



SPORTS, D1

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TEMPTING TASTES OF THE NEW SOUTH

## Gunshots at S.C. Church

- Early reports of multiple casualties.
- AME congregation traces roots to 1816.
- 21-year-old white male being sought.

By Alex Sanz  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A gunman opened fire Wednesday night at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in downtown Charleston, and sources were reporting multiple casualties but

LOCAL NEWS

### The pope's visit and homeless

Advocates, archdiocese consider options along the Parkway. B1

BUSINESS

### Sharing costs

Gone is the deep-fried cliché of years past.

FOOD | F1

NBC KEEPING WILLIAMS NOT

2015 LIBERTY MEDAL

## Dalai Lama will visit city for honor



details remained sketchy. The Charleston Post & Courier cited "unconfirmed" reports that eight people may have been shot, though their conditions were not reported. No details were immediately available from police on any victims.

The newspa-



## for N.E. Corridor

States and transit agencies, such as SEPTA and NJ Transit, are being asked to pay for the lines they share with Amtrak. **A15.**

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## WEATHER

High 78,  
Low 66

AccuWeather report, **D8**

Friday	87   65
Saturday	81   72
Sunday	86   74
Monday	91   70



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By Jeff Gammage  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Leaders of Philadelphia's Tibetan community have some advice for people planning to see the Dalai Lama receive the Liberty Medal at the National Constitution Center:

Get there early, because it's going to be crowded.

About 3,000 to 4,000 Tibetans from exile communities in Washington, New York, and Canada are expected to travel here for the Oct. 26 ceremony. They'll gather on Independence Mall, swelling a crowd that usually numbers 1,200 to 1,500, to support and honor one of the world's celebrated human-rights advocates.



The Dalai Lama follows Pope Francis by a month.

who turns 80 on July 6 — and for Philadelphia, which will welcome Tibet's spiritual leader a month after hosting Pope Francis during the World Meet-  
See **MEDAL** on **A14**

"We're so excited and thrilled," said Tsering Jurme, a leader in the Tibetan Association of Philadelphia. "All the Tibetan community is excited and looking forward to this day."

It's a big autumn for the Dalai Lama,

## Henon pulls prison-land bill, lashes out at critics

By Tricia L. Nadolny  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

A plan to purchase land being eyed for a new prison was shelved Wednesday after running into opposition from those who accused the city of giving prisons priority over Philadelphia's struggling school system.

In a letter sent to Mayor Nutter on the eve of City Council's last meeting until September,

Councilman Bobby Henon called those critics "uninformed and politically motivated." Henon said he was pulling the bill back and would restart the debate in the fall.

"This is not a choice between school desks and prison beds," Henon wrote. "It is easy to play on public fears and to spread information to fuel a culture of inaction. It is much  
See **PRISON** on **A2**



At Shriners Hospital, Baraka Cosmas Rusambo, 6, among the mutilated because of albinism, gets a fitting. **ALEJANDRO A. ALVAREZ / Staff Photographer**

## Hunted, hacked, albino children come to heal

Persecuted Tanzanians fitted for prosthetics.

By Michael Matza  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

In Tanzania, superstition dictates that people with albinism are both despised as damaged demons and prized for mystical powers.

Deemed to be ghosts because of their lack of pigmentation, albino children are hunted by shamans, who use their body parts in witchcraft and potions. Their mutilation is thought to bring good luck to the attackers and others who visit witch doctors.

The stories appall: In March, assailants lopped off the right hand of a 6-year-old boy, Baraka Cosmas Rusambo. Last year, 16-year-old Pendo Sengerema had her right arm hacked off at the elbow.  
In 2010, Kabula Nkalango was

12 when three men wielding machetes broke into her house, sheared off an arm at the shoulder, and ran away with it. She nearly bled to death.

On Wednesday, the damage wrought by such benighted beliefs met the healing power of modern medicine in Philadelphia. Baraka, Sengerema, and Nkalango were among five persecuted albinos from Tanzania who began free treatment for prostheses at Shriners Hospital in North Philadelphia.

The five were brought to America this week by Global Medical Relief Fund (GMRF), a small, Staten Island, N.Y.-based charity that has a long-standing relationship with Shriners in Philadelphia, which specializes in pediat-  
See **PROSTHESES** on **A10**

# Dalai Lama to get medal

**MEDAL** from **A1**

ing of Families.

"The Dalai Lama has been under consideration for the Liberty Medal for years, and we were thrilled this was the year he was able to accept and able to come to Philadelphia," said Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO of the Constitution Center. "He's been a global conscience for tolerance, dialogue, and compassion."

The Dalai Lama's work in writing a democratic constitution for Tibet — which China occupies and claims is an integral part of its territory — is especially important to the concept of the Liberty Medal, Rosen said.

The medal, established in 1988, annually honors men and women who strive to secure liberty for people around the globe. It comes with a \$100,000 prize.

In a statement issued through the Constitution Center, the Dalai Lama said, "I have made it my life's work to spread the message of kindness and compassion, and I can think of no better place to be recognized than in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection."

Local Tibetan leaders said the Dalai Lama will hold a teaching at La Salle Uni-

Rosen said the Constitution Center had heard nothing from Chinese authorities about the medal. The Chinese government often protests when the Dalai Lama receives an award or meets with foreign leaders.

On Wednesday night, Chinese embassy spokesperson Zhu Haiquan said tremendous progress has occurred in Tibet and "the human rights situation there is the best in history."

"The Dalai Lama is a political exile who has long been engaged in anti-China separatist activities under the cloak of religion," Zhu said. "We urge the relevant parties to respect the history and the facts, recognize the true face of the Dalai Lama, and stop using Tibet-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs."

The man born Lhamo Dondrub in Amdo, Tibet, is the 14th and longest-lived Dalai Lama. At the age of 2, he was recognized as the reincarnation of the previous Dalai Lama. He was called to assume full political power in 1950, after China invaded Tibet.

The failed Lhasa Uprising in 1959 resulted in the Dalai Lama's flight into exile.

versity on the day of the ceremony, and give a public talk at Temple University the day after receiving the award. Ticket information for those events is pending.

"I'm thrilled beyond words that he's coming," said Karma Gelek, a past president of the Tibetan association. "It's a great, great feeling. I'll be there when he comes."

Gelek has met the Dalai Lama in California, in India, wherever he can afford to travel to hear him speak. Early next year, Gelek and his family plan to attend a teaching in India, where the Dalai Lama and a large Tibetan community live in exile.

About 11,000 Tibetans live in the United States. The Tibetan community in the Philadelphia area has grown in recent years but remains small, about 150, with newcomers arriving from other states and from Dharamsala, India, home of the Tibetan government in exile and the Dalai Lama.

News of the medal comes as Tibetans around the world prepare to celebrate the Dalai Lama's birthday — and amid concern over his successor and the treatment of Tibetans by Chinese authorities.

In the last six years, 141 Tibetans have set themselves ablaze to protest Chinese rule. Of those, 114 are known to have died. Twenty-four of the protesters who self-immolated were under 18, according to the International Campaign for Tibet.

In Tibet, human-rights groups say, the Tibetan flag and national anthem are banned, and possession of a picture of the Dalai Lama can result in torture and imprisonment.

He has since traveled the world, advocating for Tibetans, teaching Buddhism, and extolling the virtue of kindness. He also has angered the Chinese government by condemning what he has called "cultural genocide" against Tibet.

Today, tensions dominate the discussion over who will succeed the Dalai Lama when he dies, a process that traditionally involves identification by senior monks.

Chinese officials assert that the choice rests with them — and were angered by the Dalai Lama's suggestion that he might decide to not reincarnate. China, wanting a pliable successor, has warned that he must reincarnate.

In its announcement that the Dalai Lama would receive the Liberty Medal, the Constitution Center noted that he has been an advocate for greater global equality and the right of all people to peace, happiness, freedom, equality, and dignity. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

Previous Liberty Medal winners include Pakistani girls-rights activist Malala Yousafzai, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and the boxer Muhammad Ali.

"As a practicing Buddhist, I'm just thrilled that the Liberty Medal committee and the National Constitution Center had the bravery to give it to his holiness," said Ken Klein, a Philadelphia grocer and member of the Tibetan Buddhist Center. "It's a wonderful recognition for his lifelong goal of nonviolence."

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✉ [jgammage@phillynews.com](mailto:jgammage@phillynews.com) ☎ 215-854-4906

📱 @JeffGammage