PHILLY & REGION B1
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LIFE & CULTURE B4
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PHILADELPHIA MARATHON WEEKEND

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The Philadelphia Inquirer

ALWAYS ASKING, ALWAYS PHILLY.



Nafis Horne (center) is joined by friends and family as he speaks about his niece during a celebration of life for Malayshia Allford at Compassion Connect Venue in West Philadelphia on Wednesday. Monica Herndon / Staff Photographer

At a memorial for Malayshia Allford, words of anguish and calls for justice

Those at the service for the 10-year-old girl, found dead earlier this month, recalled her quiet smile and kind spirit.

By Jillian Kramer
Staff Writer

One afternoon, Malayshia Allford asked her teacher for a hug. The teacher obliged.

After that, it became their ritual. Every afternoon, before Malayshia climbed aboard the school bus, she got a hug.

On Wednesday, the teacher, Yvette Burns, shared that memory at a celebration of life for the 10-year-old girl, who was killed late last month. Now, with Malayshia gone, Burns said, she takes comfort in knowing that she sent the girl to the school bus every day "wrapped in love."

Malayshia was found dead in the trunk of a car in South Jersey on Nov. 4, ending a more than week-long search that drew police, federal investigators, and volunteers.

Authorities have charged her foster mother, Philadelphia school-teacher Carprice Williams, with murder. But to the more than 100 family members, teachers, and friends who gathered Wednesday inside a West Philadelphia venue to remember her, Malayshia was more than the child at the center of a criminal investigation. She was a kind, caring girl who, at least at school, knew she could count on a hug at the end of the day.

"She was a great person," Burns said, "who just happened to be 10 years old."

Pink was the color of the celebration, a fitting tribute to a girl whose smiling face cycled across a screen in photograph after photograph, nearly always wearing a touch of it: a bow tucked into her hair, the thick frames of her glasses.

People lined up outside Compassion Connect Venue before the 3 p.m. service, and the queue stretched down the block. On their way inside, they stopped to write messages to Malayshia's family on hot pink posters, then took seats at tables covered in pink tablecloths. Pink roses and carnations filled flower arrangements throughout the room. Catering tables were draped in fuchsia sequined cloths, and pink balloons framed a large display at the front, where photographs of Malayshia were set against a pink background beneath the words: "Forever in our hearts."

In Burns' math and science classroom, Malayshia had arrived with a quiet smile, the teacher said. It did not take long for Burns to recognize her as a natural leader, she said, someone who got along with her classmates and was eager to participate.

Her favorite classroom game was "Around the World," Burns said.

Andrea Surratt, principal of Robert E. Lamberton School, where Malayshia was a fifth grader, also remembered her sweet spirit. But Surratt made clear that Wednesday was not only a day for remembering the girl — it was also a day to demand accountability for what happened to her.

"What happened to Malayshia was a profound tragedy," Surratt said. "Her suffering mattered. And the people responsible must be held accountable."

Surratt's final words drew loud applause.

→ SEE MALAYSHIA ON A14

Jeffries poised to become first Black speaker

11 Democrats voted against him but said conversations to address more progressive priorities are ongoing.

By Lisa Mascaro
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats overwhelmingly nominated Hakeem Jeffries on Wednesday to be speaker of the House, as he brushed past most skeptics and was on track to make history as the nation's first Black lawmaker with the gavel.

Jeffries secured the nod during closed-door voting, 251-11, ahead of a full House vote when the new Congress convenes in January. Among those opposing him on the secret ballot were a group of progressive newcomers, who said in a statement there is "still work to be done" to ensure their priorities.

Afterward, Jeffries vowed to work hard, through every corner of the Democratic caucus, and said each generation has the opportunity to "show up, speak up, stand up, and help the country march toward a more perfect union."

"Our job is to fight MAGA extremism, not each other," he said, "and to get big things done for the American people."

Jeffries, of New York, ran unopposed but faces a restive party eager for a change in Congress after voters ousted Republicans in a rebuke of President Donald Trump and the party in power. Phone calls and social media campaigns have been flooding the offices of Democrats in both the House and the Senate, demanding a fresh start. Protesters heckled Jeffries last week during a Democratic conference in Denver.

Ahead of Wednesday's vote, Jeffries said he was taking nothing for granted. Yet having led the Democrats to one of the biggest incoming House majorities in decades, he has room to maneuver.

Those opposing Jeffries,

→ SEE JEFFRIES ON A6

Council committee rejects new deal with Chester incinerator

The panel stripped the Reworld facility from the proposed contract, which now awaits a vote by the full Council.

By Anna Orso
Staff Writer

Philadelphia City Council members on Wednesday blocked Mayor Cherelle L. Parker's administration from entering into a new, four-year contract with a controversial trash incinerator in Chester, a move that injects uncertainty into the city's vast and complex trash disposal system.

The administration sought Council approval to ink a new deal with Reworld, the waste-to-energy facility where the city has for years sent about a third of its trash to be burned while the rest is sent to landfills.

However, Council's Committee on the Environment on Wednesday voted unanimously to amend the Parker-backed legislation to remove Reworld from the proposed city contract. The legislation the committee advanced only allows for the city to contract with landfills, effectively blocking the city from using incineration to dispose of its trash.

"We have ended our practice of burning trash in Chester," Councilmember Jamie Gauthier declared after the vote.

The amended legislation now advances to the full Council, where it could be voted on in the coming weeks.

The vote was the culmination of a yearslong effort by environmental and racial justice advocates who teamed up with Chester Mayor Stefan Roots and Gauthier to press the city to end its relationship with Reworld.

"It is our constitutional obligation to reject a deal that is bad for this city," Gauthier said Wednesday during a hearing on the legislation that lasted more than five hours.

→ SEE TRASH ON A14

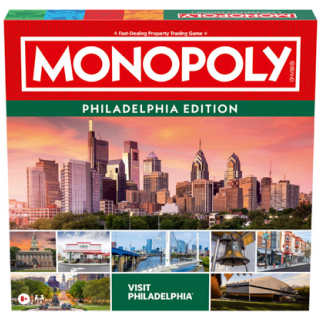
From Reading Terminal to Geno's, a Monopoly edition with Philly flavor

The Philadelphia-centric edition of the board game features familiar places and a few notable exclusions.

By Stephanie Farr
Staff Writer

The makers of the new Philadelphia edition of Monopoly noticed something unusual during the five months nominations were open to the public for people to submit their ideas of which Philly things should be included on the board.

One agency kept coming up again and again — the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) — but folks seemed to be submitting it as a joke, said Tim Barney, game manager for the Top Trumps company, which manufactures the board game.



The front of the box of Monopoly: Philadelphia Edition. Courtesy of Top Trumps

"The PPA nominations started out like this: 'Wouldn't it be funny if the PPA was Free Parking because they're not actually free parking?'" Barney said. "We started to get more and more nominations. We were like 'Goodness, these guys are getting mentioned so much we *should* put them in.' So we put them in."

As the leading global licensee of Hasbro games, which owns Monopoly, Top Trumps must keep the four corner squares of the board — Go, Free Parking, Go to Jail, and Just Visiting — the same as they are in the original Monopoly, which was based on Atlantic City streets. So they couldn't exactly grant Philadelphians' PPA wishes (alas, this also means that "Go" has not been changed to "Go Birds").

But what they did do was put the PPA in the transportation category, which also includes SEPTA, William H. Gray III 30th Street Station, and the Schuylkill Banks Cable-Stayed Bridge. Those four things have replaced the railroads on the original board. That means Reading Terminal Market has not, as logic might suggest, replaced Reading Railroad, but don't worry, it's on there.

Monopoly: Philadelphia Edition

→ SEE MONOPOLY ON A14

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