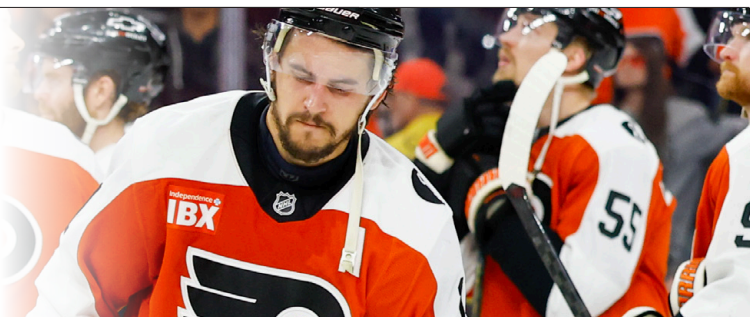




The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING. ALWAYS PHILLY.

West Philly man charged in officer's death

Details emerged on how a brief exchange on a porch left a responding officer dead and another seriously injured early Saturday morning.

By Jillian Kramer, Ellie Rushing, Jesse Bunch and Brett Sholtis
Staff Writers

Officer Shane Seiber was knocking on the door of a West Philadelphia

home around 12:50 a.m. Saturday when Eric Lewis walked up from behind, demanding to know why police were on his porch, according to a law enforcement source.

Seiber and his partner were responding to a neighbor's 911 call of a person with a gun in front of a home on the 100 block of North 52nd Street, police said. As Lewis approached the officers, they asked whether he lived there, the source said — but he quickly began yelling and acting aggressively.

A brief struggle followed, and just as the officers moved to check whether Lewis was armed, the



Officer Shane Seiber, 40, joined the police department in 2016. Courtesy of the Philadelphia Police Department

source said, he shot them.

Lewis continued to fire as they lay wounded, yelling that he told them to get off his porch, said the source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

When two other officers arrived at the home shortly after 1 a.m., the source said, they found Seiber and his partner lying unconscious, bleeding from their wounds.

Seiber, 40, a 10-year police veteran, was shot three times and died hours later at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. The other officer, a 33-year-old with nine years on the

job, was shot 12 times, and remains hospitalized.

Lewis, meanwhile, retreated into a dark alley behind his home — then shot at the reinforcements who would soon arrive, officials said. When he was eventually arrested after a nearly hourlong standoff, he blamed the officers for coming onto his porch, according to an arrest report obtained by The Inquirer.

"I did what I did because they did what they did," he said, according to the report.

The source's account, together

→ SEE SHOT ON A10



In a London fog

Fans watch the players warm up at Tottenham Stadium before the Eagles played the Jaguars in London on Sunday. While the game ended with the Eagles losing, 19-17, plenty of supporters enjoyed the trip overseas. For more coverage, see Sports or go to inquirer.com/eagles. David Maialetti / Staff Photographer

Fetterman votes with Dems less, rarely attends meetings

Since Trump took office in 2024, the Pa. senator has voted increasingly with Republicans. He also has missed more votes than a typical senator and introduced few bills.

By Sam Janesch
Staff Writer

This is the second of two stories looking at how Sen. John Fetterman spends his time on Capitol Hill.

WASHINGTON — On the first full day on Capitol Hill last month after senators returned from an extended recess, John Fetterman did not show up for his first scheduled committee meeting.

Like dozens of times before, it was not clear where the Pennsylvania senator was while the top Democrat on the Senate Commerce Committee voted on his behalf and some of his colleagues amended

→ SEE FETTERMAN ON A9

America's politicians increasingly grapple with threat of violence

At every level, people who run for or hold office find themselves, their families, and their staffs becoming targets.

By Nick Corasaniti
New York Times

In January, a caller began leaving threats in the voicemail inboxes of members of Congress: "I want to see their throat cut from ear to ear."

Another caller left a blunt threat for a U.S. senator: "I'm going to murder you, and I'm going to start with your children."

A state attorney general received this three-word missive: "Bang, bang, bang."

Serving in public office in the United States is dangerous. From state and local government to Congress, an unending river of violent threats is washing through the mailboxes, offices, voicemail, and texts of those who govern the

nation. Thousands of public servants are living, working, and, in the final weeks of election season, campaigning in a state of fear.

And it's getting worse, officeholders said in dozens of interviews.

An investigation by the New York Times examining hundreds of records obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests, court documents, and law enforcement logs has found that, over a two-year period from 2024 to August of this year, thousands of violent threats inundated the lives of elected officials in unprecedented ways.

Some threats were vague; some were frighteningly specific. They promised torture, stabbing, rape, and murder. They aimed at Republicans and Democrats alike, and at a range of officeholders from county clerks to U.S. senators. They targeted spouses, parents, siblings, and children.

At least 44 governors, as well as their staff members and families, have been subjected to violent threats over the past two years, the

→ SEE THREATS ON A6

Schools chief explains why 720 missing students were reenrolled

By Kristen A. Graham
Staff Writer

The Philadelphia School District was right to put back on its books 720 students who have not attended a day of school this year, Superintendent Tony B. Watlington Sr. said.

"Let me be very clear — this isn't about cooking the books, this isn't about padding enrollment," Watlington said in an Inquirer interview. "This is about, we're going to do our due diligence because it's the rules."

This year marked the first time the district has added back students it deemed were improperly dropped in order to verify the students' whereabouts, said Watlington and Ericka Washington, the district's deputy chief of student enrollment and placement.

Philadelphia's enrollment is down. As of Sept. 17, about 4,000



Superintendent Tony B. Watlington Jr., shown here in May, said the Philadelphia School District was following Pennsylvania state regulations by adding back to its rolls 720 students who have not attended school yet this year. Tiger Williams / Staff Photographer

fewer students than the prior year had attended at least one day of school, according to internal records. And Watlington last month ordered central office employees, including assistant

superintendents, and school staff to knock on doors to get students back in district seats.

But, Watlington emphasized, reenrolling the students was not

→ SEE ENROLL ON A10

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