

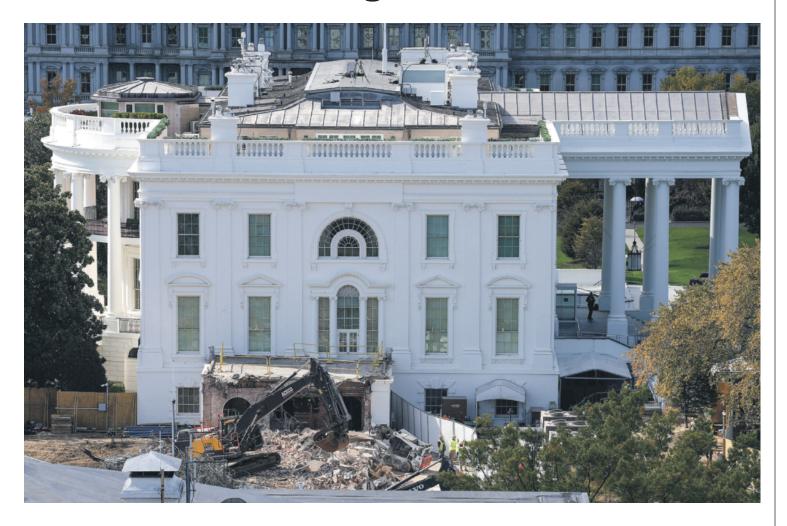


CHARGES ROCK NBA

MIAMI HEAT GUARD TERRY ROZIER, LEFT, AND PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS COACH CHAUNCEY BILLUPS ARE AMONG DOZENS ARRESTED ON ALLEGATIONS OF NBA-TIED BETTING AND MOB POKER SCHEMES. **E3**

WASHINGTON

History in the breaking, as East Wing is demolished



he East Wing of the White House is no more, as the historic structure used by first ladies and their staffs was quickly reduced to rubble, cleared by an excavator on Thursday. It's part of President Donald Trump's plan to build a ballroom nearly twice the size of the White House at an updated cost of \$300 million, to be paid for, he said, by "me and some friends of mine." The demolition began without warning Monday, despite not having approval from relevant government agencies. Trump said the "very, very expensive, beautiful" ballroom has long been desired by presidents. See page C4. *Eric Lee, Getty Images*

CRANBURY

Housing deal plows under plan to seize farm from family

Move to uproot owners of site for 175 years by eminent domain drew wide attention, state and federal intervention.

Eric Conklin For The Star-Ledger

A town's controversial attempt to seize a Middlesex County farm to build affordable housing appears to be dead after Gov. Phil Murphy announced a deal Thursday to spare the land.

Earlier this year, Cranbury Township approved a plan to meet state mandates to build more affordable housing by seizing the Henry family farm on South River Road.

The township planned to use eminent domain to buy the 21-acre farm, whether the family wanted to sell it or not. A developer planned to build six multifamily buildings and a community center on the site, according to municipal documents.

The Henry family's fight to save their farm drew national attention, including promises by the Trump administration to help block the attempt to seize the site.

Murphy said the deal to save the farm was reached with Andy and Christopher Henry, the brothers whose family has owned the property for 175 years. Town-



The 175-year-old Cranbury farm was slated to be taken by eminent domain. Courtesy of the Henry family

ship officials will explore other areas of the municipality to build affordable housing, the governor said.

"From the very beginning, I have opposed efforts to seize the Henry Family Farm through eminent domain," Murphy said in a statement. "While every town in New Jersey must do its part to resolve our state's affordable housing crisis, these efforts must be pursued thoughtfully and collaboratively."

Timothy Duggan, an attorney representing the Henry brothers in a lawsuit against the township, said he's "very confident" the

deal will be finalized.

"Andy called me this morning, and he was ecstatic," Duggan told NJ Advance Media. "Andy and Chris are just overwhelmed that we've reached this point, and that they've received the support across the board from everybody to have his property removed from the plan."

The deal appears to hinge on a change in a New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency rule that will make it possible to use other land in Cranbury for affordable housing, local officials said. The rule is expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

"New Jersey's family farms are an essential and deeply cherished part of our state's story," Murphy said.

Murphy thanked a long list of people, including Trump administration officials, for "working in good faith to reach this resolution."

The fight to save the farm drew the attention of the Trump administration over the summer, when federal officials began investigating whether it was legal to use eminent domain to acquire the farm. They argued the land is federally protected under the Farmland Protection Policy Act

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins urged Cranbury Township to forgo the seizure plan in June. **SEE CRANBURY, A2**

HUNTERDON COUNTY

Sent to 911 calls on gunfire, cop first visited ATM, prosecutor says

Sergeant charged with official misconduct in aftermath of double slayings by woman's ex.

Kevin Shea For The Star-Ledger

The police sergeant dispatched to 911 calls reporting gunfire and a woman screaming near a Hunterdon County home this summer instead drove to an ATM in the opposite direction and made a personal transaction, authorities announced Thursday.

Kevin Bollaro, a sergeant with the Franklin Township police, did a cursory investigation — which he later lied about in his report — and then went out for pizza as the bodies of Lauren Semanchik and Tyler Webb lay outside her home in the fading sunlight of Aug. 1, authorities say.

The Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office gave a scathingly detailed account of Bollaro's activities the night of the double murder in announcing they've charged him with official misconduct and tampering with public records.

Semanchik and Webb were shot dead by her ex, State Police Lt. Ricardo J. Santos, and were not found until the next morning, when Semanchik's father arrived at her home on Upper Kingtown Road to accompany her to a festival.

Semanchik's family and their lawyers have maintained that police agencies failed Semanchik multiple times, from when she and Santos ended their relationship late last year, and the trooper started stalking and harassing her, to the evening she and Webb died.

A few days after the murders, the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office announced they'd taken control of the Franklin police department, citing "serious concerns" about their effectiveness as a force. The department's chief, and Bollaro, were placed on administrative leave. **SEE HUNTERDON COUNTY, A2**

NATION & WORLD



Of church and state

Pope Leo XIV and Britain's King Charles III exchange a greeting at the Vatican amid an event that marked the first time the heads of the Catholic Church and Church of England publicly prayed together since the Reformation. **Page C3**









