

PHILLY & REGION B1  
PARKING  
CONTEST PUTS  
DRIVERS IN A  
TIGHT SPOT



SPORTS C1  
CAVAN SULLIVAN  
SOAKING IN A  
SUCCESSFUL  
DEBUT WITH  
NATIONAL TEAM



BUSINESS & MONEY A7  
MOVING SOON?  
TIPS ON HOW TO  
HANDLE THE HIGH  
RATES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026 | VOL. 197, NO. 127 | ESTABLISHED IN 1829 | CITY & SUBURBS C | \$2.95

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



RAMS 24, EAGLES 20

## Misery in the rain

It was a dreadful Sunday afternoon for the Eagles. Despite losing several key players to injury — running back Saquon Barkley, defensive back Quinyon Mitchell, and linebacker Jonathan Greenard — the Eagles carried a 10-point lead against the Los Angeles Rams into the fourth quarter. After failing to score a game-sealing touchdown with eight minutes left, the Eagles allowed Rams running back Kyren Williams, seen here stiff-arming linebacker Jeremiah Trotter Jr., to score two touchdowns in three minutes to rally Los Angeles to an improbable 24-20 victory in front of 70,000 soaked fans at Lincoln Financial Field. Coverage in Sports and at [inquirer.com/sports](https://www.inquirer.com/sports). David Maialetti / Staff Photographer

## Chester County has more measles cases than most states

Public health officials are ramping up outreach, offering pop-up clinics, and bringing the vaccine to people's homes as they aim to contain hot spots.

By Sarah Gantz  
and Brooke Schultz  
Staff Writers

In late June, Chester County reported two cases of measles, as an outbreak in bordering Lancaster County crossed into the farmlands that blend into the suburban sprawl of Philadelphia's collar communities.

Case numbers grew tenfold in July, and by late August, three dozen people had gotten sick up and down the county's western border.

The latest numbers now show 83 measles cases in Chester County, more than most entire states have seen all year, making it a locus in Pennsylvania's largest measles outbreak in more than three decades.

Chester is the first county in the Philadelphia region to grapple with wide circulation of a highly contagious virus that could spread like wildfire if it reaches other under-vaccinated communities, especially densely populated ones closer to the city.

As cases rise in Chester County, public health officials are ramping up educational outreach, scheduling pop-up clinics, and even bringing doses of the vaccine to people's homes, all in an effort to contain known hot spots in the outbreak.

At Chester County's schools, homecoming parades, and grocery

→ SEE MEASLES ON A8

## Pa. Dems view socialism in mostly positive light

As progressive candidates rack up wins, a poll finds nearly 40% of the state's Democrats consider themselves to be a democratic socialist.

By Sam Janesch  
Staff Writer

With recent victories by democratic socialists nationwide prompting a fierce debate about the future of the Democratic Party, most Democrats in Pennsylvania have a positive view of socialism — and nearly 40% consider themselves to be a democratic socialist, a new poll found.

Still, socialism remains broadly unpopular among all voters in the key swing state, according to the poll, conducted by Siena University on behalf of The Inquirer and the New York Times.

About one-third of likely voters in the midterm elections this fall have a favorable view of socialism and 56% have an unfavorable view. That result closely mirrors a recent national poll from the New York Times and Siena University, raising questions about the appeal of socialism to a wider swath of voters.

But as Philadelphians prepare to send a democratic socialist to Congress for the first time — and

also as talk builds of a larger wave of progressivism across the state — 57% of Democratic likely voters in Pennsylvania have a favorable view of socialism and 24% have an unfavorable view, the poll found.

"We're more popular than ever," said Dan Parker, cochair of Philadelphia's chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). "But we still have a long way to go."

The survey of 615 likely Pennsylvania voters conducted from Sept. 15 through 21 comes amid a surge of leftist victories both locally and across the country.

State Rep. Chris Rabb defeated a pair of more moderate candidates in Philadelphia's highly competitive congressional primary in May. A democratic socialist, Rabb is highly favored to win in the general election and has spent the months since his primary campaigning for other like-minded candidates.

Nearly all of those candidates — from Abdul El-Sayed in the high-stakes Michigan U.S. Senate race to a pair of New York candidates boosted by Mayor Zohran Mamdani — have also won their primaries as Rabb and his allies look to grow the ranks of progressives starting on Capitol Hill in January.

Beyond the next Congress, the leftist wing of the party is hoping for momentum heading into the 2028 races for president and Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate seat held by

→ SEE SOCIALISM ON A9

## Violinist's documentary confronts sexual abuse in classical music

Former Curtis student Lara St. John recounts her story and those of others who were victimized as children by teachers at prestigious music conservatories.

By Rosa Cartagena  
Staff Writer

When famed violinist Lara St. John thought about the soundtrack for her new documentary, *Dear Lara*, she already had a classical composition in mind: Franz Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*.

It's a story about Death coming for a young girl who begs him to stay away, but he tells her there's nothing to fear, his touch won't hurt. The perilous interaction has long fascinated composers, musicians, and artists who frequently sexualized the relationship in the retelling over some 200 years.

For St. John, the parallels felt strikingly relevant to her film as she completed interview after



Violinist Lara St. John with her pet iguana, Octavius, at her home office and film editing suite in New York City in 2024. Her film "Dear Lara" makes its Pennsylvania premiere Monday at the Free Library of Philadelphia on the Parkway. Jessica Griffin / Staff Photographer

interview with survivors of sexual assault, most of whom were raped and abused as children by their classical music teachers in conservatories around the world.

It's her story too.

In 2019, St. John came forward publicly with her experience from

her time studying at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music, alleging in a Philadelphia Inquirer investigation that her violin teacher, Jascha Brodsky, assaulted and raped her.

At the time, Brodsky was 79 years old and she was 14.

→ SEE VIOLINIST ON A9

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CLEARING 72/50

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