his greatest legislative achievement seems to have been filching for himself a water glass that the pope used during his speech before Congress. It seems the water glass has had a transformative effect on Brady, as he deemed Kamala Harris, someone



Rep.-elect Sarah McBride (D., Del.) leaves a meeting of House Democrats on Capitol Hill on Tuesday.
Mark Schiefelbein / AP

with an actual record of public service, to be disrespectful. In hindsight, she should have genuflected or prostrated herself before him.

Brady, like trash-talking Gov. Josh Shapiro, has always been about self-promotion. Brady wanted Shapiro to be Harris’ running mate. However, Shapiro has shown anything but prowess in terms of getting out the vote, given Pennsylvania’s election results where Democrats lost virtually every statewide election. Perhaps the governor wanted it that way, keeping other Pennsylvania Democrats from being able to challenge him in the future.

Instead of delivering for other Democrats, true to form, Shapiro spent his time out of state raising millions for himself. How can the pundits call him a player for the next presidential election given his failure to deliver for Dems? And given the results in terms of the General Assembly, if Shapiro has a legislative agenda, he can pretty much forget about it. Are Brady and Shapiro truly the best Democrats can do?
Mark D. Schwartz,
Bryn Mawr

Car culture

As a housing attorney, I see firsthand the devastating impact of the housing crisis — families evicted, displaced, and thrown into economic hardship. A recent article on the proposed development at 1318 W. Clearfield St. in North Philly focuses on parking concerns raised by a few neighborhood groups. It overlooks that rent prices increase when parking requirements are imposed on apartment developments. As The Inquirer has reported, there are already more than two million parking spaces in Philadelphia.
The city faces an acute shortage of affordable housing. Building 204

apartments just blocks from the Allegheny stop on the Broad Street Line provides much-needed housing while promoting transit-oriented development. Requiring more parking raises construction costs, which are ultimately passed on to renters. This adds hundreds of dollars to their rent, even if they can’t afford a car. These costs hit low-income families hardest, many of whom rely on public transit. Prioritizing parking undermines efforts to lower housing costs and build a sustainable city. It’s time for Philadelphia to focus on creating affordable and accessible places for people to live, not unnecessary and expensive places to store cars.
Sara Lynch, Philadelphia

Research review

Last month, Pennsylvania State University breached protocol by sharing confidential details with The Inquirer about an ongoing review of my research. Allegations of “unreliable data” stemming from social media posts were sold as truth by the university. To be clear: The online critics have never published opposing peer-reviewed findings that contradict our work. They merely offer alternative interpretations of the data — such disagreements should be handled through proper avenues. All of this started in 2023, after Penn State publicly celebrated my lab’s achievements and diverse team. Then, a junior researcher from Newcastle University launched a harassment campaign, flooding me and my colleagues with thousands of hostile messages.
The online harassment has been damaging enough. For Penn State to publicly disclose information about a confidential process — which is still pending federal review — is a serious breach of regulations. Not only did Penn State’s disclosure

violate institutional policies, but it also threatened the foundation of scientific progress, placing all researchers at risk. As a scientist with nearly 100 peer-reviewed publications, I’ve dedicated my career to rigorous, methodical research. Science demands careful scrutiny and thorough peer review — not rushed judgments based on online attacks.

What worries me the most is that young scientists will learn the wrong lesson from watching this unfold — that it’s safer to pursue incremental, uncontroversial work than to push boundaries. I’m speaking out to defend my work and the principles that make science impactful. We must restore respect for academic processes and ensure that evidence remains the ultimate arbiter of scientific truth. Penn State should follow approved policies or face the consequences of violating federal regulations. The power of science depends on it.
Deb Kelly, professor of biomedical engineering, Penn State, executive director, Structural Oncology LLC

Cure a travesty

This year, I decided to volunteer to help voters try to cure their rejected ballots after learning that 34,000 mail-in ballots were disallowed in the 2020 presidential election. I joined a phone banking effort to reach this group of voters, but most calls went to voicemail. Door knocking was rewarding but labor intensive. I helped one woman in her 90s in South Philly who had no idea her ballot had been rejected or why. She was thrilled she was able to designate me to go to the Board of Elections for her, as she was not well. Many states have mail-in voting with no such problems. In Pennsylvania, the Republican Senate has resisted any motion to simplify the ballot to date. In a close race, this kind of disenfranchisement matters all the more.
Carol Diamant, Philadelphia,
caroldiamant@gmail.com

Feeling thankful?

Thanksgiving is this week, and we want to hear whether and why you are feeling thankful this year. Send your letter to the editor to opinion@inquirer.com. Please limit length to 150 words and include a day and evening phone number.

OP-ED

Decoding Trump’s climate priorities — or lack thereof

Stripping agencies of power may be the greatest source of impact of Trump’s energy and climate agenda.

By Sanya Carley

As the reality of a second Trump term sets in, and at the same time as annual global climate negotiations are underway in Baku, Azerbaijan, many are questioning the implications of a Trump 2.0 presidency for energy and the climate. The answer, I believe, requires a bit of guesswork about his priorities — as well as an understanding of the extent of his powers in reversing the energy transition.

Donald Trump ran a campaign that was largely devoid of policy priorities, which makes it somewhat difficult to predict his climate and energy plans once back in the White House. But he did campaign on slogans, while also dropping views on various energy and climate topics in his narrative “weave” during rallies and other speaking events, including two on energy priorities: 1) “drill, baby, drill” and 2) prohibit offshore wind projects.

The slogan “drill, baby, drill” is recycled from a campaign from nearly two decades ago, and later adopted by vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. The underlying priority is to expand oil and gas extraction. To encourage this expansion, President Trump will prioritize executive orders — likely in his first few days in office — that open more federal lands to oil and gas leasing and reduce the permitting and other regulatory requirements associated with drilling and extraction operations.

An important question, however, is what will be the efficacy of such developments? U.S. oil and gas production is already at an all-time high. And although expanding supply can presumably reduce costs for consumers, the market conditions are complex and make the basic Economics 101 story far more complicated.

Per capita demand for oil in the U.S. has been on a general decline since the early 2000s, and production is already expected to run a surplus next year. The energy transition is leading consumers toward oil alternatives, like transport electrification, and infrastructure constraints are suffocating some natural gas markets in the U.S., like those in Pennsylvania. And imposing tariffs, another stated policy priority of the incoming president, will likely drive down global demand for U.S. oil and gas.

Trump’s detestation of offshore wind is an enigma, curiously



Attendees arrive for the day at the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Nov. 14. Rafiq Maqbool / AP

having something to do with a mission to protect birds and whales — while avoiding sharks, of course — skepticism about the wind’s ability to blow, and bacon production. Here, too, Trump will likely introduce an executive order early in his term that seeks to slow or delay the permitting process for offshore wind projects. His purview provides him little ability, however, to prevent those projects that have already been built or approved.

Trump has also given some hints of two other priorities, though through less catchy slogans.

First, Trump is committed to peeling back U.S. climate agreements. To understand what this might mean in terms of policy priorities, we can look to his first presidency for clues. Through an administrative presidency, Trump primarily used executive orders to repeal, reverse, or dismantle the policies of his predecessors, with an approach less focused on established policy objectives and instead one aimed directly at a “search and destroy” mission.

In his next term, one can surmise that he will do the same, specifically through executive orders focused on reversing landmark climate efforts of the Biden

administration, such as removing greenhouse gas emissions restrictions, withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Agreement, ending the use of the social cost of carbon in regulatory decisions, eliminating the Justice40 initiative, and reducing regulatory oversight over fossil fuel energy operations and its waste management.

Yet, and similar to his first term, these actions will likely be temporary and not withstand any future changes in administration. They are likely to be stalled or dismissed through litigation, or unable to fundamentally change energy transition market developments.

Second, Trump has suggested a desire to “terminate” green spending, which presumably means dismantling the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and possibly also the bipartisan infrastructure law and the CHIPS and Science Act. Here, the jury is out about what exactly Trump will do, and perhaps more immediately, what those trusted advisers around him will encourage him to do.

The IRA has already invested over \$90 billion in manufacturing and clean energy projects across the country, with approximately 70% of investments and 80% of jobs funneling to Republican

congressional districts. After hinting at his desire to target the IRA while on the campaign trail, 18 Republican members of Congress wrote a letter to House Speaker Mike Johnson to encourage him to preserve the IRA due to the significant investment opportunities IRA programs were already producing in their districts.

To tamper with the IRA programs now, right as many IRA investments are reaching maturity, could produce political backlash, as well as the added hurdle of congressional action. Trump may, however, still seek to claw back funds that have not yet been committed while simultaneously gutting the agencies — and in some cases specific offices, such as the U.S. Department of Energy’s loan guarantee program — that administer the IRA programs.

This latter action of stripping the agencies of power may, in fact, be the greatest source of impact of Trump’s energy and climate agenda.

Sanya Carley is the Mark Alan Hughes Faculty Director of the Kleinman Center and Presidential Distinguished Professor of Energy Policy and City Planning at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design.

OP-ED

In Europe, bicyclists are treated like traffic. That’s safer for everyone

When I ride on regular roads in the U.S., cars consider my bicycle an obstruction they can probably squeeze by. It’s safer in Europe, where drivers treat me like traffic.

By David Karen

This summer, my wife and I biked in Norway and Sweden. Most of the time, the roads we biked on had no shoulders, and we occupied a third of the lane on the right of a two-lane highway. When a car was behind us, it waited until no cars were in the oncoming traffic lane, and then passed us. If there were cars in the oncoming traffic lane, the cars behind us simply waited.

Once, there were 10 cars that passed us after we pulled off the road to take a picture. In other words, we were treated like traffic.

I also rode in Montreal this summer, where the bike infrastructure is highly developed and there are many bike lanes and bike paths. My experience riding in this city was similar to my experience in Scandinavia. Cars recognized my existence as a fellow vehicle, even when bike lanes were absent.

My experience in the U.S. is radically different.

When I ride on bike paths, where motor vehicles are prohibited, I feel protected. When I ride in bike lanes in cities, I feel like there is at least some infrastructure that highlights to drivers that they should not be in that lane. When I ride on regular roads, however, in the same scenario as my Scandinavian travels, cars consider my bicycle an object or an obstruction they can probably squeeze by.

In Pennsylvania, the law requires drivers to give cyclists four feet of space when they pass. In order to provide that legally required four feet of space, they can cross a double yellow line to overtake them. But my experience suggests that drivers believe it’s more important to squeeze by a cyclist than to inconvenience themselves or the cars behind them by waiting for the opportunity to pass safely.

Needless to say, this is terrifying. It also presents serious safety issues for both bicyclists and drivers.

In northern Europe, drivers benefit by considering cyclists traffic. By passing us only when there are no oncoming vehicles, they avoid the situation of having to decide between risking a head-on crash with an oncoming car or disabling, injuring, or killing the cyclist.

One of the reasons our experience biking there was so stunning is that considering yourself (and being considered) as traffic completely changes your mindset. Indeed, that is codified into law in Section 3 of Norway’s Road Traffic Act. According to the Norwegian Public Roads Administration website, the purpose of this law is to ensure safety for all road users: walkers, cyclists, and drivers. The website states that “you have a personal responsibility to ensure that your behavior in traffic does not create dangerous and difficult situations for other road users.” Swedish websites convey similar information.

We are all familiar with traffic — there’s nothing we can do about it. When drivers see many cars in front of them, they may grumble, but they wait. Maybe Google Maps or Waze can find a different route for them, but squeezing by the other traffic (including bicycles) on the road isn’t an option.

Likewise, cyclists who think of themselves as traffic don’t ride two or three abreast, blocking drivers behind them from seeing the oncoming traffic. They don’t ignore stop signs or traffic signals, and they don’t ride on shoulders to get around backups.

To be clear, the Pennsylvania rules specifically “allow” cyclists to use shoulders, but don’t require



A man rides his bicycle past a green traffic light in London in May 2020. In northern Europe, drivers benefit by considering cyclists traffic, writes David Karen. Alberto Pezzali / AP

them to do so. But one of the things that most riles drivers is when they wait for a break in the oncoming traffic in order to properly/legally pass a cyclist, and then that very same cyclist uses the shoulder to pass all the cars that are backed up at a traffic light. Then, when the shoulder disappears, the cyclist gets back onto the road, and the (same?) drivers have to wait again in order to pass them. In my opinion, cyclists should be able to use the shoulders but should keep their spot in the queue.

Unfortunately, there are no infrastructure improvements or attitude adjustments that will magically eliminate all cycling deaths. The crashes that killed

Barbara Friedes, a young doctor in Rittenhouse Square, and Johnny Gaudreau, the NHL player, and his brother near their home in New Jersey were tragically caused by drivers who were alleged to have been intoxicated.

Yes, we need more bike lanes and bike traffic signals. We need wide — debris-free — shoulders. But most importantly, we bicyclists need to be recognized as vehicles that happen to move slowly. In other words, traffic.

David Karen is a professor of sociology at Bryn Mawr College. When he can, he fearfully commutes to work by bike during non-rush hour times.

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PHILLY & REGION

Social issues drew some Teamsters to Trump

A rightward shift among working-class voters fueled support for the anti-union candidate.

By Layla A. Jones
Staff Writer

On a Sunday morning in a Northeast Philadelphia American Legion hall, Bill Hamilton opened his monthly union membership meeting with an allusion to the biggest business of the day: President-elect Donald Trump had won the election in the weeks since their last meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was held for fallen union members, their loved ones, and troops overseas. And then Hamilton spoke.

"Donald Trump is the president," said Hamilton, vice president of the Teamsters Eastern Region and business agent at Teamsters Local 107 in the Northeast. "We have to accept that and move on."

Hamilton, a Democrat, had seen divisive social media posts and negative political rhetoric rampage through his normally tight-knit local. He made it his mission to educate his guys on the threat a Trump presidency posed to unions like theirs, even after the International Brotherhood of Teamsters chose not to endorse a candidate for president, the first time since 1996 that the union opted against endorsing the Democrat in the race. But Hamilton wasn't surprised when the international organization released data from its unscientific online poll showing 66% of Local 107 members — mostly men

who drive trucks and work construction — favored Trump over Vice President Kamala Harris for president.

"Our own union was split over this stuff," Hamilton told his members last Sunday. "We had brothers and sisters not talking to each other over this stuff."

Organized labor has long been a stable voting bloc for Democrats, and Biden carried favor with the Teamsters specifically when he helped protect many of their pensions through a provision in his American Rescue Plan. But even as Harris won nearly all labor endorsements, she lost in the end in part because of a rightward shift among working-class voters, the shift seen inside Local 107. Bob Brown, 67, a retired Teamster and dedicated Democrat who voted for Harris,

→ SEE UNIONS ON B2



Bill Hamilton, vice president of the Teamsters Eastern Region and business agent at Teamsters Local 107, said his union's members were divided over the presidential election. "Our own union was split over this stuff," Hamilton said. "We had brothers and sisters not talking to each other over this stuff." Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer



Hernandez family members (from left) Maria, Israel, Carmen, 17, and Genesis, 7, pass through the buffet line at a Thanksgiving dinner for new immigrants and refugees at the Old Pine Community Center in Philadelphia on Sunday. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

Holiday meal amid immigration angst

By Maddie Hanna
Staff Writer

Antonio Garcia has been content with his life in Philadelphia since emigrating from El Salvador six years ago. A maintenance worker for an apartment complex, Garcia lives with his wife and three children in Northeast Philadelphia, in a neighborhood with "so many cultures."

But Garcia — who left El Salvador in part to find better educational opportunities for his daughter, who has Down syndrome — is newly worried about his prospects.

"We are nervous about Trump," Garcia said. "We hope that he doesn't do much that he says."

Garcia and his family were among more than 100 people who took part in a Thanksgiving dinner at the Old Pine Community Center in Society Hill on Sunday hosted by

HIAS Pennsylvania, an immigrant services and refugee resettlement agency. In the wake of Donald Trump's reelection — after a campaign season featuring dark rhetoric about immigrants and promises of mass deportations — there was a current of anxiety underlying the event.

HIAS Pennsylvania's executive director, Cathryn Miller-Wilson, said in an interview that many of the agency's clients were "sad and

afraid" after the election — grappling with the question, "What does it mean to be in a country hostile to me?"

The agency served 6,000 people last year, the vast majority immigrants seeking legal services. Miller-Wilson said she'd sought to assure them that, despite the "victory for anti-immigrant sentiments," Trump's election was driven primarily by economic concerns,

→ SEE MEAL ON B3

7 library branches closed over heating issues

Free Library locations in need of repairs are shut indefinitely.

By Nate File
Staff Writer

Colder temperatures usually are a good time to dive into a new book. But that won't be possible at some branches of the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Seven branches are now indefinitely closed because of heating issues, in what a library spokesperson called "an unusual confluence of events." Those branches include:

- Bushrod Library
- Bustleton Library
- Overbrook Park Library
- Richmond Library
- Roxborough Library
- Welsh Road Library
- Wynnefield Library

"It is extremely important to us



The Philadelphia Parkway Central Library serves as the heart of the Free Library of Philadelphia system, which includes more than 50 branches around the city. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

that we fix this issue as fast as possible, so we can restore community access and serve our communities,"

said Mark Graham, a Free Library of Philadelphia spokesperson.

The city and its HVAC contractor

struck an agreement to begin repairs on Friday afternoon. The Free Library does not yet have a timeline for when the repairs will be completed, but Graham said that "we have a lot of hope that those branches should have heat very soon."

This summer, 20 Free Library branches closed at various points because of air-conditioning issues, but heating-related closures are less common.

"We are working with beautiful, old buildings and often old systems. We have a lot of work to maintain, repair, and renovate these properties. That is true throughout the Free Library of Philadelphia's 54 libraries, as it is for many city properties," Graham said.

The Richmond Library closed on Nov. 13 because of its broken boiler. When Richmond Library staffers shared the news on Facebook, dismayed community members

→ SEE LIBRARY ON B2

Philly schools report boost in numbers

After years of losing students, the district announced a 2% increase in enrollment.

By Kristen A. Graham
Staff Writer

After years of declining enrollment, the Philadelphia School District has grown.

Superintendent Tony B. Watlington Sr. said the school system's official student count for 2024-25 is 117,956 — 1,841 students more than in 2023-24, an increase of a little under 2%.

The student population rose in 10 out of 15 geographic networks, in the city's opportunity network of alternative schools, in neighborhood high schools and magnet schools.

"We sure are excited about that," Watlington told the school board Thursday night. "We are absolutely thrilled that more families are choosing to enroll their children in the School District of Philadelphia."

Officials said the enrollment gain was due to students transferring from charter schools and from elsewhere outside the district. Of those students, many are English-language learners, a booming population in the city, particularly in the Northeast.

Officials said the English-learner population has doubled in the last 10 years — now, 25,350 district students make up this category, about 22% of total district enrollment. In the 2013-14 school year, English learners were about 10% of the district's total population.

Still, Philadelphia is a much smaller district than it once was. Twenty years ago, in the 2004-05 school year, the district enrolled 187,547 students. The district's student count began to slip significantly after Pennsylvania, in 1997, authorized charter schools, which are publicly funded and authorized by local school boards but managed by independent boards. Today, 64,119 students attend Philadelphia charter schools.

On Thursday night, Watlington and Reginald Streater, the school board president, touted the recent enrollment increase — and the district's increased graduation rate. The four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2024 was 77.5%, up from 74.1% the prior year.

The superintendent credited teachers, principals, and school support staff with the gains. Streater said the improvement and the increased enrollment show

→ SEE BOOST ON B3

SCENE THROUGH THE LENS



Viewers at the public webcam in Litewski Square in Lublin, Poland, might catch a glimpse of Philly Elmo and his drum line, passing by the virtual portal in LOVE Park. The interactive art installation changes every few minutes to also connect with livestream viewers at identical portals in Vilnius, Lithuania, and Dublin, Ireland. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

Unions

→ CONTINUED FROM B1

said union members usually vote for the candidates their leadership recommends, who historically have been Democrats.

"We all came from an era where there was times when you weren't split," said Brown. "This was probably the first time that we ever seen something like this."

It was 'definitely social issues' that led some to vote for Trump

Edmund Farley, a Local 107 member, voted for the first time in his life this year when he cast a ballot for Trump. Farley, 50, said he was looking for change in the country's direction and said it was "definitely social issues" that motivated his vote.

"I didn't like the whole thing about men being able to play in women's sports," said Farley, a father of two daughters, about the idea of transgender women and girls competing in athletic programs for women. He also took issue with transgender women using women's bathrooms alongside his daughters, he said.

Trump and his surrogates made attacks against transgender people central to their campaign, spending millions of dollars on anti-LGBTQ ads that demonized Harris for her support for transgender people. Several people mentioned one prominent anti-Harris commercial about gender-affirming care — called "sex changes" in the ad — for undocumented people in prisons.

Hamilton saw the ads while watching football on Sundays.

"The ads that they were running [were] attacking Harris very boldly about her comments on transgender operations in prison and stuff like that," Hamilton said. "Stuff that middle-class, white Americans particularly get disturbed with. And [Democrats] weren't answering back on that."

Heath Fogg Davis, a political science professor and program director at Temple University, said he wasn't surprised by what feels like a regression of public perception about transgender issues.

"Historically with civil rights gains and losses there's been a kind of ebb and flow, a pattern of kind of reform and then retrenchment," Davis said. "Trans civil rights are kind of like the newest civil rights-protected category."

Michael Sviben, a retired union truck driver from Camden, said he voted for former President Barack Obama in 2012. This year, he cast a ballot for Trump because he felt he couldn't trust President Joe Biden or Harris.

Sviben, 70, said he didn't have any top issues but wanted to "see if we can get this country back together."

"I hear Trump, as soon as he gets in the office, he's gonna be able to stop the wars, close the border," Sviben said, before calling Harris the border czar and saying the border has been open under her watch.

Conservative media and officials have attacked Harris, who

was assigned the longer-term task of tackling the root issues of immigration, over border-control issues.

The Teamsters' shift toward Trump comes as many feel the president-elect poses a threat to workers' rights.

Trump has avoided supporting increases to the federal minimum wage. He altered an impending Obama-era overtime rule by decreasing the income threshold for overtime workers, which made an estimated 3 million fewer workers eligible for overtime pay, and has championed blanket tariffs, which economists expect will raise the cost of goods imported to the U.S. from other countries.

In August, the United Auto Workers filed labor charges against Trump and Tesla CEO Elon Musk for comments Trump made about firing striking workers.

"I was willing to take that risk and vote for that," said Farley.

The Teamsters have always been more conservative than other labor unions, said Paul Clark, a professor of labor at Pennsylvania State University. Members have, though, usually supported candidates they think are going to be most friendly to labor, but that has changed.

"Union members, at least in recent elections, have been prioritizing social issues — transgender and gay rights issues that they've been uncomfortable with, gun control, abortion, immigrants moving into their community," Clark said.

Randie McDonough, 60, is a truck driver and a political junkie who rattled off percentages of inflation and unemployment statistics with rapid-fire precision. Ahead of the election, he polled his colleagues about why they were voting for Trump.

"And a lot of the guys," said McDonough, who voted for Harris, "Spanish, my Black friends, everybody basically, [said they] don't want a woman in charge."

Postelection, Teamsters who voted for Harris are grappling with their colleagues who didn't.

"I don't understand my union brothers and sisters that supported Trump or the workers in general," said Bob Strunk, 74, a retired truck driver. "Everybody thinks that they're worse off because of people on welfare and immigrants, they think they're taking their crumbs. But they're worse off because the ultra-wealthy only allows them to have crumbs."

"We're not going to always agree on things like guns, gays, race, religion," Strunk said. "But we got to unite around the things we do agree on, and that's our working conditions."

It's about more than that for Trump voter Farley.

"You can't just vote because [it's] going to benefit me in the union," he said. "I did it mainly hoping for my children for the future....It's not about me, it's about our country."

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bae_lay

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

Forecast calls for a turkey of a holiday

Mother Nature is expected to rain on the parade on Thanksgiving Day, ushering in the coldest weather of the season next week.

By Anthony R. Wood
Staff Writer

After an all-time dry spell, the region should have reason to be thankful that more rain is in the forecast this week.

But does it have to happen on Thanksgiving?

On the brighter side, Wednesday, traditionally one of the busiest travel days of the year, should be ideal for those planning to leave town.

Unfortunately, computer models are indicating strongly that nature is going to serve up a turkey for Thursday with a chilly, soaking rain throughout the region, and perhaps some snow mixed in as nearby as the Lehigh Valley.

"It looks like a damp Thanksgiving," said AccuWeather meteorologist Matt Greene. And it appears it might rain on the parade: The morning weather, he said, is "not looking great."

It's not a done deal. The system that is expected to cause the rain was not expected to make landfall on the West Coast until Monday or Tuesday, when it would be in sight of ground-based instruments that, theoretically at least, would improve forecasts as the storm moved across the country.

Forecasters are more confident that in the aftermath of the storm, the coldest weather of the season is likely to send low temperatures into the 20s later in the weekend or early next week — even at freeze-resistant Philadelphia International Airport, which hosts the official thermometer and rain gauge.

"It will be January-like," said Alex Staarmann, a meteorologist in the National Weather Service's Mount Holly office.

Will the rains end the drought in Philadelphia?

Droughts have tended not to end precipitously, and it is likely going to take a while to recharge the groundwater and fill the reservoirs this time also.

A horrific drought that began in May 1964 that was followed by a bone-dry July and August — months when humans and vegetation are thirsty and swimming pools need filling — continued through 1965. Both years were among the driest ever in Philly in records dating to 1872.

But last week the winds of seasonal change were evident as upper-air patterns altered dramatically, Staarmann said.

After the first rainless October ever, it was just a week ago that Philly appeared poised to break a record for the driest meteorological autumn — Sept. 1 through Nov. 30 — now held by the fall of 1922, when 2.37 inches was measured officially.

However, after four consecutive calendar days of rain — which hadn't happened since August — the total since Sept. 1 bumped up to 2.20 inches. That's not the stuff of floods: Through Friday, Philly's rain total was less than a fifth of what it should be normally, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Middle Atlantic River Forecast Center.

The interagency U.S. Drought Monitor has the immediate Philly area and all of South Jersey in "extreme drought" conditions. The Delaware River Basin Commission said last week that Delaware River levels were down 60%.

Drought advisories are in effect in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

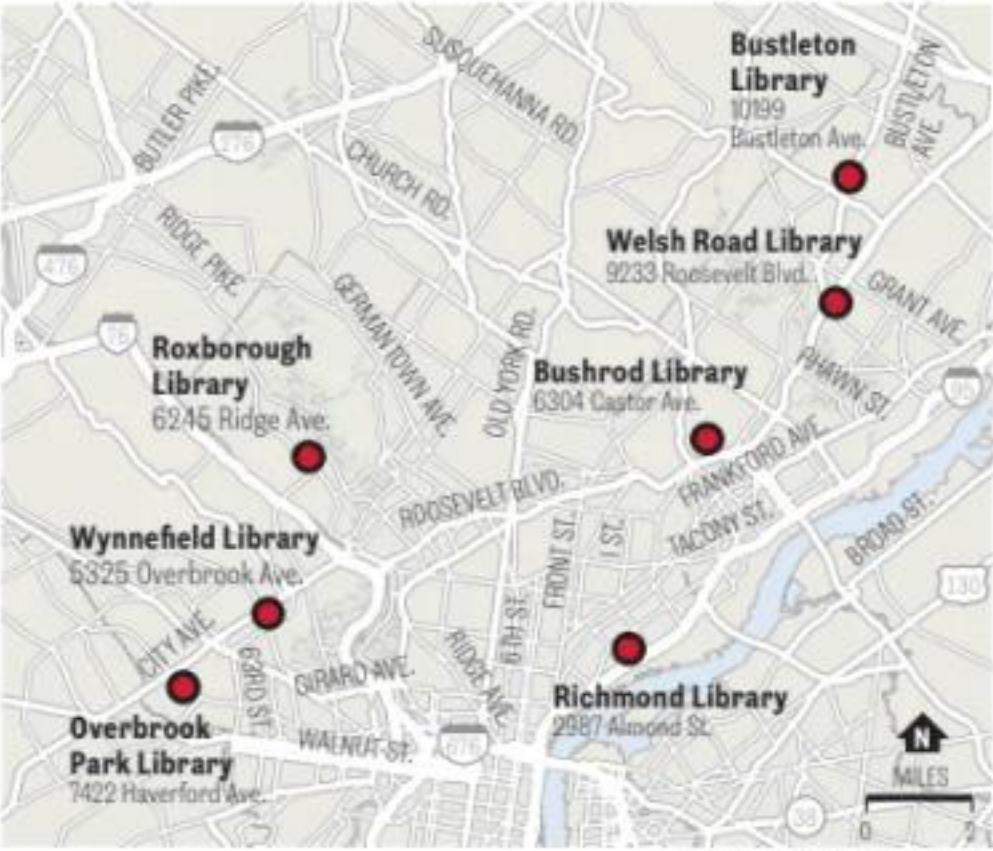
Don't expect them to go away, no matter how much rain falls on Thanksgiving.

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has an 80% to 90% likelihood of below-normal temperatures the first week in December.

But it also has the odds favoring below-normal precipitation.

Closed Libraries

Seven Free Library of Philadelphia branches are closed indefinitely due to broken heating systems.



Library

→ CONTINUED FROM B1

expressed both their support for the library and disappointment at its closure.

"We've had a whole lot of community people become very frustrated about this," said Amy Thatcher, who works at Richmond Library as a member of AFSCME District Council 47 Local 2186 and lives in the neighborhood. She said that with Richmond's broken heater, the temperature indoors dropped to 60 degrees; the city told her and other staff that they could not open since the temperature had dropped below an acceptable threshold. She and her colleagues now must work at other branches until Richmond reopens.

Thatcher said that closing Richmond's doors means that

programming has stopped, too, including an after-school program where kids get help with their homework.

"It's a tragedy for this library to be closed," she said.

Phil Stoltzfus, a Port Richmond resident, said that the library is an important resource for the community and that "people are caught off guard" by the news of its closure.

"It's a ritual, we go there at least once a week," he said of his family, which includes his wife and two daughters, ages 10 and 7.

"It's a shame that whatever's going on with the city gets to this point," he said.

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nate file

LOTTERIES

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

MULTISTATE												
Nov. 23 (Mon., Wed., Sat.)												
Powerball	12	13	34	44	67	(8)						
Powerplay x3												
Double Play	36	40	41	50	60	(13)						
Nov. 22 (Tue., Fri.)												
Mega Millions	13	20	26	32	65	(2)						
Megaplier x2												
Nov. 23												
Cash4Life	15	24	44	54	55	(3)						
PENNSYLVANIA 1-800-692-7481												
Nov. 24												
Pick 2 day					2	9	(0)					
Pick 3 day					3	1	1	(0)				
Pick 4 day					9	0	3	1	(0)			
Pick 5 day					7	3	4	7	4	(0)		
Treasure Hunt					2	3	12	28	29			
Nov. 24												
Pick 2 night						7	3	(1)				
Pick 3 night						9	4	5	(1)			
Pick 4 night						2	1	2	6	(1)		
Pick 5 night						6	3	3	0	6	(1)	
Cash 5						12	17	24	25	26		
Match 6						9	12	22	23	24	35	

NEW JERSEY 609-599-5800												
Nov. 24												
Pick 3 day					4	2	9	(5)				
Pick 4 day					4	5	6	2	(5)			
Nov. 23												
Pick 3 night					1	1	8	(9)				
Pick 4 night					9	2	4	0	(9)			
Nov. 22												
Cash 5						22	35*	36	38	41		
Xtra x5												
Nov. 21 (Mon., Thu.)												
Pick 6 Xtra						3	17	22	30	33	34	
Double Play						8	19	22	27	31	41	
DELAWARE 302-739-5291												
Nov. 24												
Play 3 day						4	9	0				
Play 4 day						2	9	0	8			
Play 5 day						5	9	1	9	2		
Nov. 24												
Play 3 night							1	8	8			
Play 4 night							5	6	2	2		
Play 5 night							9	6	2	2	3	
MultiWin Lotto						3	5	9	28	30	32	
Nov. 23												
Lucky for Life						11	20	21	26	31	(7)	
Nov. 23 (Mon., Wed., Sat.)												
Lotto America						2	8	10	14	49	(9)	
Bonus x2												

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PHILLY & REGION



Meet Henry Luce (center), the winner of Sunday's Miles Teller look-alike contest in Rittenhouse Square, organized by two college students, Helene Chibane (right) and Gabi Greco (second from right), who were inspired by other look-alike contests nationwide. Finalist Izzy Feinfeld is at far left. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer



Actor Miles Teller watches during the fourth inning in Game 3 of the baseball NL Championship Series between the San Diego Padres and the Philadelphia Phillies at Citizens Bank Park in October 2022. Brynn Anderson / AP

Miles Teller look-alikes vie for Philly-style grand prize

By Michelle Myers
Staff Writer

With parted lips, soft eyes, and rosy cheeks, Henry Luce sat on a bench in Rittenhouse Square waiting for Sunday's Miles Teller look-alike contest to start.

Looking just like how the *Whiplash* actor described himself on his first headshot, the 19-year-old had one of 22 "look-alikes" to show up to the unserious competition.

"Unless the actual Miles Teller comes, he is going to win," said Luce's mother, Kristin Keiser, whose phone blew up with notifications from loved ones when they heard about the contest, urging that her son participate.

But competition was stiff.

Wearing a green bomber jacket and jeans, and sporting a lampshade mustache, Joe Ems looked like he was pulled from the *Top Gun* movie set itself.

Any other Sunday, the sales director would be on the couch watching football, instead he opted to test whether or not people were right when they commented on his similarity to the Downingtown native actor.

Next to them, other "Tellers" gathered, almost all wearing *Top Gun* outfits, eager for the experience and, of course, the grand prize: a free cheesesteak from Angelo's Pizzeria.

College students Ellie Clark and Luiza Sulea fit right in with their black sunglasses, hair in a bun, and

mustaches drawn on with brow pencil.

"We are here for the bit," Clark said.

Added Sulea: "She is vegetarian, though, so if she wins we will give the cheesesteak to someone else."

The contest was organized by two college students, Helene Chibane, who attends Thomas Jefferson University, and Gabi Greco, who goes to Drexel University, both 23. Inspired by other look-alike contests nationwide, they decided to post the idea on Reddit.

"We were like, 'It's Philly's time to shine. Who is a hometown hero we could pick?' And Miles Teller came to mind," Chibane said.

The city did not disappoint. Within minutes, hundreds of people, particularly young

women, surrounded the contestants, even standing on the park's central fountain, eager to watch the competition. Some even put their names in a knitted hat for the chance to be randomly picked as judges.

After posing and providing 360-degree views of themselves, seven contestants made it to the second round, including Luce and Ems.

"Everyone here does look like Miles Teller but they are wearing costumes; I just put on a [red Phillies] sweater that I wear every day. This is just me," said Luce when asked by the judges why he thought he should win.

And win he did.

Raising his hands in triumph, the teenager was showered with applause

from the crowd.

Taking a bite of victory, in the form of his first Angelo's Cooper Sharp cheesesteak, the Glenside-area native and marketing and supply chain major at Pennsylvania State University declared it the best cheesesteak he had ever had.

Excited but unsurprised by this victory, his mother reminded him of the importance of who he is beyond looking like Teller.

"He is the kind of person who found a baby bunny who was injured and drove it to animal rescue because that's just the kind of person he is," Keiser said.

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Boost

→ CONTINUED FROM B1
what's possible.

"Together, we're steering our efforts towards a future that values both academic excellence and educating the whole child," said Streater.

What's coming down the pike

While enrollment is up in the district as a whole, district and state officials have said the school system must rethink its building footprint. There are 64,000 empty seats in district schools.

Officials are now taking public feedback on a coming facilities master plan, due next fall. They have said school closings, colocations, and construction are all likely.

Some schools have hundreds of unused seats, but others have too little space to deal with their burgeoning populations.

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1 ALWAYS PHILLY

Meal

→ CONTINUED FROM B1

and "not about hate." (Miller-Wilson, however, argued that an immigration crack-down wouldn't be an economic boon, but a "disaster.")

While HIAS Pennsylvania briefly considered canceling Sunday's "Thankful Together" event — which it hosts every Thanksgiving — it decided "absolutely not," Miller-Wilson said. "We really have to show clients, we're still here for you."

For Sunday's dinner, folding tables were set up across the basketball court inside the community center, draped with red and yellow plastic tablecloths. Volunteers stationed near the walls scooped turkey, stuffing, and corn bread out of foil trays, as clients lined up with plates. Children ran around with pages from coloring books.

"We know most of you are anxious about the future, and so are we," Miller-Wilson told the crowd, which included people from an array of countries; interpreters were on hand to translate in Spanish, Pashto, Rohingya, and Dari. But "the future will be better because you are here sharing the present with us."

The message was echoed by several Democratic officials who also addressed the gathering, including U.S. Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, who told attendees she understood "how important it is we remain a welcoming country" and thanked them for being here.

City Councilmember Jamie Gauthier said her mother had immigrated to Philadelphia from the Caribbean as a teenager, with "the same determination and hopes that you all have."

While "I know we are in uncertain, tense times," she said, "Philadelphia City Council welcomes you."

Israel Hernandez was among those at the dinner confronting that uncertainty. Hernandez came to the United States from Guatemala six years ago; through an interpreter, he said he left with his son because his son was having problems with drugs, and Hernandez feared he would be killed.

His 17-year-old daughter, Carmen, joined her father in Philadelphia in April. But another daughter is still in Guatemala, and Hernandez

fears she will no longer be able to come.

While Hernandez said he wasn't going to worry about his fate under Trump, he "can't stop thinking" about his daughter. He doesn't want her to be alone, but also doesn't want to return to Guatemala, given the problems that drove him to immigrate.

Some attendees of the dinner said they were not paying close attention to the election or dwelling on the results. Paulino Dikuiza, who came to the U.S. from Angola five years ago, said he left his home country because of his political activism there. Here, "I am not political," he said in French.

Mashal Ahmadzai, an immigrant from Afghanistan who came to Philadelphia with his family a year ago, said that as a green card holder, he was unconcerned. "We have documents," said Ahmadzai, who works as a forklift driver. He felt there was little "risk for us."

During his six years in Philadelphia, Garcia, the El Salvador native, said he hasn't had any problems. His older son, 13-year-old Dylan, said he and his 11-year-old sister were happy to join their parents in Philadelphia four years ago; upon moving here, his parents had a third child.

"There are a lot of families here," Antonio Garcia said. "We work hard and contribute."

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ROOMS

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Broad & Hunting Park, Rooms, SSI OK. \$600 & up. Near trans. 267-588-5517

NORTH PHILLY - Furnished Rooms, SSI OK, \$75 & up. 215-763-5565

W. Oaklane, Furn Room, \$150/wk. Sr male pref. No smoking. 215-205-2437

Legal notices

LEGAL NOTICES

City of Philadelphia
Public Hearing Notice
The Committee on Public Property and Public Works of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 1:00 PM, in Room 400, City Hall, to hear testimony on the following items:
240874 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a sublease with the Philadelphia Municipal Authority, for use by the City of all or a portion of the premises located at 6253 N. Broad Street, under certain terms and conditions.
241022 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a lease agreement with 2401 Walnut LP, for use by the City of a portion of the premises located at 2401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under certain terms and conditions.
241023 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a lease agreement with AC HSS Office Ventures II, LLC, for use by the City of a portion of the premises located at 1930 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19145, under certain terms and conditions.
241025 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to convey to the Philadelphia Housing Authority, all or part of a parcel or parcels of land containing approximately 23,595 square feet, located in and about the area bounded by Market Street, 39th Street, Ludlow Street and 40th Street, under certain terms and conditions.
241029 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City, to acquire fee simple title or a lesser real estate interest by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement, or otherwise, in and to all or portions of certain parcels of land located along the west bank of the Schuylkill River in and around an area generally bounded by South 58th Street, as extended to the bulkhead line of the west bank of the Schuylkill River; South 61st Street; and West Passyunk Avenue for public park, recreation, and transportation purposes under certain terms and conditions.
241031 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a sublease agreement with the Philadelphia Municipal Authority, for use by the City of a portion of the premises located at 1 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under certain terms and conditions.
241050 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into various lease and sublease agreements with various landlords and tenants, for use by the City of all or a portion of various premises located at 1835 South Broad Street, 6000 Woodland Avenue, 4029 Market Street, 5610 Lancaster Avenue, 2301 North Broad Street, 6420 Frankford Avenue, 2739 North 5th Street, 5361 91 Chew Avenue, 6233 North Broad Street, and 1619 Grant Avenue, all under certain terms and conditions.
241051 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to acquire fee simple title or a lesser real estate interest by purchase, dedication, donation, condemnation, agreement in lieu of condemnation, or otherwise, in and to all or portions of a certain parcel of land known as 923 W. Butler Street, under certain terms and conditions.
241052 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a sublease agreement with the Philadelphia Municipal Authority, for use by the City of a portion of the premises located at 1600 26 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under certain terms and conditions.
241053 ... An Ordinance authorizing the Commissioner of Public Property, on behalf of the City of Philadelphia, to enter into a sublease agreement with the Philadelphia Municipal Authority, for use by the City of a portion of the premises located at 1600 26 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under certain terms and conditions.
Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Public Property and Public Works, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items. Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

PROPOSAL BIDS

Ithan Elementary School - Temporary HVAC Plant
The Radnor Township School District is soliciting bids for the Ithan Elementary School - Temporary HVAC Plant. All Bids must be in sealed envelopes, clearly marked to identify the project being bid, and hand delivered or delivered by traceable means no later than 1:00 PM local time on Friday, December 20, 2024, to Owner, Attn: Kenneth Morris Director of Buildings and Grounds, 135 South Wayne Ave, Wayne, PA 19087.
Solicitation for the following contracts:
Contract 1 - HVAC Construction
Contract 2 - Electrical Construction
A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting and site walk will be held Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 9:00 AM. Bidders will meet at the loading dock for the Ithan Elementary School, 695 Clyde Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 for a brief meeting and site visit of the elementary school followed by a site visit to the Radnor High School to view the existing boilers being salvaged and reused for this project.
Drawings, specifications, and addenda may be viewed on-line via Procure and downloaded (free of charge) by all Prime Bidders as well as their subcontractors and vendors upon registering. All bidders are advised that they use these documents contained on Procure at their own risk and are expected to check periodically for any addenda or revisions that may be posted. Any questions regarding access to the Bid Documents should be addressed to Jennifer Sariano jennifer.sariano@septa.org or Dewanna Laning at dewanna.laning@septiclogic.com. This project is subject to the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act. The Bids will be publicly opened as indicated above.

LEGAL NOTICES

The School District of Philadelphia
Notice of Charter School Application Hearings

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of The School District of Philadelphia shall hold initial public hearings pursuant to the Charter School Law on the applications for new charter schools in Philadelphia. The hearings will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 4:00 PM on the remote platform. To register to speak, individuals must either call the speaker registration line at 215-400-5959, register on the Board's website at https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/ or register via email to schoolboard@philasd.org by 5:00 pm EST on December 3, 2024. Each individual shall have two minutes to speak.

The hearings shall commence at 2:00 p.m. The charter applicants, identified below, will each be given fifteen (15) minutes to present information about its application.

- Celestina Cordero Bilingual Charter High School
- Early College Charter School of Philadelphia
- Pan American Academy Charter School - Pathways High School
- Philadelphia Charter High School for Real Estate and Building Trades

The Board of Education will receive public comment from Philadelphia residents on the charter applications on December 19th. Public comment shall start at approximately 4:00 p.m. on the remote platform. To register to speak, individuals must either call the speaker registration line at 215-400-5959, register on the Board's website at https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/meetings/ or register via email to schoolboard@philasd.org by 5:00 pm EST on December 18th. Each individual shall have two minutes to speak.

The Board of Education also will accept written public testimony on the new charter application from Philadelphia residents through January 24, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Testimony may be submitted by mail or via email to schoolboard@philasd.org.

If submitted by mail, written testimony must be postmarked by January 24, 2025 and addressed to:

Board of Education
The School District of Philadelphia
440 North Broad Street, Suite 101
Philadelphia, PA 19130

Regardless of submission method, all written testimony should include the full name and address of the sender in order to establish Philadelphia residency. Additionally, written testimony should clearly indicate the specific new charter application to which the testimony refers. All written testimony timely received by the Board of Education will be made part of the public record for the new charter application hearings.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

City of Philadelphia
Public Hearing Notice

The Committee on Appropriations of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, in Room 400, City Hall, to hear testimony on the following item:
241084 ... An Ordinance authorizing transfers in appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 from the General Fund from certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Water Fund from certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, the Grants Revenue Fund from certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, and the Transportation Fund from certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, to the General Fund to certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions, and to the Transportation Fund to certain or all City offices, departments, boards and commissions.
Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed item. Copies of the foregoing item are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 3, 2024, the Petition of Amanda Godfrey and Andrew Godfrey was filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County, No. A-9655, praying to terminate the parental rights of the putative/unknown father, a/k/a Collie, a/k/a Columina, a/k/a Columino, of Baby Girl Anthony, born to Wendy Anthony on January 28, 2020, at Temple Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Court has fixed the 27th day of January, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., Bernard C. Brominski Building, 3rd Floor, 113 West North Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 as the time and place for the hearing on said Petition, when and where all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why the prayer of said Petition should not be granted.

Michael A. Shottlo, Jr., Esquire
SDS Family Law Group, LLC
951 Wyoming Avenue
Forty Fort, PA 18704
(570) 820-8800

PROPOSAL BIDS

SEPTA
INVITATION TO BID

SEPTA will accept bids with the eProcurement system only for the bid indicated. The bid will be opened electronically on the eProcurement system close date and time. If you have not already done so, please register in advance through septa.org.
24-00338-ABRV
Turbocharger Actuator.
Bid Opening: December 17, 2024 at 1AM. Bryant Vaders.
bvaders@septa.org.
215-580-7284.
Please reference the BID number when contacting the contact person.



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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

City of Philadelphia
Public Hearing Notice

The Committee on Licenses and Inspections of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 2, 2024, at 10:00 AM, in Room 400, City Hall, to hear testimony on the following item:

240865 ... An Ordinance amending Title 10 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity," by adding a new chapter concerning vehicle mobile service providers, and providing for penalties, all under certain terms and conditions.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Licenses and Inspections, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed item.

Copies of the foregoing item are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

ESTATE NOTICES

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

GREENE, HENRY - Cheryl L. Greene, Executrix, 700 Harvin Way, Unit 724, Brookhaven, PA 19015

PLOCIENNIK, GODFRYD S. - Christine P. Connors, Administratrix, 786 N. Valley Forge Rd., Devon, PA 19333

RAMOS, RUBEN - Ruben W. Ramos, Executor, 2010 N. Bodine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122

LIFE & CULTURE



The 6abc Dunkin' Thanksgiving Day Parade makes its way down the Parkway in Philadelphia in 2023. Heather Khalifa / Staff Photographer

Your guide to the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade 2024

By Henry Savage and Hira Qureshi
Staff Writers

Philadelphia is home to the oldest Thanksgiving parade in the nation, which celebrates its 105th edition this year.

Officially known as the 6abc Dunkin' Thanksgiving Day Parade, Philly's favorite Thanksgiving tradition is back on Thursday, and it's bringing along tons of floats, special performers, and fun. But with the festivities come road closures, parking restrictions, and transit detours.

Parade route

This year's 6abc Dunkin' Thanksgiving Day Parade broadcast starts at 8:30 a.m., with the parade kicking off at 9 a.m.

The route starts at 20th Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard and heads east toward 16th Street, where it turns left and heads north to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. From there, the parade follows the Parkway west to Eakins Oval and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where it concludes. The parade is free to watch.

Weather

There could be a storm on Thanksgiving weekend, reports The Inquirer's Anthony Wood. With brisk breezes expected to drive wind chills, colder, stormier patterns are on the horizon. Keep an eye out on the National Weather

Service for the day-of forecast.

Road closures

Road closures will start Monday night with Eakins Oval closing for parade rehearsals from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Various closures will continue on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, according to the city's Office of Special Events. Roads will reopen on a rolling basis as they are cleaned and serviced, and all road closures are scheduled to be lifted by 3 p.m. on Thursday.

Monday

- 6:30-11 p.m. — Eakins Oval between Kelly Drive and MLK Jr. Drive closed for parade rehearsals.

Tuesday

- 6:30-11 p.m. — Eakins Oval between Kelly Drive and MLK Jr. Drive closed for parade rehearsals.

Wednesday

- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. — Eakins Oval between Kelly Drive and MLK Jr. Drive closed for parade rehearsals.
- 4 p.m. — Inner lanes of Benjamin Franklin Parkway, from 21st St. to 20th St. closed for site build until the end of the parade on Thursday.
- 6:30 p.m. — Eakins Oval closed for rehearsals and site building until the end of the parade on Thursday.

- 7 p.m. — Inbound lanes of JFK Blvd., from 20th St. to 30th St., will be closed to vehicular traffic until the end of the parade on Thursday.
- 8 p.m. — Outbound lanes of JFK Blvd., from 20th St. to 30th St. Station, will be closed to vehicular traffic until the end of the parade on Thursday.

Thursday

- Midnight — JFK Blvd., from 30th St. to 16th St., will be closed to vehicular traffic until the end of the parade.
- 2 a.m. — 20th St., from Ben Franklin Pkwy. to Race St., will be closed to vehicular traffic until 11 a.m.
- 2 a.m. — Market St., from 19th St. to 20th St., will be closed to vehicular traffic until the end of the parade.
- 5 a.m. — 20th St., from JFK Blvd. to Arch St., will be closed to vehicular traffic until the end of the parade.
- 6 a.m. — 20th St., from Market St. to Ben Franklin Pkwy., will be closed to vehicular traffic until the end of the parade.
- 6 a.m. — Market St., from 19th St. to 22nd St., will be closed to vehicular traffic until the end of the parade.
- 7 a.m. — Kelly Drive, from Sedgley Drive to Eakins Oval, will be closed to vehicular traffic until the end of the parade.
- 7:30 a.m. — Parade route closed to vehicular traffic. There will be traffic delays during the event. Motorists are advised to

avoid the area and allow for extra driving time.

Parking

There will be "Temporary No Parking" signs posted in areas on and around the parade route starting Wednesday at 6 p.m., the Office of Special Events said. Cars parked in prohibited parking areas will be relocated.

Metered parking elsewhere in the city is free on Thanksgiving. Additionally, you can check the Philadelphia Parking Authority's website for a list of parking garages and parking lots around the parade route.

SEPTA service

SEPTA buses, trains, and trolleys will run on a Sunday schedule on Thanksgiving. You can follow real-time updates on the agency's System Status website, via Transit-View on the SEPTA app, or on X at @SEPTA_Bus.

Temporary detours for several city bus routes begin at 8 a.m. on Monday and should end at approximately 3 p.m. on Wednesday. Routes affected during that time include: 38 and 43.

Additional affected routes: 2, 7, 17, 27, 31, 32, 33, 38, 43, 44, 48, 49, 124, 125, and MFO detoured on Wednesday and Thursday.

For detailed information about route detours, check SEPTA's System Status Page at septa.org.

Floats and performers

Guests this year include celebrities such as Delco's Susan Noles from the *Golden Bachelor*, Lisa Ann Walter from ABC's *Abbott Elementary*, and appearances from Ryan Seacrest, Kelly Ripa, and Mark Consuelos.

As for floats and balloons, look for classic characters like Bumble the Abominable Snowman, Brainy Smurf, Tasmanian Devil, and others. This year's musical performers include Rock and Roll of Famer Darlene Love, hip hop group the Sugarhill Gang, and other musical acts with local talent.

Where to watch

If you're looking to attend the parade, you can watch from anywhere along its route, for free. Some favorite spots to watch include the Franklin Institute, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Eakins Oval, and Logan Circle.

How to watch from home

The parade will air live from 8:30 a.m. until noon on 6abc and can be streamed via the station's website, the 6abc Philadelphia News App, on Disney+, or on Hulu.

6abc Action News' Adam Joseph, Alicia Vitarelli, Cecily Tynan, Karen Rogers, and Rick Williams will host, alongside Emmy winner Carson Kressley.

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Wildwood's iconic Great White roller coaster to get a revamp

New trains for the roller coaster promise a smoother ride.

By Jason Nark
Staff Writer

It doesn't go upside down. There's no neon, no blaring soundtrack to drown out the screams.

Wildwood's Great White roller coaster is a pure and simple thrill ride, a wood and steel throwback rattling the bones above the beach.

As the iconic coaster at Morey's Piers approaches 30, it's getting a



Visitors to Morey's Adventure Pier in Wildwood ride the Great White roller coaster and the Sky Ride chair lift in 2008. David Maialetti / Staff Photographer

revamp that might help rattle the bones a bit less, including new coaster trains that amusement companies say will result in "an even smoother ride."

According to Morey's, the new trains will be made by Great Coasters International, based out of Sunbury, in Northumberland County, Pa.

The Great White opened in Wildwood in the summer of 1996 for \$5.5 million. The coaster has a 150-foot drop and reaches speeds of up to 50 mph.

In 2023, The Inquirer joined a team of inspectors that painstakingly examined the coaster's track,

inch by inch, every day it was open, looking for loose bolts, signs of wear, and marks left behind by the trains.

"We could be out here six to eight hours, depending on what we found," one inspector told the Inquirer.

According to Morey's, the new trains will be supported by a single axle that will adapt to the track's curves, reducing the lateral "shuffling" associated with the ride.

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Keith Haring, who died in 1990, with his painted carousel. Sabina Sarnitz / Luna Luna / Keith Haring Foundation

You’ve seen Keith Haring’s pop art. Soon you can send mail with it

By **Zoe Greenberg**
Staff Writer

A drawing by Keith Haring, the Pennsylvania-born pop artist whose distinctive style became known worldwide before his AIDS-related death in 1990, will become a U.S. postage stamp next year. The stamp will feature an untitled 1985 drawing by Haring of two cartoon figures holding a beating red heart aloft.

“The non-specificity of the figures allows a variety of people to see themselves in this stamp,” Antonio Alcalá, an art director for USPS, said in a statement.

Haring was born in Reading and raised in Kutztown, Pa., where he learned cartoon drawing from his father Allen, an amateur cartoonist and engineer. After high school, Haring enrolled in the commercial

Ivy School of Professional Art in Pittsburgh, before deciding that he had no interest in becoming a commercial artist. He moved to New York City in 1978.

It was there that he became a star, first by chalking illustrations on the unused black paper covering advertising panels in the subway system. His exuberant drawings, of dancing figures, monsters, mazes, and lovers, were so beloved by commuters and art appreciators alike that he had to stop drawing underground — not because his artwork was technically criminal mischief, but because it was suddenly too prized.

“As soon as I would finish something, somebody would rip it down. Nobody was getting to see the stuff,” he told *The Inquirer’s* art critic, Michael Kimmelman, in 1986.

Through the 1980s, Haring became extraordinarily successful,

selling his canvasses for as much as \$350,000. He simultaneously sold his art through his retail store, the Pop Shop, where people could buy posters, buttons, and magnets at a much lower price tag.

He also created dozens of public murals throughout the 1980s, including a 300-foot mural on the Berlin Wall, and designed antiapartheid, safe sex, and AIDS awareness posters. An openly gay man, Haring was diagnosed with AIDS in 1988.

Even as he became a wealthy artist, Haring faced criticism about the commercialism of his work, with one critic describing it as equivalent to “fast food,” according to his obituary in the *Associated Press*. For Haring, his retail shop was similar to his subway illustrations, a way of “breaking down the barriers between high and low art.”

Kutztown has claimed Haring and mounted a Pennsylvania

historical marker in his honor earlier this fall. But Haring felt liberated when he left Pennsylvania.

“I was a square in a round peg,” he told *The Inquirer* in 1986. “I didn’t really fit into what you’re supposed to be in Kutztown. It’s a little conservative for the way I wanted to lead my life.”

Haring died in 1990, at age 31, from complications related to AIDS. Near the end of his life, he explained why he was still making art.

“All of the things that you make are a kind of quest for immortality,” he said. “Because you’re making these things that you know have a different kind of life.”

He deliberately left his 1989 *Unfinished Painting* incomplete to denote the void left behind by the lives lost to the AIDS epidemic.

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ADVICE

Cheater’s fiancée wants to hear the ex’s side of the story

By **Carolyn Hax**
Washington Post



Adapted from an online discussion.

Question: I’m divorced because I caught my then-husband cheating on me. He tried to deny it, make me think I was crazy, but I had the proof, so that was that.

I hadn’t heard from him in well over a year until he called me out of the blue. He asked me not to tell his fiancée he’d cheated on me. I assured him I had no intention of involving myself in his life, but then he told me she wants to talk to me and ask about why the marriage ended before she’ll agree to marry him.

I don’t know what makes her want to do this and I don’t care, but I’m betting it was something sketchy he did. I told him I won’t lie but I won’t talk to her, either. But now she keeps texting me asking to talk. Should I keep dodging her or do I owe this woman the truth?

Answer: She obviously already knows it, or else she wouldn’t feel such urgency to talk to you. She just doesn’t want to know it yet.

Memo to anyone trying to hunt down information like this. You already know. Trust yourself. Thank you.

That’s a way you can respond to her, if you want. “I choose not to get involved in anything to do with my ex-husband. Maybe the urgency you feel to know the reason I divorced him is telling you what you need to know.”

Or you can block her, or you can just talk to her and do a sister a solid. Put a quick stop to the gong show this has become.

Tell others he’s pressuring you, and make sure he knows that others know.

Finally, the next time anyone comes to you asking you not to tell something, please say, “I won’t make that promise.” Especially if he gives out your number. Bonus celestial points if you say, “And stop asking people to lie for you.”

Then you’re free to follow your own judgment as the situation evolves vs. boxed in by a promise to someone who: 1. Has stuff to hide and refuses to stop generating more. 2. Openly intends to deceive someone ... no, wait, not just someone, his next wife. 3. Extracted your promise under incomplete pretenses.

I’ll let you ask your conscience whether you owe her the truth, but at this point, you might owe it to yourself to tell her. Discuss.

Question: For my job, I have to call people I’ve never met, whose names I’ve only been sent in writing, and I have no idea how to pronounce them.

What’s the best way to open up the call? I usually guess at the pronunciation, but I feel like it’s offensive and off-putting to butcher someone’s name, especially when I’m basically cold-calling them. I want to be mindful of other cultures and not seem xenophobic or ignorant.

Answer: Have you tried running the names through a pronunciation tool first? That will at least get you close.

Re: Names: Just say, “I’m calling for Chytixlgn Bordigtvnagen. I’m not sure I’ve got the pronunciation right.” Approximately 0 percent of people get my last name correct. There are several ways it could be pronounced by looking at it, none of them correct. I don’t care as long as someone tries. What matters isn’t how you say something the first time, what matters is that you make an effort once you know.

Chat with Carolyn Hax online at noon Fridays at www.washingtonpost.com.

tellme@washpost.com



‘Wicked’ dresses on display in Philly

Before “*Wicked*” swept into theaters on Nov. 23, costumes from the highly anticipated musical were on display at the Comcast Technology Center, where Allyson Louie (left) and Irvin Schorsch took a look on Thursday. The dresses, worn by Ariana Grande, who plays Galinda, and Cynthia Erivo, who plays Elphaba, were on view for two days before being shipped back to Los Angeles. Designed by Academy Award nominee Paul Tazewell, the costumes capture the iconic look and colors of witches in the *Wizard of Oz* universe. The first of two films based on the 2003 Broadway musical, “*Wicked*” tells the story of Galinda and Elphaba’s days as students at Shiz University, where they formed an unlikely friendship. Jessica Griffin / Staff Photographer



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SIXERS C4
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR BUZZ AROUND MCCAIN

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL C8
HIDALGO LEADS NOTRE DAME OVER USC

The Philadelphia Inquirer

SPORTS



NFL job suits Runyan just fine

Once voted one of the league's dirtiest players, the former Eagle has been the vice president of policy and rules administration since 2016.

By Alex Coffey
Staff Writer

A few months ago, Jon Runyan was at the NFL Films office in Mount Laurel when his phone rattled. It was his former Eagles teammate, Hugh Douglas. Douglas was trying to settle a debate with their other former teammate, Jon Ritchie, over a play in 2001.

Ritchie, a fullback, was lined up in the backfield for the Oakland Raiders, and needed to make sure

the end man on the line of scrimmage — Douglas — had his hands down. So, he ran at Douglas full speed and took his legs out.

The NFL fined Ritchie \$10,000, which, 23 years later, he wanted Douglas to pay back, because he believed it was a legal cut block. But Douglas refused, maintaining that the play was illegal.

They decided to consult an expert — Runyan — who has worked as the NFL's vice president of policy and rules administration since 2016. This was when the irony began to set in.

"We knew he worked at the NFL office," Douglas said. "But then it was like, wait a minute, Jon Runyan does rules. He does the fine stuff. We were like, 'Are you [expletive] kidding me? Jon Runyan?'"

The former offensive tackle is used to this reaction. He had a reputation for playing past the whistle. In a 2006 Sports Illustrated NFL

player poll, Runyan was voted the second-dirtiest player in the league (tied with Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Joey Porter and behind New England Patriots safety Rodney Harrison). He wasn't above tripping a guy, or stepping on his feet, or cleaning the pile.

Former defensive tackle Hollis Thomas said the 6-foot-7, 330-pound Runyan set an aggressive tone on his first day of Eagles practice in 2000.

A rookie defensive end, Dwight Johnson, hit him with some force. When he tried to do it again, Runyan grabbed him, threw him on the ground, and gave him a "that's-what-you-get nudge" with his foot.

"[Jeremiah] Trotter came to [the rookie's] rescue," Thomas said. "He was like, 'Oh, you think you're swole!' Then the entire defense kind of jumped him. It was like Runyan was King Kong and the DBs were the little airplanes."

Ritchie said the Raiders would dedicate a portion of their special teams meetings to studying Runyan's "cheap shots" when the Eagles were attempting to kick

extra points. He described his former teammate's playing style as "angry," "mean," and "cruel."

As someone who racked up an estimated 12-14 fines in his career, Runyan understood how handing out discipline for the NFL would look. But he took the job anyway, and has held it for almost a decade.

"Everybody just kind of laughed at it," said Runyan, 50. "They were like, after all the stuff you did on the football field, how the hell did you become a compliance guy?"

"If you have an IT system, and you want to avoid getting hacked, you bring in a hacker. If you want to have good home security, you bring in a burglar."

'Bully mentality'

Runyan developed his physical playing style in college. He went to the University of Michigan from

→ SEE RUNYAN ON C3



Eagles out West

Eagles wide receiver A.J. Brown looks focused pregame Sunday in Los Angeles. Full coverage of the game vs. Rams at [Inquirer.com](#). Yong Kim / Staff Photographer

NCAA FIELD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Northwestern spoils story for Hawks

St. Joe's finishes the season 20-4 after 5-0 loss in title game.

By Mia Messina
Staff Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Their historic field hockey season didn't end the way the St. Joseph's Hawks had hoped.

The Hawks fell to Northwestern, 5-0, in the NCAA Division I championship on Sunday at Phyllis Ocker Field, giving the Wildcats their second national championship in program history. Their first was in 2021.

"I obviously have a lot of emotions right now," St. Joe's coach Hannah Prince said, "but I'm super

proud of my team and the season that we had and the effort that we put into this game, and really all the games this season."

Just six minutes into the first quarter, senior Maddie Zimmer, a member of the U.S. Olympic team, got the momentum rolling for the Wildcats (23-1) with the first of two goals.

"I think that's been the case, for the last month, and a trend for the season that we like to start games strong," Northwestern coach Tracey Fuchs said. "We've been starting strong, and I think that gives energy to everybody when you can get a touch on the ball and you can move it around and play some attacking hockey."

Just five minutes later, Philadelphia native and Camden Catholic alumna Olivia Bent-Cole added to

Northwestern's lead, with an assist from Zimmer. The next three goals came from penalty corners, with two from sophomore Ilse Tromp and Zimmer's second of the game.

Zimmer, a native of Hershey, also added an assist. Fellow Olympic team member and Episcopal Academy graduate Ashley Sessa had two assists. Senior Lauren Hunter finished with three assists.

"She and Maddie are two of the best, and she's so dependable, and she's one of those players that always goes under the radar," Fuchs said of Hunter. "She is one of the smartest players I've ever coached, and so proud to have had her here at Northwestern for four years."

The Hawks finished with three shots, and only one shot on goal from fifth-year Celeste Smits, which

→ SEE HAWKS ON C5

ON DECK

	MONDAY NOV. 25	TUESDAY NOV. 26	WEDNESDAY NOV. 27	THURSDAY NOV. 28	FRIDAY NOV. 29
EAGLES	Next: Dec. 1 at Ravens, 4:25 p.m. (CBS3)				
76ERS			vs. Rockets 7 p.m. NBCSP		
FLYERS	vs. Golden Knights 7 p.m., NBCSP		at Predators 8 p.m. NBCSP+		vs. Rangers 1 p.m. NBCSP

■ Home game



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TV/RADIO

MONDAY

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

Maui Invitational: Memphis vs. UConn, Quarterfinal, Maui, Hawaii, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Sunshine Slam Beach Bracket: Fordham vs. Penn St., Semifinal, Daytona Beach, Fla., 4 p.m. (CBSSN)
Maui Invitational: Colorado vs. Michigan St., Quarterfinal, Maui, Hawaii, 5 p.m. (ESPN2)
Fort Myers Tip-Off: Michigan vs. Virginia Tech, Semifinal, Fort Myers, Fla., 6 p.m. (FS1)
Sunshine Slam Beach Bracket: Clemson vs. San Francisco, Semifinal, Daytona Beach, Fla., 6:30 p.m. (CBSSN)
Green Bay at Ohio St., 7 p.m. (BTN)
Fort Myers Tip-Off: Xavier vs. South Carolina, Semifinal, Fort Myers, Fla., 8:30 p.m. (FS1)
Little Rock at Illinois, 9 p.m. (BTN)
Maui Invitational: Iowa St. vs. Auburn, Quarterfinal, Maui, Hawaii, 9 p.m. (ESPNU)

Maui Invitational: Dayton vs. North Carolina, Quarterfinal, Maui, Hawaii, 11:30 p.m. (ESPN2)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

Battle 4 Atlantis: TBD, Championship, Nassau, Bahamas, noon (ESPN2)
Battle 4 Atlantis: TBD, Third-Place Game, Nassau, Bahamas, 2:30 p.m. (ESPNU)
HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOY'S)
The Five for the Fight National Hoopfest: Montverde Academy (Fla.) vs. Wasatch Academy (Utah), Pleasant Grove, Utah, 7 p.m. (ESPNU)

NBA

Dallas at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. (NBATV)

Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 10 p.m. (NBATV)

NFL

Baltimore at L.A. Chargers, 8:15 p.m. (ABC, ESPN)

SOCCER (MEN'S)

Premier League: West Ham United at Newcastle United, 3 p.m. (USA)

No. 1 South Carolina dropped by UCLA

Associated Press

Londynn Jones scored 15 points, making all five of her 3-pointers, and fifth-ranked UCLA stunned No. 1 South Carolina 77-62, ending the Gamecocks' overall 43-game winning streak and their run of 33 consecutive road victories.

Coach **Dawn Staley's** Gamecocks (5-1) lost for the first time since April 2023, when **Caitlin Clark** and Iowa beat them in the NCAA Tournament national semifinals.

Te-Hina Paopao scored 18 points and **Tessa Johnson** scored 14 for the Gamecocks, whose road winning streak was third-longest in Division I history.

It was the first time UCLA took down a No. 1 team in school history, having been 0-20 in such games. The program's previous best wins were over a couple of No. 2s — Oregon in 2019 and Stanford in 2008.

UCLA (5-0) dominated from start to finish, with the Bruins' suffocating defense preventing the Gamecocks from making any sustained scoring runs.

College Football

Alabama and Mississippi tumbled out of the top 10 of the Associated Press Top 25 poll Sunday and Miami and SMU moved in following a chaotic weekend in the SEC and across college football in general.

Oregon is No. 1 for the sixth straight week and Ohio State, Texas, and Penn State held their places behind the Ducks, who are the last unbeaten team.

Penn State (10-1, 7-1 Big Ten) fought past Minnesota, 26-25, on Saturday as **Drew Allar** passed for 244 yards and a touchdown. The Nittany Lions will close the regular season Saturday with a 3:30 p.m. home game against Maryland.

The shuffling in the poll begins at No. 5, where Notre Dame returned for the first time since Week 2 after beating Army for its ninth straight win.

No. 6 Georgia and No. 7 Tennessee each moved up two spots. No. 8 Miami got a three-rung promotion, and No. 9 SMU jumped four places for its first top-10 ranking since 1985. SMU has clinched a spot in the Atlantic Coast Conference title game and would play Miami, if the Hurricanes win at Syracuse this week, or No. 12 Clemson.

Indiana dropped from No. 5 to No. 10 following its first defeat, a 38-15 loss at Ohio State. The Buckeyes will play Oregon in the Big Ten championship game if they beat Michigan for the first time in four years this Saturday.

NHL

Drew Bannister is out as coach of the St. Louis Blues after less than a full calendar year on the job. **Jim**

Montgomery is back behind the bench of an NHL team five days after he was fired by the Boston Bruins. The Blues fired Bannister and hired Montgomery as his replacement, a stunning move a quarter of the way through the NHL season that puts a seasoned coach in charge of shepherding St. Louis through a retooling period.

Golf

Down by two shots with two holes to play, **Jeeno Thitikul** knew exactly what was needed to capture the biggest prize in women's golf history. And another eagle-birdie finish — for the second straight day — made it happen.

Thitikul claimed the record-setting \$4 million first-place check by winning the CME Group Tour Championship in Naples, Fla. It's the biggest money prize in women's golf history, bigger than even the winner's shares in three of the four men's major championships this year.

Thitikul shot a 7-under 65 and finished the week at 22 under, one shot ahead of **Angel Yin** (66). Yin had a two-shot lead walking to the 17th tee, only to wind up settling for the \$1 million runner-up check.

Maverick McNealy finally became a winner on the final tournament of his fifth year on the PGA Tour, hitting 6-iron to 5 feet for birdie on the 18th hole at Sea Island for a 2-under 68 and a one-shot victory in the RSM Classic at St. Simons Island, Ga.

He picked the right time to end nine holes without a birdie, even as so many others were making them to create a four-way tie for the lead. The victory came in his 134th start as a pro, and it sends him to Maui to start the year at The Sentry and to the Masters in April for the first time.

NBA

Charlotte Hornets forward **Grant Williams** suffered a torn ACL in his right knee and is out indefinitely. The injury occurred late in the fourth quarter of Charlotte's 125-119 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday night. Williams appeared in 16 games with seven starts this season, averaging 10.3 points, 5.1 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.1 steals in 29.9 minutes per game.

MLB

Rico Carty, who won the 1970 NL batting title when he hit a major league-best .366 for the Atlanta Braves, has died. He was 85.

Carty made his big league debut with the Braves in September 1963. He batted .330 with 22 homers and 88 RBIs in his first full season in 1964, finishing second to **Dick Allen** in voting for NL Rookie of the Year. Carty batted .299 with 204 homers and 890 RBIs over 15 years in the majors.



Tampa Bay QB Baker Mayfield soars into the end zone past Giants cornerbacks Dru Phillips (22) and Cor'Dale Flott (28) in the visiting Bucs' 30-7 romp. Rich Schultz / Associated Press

NFL | WEEK 12

Commanders can't kick as Cowboys end 5-game skid

Associated Press

Austin Seibert missed his second extra point of the game with 21 seconds left after Washington's Jayden Daniels and Terry McLaurin connected on an 86-yard touchdown, Dallas' Juanyeh Thomas returned the ensuing onside kick attempt for a touchdown, and the visiting Cowboys pulled out a 34-26 victory Sunday that extended the Commanders' skid to three games.

Seibert, who missed the previous two games with a right hip injury, was wide left on the point-after attempt following a low snap. Thomas then took the kick back 43 yards as the Cowboys (4-7) ended their losing streak at five in improbable fashion.

Part of that was the play of backup Cooper Rush, who threw for 247 yards and two TDs in his third start in place of starter Dak Prescott. Part was also the defense forcing two turnovers, as Chauncey Golston ripped the ball out of Brian Robinson Jr.'s hands for what was called an interception of Daniels in the second quarter, and Donovan Wilson stripped John Bates midway through the fourth.

KaVonte Turpin provided the fireworks with a spinning, 99-yard kickoff return TD seconds after Daniels found Zach Ertz in the end zone and scored on a two-point conversion to cut the deficit to three with 3:02 left. In the final three minutes alone, the Commanders (7-5) scored 10 points and allowed Thomas' TD.

Washington running backs Austin Ekeler suffered a concussion and was taken to a hospital for further evaluation when he was tackled on a kickoff return with 9 seconds left.

Buccaneers 30, Giants 7 — At East Rutherford, N.J., Baker Mayfield catapulted into the end zone on a spectacular 10-yard scramble for one of Tampa Bay's four rushing touchdowns, and the Buccaneers (5-6) snapped a four-game losing streak and extended New York's skid to six. The Giants are 2-9.

The Giants' decisions this week to bench and then release quarterback Daniel Jones did nothing to help the NFL's lowest-scoring offense. Tommy DeVito threw for 189 yards, mostly in the second half.

Chiefs 30, Panthers 27 — At Charlotte, N.C., Patrick Mahomes threw for 269 yards and three touchdowns, Spencer Shrader kicked a 31-yard field goal as time expired and Kansas City (10-1) reached double-digit wins for the 10th straight season.

Noah Gray caught two TD passes as the Chiefs bounced back from last week's loss at Buffalo and won at the buzzer yet again in a season of narrow escapes. Bryce Young finished 21 of 35 for 262 yards and a touchdown for the Panthers (3-8).

Carolina rookie tight end Ja'Tavion Sanders was discharged from the Carolinas Medical Center after suffering a neck injury.

Vikings 30, Bears 27 (OT) — At Chicago, Sam Darnold threw for

90 of his 330 yards in overtime to set up Parker Romo's game-ending 29-yard field goal after Minnesota (9-2) had allowed 11 points to the Bears (4-7) in the final 22 seconds of regulation. Caleb Williams threw for 340 yards and two touchdowns for the Bears (4-7), who lost their fifth straight.

Minnesota appeared to have the game in hand, leading 27-16 with 1:56 left after Romo kicked a 26-yard field goal. But the Bears weren't finished.

Deandre Carter made up for a muffed punt that led to a Minnesota touchdown in the third quarter with a 55-yard kickoff return to the 40. Williams took it from there, capping an eight-play drive with a 1-yard touchdown pass to Keenan Allen. A two-point conversion pass to DJ Moore made it 27-24 with 22 seconds remaining.

The Bears recovered the onside kick and Williams hit Moore over the middle for a 27-yard gain to the 30 before spiking the ball. Cairo Santos made a 48-yard field goal as regulation time expired.

Lions 24, Colts 6 — At Indianapolis, Jahmyr Gibbs rushed for two scores and David Montgomery added a third touchdown run for Detroit (10-1). The Colts (5-7) lost their second straight home game and for the fourth time in their past five games.

Gibbs' first score extended Detroit's league record to 25 consecutive games with a TD run, including the playoffs. He's also the third Lions player with 1,000 scrimmage yards and 10 TDs in each of his first two pro seasons with Detroit, joining Billy Sims and Barry Sanders.

Packers 38, 49ers 10 — At Green Bay, Wis., Josh Jacobs rushed for 106 yards and matched a career high with three touchdowns as the Packers (8-3) trounced short-handed San Francisco (5-6). Injuries left the 49ers without

quarterback Brock Purdy (shoulder), three-time All-Pro left tackle Trent Williams (ankle) and four-time Pro Bowl edge rusher Nick Bosa (hip/oblique) among others.

Dolphins 34, Patriots 15 — At Miami Gardens, Fla., Tua Tagovailoa threw for 317 yards and four touchdowns, including two scores to running back De'Von Achane as Miami (5-6) posted its third straight win while dropping New England to 3-9.

Titans 32, Texans 27 — At Houston, Will Levis threw for 278 yards and his 70-yard touchdown pass to Chig Okonkwo put Tennessee on top in the fourth quarter.

Okonkwo grabbed a short pass and rumbled for the touchdown to put the Titans (3-8) up 30-27 with 9½ minutes remaining. Safety Eric Murray missed a tackle that would have stopped him near midfield.

The Texans (7-5) had a chance to tie it with less than two minutes remaining, but Ka'imi Fairbairn's 28-yard field-goal attempt sailed wide left.

Broncos 29, Raiders 19 — At Las Vegas, Bo Nix passed for 273 yards and had two touchdown passes to break the team's rookie record of 14 set by Marlin Briscoe in 1968.

Denver (7-5) took another step toward an unexpected playoff spot with its second victory in a row. Las Vegas (2-9) has lost seven consecutive games.

Raiders quarterback Gardner Minshew landed hard on his left shoulder late in the game and is done for the season with a broken collarbone.

Seahawks 16, Cardinals 6 — At Seattle, Coby Bryant returned an interception 69 yards for a touchdown and Leonard Williams had 2½ sacks as the Seahawks moved into a tie with the Cardinals for the NFC West lead at 6-5 by snapping Arizona's four-game winning streak.



Cowboys wide receiver Jalen Tolbert (1) celebrates his 6-yard touchdown reception in the third quarter against Washington. Stephanie Scarbrough / Associated Press



Jon Runyan hugs Tra Thomas after the former offensive linemen were inducted into the Eagles Hall of Fame in 2021. Monica Herndon / Staff Photographer

Runyan

→ CONTINUED FROM C1

1992-95, where he was coached in the hard-nosed, bruising, Bo Schembechler brand of football, which was still in place even after the coach's retirement in 1989. In Michigan's team meeting room, players would see two words: "pursuit," for defense, and "harassment," for offense.

The message was clear.

"Always be up in someone's face," Runyan said. "Leaning on him, pushing on him. The guy I'm blocking is a better athlete and faster than me 99% of the time. So, if I do just enough to annoy him, and he's trying to fight me, that takes his athletic ability away."

He was selected by the Houston Oilers in the fourth round of the 1996 NFL draft, and moved with the team to Tennessee in 1997. By that point, he'd become a starter, and was quickly developing a reputation for being a "nasty-ass offensive lineman," in Douglas' words. Runyan helped guide the Titans to the Super Bowl in 1999, and signed a six-year, \$30 million contract with the Eagles in 2000.

It was a lot of money. But in return, they got "the best right tackle in football," in then-coach Andy Reid's opinion.

"We throw a lot of money around in this business," Reid told The Inquirer in 2000. "It's good to see that money go to someone who deserves it."

Runyan spent his 14 NFL seasons toeing the line of physical-but-not-illegal. This proved to be more difficult after he signed with the Eagles. League rules became more stringent, and he was forced to adjust.

He couldn't, for example, jump across the pile, over Duce Staley, and a throng of defensive linemen, shove San Francisco 49ers linebacker Jamie Winborn — right before the whistle was blown — and always expect to get away with it.

"He just waylaid him," Douglas said. "I was like, 'What the [expletive] is he doing?'"

This gritty mentality gave the Eagles exactly what they needed at the time. When Runyan arrived in 2000, they were a team in search of offense. Donovan McNabb was a young, developing quarterback in his first full year as an NFL starter. They did not have many big-play weapons in their passing game.

In short, they were lacking an offensive identity, and Runyan gave them one.

"He wouldn't yell and scream," Douglas said, "but when he put that helmet on, and it was time to play football, you were like, 'Yeah, I see why Andy [Reid] got this [expletive]. Cause he crazy.' He set the tone."

Added former Eagles center Hank Fraley: "Everybody fed off of him. He brought that bully mentality."

With Runyan anchoring their offensive line, the Eagles reached the divisional round twice, the NFC championship game four times, and the Super Bowl in the 2004 season, in which they narrowly lost to the Patriots, 24-21. He retired after spending the 2009 season with the San Diego Chargers, and ran for office in New Jersey's third

congressional district in 2010.

Runyan won, and served two terms in the House of Representatives. He didn't seek a third term. The former tackle liked the process of legislating, but he didn't like all that came with it: The public posturing, the fundraising. So, in 2016, he reached out to Howie Roseman about a role in player engagement.

Roseman, the Eagles' executive vice president of football operations, told him to write a job description. Runyan sent it to former Eagles teammate Troy Vincent, who used to be the head of player engagement for the NFL, and Vincent called him back.

"Are you interviewing for this job?" he asked. "I might have a position for you up here."

Vincent wanted Runyan to be the head of discipline for the league office. He would analyze rules, make sure they were implemented, and if they weren't, he'd hand out fines. Runyan accepted the job, and found it to be intuitive work. Despite existing in the gray area during his playing career — where any given hit could elicit a flag — he said that he had a very black-and-white understanding of the rules.

He knew where the line was drawn, and was not reckless in crossing it. This understanding has helped him in his current role even though the league's rules are quite different now.

Making the change

The NFL said it has made more than 50 changes to its rulebook since 2002. For example, when Runyan started with the Eagles, tackling a player by grabbing the inside of his shoulder pads ("the horse-collar tackle") was legal. Now, it is not only a penalty, but it can draw a fine. These rule changes are a lot to keep track of, and Runyan's job is to make sure that nothing is overlooked.

"People don't realize, the officiating crews are like a quarterback," Runyan said. "So depending on the formation, they have reads that they're going through, progressions that they're going through, and a lot of times they just move down to the next progression, and something happens when they take their eyes off of their first read."

"I have the benefit of slowing it down and taking a look at all 22 players, so I can see that kind of stuff. And I can tell you, a lot of times, even when we watch it live on Sunday, there's no flag on the field. And it's like, 'Alright, I'm already tagging that play because I know there was a foul missed here.'"

Every Sunday, Runyan and Vincent watch all the games, with an eye on potential fouls. They review them again on Monday with the NFL's compliance team. Runyan sits with coaching supervisors on Tuesday to let them know what calls were missed, and on Wednesday, he and a few other NFL executives decide which plays are worthy of a fine.

Runyan has been careful not to show any favoritism — even to his own son. In 2022, he fined then-Packers guard Jon Runyan Jr. \$5,215 for unnecessary roughness in a game against the New York



No one in the NFL is spared from being fined by Jon Runyan, even his son, Jon Runyan Jr. Bryan Woolston / AP

Giants. Out of courtesy, Runyan gave Junior a heads up.

"He had attempted to do a leg whip earlier in the game, and I knew he was still asleep, so I just texted him," Runyan said. "I go, 'You know, this play in the second quarter, you tried to leg whip this guy, but you missed.' And then 20 minutes later, I'm like, 'You did it again, and you got him! You'll have a letter by the end of the week.'"

He will dole out 300 to 500 fines a year, but his job is not all about punishment. It's about protection and making the game safer. This is the part that most excites Runyan. Compared to Congress, where meaningful change takes a long time, football moves quickly. And the results of those changes can be life-altering.

He points to the "Use of the Helmet" rule as an example. It was tweaked a few years ago — "we added six words to it," Runyan said — and so far, the league has seen fewer helmet-to-helmet hits.

These kinds of outcomes make those long days in the league office worth it. Runyan understands, firsthand, how violent football can be. He said he hasn't suffered severe

post-retirement injuries, but not all of his former teammates have been as fortunate. Former Oilers and Titans tight end Frank Wycheck estimated he had 25 concussions during his 11-year career. He died at 52 in 2023.

Brian Westbrook, one of Runyan's former Eagles teammates, said he believed concussions were the cause of memory loss that he began experiencing in his 30s. It's likely that football players have sustained concussions for as long as the sport has been played. But for decades, the long-term health issues resulting from concussions were unknown. It wasn't until the 2000s when that perception began to change, following the suicide deaths of multiple retired NFL stars.

Runyan was in the midst of his NFL career at that time. When he was playing, he didn't think much about how he'd feel when he was 60. But his hope is that he can encourage more players to think about that now.

"Two of my former teammates are dealing with a lot of brain injury issues," Runyan said, without specifying which teammates. "A lot of

drug abuse and a lot of depression stuff. Legitimate issues. In and out of rehab, broke the family up, all that kind of stuff. And I try to communicate with them and talk to them as much as I can, but it is really difficult.

"And unfortunately, that was a part of the sport. But that's why you're seeing the NFL shifting towards playing safer, and creating rules like use of the helmet, that mandate that we get the head out of the game."

This is admirable work, and Runyan plans to continue to do it. But that doesn't mean his former teammates will stop teasing him.

"I love to see all of these guys transition into new careers," Douglas said. "It's great to see growth. But at the same time, I'm like, damn, this ain't the [expletive] that I know. I remember what this [expletive] used to be. This dirty-ass playing [expletive]."

"To hear he's giving out fines ... It's like, man, God is good. Because if he can change, anybody can, you know what I mean?"

INSIDE THE 76ERS

McCain front-runner for Rookie of the Year

The numbers say he's been the best — and his teammates agree: 'He is an incredible kid.'

By Keith Pompey
Staff Writer



Jared McCain is accomplishing more than being the lone consistent bright spot for the struggling 76ers: He's in the midst of one having one of the best starts in NBA history. And for that, the 16th pick in June's NBA draft should be the early front-runner for the league's Rookie of the Year award. As he showed Friday against the Nets, when he was caught on-court saying, "I'm Rookie of the Year," McCain agrees.

"I did say [that]," he said after the victory. "It was pretty clear. It's one of my goals for the season, obviously. But it's just that competitiveness coming out of me. I respect every other rookie in this league. But obviously, I'm believing in myself. And yeah, some words definitely came out at that point."

McCain's declaration was not without warrant. He led all rookies in points (248), scoring average (16.5 per game), and made three-pointers (38) heading into Sunday's game against the Los Angeles Clippers at the Wells Fargo Center. On the surface, those numbers are solid, but not overwhelming.



Sixers guard Jared McCain has averaged 26.6 points in his first five games in the starting lineup. Charles Fox / Staff Photographer

But consider these two statistics for McCain since he was inserted into the starting lineup on Nov. 13: His 24 three-pointers are the most in the first five starts of a player's career in NBA history. And his scoring average as starter (26.6 points) is the most by a rookie since Hall of Famer Michael Jordan averaged 28.2 points with the Chicago Bulls during the 1984-85 season.

In addition to that, the former Duke guard has recorded two career-high 30-point performances since becoming a starter. And his six three-pointers while scoring 30 points Friday night against Brooklyn also tied a career high.

"We said it before, he is an incredible kid," teammate Guerschon

Yabusele said. "His energy and everything he's got going on, just pushing us to do more, you know, individually. When it is a tie game and he is able to do whatever he is going to do for us on the court, it's amazing, you know, and just keeps us going."

The Los Angeles Lakers, meanwhile, will tell you that Dalton Knecht should be the front-runner for Rookie of the Year.

The 6-foot-6 guard is tied for the third-best rookie scoring average at 11.5 points. He's second behind McCain in made three-pointers (36). And the former University of Tennessee standout had a career-high 37 points while making 9 of 12 three-pointers during Tuesday's

124-118 victory over the Utah Jazz. That performance tied the NBA record for the most threes made by a rookie. At that time, it also moved Knecht to 14-of-17 from three over his two most recent home games.

After that game, LeBron James called out every team that didn't select Knecht before the Lakers snagged him with the 17th pick in June's draft.

"[The Lakers] didn't find DK. The other 16 teams [expletive] it up," the Lakers star said. "Did anybody watch him? They just didn't [expletive] it up."

But McCain is doing a great job of showing why the Sixers picked him over Knecht. His 38 three-pointers passed Hall of Famer Allen Iverson

for the most made threes by a Sixers rookie in his first 15 games.

McCain also took a streak of seven straight games with at least 20 points into Sunday's game. He joins Iverson (11 times), Joel Embiid (10), and Jerry Stackhouse (eight) as the only Sixers rookies to accomplish the feat.

"He's good," Tyrese Maxey said. "... He's fearless. When you're fearless like that, when you have that type of confidence, it's a good feeling. We need that."

And these reasons are why McCain has emerged as the early Rookie of the Year front-runner.

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Maxey's lessons, Drummond's pressure, a win

By Gina Mizell
Staff Writer

Tyrese Maxey halted a question about the 76ers finally making shots with a chuckle.

"I ain't gonna lie, it felt good to win," the Sixers' All-Star point guard said Friday, after the Sixers topped the Brooklyn Nets, 113-98. "I'm not going to sit here and talk about making shots. We played so hard, offensively and defensively, [and] played together. Guys stuck together."

One victory over the subpar Nets does not erase that the Sixers lost 12 of their first 14 games, and did not record a regulation victory until the 2024-25 season was nearly a month old.

But Friday brought welcomed relief during a week that had been defined by a lengthy postgame meeting in Miami, then Joel Embiid popping off about details of said meeting being leaked to media outlets, then injury absences (again) from Embiid and newcomer Paul George. The Embiid situation remains dicey, as swelling in his left knee caused him to miss Friday's game and will keep him sidelined through at least Sunday's matchup against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Still, the Sixers' locker-room speaker blasted hip-hop music following Friday's shorthanded win, largely thanks to 56 points from the budding guard duo of Maxey and still-scorching rookie Jared McCain along with a defense that parlayed 19 Nets turnovers into 28 points. Then, Maxey reiterated a message he had shared earlier in the week, noting it was part of that meeting in Miami.

"It's been a constant theme over the past 14 games: teams go on a run, and we laid down and we just let them continue pressing on," Maxey said. "Today, they went on a run. [We] called timeout, and we did what we were supposed to do: We hit them back. Punched them right back, and now we're right back in the game."

Here are some more behind-the-scenes nuggets from another interesting week during the Sixers' clunky start.

Drummond's joy

Andre Drummond sat on the floor



Tyrese Maxey dunks to score two of his 26 points in the Sixers' win against the Brooklyn Nets. Steven M. Falk / Staff Photographer

of Miami's Kaseya Center court following Monday's pregame warm-up, bouncing a ball with his young daughter, Aubrey.

That was an instant mood boost, the veteran center said. And he hopes to carry more of that joy into his play, acknowledging he has been "putting too much pressure on myself" during a rough individual start while Embiid has been sidelined for 11 of the Sixers' first 15 games.

"It's something that I've got to do better with," Drummond told The Inquirer from shootaround in Memphis on Wednesday. "Just get out of my head and play more freely. ... [I've been] trying to do everything perfectly, instead of just playing the game the way it's supposed to be played."

Drummond received the same critique from coach Nick Nurse, who first delivered the message to the team and then repeated it publicly during his news conference before Monday's game in Miami. Drummond entered Friday averaging 8.5 points and 8.9 rebounds in 13 games, but his shooting numbers are down and the eye test indicates

he has not been the same interior force on either end of the floor.

"I'm trying to get him to relax a little bit out there and have some enjoyment playing," Nurse said of Drummond. "It looks a little bit like it's too much hard work for him right now, rather than enjoyment. He's, like, the best dude ever. I'm trying to get him to take some of that same character and attitude to the game and enjoy it a little bit."

Still, Drummond's role has continued to fluctuate in recent games. With Embiid ruled out against the Nets, Nurse opted to start Guerschon Yabusele at center. Drummond, though, finished with 10 points and six rebounds in 16 reserve minutes, including a thunderous alley-oop slam set off by McCain and multiple opportunities to finish when barreling down the lane.

Bona's back-and-forth trip

Even before that lengthy postgame meeting, Monday was bizarre for the Sixers because of Embiid's ever-changing health status. He entered that day against listed as

questionable to play against the Heat because of an illness, then doubtful after he missed shootaround, then available to play following a pregame warmup.

That all came after Embiid was a full participant in Sunday's practice, believed to be a positive sign for his ongoing post-surgery knee condition. So following that team session, the Sixers put rookie center Adem Bona on an airplane to Atlanta to join the G League's Delaware Blue Coats for their game against the College Park Skyhawks.

Bona arrived late Sunday because of a flight delay, then went through a walkthrough with the Blue Coats the following morning. Then, the Sixers notified Bona that he immediately needed to fly back to Miami to be their emergency big-man option against the Heat, in case Embiid was unable to play.

Bona was on the Kaseya Center floor by 5:15 p.m., as the first Sixer to go through pregame warmups. While drilling hook shots and down-the-lane dunks, player development coach Fabulous Flournoy reminded Bona that, if he got in the game that night, he might be matched up against All-Star and Olympian Bam Adebayo. A last-minute film session awaited Bona when he got back to the locker room.

"I was just asking the [Blue Coats] guys, 'Have you guys experienced this before?'" Bona said of the chaotic back-and-forth trip. "And they were like, 'Yeah, this is normal.' ... I flew all the way there just for a practice."

Such is life for the 2024 second-round draft pick, who is expected to toggle between the Sixers and G League this season. Bona played in a Blue Coats game the previous Monday in Wilmington, then drove back to Philly to receive his first significant NBA minutes on Wednesday against a Cleveland Cavaliers team anchored by frontcourt stars Evan Mobley and Jarrett Allen.

"This is what I signed up for," Bona told his brother earlier this week, "so I can't complain."

Inside the huddle

As the Sixers huddled for last Friday's tipoff in Orlando, Ricky Council IV and Reggie Jackson were at the center of the group, a second-year player and veteran

whose minutes have been sporadic so far. Both are trying to bring some positive energy to their teammates.

"That's what we get paid to do," Council told The Inquirer. "We're not getting paid to score. We're not getting paid to play every night. They want us on the team. If they didn't want us, we wouldn't be here. So we're going to do whatever we can to impact the game, if it's cheering, bringing some positive energy, all that."

Both players' opportunity arrived later in the week, when a hip injury to Kyle Lowry left a void at point guard and Nurse began searching for players who could provide a spark during Wednesday's game at the Memphis Grizzlies.

Council responded with two rim-rocking dunks, which prompted Maxey to holler, "Come on, Ricky!" from the bench. Then, Jackson had nine points on 3-of-7 shooting from three-point range and two assists in Friday's victory over the Nets.

Student becomes teacher

Maxey's leadership has been a popular topic since training camp, and has clearly manifested in his blossoming relationship with McCain.

While still sidelined with a hamstring injury during last Friday's loss at Orlando, Maxey pulled McCain over to the sideline for early pointers on how to handle the physicality of being guarded by rugged defender Jalen Suggs. In Memphis, Maxey offered tips about how hitting Embiid with pocket passes would open up more scoring space for McCain.

It was also apparent when they sat together during Friday's news conference, and McCain was asked about television cameras catching him yelling "I'm the Rookie of the Year!" following a big bucket during his 30-point outburst.

McCain initially tried to coyly deny those words, saying, "I don't know what came to my mind at that moment, but I guess I said that."

"You guess?!" Maxey replied.

"Yeah, I did say that. I did. It was pretty clear," McCain acknowledged.

"There we go," Maxey assured his teammate.

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PHILLIES OFFSEASON

Crawford’s ‘dream’ playing for Team USA

By Lochlahn March
Staff Writer

Justin Crawford only took about two weeks off.

Shortly after the minor league season ended this fall, the Phillies’ No. 3 prospect was back on the diamond at Team USA’s training camp in Arizona. Crawford was one of 28 players selected to represent the United States in the Premier12 tournament, a championship contested between the top 12 ranked national teams.

Crawford, the Phillies’ first-round pick in 2022, has been able to parlay the success following his late-season promotion to double-A Reading into success on the international stage. Playing alongside other top prospects as well as MLB veterans, the 20-year-old outfielder helped his country punch its ticket to the Super Round in Tokyo, which opened play on Thursday with a 9-1 loss to No. 1 Japan. In six games, Crawford is hitting .333 with three doubles and a homer.

“Ever since I was 10, 11, 12 years old, it’s been a dream of mine to play for Team USA,” Crawford said in a telephone interview. “Play for something that’s really just bigger than yourself.”

After training camp and a few exhibition games against Arizona State, the team headed to Mexico for the group stage of competition. The U.S. entered the tournament ranked fifth internationally, but it fell behind early in the opening round with losses to Puerto Rico and Venezuela. The Americans needed a win in their final group game against Mexico on Nov. 14 to move on to the next stage in Japan.

The hosts scored first in an intense environment in Guadalajara, but the U.S. stormed back to a 12-2 win — helped along by a 3-for-4 performance by Crawford, including his first home run of the tournament.

“That one felt special,” he said. “It always feels good to hit a homer. But just at that arena, with that crowd, for my country, for my team, that’s something that I will never forget.”

Crawford has been showcasing some power this tournament, with a 1.010 OPS. He credits his strong mindset, especially when the U.S. was facing elimination.

“What I did every day throughout the season, having to take it one game at a time,” Crawford said. “It’s easy to start looking into the future, to be like, ‘Oh, what’s going to happen? What’s going on with this?’ Just sitting down and sinking into the moment, and just trying to be where your feet are, that’s really all you can do.”

The competition is similar to what he has experienced so far in the minors, he said, with many teams bringing a mix of youth and experience to the tournament.

Players on major league 40-man rosters are ineligible for the Premier12, but free agents and minor leaguers are permitted. Crawford faced former Phillies shortstop Didi Gregorius on Team Netherlands in the opening round.

The setup gives Team USA’s young players an opportunity to learn from their veteran teammates. One such veteran is 44-year-old pitcher Rich Hill, who already knows a thing or two about playing with the Crawford family.

Hill, who has thrown 10⅓ scoreless innings in three starts for the U.S., played alongside Justin’s father, Carl, twice in their professional careers. They first coincided in Boston from 2011-12, and then were teammates again on the Dodgers in 2016.

Now, the kid who was running around the Red Sox clubhouse 13 years ago is starting in center field with Hill on the mound.

“My dad couldn’t believe he was still playing,” Justin said.

While Carl can’t make the tournament in person, he still texts Justin after every game to give him feedback. When he puts on the Team USA jersey, the younger Crawford is not only fulfilling a childhood dream, he’s also following in his father’s footsteps.

Carl Crawford, a four-time All-Star with Tampa Bay, suited up for Team USA at the 2001 Baseball World Cup (which has since been discontinued in favor of an expanded World Baseball Classic). Just over two years before Justin was born, his father won silver when the U.S. lost to Cuba in the championship game.

On Sunday, Team USA secured a bronze medal with a 6-1 victory over Venezuela at the Tokyo Dome. Crawford recorded a walk and scored a run.

“Me and my dad, we are constantly, always competing with each other,” Crawford said. “It’s a really special moment, not just for me, but for the two of us, that we get to share that with each other.”

Crawford has high expectations for his third full professional season. And the Phillies organization is expecting big things — president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski said last month that Crawford is “coming very fast,” and he wouldn’t be surprised if he broke through to the majors at any time.

With the international tournament concluded, Crawford said he’s planning to take another week or so off to decompress. But after that, it’s right back to work.

“I’m trying to come to spring training and just make something happen,” Crawford said. “I’m just trying to be fully ready to the best of my ability.”

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Phillies prospect Justin Crawford hit .333/.380/.455 in 40 games at double-A Reading after being promoted late in the season. Jose F. Moreno / Staff Photographer



Runners navigate the crowd on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

PHILADELPHIA MARATHON

Local mom rallies for win

Florio is the second woman from Philadelphia to win the race in recent years. On the men’s side, it was another winner from the Keystone State.

By Paulie Loscalzo
Staff Writer

On Sunday, the city of Philadelphia took to the streets to witness the Philadelphia Marathon — and the fans got to watch one of their own cross the finish line first.

With 17,000 runners lined up in the shadow of the Art Museum, an estimated 100,000 spectators lined the course to cheer on friends, elite runners, and even complete strangers who were taking on the 26.2-mile challenge.

On the women’s side, many Philadelphians found themselves cheering on a neighbor.

In a remarkable turn of events, local runner Katie Florio mounted a late comeback that saw the 30-year-old surge past her opponent en route to becoming a rare Philadelphian to win the women’s side of the Philadelphia Marathon. (Race organizers previously said they believed the last time there was a local winner was in the 1980s, but it happened most recently in 2022.)

The last Philadelphia woman to win the marathon before Amber Zimmerman in 2022 was Lori Lawson, who won in 1987 and 1988.

The feeling of a home-course advantage was not lost on Florio, who resides in Center City. After crossing the finish line, she proclaimed, “My city, my win.”

“Living in the city, I run these streets twice a day,” Florio said. “It was cool, like, I knew the tangents, I knew the course.”

In describing her favorite part of the course, the Archbishop Carroll High and Penn State graduate explained that, “there’s so many different segments, like it’s easy to chunk it up. It’s not boring. There’s a ton of fans and there’s so many people I know cheering for me.”

Florio had placed third in 2019, but a lot has changed in her life since that race. After giving birth to her first child in October 2023, Florio expected to be back running, but “not like this.”

“Coming back postpartum, that was a little bit of a chip on my shoulder, like you don’t know if you’re going to get better,” Florio said. “And this season, I’ve just gotten faster, so it’s really incredible.”

Florio, who grew up in Ardmore, finished in 2 hours, 32 minutes, 42 seconds. That was 44 seconds faster than the second-place finisher, Aberu Mekuria Zennebe.



William Loevner of Pittsburgh takes the men’s race at the Philadelphia Marathon. Tom Gralish / Staff Photographer

For most of the course, Florio was knotted in a tight race with Zennebe. She overtook the Ethiopian with three miles to go.

“Coming back from Manayunk, me and [Zennebe] were right next to each other. I knew that with three [miles] to go, I was like, ‘I got to make a move now,’” Florio said. “It just started to hurt and I was like, ‘If I save it for the last mile, she could outkick me.’ I heard them say 2:24 was her personal record, so I’m like, ‘She’s got wheels.’ So, I just took it with three to go and then held on.”

On the men’s side, Will Loevner secured first place with a time of 2:16:12. The Pittsburgh native secured a thrilling, come-from-behind finish over Mulgeta Birhanu Feyissa of Ethiopia, just narrowly grasping the lead with just over a mile to go.

“I saw [Feyissa] way up the road and I just told myself to run my own race. I said just settle into my pace and I saw they were coming back,” Loevner said. “People started yelling at me that I could catch them. And then at about 25 miles, I passed [him] and went into first. Those last couple miles are hard to describe what I was feeling, but it was incredible.”

Loevner placed fourth in the 2023 race, which, at the time, was just his second marathon. This year, he set out to finish even higher.

“The last mile of the day I honestly felt like I was running on a cloud,” Loevner said. “There’s a lot going through my mind. I was pretty emotional just thinking about the fact that I had a big goal coming into this and then I actually pulled it off.”

Coming from behind late in the race is no easy task. The course has plenty of challenges with inclines littering the back half, but the energy that the city’s residents and other local race fans provide is something that makes the event truly special.

According to race director Kathleen Titus, this is an integral

factor in the marathon’s growing popularity.

“Together, a culmination of both the sport growing and the city growing economically, this is an attractive race,” she said. “We’re one of the top 10 marathons in the country. We’re No. 8 and we’re going to keep growing, but the experience that we give runners ... we’re starting to attract more and more runners, not only nationally, but globally.”

While the race’s reach may be global, it didn’t have to look very far for this year’s winners.

More results

In the men’s wheelchair category, Jeyna Senbeta took first place in 1:47:55, making him the first racer of the day to complete the marathon.

The hilly nature of the course posed a challenge for Senbeta, but as a previous winner of the race, he was prepared. What he wasn’t prepared for, however, was when a car nearly entered the path of the race.

“On Chestnut Street, there was a car that was trying to come onto the race because they probably didn’t think a race was happening,” Senbeta said. “The police stopped [the driver] and he was like, ‘Oh, OK.’ As soon as the police passed by, [the driver] was, like, about to go again — and then the car almost hit me.”

“But thank God for all the other spectators just out there yelling, ‘Stop!’ And I might have flashed on the bird as I passed by. But outside of that, you know, it was not a bad race.”

Race veteran Michelle Wheeler captured first in the women’s wheelchair category, finishing in 2:03:43.

In the masters overall category, which consists of runners 40 and older, Zennebe placed first with her time of 2:33:27.

Reed Williams finished first in the non-binary overall category with a time of 2:46:34.

Hawks

→ CONTINUED FROM C1

tied the record for the fewest shots allowed in a championship game, set by North Carolina and Maryland in 1993. St. Joe’s finished with a 20-4 record.

All five of the Wildcats goals came in the first half as the Hawks played a tighter game in the second but were unable to produce offensively.

“We didn’t compete as much as I would have liked in the first half, but I think as the game went on, we

worked into it and were able to see some success on the field,” Prince said. “And I think that’s something our team should walk off the field knowing that they really can battle with anyone. And obviously it’s especially tough on the players who it’s their last collegiate game, but they also, equally, should just be extremely proud, and they represented our university so well, and I can’t say enough good things about them.”

Despite the lack of a storybook ending, the team will go down in St. Joe’s athletics history as the only one across all sports to compete for a national title.

“That effort we gave in the second half and some of the changes that we made, and just the legacy that this team will forever have is something that I’m super proud of,” Prince said.



St. Joe’s Manu Ghigliotti celebrating an NCAA victory against Princeton. Elizabeth Robertson / Staff Photographer

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.

DAME MAGGIE SMITH (1934-2024) Solution: 11 letters

H	O	N	O	R	E	T	T	O	P	Y	R	R	A	H
A	T	F	A	B	E	V	E	R	L	E	Y	G	O	O
S	R	N	Q	A	M	E	N	I	C	H	R	I	S	L
C	E	M	U	M	M	Y	H	O	U	S	E	I	S	L
R	B	N	A	A	Y	B	R	I	T	I	S	H	E	Y
E	O	O	R	S	Y	B	O	T	M	T	O	N	R	W
E	R	T	T	R	T	M	S	C	E	O	V	A	T	O
N	E	N	E	O	L	R	G	R	K	I	B	T	C	O
A	G	W	T	O	U	O	A	B	E	B	F	A	A	D
T	A	O	N	M	N	C	H	W	E	O	R	L	M	R
I	L	D	B	A	T	C	D	Y	G	L	P	I	A	O
O	O	R	G	O	T	H	E	L	L	O	O	E	R	F
N	I	A	A	I	C	O	N	I	C	R	H	V	D	X
A	L	K	W	E	C	N	E	L	L	E	C	X	E	O
L	R	O	S	S	E	F	O	R	P	O	I	S	E	D

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Abbey, Actress, BAFTA, Beloved, Beverley, British, Chris, Cinema, Downtown, Drama, Emmy, Excellence, Harry Potter, Hogwarts, Hollywood, Honor, Hook, Iconic, London, McGonagall, Mum, My Aunt, My House, Natalie, National, Othello, Oxford, Poise, Professor, Quartet, Regal, Robert, Room, Screen, Sister Act, Toby, Umbria, View, Witch

Last Saturday's Answer: Music

WORD GAME

Today's Word: **HEBDOMAD**
(HEBDOMAD: HEB-doh-mad: A group of seven or a period of seven days.)

Average mark: 14 words

Time limit: 30 minutes

Can you find 18 or more words in HEBDOMAD?

Saturday's Word — **NECTARY**
nacre, nary, near, neat, nectar, earn, enact, entry, cane, caner, cant, canter, care, caret, cart, cater, cent, crane, crate, cyan, tare, tarn, tear, teary, tern, trace, trance, tray, trey, acne, acre, aery, ante, antre, arty, race, racy, rant, rate, react, recant, rent, yarn, year, yearn

DADDY DAZE



BEETLE BAILEY



BALDO



ZITS



BRIDGE

South dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH
♥ 5 4
▲ A K 7 4
♦ J 9 4 3 2
♣ 7 4

WEST
▲ K 9 7 6
♥ Q J 10 8 6 3
♦ 10 7
♣ 3

EAST
▲ Q J 8 3 2
♥ 2
♦ K 5
♣ 10 9 8 6 5

SOUTH
▲ A 10
♥ 9 5
♦ A Q 8 6
♣ A K Q J 2

South 1 ♣
2 ♦
4 NT
5 NT
7 ♦

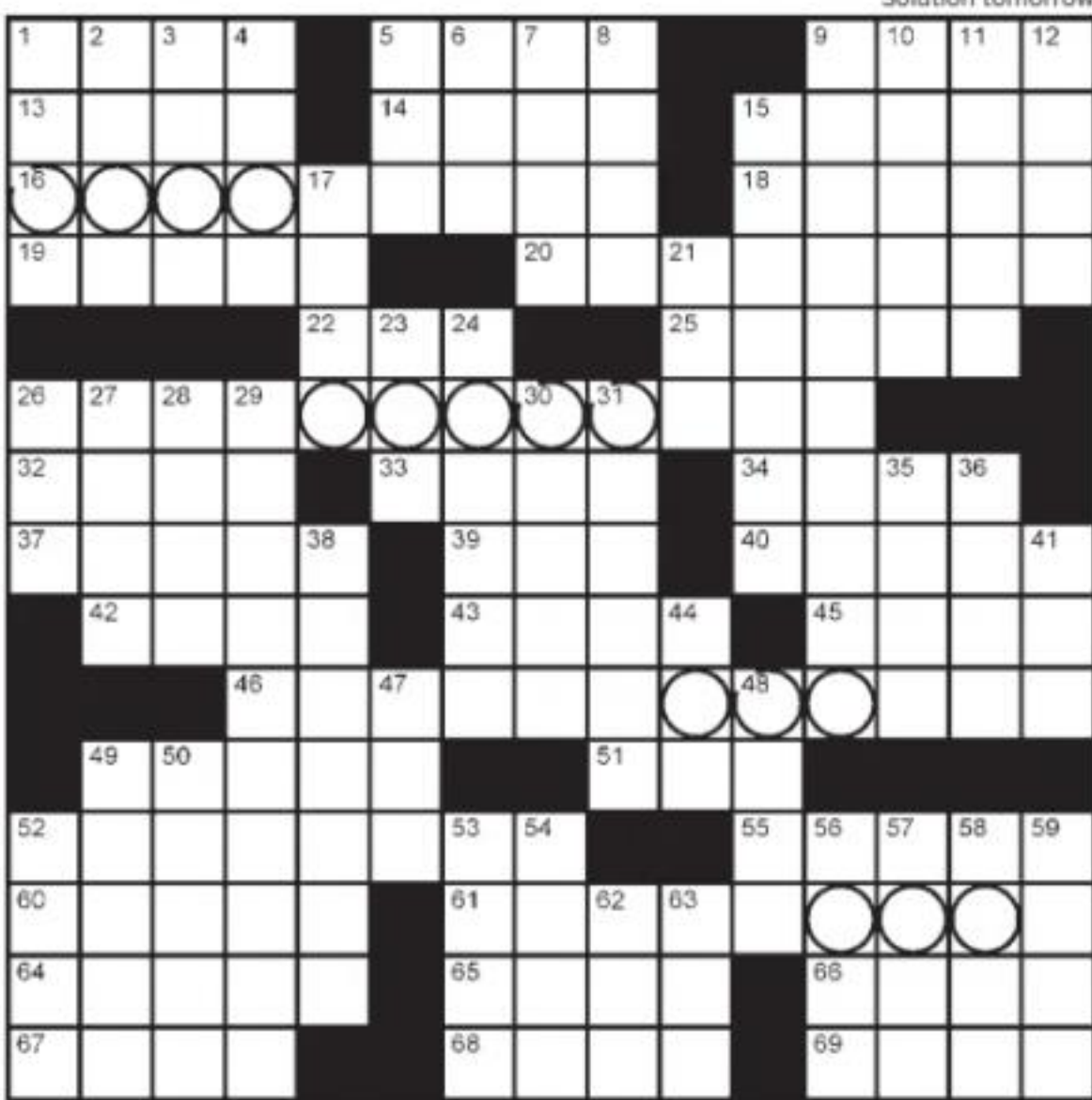
West Pass
Pass
Pass
Pass
All Pass

North 1 ♥
3 ♦
5 ♦
6 ♦

East Pass
Pass
Pass
Pass

Opening lead - ♥ Q

CROSSWORD: "Driftwood" by Olivia Mitra Framke and Sally Hoelscher



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ACROSS

1 Tangy garnish for a key lime pie

5 Frolic

9 Price

13 Stroke of inspiration

14 Birthstone for most Libras

15 2014 Olympics city

16 It whistles when it's ready for English breakfast (In this answer, see letters 1-4)

18 Sole pattern

19 Info from covert ops

20 Olive-based spread

22 Vegas opener?

25 ___ Kim (fashion model and journalist)

26 "The People's Princess" (... letters 5-9)

32 Bit of land in the sea

33 Leafy green

34 "Well, you see ..."

37 Nike competitor

39 SCOTUS justice who had a dissent collar

40 Holey item in the kitchen

42 Flour in naan

43 Hygienic hotel freebie

45 Honors for Lil Nas X and Dolly Parton: Abbr.

46 Bond theme song by Duran Duran (... letters 7-9)

49 Danger

51 And so forth: Abbr.

52 Union-made relation?

55 Overact

60 "The real treasure was the friends we made ___ the way"

61 Unlikely to pose (... letters 6-8)

64 Tools for collecting leaves

65 Tons

66 Delight

67 Ring around the pupil

68 Polo shirt brand

69 Many millennia

DOWN

1 Tubular pasta

2 Utopia

3 Coveted spot on a crowded bus

4 Grab

5 Go bad

6 Choose

7 Milkshake choice

8 "Forgive me," e.g.

9 Soccer shot from the edge of the pitch

10 Place where researchers might do a deep dive

11 Cerulean, for one

12 All competitor

15 Sound systems

17 Jazz great

21 Insta post

23 "I thought you'd never ___!"

24 Few and far between

26 Day, in Spanish

27 "Insecure" star

28 Landed

29 Sweet, smooth stone fruits

30 Arm joint

31 Cancel

35 Prefix meaning "somewhat"

36 Ellipse's shape

38 Money for a rainy day

41 Class that teaches idioms, for short

44 Houseplant holder

47 ___ at ease

48 Taiwanese tech giant

49 Word before "bear" or "Express"

50 Spindly mushroom

52 Garment for a certain Diwali celebrant

53 Dark purple berry

54 Harris running mate

56 Old-time spell caster

57 Capital on a fjord

58 Every now and ___

59 Features of hurricanes and potatoes

62 (I'm a cow!)

63 Takeoff guess: Abbr.

CANDORVILLE



DUSTIN



BLONDIE



MUTTS



PICKLES



COMICS & PUZZLES

inquirer.com/comics

PEANUTS



CRABGRASS



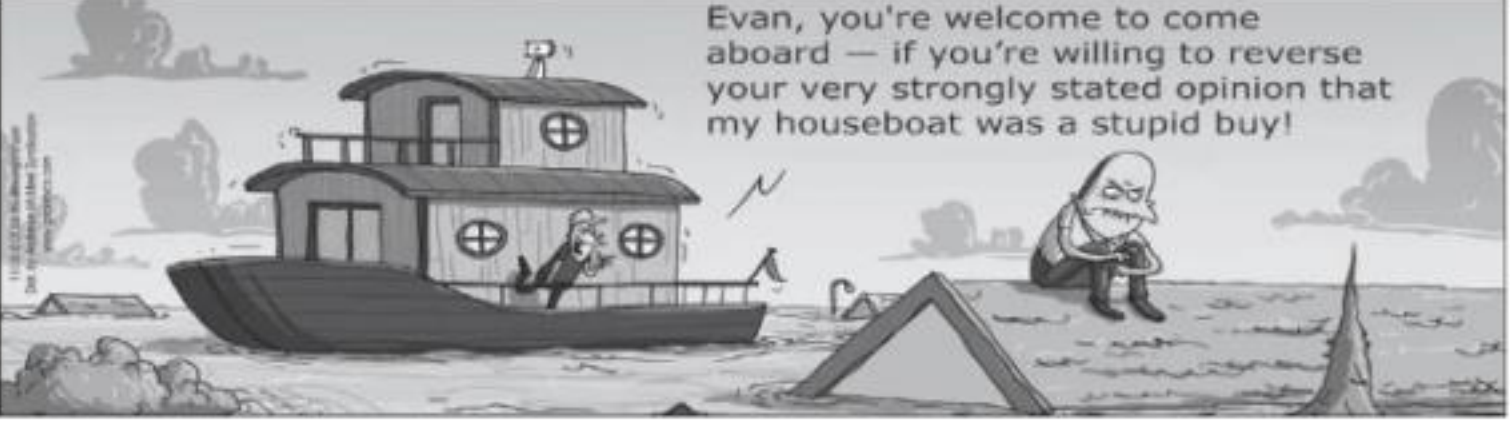
HEART OF THE CITY



BABY BLUES



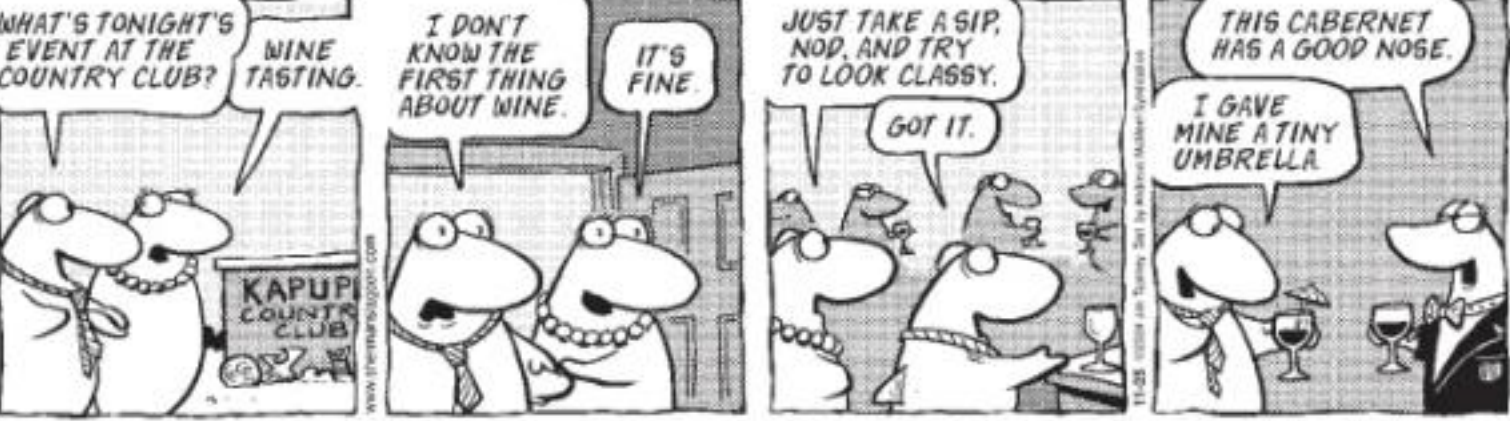
WUMO



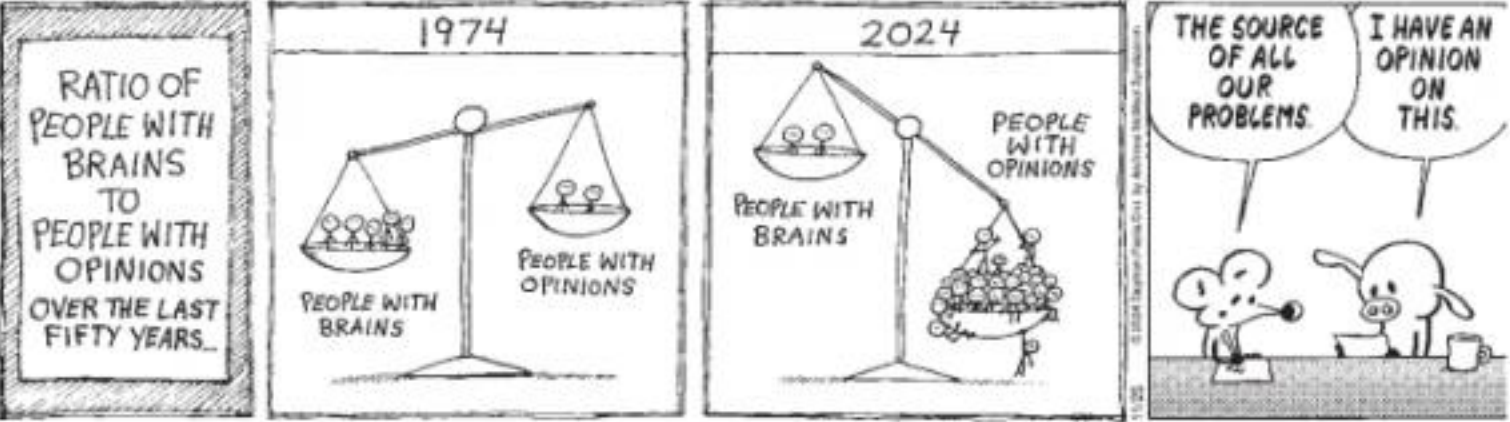
JUMP START



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.

RIYNA
SEBSL
CTAYPH
TIXCEE

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Answer here:

When asked if it's difficult to make a lemon tart, the pastry chef said it was ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's Jumbles: KNELT MONTH FINISH DEFECT
Answer: Santa finished his rounds each year in — THE NICK OF TIME

KING CLASSIC SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

	3		5	7				9
5	7			4	2	8		
			9	8			2	
4		3	7				9	
6			2	9				4
9	2		8		4		7	6
		1		5	7	9		2
						4		1
3			4	8		6		7

Difficulty: ★ 11/25

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

1 Hasbro sleuthing game (4)

2 baffled state (10)

3 running beside each other (8)

4 they collect stamps (9)

5 Stadium of football Patriots (8)

6 very basic water vessel (4)

7 pocket-sized Apple device (6)

CRYPTOQUOTE

OYFN WIBVAH SZP KVAVZJV CGNHYYVOH

BGPNBMT ZV WINYP JBT. — VBWYFN

Saturday's Cryptoquote: Blaze the mountains in the windless Autumn; Frost-clear, blue-nooned, apple-ripening days. — Sarah Norcliffe Cleghorn

DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS





Notre Dame guard Hannah Hidalgo (3) reacts as Southern California guard JuJu Watkins (12) runs by during the first half. AP

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Hidalgo stole the show that brought out stars

By Diamond Leung
Staff Writer

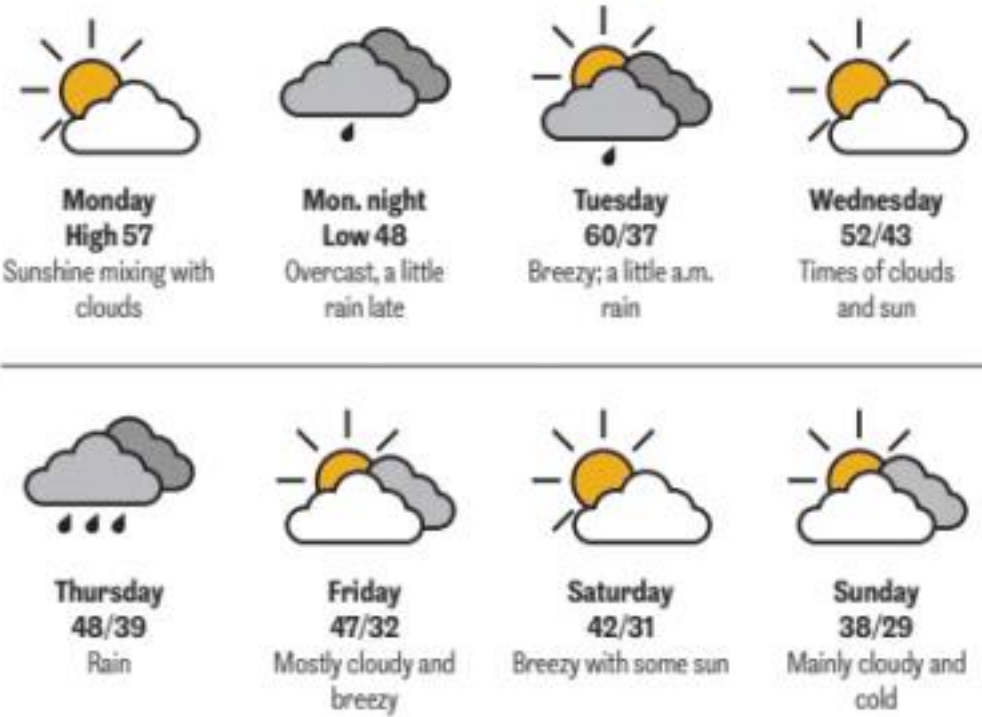
LOS ANGELES — An hour before tipoff, Notre Dame standout guard Hannah Hidalgo swayed as she warmed up on the court to the sounds of Kendrick Lamar. Turn this TV off. Turn this TV off. This moment was, in fact, very much about appointment viewing. As Hidalgo danced, the documentary series chronicling the rise of Southern California's JuJu Watkins premiered on NBC — just ahead of the network TV matchup between two top-six teams and two guards with All-American distinctions. Hidalgo, the South Jersey native out of Paul VI High School, was the costar. Two cameras captured images of her as she sat on the baseline with her eyes closed in meditation. Soon, Snoop Dogg would appear as part of a sellout crowd to cheer on Watkins. Actor Michael B. Jordan also came to USC's Galen Center, alongside WNBA players and other decision-makers. "I saw them, but I'm not so focused on that," Hidalgo said of the celebrities. "I'm focused on winning with my team." They all watched Hidalgo, Notre Dame's defensive dynamo, lead the No. 6 Fighting Irish to a workmanlike 74-61 win over No. 3 USC on Saturday. Notre Dame never trailed as Hidalgo collected 24 points, 8 assists, 6 rebounds, and her usual 5 steals. Watkins scored 24 points as well, but the Fighting Irish (5-0) controlled the game and forced her into a 2-for-9 shooting performance in the first half. Hidalgo, meanwhile, entered a contest that she knew would be "a big hoopla game" and came out swinging in the first quarter. She hit two jumpers to score the game's first points and later punched the air after her teammates hit the floor and tied up Watkins. After dishing off to backcourt mate Olivia Miles for a three-pointer, she blew a chef's kiss. Then she took a pass from Miles, swished a three-pointer of her own, and glared. "I don't want to do it angry or upset," Hidalgo said regarding maintaining her swagger. "I don't want to take it for granted, so I'm just excited and just having fun. "For my team, I'm that energy. I bring that energy. I know my team feeds off of that. I know that they feed off of when I'm diving on the floor and getting stops, when I'm running in transition. And then everyone else raises their level of intensity." The Fighting Irish managed to slow down Watkins, one of the recognizable faces of college

basketball. She's the one who last season set the NCAA Division I women's basketball freshman scoring record. She's the one who appeared in a commercial with Joel Embiid in a barbershop scene where the Sixers big man had his hair done up in Watkins' signature bun. That docuseries? She executive produced it at age 19. The 5-foot-6 Hidalgo, also 19, is a star as well. And as USC coach Lindsay Gottlieb noted, "They sent Hannah running around like the sort of disruptor that she is." While it was mainly the 6-1 Sonia Citron guarding the 6-2 Watkins, Hidalgo made her presence felt. "You feel like you're doing a decent job on Miles, and she goes crazy in the second half," Gottlieb said, as Miles finished with 20 points, 8 rebounds, and 7 assists. "Then you think you're making them take a tough shot, and then Hannah gets out in transition. It's difficult to have two dynamic guards out there." Said Notre Dame coach Niele Ivey of Hidalgo: "Big-time player. Big-time stage. I'm not at all shocked by what she did today. From the beginning, she guarded everybody on the court one time. Just so feisty. So energetic. It's contagious for our group. So unselfish." Los Angeles loves its stars and played host to a Final Four-level slate of games over the weekend. Across town on Sunday, Dawn Staley's No. 1 South Carolina team played at No. 5 UCLA. Gottlieb noted that the city was the "center of the women's basketball universe for a weekend." "Look at this building, right?" Gottlieb said after the loss. "The sellout, the star power that's here. The regular people who come just to watch great basketball. "This is a great weekend for the sport in LA, and we're glad to be a part of it." Caitlin Clark might no longer play college basketball, but she left a legacy of showing the potential for the women's game to become a marquee attraction. When presented with the possibility of creating a home-and-home matchup that featured championship-contending teams and their star sophomores, Gottlieb said it came together easily thanks to Ivey and their "shared vision on what is good for basketball." "I thought it was great for women's basketball in general," Ivey said. "Lindsay and I spoke about this a year ago, just saying how incredible this matchup would be. We're trying to help grow the game."

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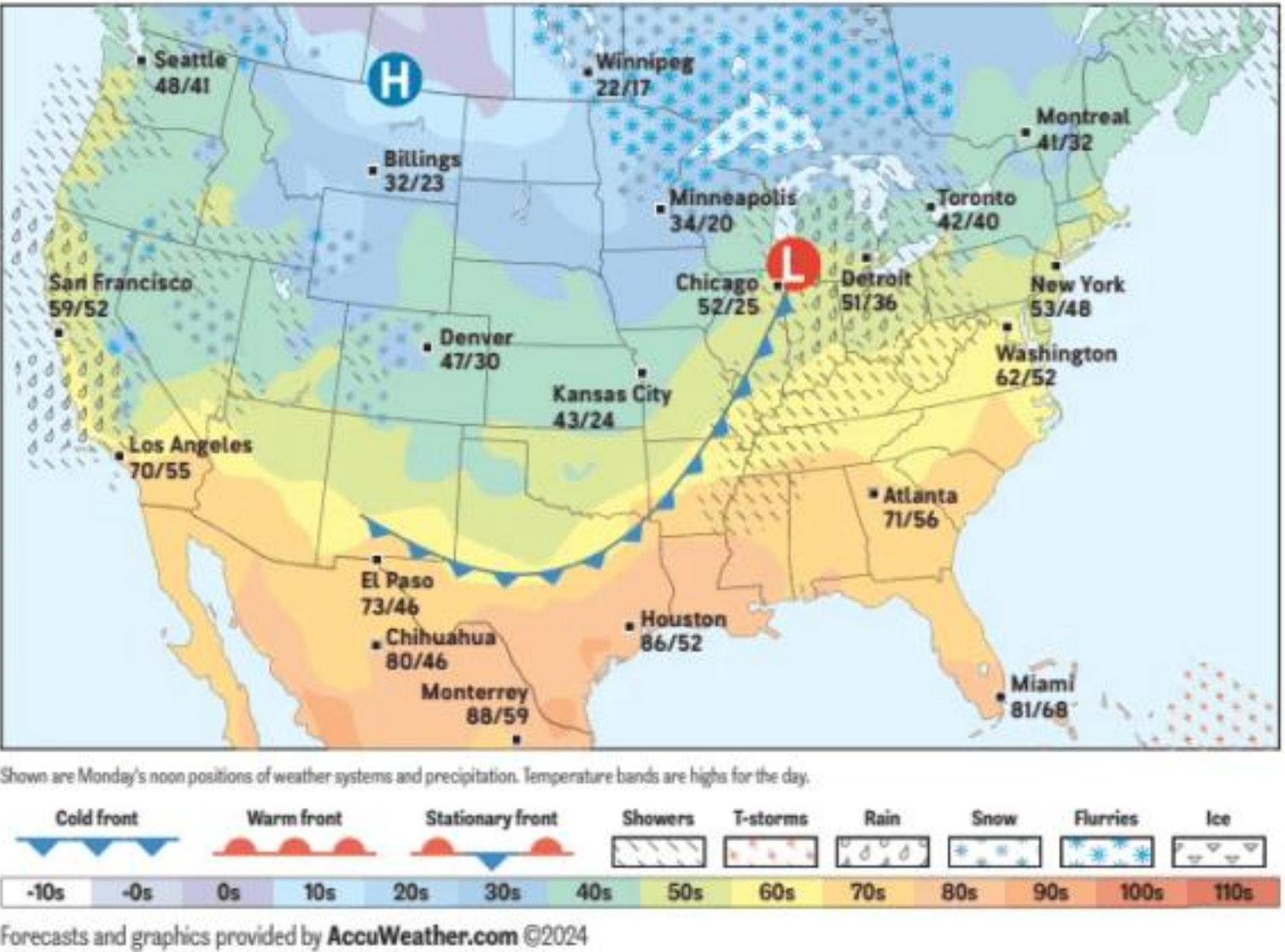
REGIONAL FORECAST

AccuWeather Visit AccuWeather.com



Poconos: Clouds and sun Monday. High 46 to 51. A shower or two early Monday night, then rain and drizzle.
Jersey Shore: Sunshine mixing with clouds Monday. High 54 to 58.
Delaware: Sunshine mixing with clouds Monday. High 55 to 61. Mostly cloudy Monday night with a passing shower.
Manasquan to Cape Henlopen: Wind from the south-southwest at 4-8 knots Monday. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility clear.
Delaware Bay: Wind northwest at 4-8 knots becoming southeast Monday. Seas less than a foot. Visibility clear.
Cape Henlopen to Va. Beach: Wind from the southwest at 4-8 knots Monday. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility unrestricted.

NATIONAL FORECAST



SUN & MOON



AIR QUALITY

The worst pollutant in the region Sunday was not available.

Key	
Good (G)	0-50
Moderate (M)	51-100
Unhealthy/sensitive (S)	101-150
Unhealthy (U)	151-200
Very Unhealthy (V)	201-300
Hazardous (H)	301-500
Carbon monoxide	CO
Nitrogen dioxide	NO2
Particulates	PM2.5, PM10
Sulfur Dioxide	SO2
Ozone	O3

Sunday's Pollution Index		Sun. High	Mon.
Bristol	G39	NO	G
Burlington	G37	NO	N.A.
Camden	G45	NO	M
Chester	G45	NO	G
Norristown	G43	NO	G
Philadelphia	G37	NO	G
Trenton	G35	NO	N.A.
Wilmington	G42	NO	G

Ozone forecast available at 1-800-872-7261 and www.dvrpc.org.

Pollen information:
Pollen and mold spore data counts have ended. Counts will resume at the beginning of the spring season in March.

Ski Reports:
Local ski resort conditions will start in this space when the weather permits them to open.

U.S. CITIES

City	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	City	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.
Albany	48/35/pc	50/36/r	46/31/c	Las Vegas	60/54/c	70/54/c	64/42/pc
Albuquerque	58/37/pc	65/45/c	64/37/sh	Lincoln	42/21/s	49/29/pc	41/24/pc
Allentown	54/43/pc	56/32/r	46/36/pc	Los Angeles	70/55/c	64/57/sh	65/56/c
Anchorage	32/22/sn	25/10/c	14/4/pc	Memphis	70/40/c	54/43/s	62/49/r
Atlanta	71/56/pc	64/42/c	65/59/pc	Miami	81/68/s	84/68/pc	83/67/s
Atlantic City	56/51/pc	60/39/r	53/45/pc	Milwaukee	51/26/r	38/20/pc	40/30/sn
Baltimore	59/48/pc	63/36/c	54/40/c	Minneapolis	34/20/c	30/24/c	31/21/c
Boston	51/36/pc	52/38/r	50/39/pc	New Orleans	79/66/pc	71/60/t	78/68/t
Buffalo	49/43/c	48/32/sh	42/33/c	New York	53/48/pc	58/40/r	49/43/s
Charleston, S.C.	74/55/s	74/52/sh	72/57/pc	Orlando	78/52/s	80/55/s	81/58/s
Charlotte	69/56/pc	70/39/pc	60/52/pc	Phoenix	77/54/pc	79/59/pc	77/56/pc
Chicago	52/25/r	39/32/pc	43/29/c	Pittsburgh	52/41/pc	47/30/c	43/36/c
Cincinnati	58/33/r	45/33/pc	46/35/r	Portland, Maine	47/30/s	45/32/r	47/30/pc
Cleveland	53/39/r	43/31/c	42/35/c	Portland, Ore.	51/39/sh	50/39/pc	48/35/c
Dallas	63/40/pc	61/52/s	84/45/pc	Richmond	66/51/pc	70/34/c	59/44/pc
Denver	47/30/pc	51/30/c	33/20/sn	St. Thomas	88/78/t	88/78/pc	87/78/s
Des Moines	39/23/s	42/31/pc	40/22/pc	St. Louis	57/30/c	47/38/pc	49/34/r
Detroit	51/36/r	41/31/c	40/31/c	Salisbury	61/45/pc	63/34/sh	56/40/pc
Harrisburg	57/48/pc	57/37/c	50/40/pc	Salt Lake City	48/38/c	45/35/r	39/25/c
Helena	37/21/c	38/28/c	40/23/c	San Diego	70/52/c	68/59/c	67/56/c
Honolulu	83/68/c	83/69/pc	84/72/pc	San Francisco	59/52/sh	58/49/sh	59/45/pc
Houston	86/52/pc	72/60/c	84/64/pc	San Juan	89/78/pc	89/77/pc	88/77/pc
Indianapolis	58/28/r	44/34/pc	44/34/c	Scranton	48/43/pc	52/32/sh	45/35/pc
Jackson, Miss.	80/52/pc	65/46/c	74/62/pc	Seattle	48/41/sh	47/40/c	47/37/c
Jackson Hole	30/15/sn	29/16/c	30/9/c	Tampa	77/56/s	80/59/s	79/61/s
Jacksonville	78/49/s	79/58/s	78/59/pc	Washington	62/52/pc	63/40/c	55/46/pc
Kansas City	43/24/s	48/35/pc	48/26/r	Wilmington	58/47/pc	59/33/sh	52/40/pc

MONDAY'S TIDES

Philadelphia (Chestnut St.) High: 9:06 a.m., 9:25 p.m. Low: 3:16 a.m., 3:36 p.m.	Cape May High: 3:40 a.m., 3:45 p.m. Low: 9:27 a.m., 9:52 p.m.	Little Egg Inlet High: 3:59 a.m., 4:08 p.m. Low: 9:55 a.m., 10:20 p.m.
Delaware Breakwater High: 4:20 a.m., 4:30 p.m. Low: 10:17 a.m., 10:41 p.m.	Atlantic City (Steel Pier) High: 3:07 a.m., 3:12 p.m. Low: 9:08 a.m., 9:33 p.m.	Barnegat Inlet High: 3:19 a.m., 3:23 p.m. Low: 9:27 a.m., 9:52 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA ALMANAC

Temperatures High Sunday 56 (3:05 p.m.) Record high 72 (2014) Humidity at 4 p.m. 46% Low Sunday 47 (3:00 a.m.) Record low 16 (1889) Normal high/low 53/36 High/low Nov. 24, 2023 53/34	Sunday's Barometer 6 a.m. 29.93 steady Noon 29.95 falling 4 p.m. 29.94 rising Daylight sky conditions: 80% clouds with 20% sunshine	Precipitation in Inches 24 hrs ending 4 p.m. Sun. 0.00 Month to date 1.43 Year to date 34.86 Normal year to date 39.59 Deficit -4.73
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Villanova wastes Dixon's 38 in loss to Maryland

By Jonathan Tannenwald
Staff Writer

NEWARK, N.J. — Eric Dixon had done everything he possibly could to will Villanova to its first win of the season over a team that matters, until he missed the game's last shot from the corner. But the Wildcats' 76-75 loss to Maryland on Sunday at the Prudential Center shouldn't have had to come to that. Not when they led 66-63 with 4 minutes, 35 seconds remaining, the last time anyone other than Dixon scored for Villanova in the game. In fact, in the last 7:18 of the contest,

only twice did another Wildcat score: Jordan Longino both times, with a layup and later back-to-back free throws. That can't be good for anyone, especially this Villanova team that's now 3-4 on the season. Jhamir Brickus was the only other Wildcat in double figures, with 11 points. Longino and Tyler Perkins had seven each. Wooga Poplar and Enoch Boakye five each, and Josiah Moseley two. Dixon's career-high 38 points were more than half of his team's points in the game. He also took just short of a majority of his team's shots, 29 of 62. "Everybody has their adversity,

every team — even teams that are 6-and-7-0, everybody's going through something," Dixon said. "That's no different for us. This just happens to be our adversity. We're trying to keep coming back every single day, and trying to figure it out." Twenty-two of Dixon's points came in a first half that was surely the Wildcats' best of the season, delivering a 40-28 lead at intermission. The blue half of the lowly crowd of 7,117 at the Prudential Center was full-throated, and certainly enjoyed the game's positives. But the latest round of boos when Neptune's name was announced with the starting lineup sent their own

message. (The attendance, by the way, was as good a symbol as any of how far these two long-proud programs have fallen recently. Yes, it was an NFL Sunday, but a Maryland fan from the Philly suburbs who spotted The Inquirer's reporter said he paid just \$36 per ticket for family and friends to sit a few rows behind a basket.) On cue, Maryland (5-1) came back to take a 57-55 lead with 8 minutes, 46 seconds to go in the second half, making 12 of its first 19 field goal attempts of the period. Villanova had held 6-foot-10 freshman center Derik Queen to four points in the first half, but he hit his first five

shots of the second and finished with 22 points. Then it was a straightforward down-the-stretch game. Tyler Perkins missed a pretty good look from three-point range with three seconds to go, and Dixon missed off the ensuing inbound pass. If either of those shots, or plenty of others, had gone in, Neptune wouldn't have had to face another postgame grilling. "I think our guys have fight," Neptune said. "I thought we came out and set the tone, did a good job in the first half. Unfortunately, I really think in the second half, just the little things. Stops. Stops end when you get a rebound."

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