

TODAY'S TOP STORIES



WELCOME NICKI MINAJ, ED SHEERAN

Jennifer Hudson also will join the Roots on July 4.

LOCAL NEWS | B1



REMEMBERING FRANK BUDD

LOCAL NEWS | B8

HEROIN SCARE AT SCHOOL

LOCAL NEWS | B1

PHL, TINICUM MAKE A DEAL

BUSINESS | A11

NATION+WORLD

14 die in Ukraine; troops ambushed

The gun battle in Slovyansk underscored the tough resistance government forces have faced in confronting the pro-Russia separatists. **A6**

MAGAZINE

Three women, hear them roar

Lily Allen's "Sheezus," Merrill Grabus' "Nikki Nack," and "I Never Learn" by Sweden's Lykke Li make it a big day for formidable pop divas. **C1**



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WEATHER

High 70, Low 46
AccuWeather report, **D8**

Wednesday	69 53
Thursday	74 56
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Saturday	82 60



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CITY AID SOUGHT FOR EDUCATION



“If we cannot — or will not — invest in children and their futures, then we have already decided our own. ...”

Superintendent William R. Hite Jr.

Hite presents his case for more funding to City Council. SRC Chairman Bill Green is at right.

MICHAEL BRYANT / Staff Photographer

PUSHING FOR SCHOOL FUNDS

Hite told lawmakers that without \$216M in new aid, class sizes would grow, 1,000 would lose jobs.

By Kristen A. Graham
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Making a case for a massive infusion of new funding, Philadelphia School District officials told City Council on Monday that it had an obligation to do more.

“If we cannot — or will not — invest in children and their futures, then we have already decided our own: a future that institutionalizes inequity in public education,” said Superintendent William R. Hite Jr. “These cuts are testing our schools in ways that range from inadequate and unfair to immoral and unconscionable.”

Hite and School Reform Commission Chairman Bill Green said that without \$216 million in new funding, they would have to increase class sizes to up to 41 students, lay off 1,000

employees including teachers, and cancel union contracts.

“How low can we go?” asked Green, who until recently was an at-large member of Council. “At what point do our schools stop being schools?”

To avoid that bleak scenario, Green and Hite are asking the city for \$195 million, including \$120 million from an extension of the city’s extra 1 percent sales tax and \$75 million more, possibly from a \$2-a-pack cigarette tax.

In total, the school system is proposing a \$2.8 billion budget for 2014-15. It’s asking for \$1.27 billion from the state, up from \$1.25 billion this year.

The district needs the \$216 million to maintain the current level of services, but is asking for \$440 million overall to make investments in things such as counselors, early literacy and See **BUDGET** on A8



City Council President Darrell L. Clarke

INSIDE

► School District to list 20 empty buildings for sale. **B2.**

Court backs town on prayers

Even if one religion is favored, local meetings would be within their rights, justices ruled, 5-4.

By Robert Barnes
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court ruled Monday that legislative bodies such as city councils can begin their meetings with prayer, even if it plainly favors a specific religion.

The court ruled 5 to 4 that Christian prayers given before meetings of an Upstate New York town council did not violate the constitutional prohibition against government establishment of religion, citing history and tradition.

“Ceremonial prayer is but a recognition that, since this nation was founded and until the present day, many Americans deem that their own existence must be understood by precepts far beyond the authority of government,” Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote for the court’s conservative majority.

The ruling reflected a Supreme Court that has become more lenient of how government may accommodate religion in civic life without crossing the line into an endorsement of a particular faith. All nine justices endorsed the concept of legislative prayer, with the four dissenters agreeing that the public forum “need not become a religion-free zone,” in the words of Justice Elena Kagan.

But there was sharp disagreement after that, and the majority ruling could encourage public bodies to give more leeway to religious expression in their ceremonial prayers and less deference to the objections of religious minorities.

The court’s five conservatives said legislative prayers need not be stripped of refer- See **PRAYER** on A5

Looking back at 231 years of legal work

Rawle & Henderson in Phila. is considered the oldest U.S. law firm.

By Chris Mondics
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

So this is what history looks like in real time. For nearly 231 years, lawyers for Rawle & Henderson L.L.P. have been plying courthouses in Philadelphia for clients with urgent legal needs, and that would make it the oldest law firm in the United States.

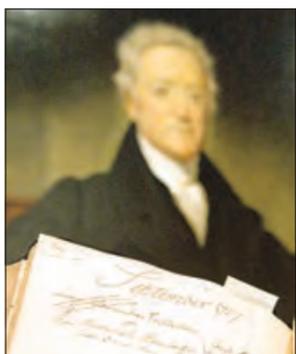
Fittingly, its offices at 13th and Chestnut Streets are redolent of its deep ties to the past. An oil portrait of name partner Joseph Henderson, a onetime president of the American Bar Association, hangs prominently. On display nearby is a letter from Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton to firm founder William Rawle, delicately inquiring about progress in a case.

Rawle and Hamilton worked closely together to suppress the notorious Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania in 1794, when Rawle, then the U.S. attorney in Philadelphia, subpoenaed leaders of the rebellion to appear in court here.

See **RAWLE** on A10

A handwritten ledger of William Rawle, in front of his portrait, is in the library at Temple’s law school. In his day, Rawle was one of America’s most prominent lawyers.

CHARLES FOX / Staff Photographer



English teacher Khalifah Bennett of Thomas Edison High School. Teaching at a neighborhood high school was important to Bennett. She found success at one, and wanted to show her students that they could succeed, too. AKIRA SUWA / Staff Photographer

Annual awards honor 55 A-plus Phila. teachers

“These teachers certainly are an example of many, many good things ... against all odds.”

By Kristen A. Graham and Julie Xie
INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

Khalifah Bennett calls on her own experiences growing up in a tough Philadelphia neighborhood to show her pupils what they can do with their lives.

Students know they can go to Michael Johnson, a gay MIT grad, for help with physics — and life.

Amra Hook uses real-world principles to make learning come alive for the children she teaches science and engineering.

They are three of the 55 Philadelphia School District high school teachers being honored Tuesday as some of the city’s best. Each will receive a Christian R. and

Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished High School Educators.

David Loder, a foundation trustee, said the \$3,500 awards are especially important in a time of unprecedented crisis for the district.

“These teachers certainly are an example of many, many good things that continue to happen every day, against all odds, in schools in Philadelphia,” Loder said. “It’s a particularly critical time to send a different message about our schools, and to recognize these extraordinary teachers.”

Bennett was determined to avoid teaching. Practically her whole family worked See **LINDBACK** on A7

INSIDE

► Profiles of the 55 teachers being honored by the Lindback Foundation. **B4-B5** and **www.inquirer.com/lindback2014**

Viewing 231 years of legal work

RAWLE from A1

Despite its august lineage and links to the nation's founding, the surprising fact of Rawle's longevity has escaped widespread notice, even in the firm's hometown.

"The firm historically has been focused on its law practice and hasn't necessarily touted the idea of its being the oldest firm, although in recent years we have tried to focus more attention on this fact," said Rawle partner Timothy Abeel, a member of the firm's executive committee.

In his day, Rawle, a Quaker, was one of America's most prominent lawyers, a friend of Benjamin Franklin, a leading constitutional scholar, and a fervent abolitionist. But he also was a hands-on practitioner who guided clients through inheritance disputes and commercial transactions.

Maritime law was important in Philadelphia's bustling port then, and Rawle advised shipping companies — whose boats had been seized by foreign governments and sometimes pirates — on whether their insurance policies would cover the losses.

And yet, in some ways, things haven't changed so much.

It is true that the firm is much larger, with more than 120 lawyers in multiple offices linked by technology. But insurance-related disputes remain at the core of the firm's business, and maritime law still plays a role. The firm handled the defense, in a lawsuit in 2012, for the owners of the Philadelphia Ride the Ducks company after one of its boats was rammed by a barge in the Delaware River in 2010, claiming the lives of two Hungarian tourists.

Little dispute

But the title of oldest law firm in the United States apparently is a coveted trademark, and laying claim to it has been the subject of genteel, if sporadic, competition. For a time, the old-line firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft L.L.P. in New York described itself as the nation's oldest. But it pulled back from that after Rawle lawyers pointed out their firm had been founded a few years earlier.

Now, a small Connecticut firm, Howard, Kohn, Sprague & Fitzgerald L.L.P., which says it was founded in 1786, three years after Rawle, claims to be the nation's oldest continuously operating firm, arguing Rawle & Henderson ceased operations while its lawyers served in the military. But it offers no substantiation.

Thomas Kuzmick, a senior partner at the Rawle firm, disputes the claim, and the American Bar Association Journal backs him up, describing Rawle as the nation's oldest firm in its February issue.

"Think about any business being around for 230 years," said Kuzmick, one of the firm's managers. "There is something here that nobody else in the country can claim. You have to be able to adapt to changing times."

"If we were the same thing as in 1783, we wouldn't be here. If we were the same thing as 1993, we wouldn't be here."

Now one of the city's most profitable firms — it had profits of 38 percent in 2013 on \$40 million in revenue — Rawle & Henderson had a near-death experience in the mid-1990s. Then, after a decision to branch out from its core



Executive committee members (from left) John McMeekin, Timothy Abeel, and Thomas Kuzmick in the law library of Rawle & Henderson L.L.P., whose roots go back to colonial days. DAVID M. WARREN / Staff Photographer



The Rawle Reading Room in Temple Law School's library. William Rawle's copy of his book "A View of the Constitution" is on the table.

business of defending clients against liability lawsuits and into tax and transactional work, the firm tripled in size to about 70 lawyers.

But those business lines were unprofitable and the firm began to hemorrhage cash, forcing it to dip into its bank line of credit for about \$1 million.

When the loan was called, firm leaders briefly considered disbanding. But a core group of partners decided to carry on, finding another lender and new

financing, as equity partners pledged personal assets like their homes as collateral. They refocused their practice on insurance defense work, and aggressively recruited partners from other firms.

There were similarly tight circumstances for founder William Rawle when he opened the firm on Sept. 15, 1783. Rawle had studied law in London as the Revolutionary War raged, but he yearned to come back to America. One reason was that the Lon-



Joseph Henderson's portrait. He was the first member of the law firm not from the Rawle family.

don legal market, like the U.S. today, was saturated with lawyers, and he despaired of finding work.

"I should never expect to rise in this country," Rawle wrote to his mother, Rebecca Rawle Shoemaker, in 1782, from London. "The many hundreds of competitors that are to be met with in almost every line, render it almost impossible for a stranger to succeed — and in the law particularly, they are too numerous to leave a shadow of hope, to one so unknown and unsupported as me."

Rawle's mother and stepfather, Samuel Shoemaker — Rawle's biological father had died in a hunting accident — were among Philadelphia's many British sympathizers during the Revolution. Shoemaker, in fact, had served as mayor of the city during the British occupation — and that loyalist background made returning to the city a sensitive matter.

But Rawle also had powerful friends. In 1782, he made a pilgrimage from London to Paris to visit with Franklin, then serving as the American ambassador, who issued Rawle a handwritten passport — and a ticket to a new life.

Of his visit to Paris and meetings with Franklin, Rawle wrote

that his time there was "infinitely too short to gratify curiosity in a place too abundantly supplied with everything wonderful in art, but I had the pleasure of meeting or making friends. Dr. Franklin and his grandson are in perfect health."

Careful records

Once back in Philadelphia, Rawle kept meticulous logs, now stored along with many of his books and other records in the Rawle Reading Room, a replica of a law firm library from the mid-19th century at the Temple University law school library. Many clients came to him to sort out disputes over inheritances, as was the case in the will of Dan Pegg, whose disputed estate involved pasture land in the Northern Liberties section of the city, now a hipster haven of course, but farmland back then.

A March 10, 1794, entry is an eight-page resolution for the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery.

"Slavery is not a natural but a political institution," Rawle wrote. "It is the effect of avarice, supported by force or fraud. If the government which authorized slavery or permits slavery is dissolved, slavery is dissolved with it."

A log entry in 1800 discusses an insurance claim for damages resulting from the seizure by "French loyalists" of the Philadelphia-based schooner Little Tom Butler, in the Caribbean.

A *View of the Constitution of the United States of America*, authored by Rawle, was regarded as the most authoritative legal text on the Constitution through the middle of the 19th century. In an odd twist, given his strong support for the abolition of slavery, Rawle's book posited that the Constitution gave states the right to secede.

A wild ride

Rawle also argued cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, traveling to Washington by stagecoach once the capital was moved from Philadelphia. A remembrance, written by his friend Peter S. Du Ponceau, a noted linguist, lawyer, and first president of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, describes a journey to Washington by Rawle and other lawyers with scheduled arguments before the court.

On the return trip, the horses panicked, running wild as the passengers threw themselves from the coach, fearing it might topple over the side of a bridge.

The horses were quickly brought under control, and no one was seriously hurt. But Du Ponceau writes that each of the passengers, apart from himself, allowed themselves to be "bled" by a Baltimore physician that evening to ward off any effects of ill health.

"Feeling perfectly well, I did not choose to submit to the operation," Du Ponceau wrote.

William Rawle died April 12, 1836, just shy of his 77th birthday. Several generations of Rawles succeeded him at the firm, with the last, Francis Rawle, a founder of the American Bar Association, passing away in 1930.

It was Francis Rawle who brought Joseph Henderson to the firm in 1913, as the first non-Rawle partner.

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Pistorius friend testifies of panic after shooting

By Christopher Torchia and Gerald Inray
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRETORIA, South Africa — Using witness accounts of a panicked nighttime phone call from Oscar Pistorius, South African Olympic athlete, and his desperate pleas for help and his desperate pleas for help and his desperate pleas for help, the defense at his murder trial tried to reinforce its case Monday that the double-amputee Olympian fatally shot his girlfriend in a tragic error of judgment.

Johan Stander and his daughter

Carice Viljoen, neighbors and friends of Pistorius, testified that they were at the runner's villa soon after the shooting on Feb. 14, 2013, and that Pistorius was praying, trying to help Steenkamp breathe, and urging her to live.

Viljoen testified that Pistorius was saying to Steenkamp as she lay on the floor with multiple gunshot wounds: "Stay with me, my love, stay with me."

Pistorius had shot four times through a toilet cubicle door

with his 9 mm pistol minutes earlier, hitting Steenkamp in the hip, arm, and head. He claims he thought she was an intruder.

Prosecutors maintain Pistorius, 27, is lying about the perceived trespasser, and his story is designed to cover up that he killed model Steenkamp, 29, intentionally in the midst of an argument. Pistorius faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted of premeditated murder.

The testimonies from the neighbors began the seventh

week of proceedings in the globally televised trial, which resumed after a two-week recess.

Stander testified that Pistorius phoned him at 3:19 a.m. — about two minutes after the shooting. "I saw the truth there that morning. I saw it and I feel it," Stander testified, saying he believed that the shooting was accidental because of Pistorius' desperation when they found him carrying a bloodied Steenkamp downstairs from the upstairs bathroom. Pistorius was "really crying. He was

in pain," Stander said. "He was torn apart, broken, desperate, pleading."

The defense was trying to underline its scenario that Pistorius was emotionally distressed after shooting Steenkamp by mistake. Pistorius' lawyers were also trying to regain some momentum after chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel put Pistorius under intense pressure during the runner's own testimony, which appeared to show some inconsistencies in his story.

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