

SPORTS C1
5 REASONS
THE BIRDS
SHOULD WIN
REMATCH
VS. GIANTS



SPORTS C1
KEY
QUESTIONS
FOR SIXERS
AS THE
SEASON
BEGINS



LET'S EAT,
PHILLY D1
CRAIG
LABAN GOES
TO HOAGIE
BOOT CAMP

LIFE &
CULTURE B5
WE EXPLAIN HOW
THE 'SIX-SEVEN'
MEME (PROBABLY)
ORIGINATED
IN PHILLY

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ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.



Demolition crews continue to dismantle parts of the East Wing of the White House on Wednesday. The work is part of the construction of a new ballroom, ordered by President Donald Trump. Peter W. Stevenson / Washington Post

Trump's big East Wing ballroom project raises all kinds of concerns

D.C. historic preservation official says, "Our hands are tied." Can anyone stop the teardown at the White House?

By Dan Diamond, Paul Schwartzman, and Jonathan Edwards
Washington Post

President Donald Trump's plan to build a White House ballroom has underscored an oft-overlooked aspect of presidential power: no one could stop the president from tearing down much of the East Wing this week.

The next stage of the project is also likely to proceed with few

restraints: The key panel slated to review the president's construction plans is now stocked with Trump allies ready to approve them.

Photos of construction teams knocking down portions of the East Wing, first revealed by The Washington Post Monday, have rattled city residents, historians and politicians, many of whom contended that Trump was wrongly tearing apart "The People's House" to build his long-desired ballroom.

"It's not his house. It's your house. And he's destroying it," Hillary Clinton, who battled Trump for the presidency in 2016, wrote on social media.

Others contend that Trump's shifting projections and promises — such as pledging in July that the ballroom wouldn't "interfere" with the White House, and increasing

his estimate of cost and how many people will fit in the building — illustrate the need for more transparency. Conservative commentator Byron York said Trump "needs to tell the public now what he is doing with the East Wing of the White House. And then tell the public why he didn't tell them before he started doing it."

Rebecca Miller, executive director of the D.C. Preservation League, a nonprofit that advocates for protecting historic sites in Washington, said dozens of concerned citizens from the city and around the country have called and emailed her to express outrage.

Miller said she has had to explain that the White House, because of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, is exempt from the required reviews that other federal agencies must undergo

U.S. strikes boat in Pacific

The military launched its eighth strike against an alleged drug-carrying vessel, killing two people, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said. **A2**

when seeking to alter government property.

"Our hands are tied," Miller said, adding that normally government officials discuss major projects with preservationists — but not this time. "It's very frustrating that there's nothing that the organization can do from a legal or advocacy perspective."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a nonprofit created by Congress to help preserve historic buildings, urged the administration "to pause demolition until

→ SEE WHITE HOUSE ON A9

DEATH OF MT. AIRY WOMAN IS RULED HOMICIDE

Keon King, 21, was charged with the murder of Kada Scott. Police say others might have helped him bury her body.

By Ellie Rushing and Jesse Bunch
Staff Writers

Keon King was charged with murder and related crimes Wednesday in the death of Kada Scott, the 23-year-old Mount Airy woman police say he kidnapped, then killed, before burying her body in a shallow grave.

The district attorney's office approved the charges shortly after police announced that the Medical Examiner's Office had ruled her death a homicide. Officials did not immediately release the cause of death, but law enforcement sources said she was shot.

In addition to murder, King was charged with abuse of corpse, robbery, theft, tampering with evidence, and additional crimes.

The announcement came as investigators said they believe at least one other person helped King, 21, move Scott's body and bury it behind a closed East Germantown school in the days after she was killed, and detectives are working to identify those involved.

New court records, made public Wednesday, offered the most detailed look yet inside the investigation into Scott's disappearance and death, including her texts with King in the days before she went missing, the police search for her body, and how others may have helped King try to conceal her killing.

A review of Scott's cell phone records showed that on Oct. 2, a number believed to belong to King texted Scott: "Yo Kada this my new number."

"Who dis," Scott asked, and he

→ SEE SCOTT ON A10

Pentagon introduces new right-wing press corps after walkout

Officials announce a new slate of media to cover the Defense Department, including an outlet led by the My Pillow CEO.

By Scott Nover and Drew Harwell
Washington Post

Nearly one week since a rash of Pentagon journalists turned in their press credentials after refusing to sign a new restrictive press policy, the Defense Department announced a "new media" press corps, largely hailing from right-wing outlets.

The 60 people from various news organizations represent, "a broad spectrum of new media outlets and independent journalists," Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell wrote in a statement on X, adding that all of the publications agreed to the agency's press policy.

According to a draft of the announcement obtained by The Washington Post ahead of Parnell's tweet, the coalition of signatories

includes streaming service Lindell TV (started by MyPillow CEO and Trump ally Mike Lindell), the websites the Gateway Pundit, the Post Millennial, Human Events, and the National Pulse. It also includes Turning Point USA's media brand Frontlines, as well as influencer Tim Pool's Timcast, and a Substack-based newsletter called Washington Reporter. The memo said that "many independent journalists" also signed, but did not specify who they were.

Timcast, the National Pulse, and the Washington Reporter all confirmed to The Post that they had signed the policy. The Post Millennial, Human Events, TPUSA Frontlines, Lindell TV and the Gateway Pundit all confirmed on X, as did Just the News.

The Defense Department's policy blocks journalists from soliciting information the department has not authorized for release — even unclassified details, a major shift in press outreach from the organization.

Parnell said that 26 people from 18 outlets signed the original document, including OAN, the

→ SEE PRESS ON A6

2 sentenced in 2022 Fairhill arson that left Philly fire lieutenant dead

Al-Ashraf Khalil and Isaam Jaghama showed "depraved indifference to human life," a federal judge said.

By Chris Palmer
Staff Writer

Two men who set a Fairhill building on fire in 2022 in hopes of collecting a six-figure insurance payout — but who instead caused the structure to collapse, killing a responding Philadelphia Fire Department lieutenant — were each sentenced Wednesday to decades in federal prison.

U.S. District Judge Cynthia M. Rufe said the actions by Al-Ashraf Khalil and Isaam Jaghama, which led to the death of Lt. Sean Williamson and left five other first responders injured, were made "out of pure self-interest" and displayed "depraved indifference to human life."



Lt. Sean Williamson, 51, was killed during a building collapse after a fire in Fairhill in 2022. He was a 27-year veteran of the Fire Department. City of Philadelphia

"Neither of the defendants considered at all the consequences of their actions, which proved to be far-reaching, devastating, and deadly," she said.

She sentenced Khalil — who owned the building on the 300 block of West Indiana Avenue that he set ablaze — to serve 40 years in prison. And she said Jaghama, who participated in the arson alongside Khalil, would serve a term of 25 years behind bars. Both men are 32.

Both men had faced the potential

of life sentences. And both apologized for their actions before being sentenced.

Jaghama, in a letter read by his attorney, said: "No words can describe the depth of my regret and pain."

Khalil, meanwhile, cried as he said he wished he could take back decisions that he called selfish and weak.

"I was desperate. I was a coward. And the families of the victims are the ones to suffer for a lifetime," he said. "I am ashamed beyond words. I pray for your forgiveness, although I know I will never deserve it."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Amanda Reinitz said Khalil and Jaghama were too late in expressing remorse. Both men lied to authorities after the blaze, she said, Khalil tried to flee the country, and both then took their case to trial, where they tried to convince jurors that fire officials shared blame in the disaster for sending first responders into a century-old building shortly after

→ SEE FIRE ON A10

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BREEZY 62/44

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