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CAREER  
FAIR

TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 9TH

9:30 am - 3:00 pm  
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# THE MORNING CALL

\$4.00 SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 SATURDAY Humid, P.M. storm 80° | 57°  Weather, Page 8

## Senators reveal data regulation bill

Fetterman, McCormick introduce legislation to curtail Chinese investment firms

By Evan Jones  
The Morning Call

If an American consumer does business with a financial firm based in China, how much data could be exposed to prying eyes? That's something both Pennsylvania's U.S. senators want to know. The PRC Broker-Dealers and Investment Advisers Moratorium Act recently was introduced by Sens. Dave McCormick and John Fetterman. Both expressed concerns about what they consider an unequal regulatory landscape between the U.S. and China, which

could expose American financial markets and consumer data to firms backed by the Chinese Communist Party. "The PRC Broker-Dealers and Investment Advisers Moratorium Act recognizes that CCP-linked firms pose an inherent risk to our financial system," McCormick, a Republican, said. "This bill gives the financial regulators necessary time to evaluate the impact on U.S. consumer protection and protects the U.S. retail investor." Fetterman, a Democrat, said protecting investors and economic security aren't partisan issues.

"Pennsylvanians don't want their hard-earned savings snooped on or toyed with by the Chinese Communist Party," Fetterman said. "This bipartisan bill slams the brakes on CCP-linked broker-dealers and investment advisers until our regulators can give them a full, no-nonsense inspection." With increasing interconnection of the global economy, keeping track of data has become more complicated. The Center for Internet Security said that data control "is central to the Chinese Commu-

Turn to Data, Page 2



Pennsylvania Sens. John Fetterman, left, and David McCormick participate in a forum June 2 at the Edward Kennedy Institute in Boston. **NANCY LANE/BOSTON HERALD**

## Confusion sticks with COVID-19 vaccination

Still confused about the shot? You are not alone

By Ivey DeJesus  
pennlive.com

You are not alone if the ever-changing news on the COVID-19 vaccine has given you whiplash. Changing guidelines and policy reversals issued over the past few months by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., have created confusion about eligibility and access for the public. The state Department of Health on Thursday clarified some of the lingering questions, as Pennsylvania took action to expand access to the COVID-19 vaccine. A state regulatory panel this week voted to allow pharmacies to follow the guidance of several medical organizations.

That means that pharmacies in the commonwealth do not solely have to adhere to the guidance from the Trump administration, which has limited access to the COVID-19 vaccine to adults 65 or older; and adults and children 6 months or older who have at least one high-risk health condition. Pennsylvania is among 16 states that restrict pharmacists to administering only vaccines that are approved by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, which has not yet recommended COVID shots.

The policy change by the State Board of Pharmacy, which is effective immediately, allows an individual with a prescription regardless of their age or status with high-risk medical conditions to get the COVID vaccine. In an email to PennLive, a spokesperson for the Department of State said: "The State Board of Pharmacy's actions to expand access to COVID vaccines take effect immediately. However, while pharmacies work through the practical implementation of the board's expanded approvals, Pennsylvania patients interested in getting a COVID vaccine should contact their pharmacy before scheduling an appointment to ensure availability." For now, availability may vary. CVS Pharmacy, for instance, issued an immediate advisory, saying it will ensure COVID-19 vaccinations are available as soon as possible at its 500 locations throughout Pennsylvania. "As soon as we begin offering

Turn to Vaccine, Page 3



Will Moore drives an electric bus April 1 in Bethlehem. Leaders from Bethlehem Area School District and state Rep. Steve Samuelson, D-Northampton, joined staff from the statewide nonprofit environmental group PennEnvironment for a tour of Freedom High School's solar carport and to test-drive the bus. **APRIL GAMIZ/THE MORNING CALL**

## Rising sun

Solar panels on Lehigh Valley schools could power more than 9,000 homes, environmental group estimates

By Elizabeth DeOrnellas  
The Morning Call

Placing solar panels on the Lehigh Valley's 186 schools could generate enough electricity to power more than 9,000 homes, according to a new report from PennEnvironment's nonprofit research center. If all of Pennsylvania's 5,000 schools were covered

in solar panels, the electricity produced could power more than 187,000 homes for a year, the report estimates. Lehigh County's 112 schools are estimated to have a solar capacity of nearly 41.8 megawatts, enough to power 5,050 homes. In their first year, those projects could save schools nearly \$6.9 million in electricity costs, with savings esti-

mated to rise to \$17.4 million across the lifetime of the solar arrays. Northampton County's 74 schools are estimated to have a solar capacity of nearly 34.3 megawatts, enough to power 4,124 homes. In their first year, those projects could save schools nearly \$5.6 million in electricity costs, with savings estimated to rise to nearly \$13.7

million across the lifetime of the solar arrays. The report calculates that blanketing the state's school buildings with solar panels would reduce carbon dioxide pollution as much as removing 300,000 cars from the road and save schools about \$342 million across the lifetime of the solar arrays. **Turn to Solar, Page 3**

## Young 'digital disciple' to become a saint

By Jessie Wardarski  
and Nicole Winfield  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — At a Catholic school in Pope Leo XIV's hometown, fifth graders read comic books about Carlo Acutis' life, "Digital Disciple." They draw pictures of what the teenage Italian computer whiz might have had as his cellphone wallpaper. They discuss the miracles that allegedly occurred because of Acutis' intercession. In the lead-up to Acutis' canonization Sunday, it's all Acutis, all the time at Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish and School in Chicago. The parish was the first in the United States to take its name from Acutis, who



Students of St. John Berchmans' school on Wednesday hold items often linked to Blessed Carlo Acutis, who will be canonized a saint by Pope Leo XIV, before Mass at Blessed Carlo Acutis Parish in Chicago. **JESSIE WARDARSKI/AP**

Turn to Canonize, Page 2

### SPOTLIGHT PA

## Small programs bear burden of budget impasse

By Katie Meyer  
Spotlight PA

HARRISBURG — More than two months in, the effects of Pennsylvania's budget impasse are compounding. Many of the programs hurting most are smaller ones that tend to get little attention. Across the commonwealth, small nonprofit programs like rape crisis centers are laying off staff and scaling back services, or preparing to do so. Wealthy counties are dipping into reserves to fund child services and programs for people with intellectual disabilities, while poorer counties are taking out lines

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