PHILLY & **REGION B1 JUDGE CHASTISES** TY IN GREENBERG **HEARING: 'JUSTICE DELAYED IS** JUSTICE DENIED'

SPORTS C1 **SUAREZ TOSSES** PHILLIES TAKE



LIFE & CULTURE B4

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EAGLES VS. COWBOYS ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY AT INQUIRER.COM



Banner night

The Eagles hung their second Super Bowl championship banner at Lincoln Financial Field on Thursday night before kicking off their season against the Dallas Cowboys. The game ended too late for this edition. Monica Herndon / Staff Photographer

RFK Jr. grilled on vaccine stance

At a Senate hearing, the **HHS** secretary faced tough questions from both parties about efforts to pull back vaccine recommendations and turmoil at the CDC.

By Matt Brown and Mike Stobbe Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., facing pointed bipartisan questioning at a rancorous three-hour Senate committee hearing on Thursday, tried to defend his efforts to pull back COVID-19 vaccine recommendations and explain the turmoil he has created at federal

health agencies. Kennedy said the fired CDC director was untrustworthy, stood by his past anti-vaccine rhetoric, and disputed reports of people saying they have had difficulty getting COVID-19 shots.

Medical groups and several Democrats in Congress have called for Kennedy to be fired, and his exchanges with Democratic senators on the panel repeatedly devolved into shouting, from both

But some Republican senators also expressed unease with his changes to COVID-19 policies.

The GOP senators noted that Kennedy said President Donald → SEE RFK JR. ON A6



Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. appears before the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday, where he faced bipartisan skepticism. Mark Schiefelbein / AP

Judge tells SEPTA: Reverse the cuts

The order applies to route cuts, service reductions, and staffing reductions but does not apply to proposed fare increases.

By Abraham Gutman and Andrew Seidman **Staff Writers**

SEPTA must reverse all cuts to services immediately, a Philadelphia judge ruled Thursday.

Judge Sierra Thomas Street ordered SEPTA to "immediately reverse all service cuts," which began last month as the transit agency faces a significant financial shortfall and the state budget has not yet allocated funds amid a monthslong budget stalemate. SEPTA cut 32 bus routes, shortened 16 others, and trimmed service across the board.

The judge's order applies to route cuts, service reductions, and staffing reductions but does not apply to proposed fare increases. The agency is also barred from implementing any new cuts.

The injunction is not accompanied with an opinion explaining the judge's rationale in making her decision, a typical practice in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

The injunction followed a second day of testimony in a City Hall courtroom over whether the transit agency's cuts were discriminatory toward disadvantaged communities.

SEPTA spokesperson Andrew Busch said the authority hasn't yet decided whether it will file an appeal. "We're evaluating our legal options," he said, adding that the transit agency plans to comply with the judge's order. SEPTA hasn't set a date yet for restoring service or raising fares, he said.

After the hearing, but before the judge issued her order, George Bochetto, the Bochetto & Lentz attorney who sued SEPTA on behalf of three riders, said that there was no reason SEPTA couldn't comply quickly with an injunction.

"It's not that complicated," Bochetto said. "You fill a bus up with a tank of gas and you put it out on

SEPTA has said it would take at least 10 days to restore full service. Asked after the hearing how the

→ SEE SEPTA ON A9

Trump team looks to end longtime European security assistance

The defense initiatives are focused on threats from Russia. The decision would impact millions in military aid to NATO allies.

By Noah Robertson Washington Post

The Trump administration intends to halt longtime security assistance programs for Europe, including an initiative to fortify the continent's eastern flank against a potential attack by Russia, as it endeavors to recast Washington's role within NATO, according to six people familiar with the matter.

The decision would impact

hundreds of millions of dollars worth of military aid relied upon by some of the alliance's most vulnerable members. It has alarmed U.S. allies struggling to comprehend the administration's policy toward Europe and its chief adversary in the Kremlin after President Donald Trump, eager for a deal to end Russia's war in Ukraine, rescued its mercurial leader, Vladimir Putin, from diplomatic isolation. U.S. lawmakers, meanwhile, are confused by the move.

"The Russians genuinely only care about American dollars, American troops, and the American flag," said a European official worried what signal a cut in U.S. aid would send to Moscow. Like others, the source spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive

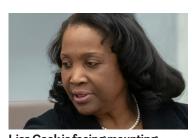
→ SEE RUSSIA ON A10

DOJ issues subpoenas targeting Fed governor Cook in criminal probe

Justice Department is looking into allegations of mortgage fraud as the Trump team steps up efforts to oust her from the central bank.

By Andrew Ackerman and Jeremy Roebuck **Washington Post**

 $The Justice \, Department \, has \, opened \,$ a criminal mortgage fraud investigation of Federal Reserve Board member Lisa Cook, a sharp escalation of the Trump administration's



Lisa Cook is facing mounting legal and political pressure as a member of the Federal Reserve. Mark Schiefelbein / AP

efforts to oust her from the central bank's board, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Investigators in recent days have issued subpoenas as part of

the inquiry, which originated with

director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, according to the two people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

a criminal referral from Bill Pulte,

Pulte has accused Cook of making false statements on mortgage applications in connection with a home in Michigan and a condominium in Georgia. The probe is being overseen by Ed Martin, the director of the department's Weaponization Working Group, who is also overseeing similar mortgage fraud investigations involving Trump foes referred for investigation by Pulte such as Sen. Adam → SEE COOK ON A5

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