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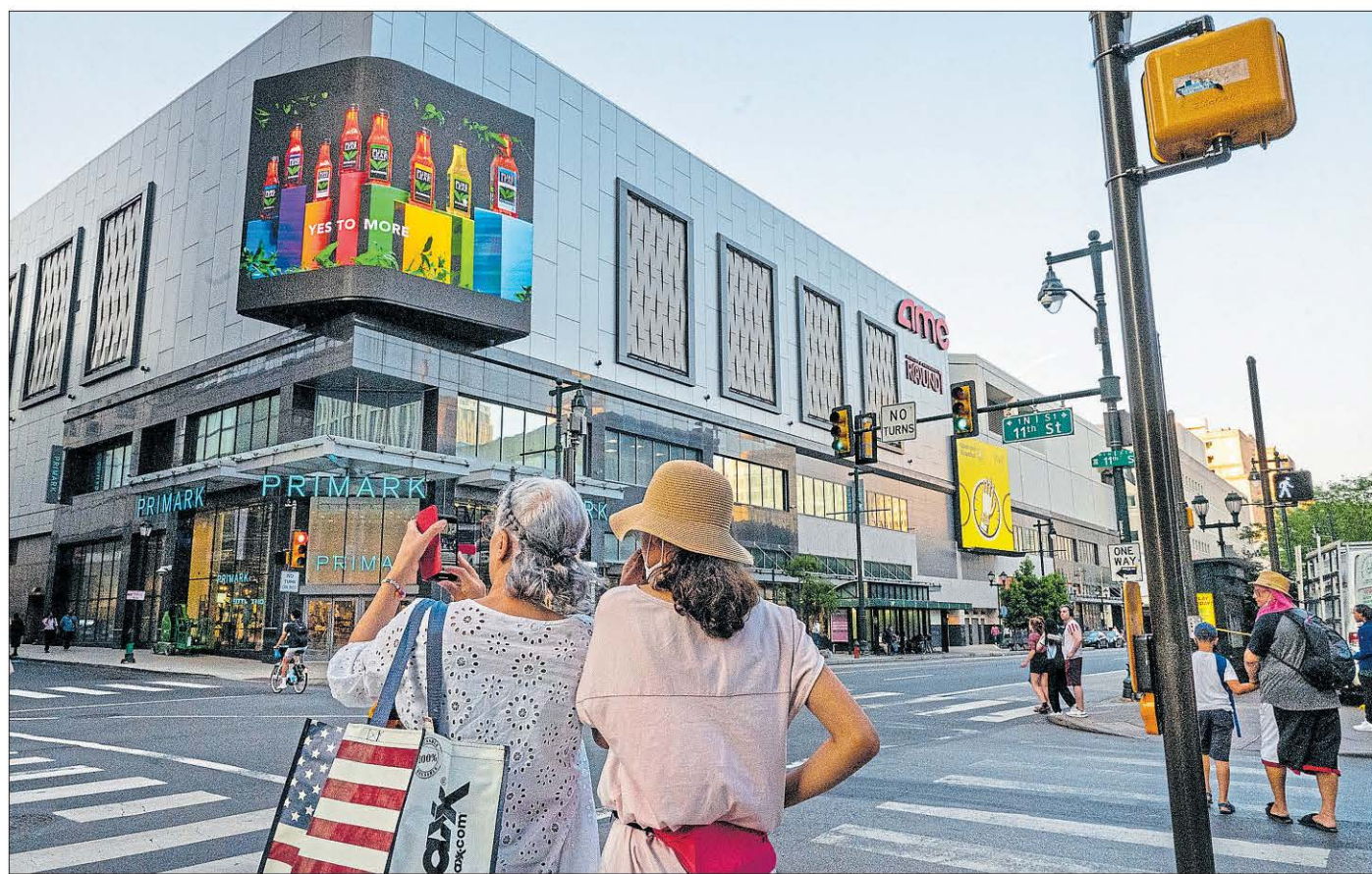
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Center City Arena Proposed for 76ers

WHEN: \$1.3B project could take 9 years, be ready by 2031.

NEIGHBORS: Developers say they'll consult with area reps.



The northeast corner of 11th and Market Streets, a block where a new arena would be built for the Philadelphia 76ers under a plan being announced Thursday. The 18,000-seat facility would replace the team's home at the Wells Fargo Center. TOM GRALISH / Staff Photographer

By Joseph N. DiStefano
STAFF COLUMNIST

The managing partners of the 76ers are teaming up with Philadelphia apartment developer David J. Adelman and others in a proposal to build a new NBA arena at 10th and Market Streets, which they say will create investment and employment opportunities in a city that needs them.

The Sixers' Josh Harris and David Blitzer want to demolish a block of the Fashion District Philadelphia (the former Gallery) shopping center and, like other National Basketball Association teams, build atop a key public-transit hub. The block is home to SEPTA's Jefferson Station and a Market-Frankford subway stop, as well as a short walk from the PATCO trains to South Jersey. It connects to parking garages a short drive from I-95, the Vine Street Expressway, and the Ben Franklin Bridge.

"We are going to have our own Madison Square Garden," but newer, with a "world-class team in a new shiny arena," Adelman told The Inquirer before Thursday's planned announcement.

The \$1.3 billion project would take up to nine years to plan and construct. It would be ready by the time the Sixers' lease expires at the Wells Fargo Center in 2031. "This is huge," said Paul Levy, president of the Center City District. It would be "one of the most transit-accessible arenas in the nation."

NBA arenas are embracing downtowns

Those details will fall to a team headed by Adelman, whom Harris and Blitzer have chosen to chair the project's development company, 76Devcorp. Their own company's top real estate lieutenant, Jonathan Fascitelli, serves as chief executive.

"Arenas are evolving to be downtown, in the urban core," Fascitelli said. "They bring people together, which can spur a meaningful economic revitalization and improve the quality of life."

The group already has brought in stadium designer Gensler of San Francisco, stadium builder AECOM

See **ARENA** on A6



Heading up the project are (from left) Josh Harris, the Sixers' managing partner; David Blitzer, co-managing partner; and David J. Adelman, Philadelphia apartment developer.

A Proposed Downtown Arena for the Sixers

The proposed new home for the Sixers would be built on Market Street between 10th and 11th Streets, over SEPTA's Jefferson Station. The location is currently part of the Fashion District Philadelphia mall.



JOHN DUCHNESKIE / Staff Artist

A long trail to arrest in '75 case

A coffee cup and a search going back generations and thousands of miles led to an alleged killer.

By Aubrey Whelan
and Marina Affo
STAFF WRITERS

For decades, it seemed that Lindy Sue Biechler's killer would never be found.

The 19-year-old newlywed's stabbing death in her Lancaster County apartment in 1975 had stunned her community and shattered her family. As years passed, police kept working the case, slowly eliminating suspects as technology improved.

Detectives on the scene had managed to save a sample of the killer's DNA. But for decades it had no match in DNA databases of convicted criminals. That's when CeCe Moore, a genetic genealogist at Parabon Nanolabs, a company that works with police to solve cold cases, decided to dig a little differently.

She and her colleagues in Reston, Va., identified the common ancestors of people who were partial matches to the DNA sample. They were all from a small town in Italy. And through generations and generations of genealogical records, authorities identified a prime suspect.

This week, Heather Adams, the Lancaster County district attorney, announced the arrest of David Sinopli, 68, a Lancaster na-

See **COLD CASE** on A7

DA loses at high court on cop's trial

Pa. justices ruled 4-2 that Krasner was trying to rewrite state law in an ex-officer's murder case.

By Chris Palmer
STAFF WRITER

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a challenge by Philadelphia prosecutors to the state law governing how and when officers are permitted to use deadly force — the latest development in a long-running legal battle over the murder prosecution of former city police officer Ryan Pownall.

In a 4-2 decision, the high court said that although it agrees police shootings warrant "serious examination, by every facet of government as well as those outside of it," District Attorney Larry Krasner's office had chosen the wrong venue — Pownall's trial — to try to upend the statute outlining when it is legal for police to fire their weapons.

"Doing as the DAO asks ... would essentially criminalize conduct the General Assembly has deemed noncriminal," wrote Justice Kevin Dougherty.

In an unusual step, Dougherty also filed a blistering concurring opinion criticizing Krasner's office for its handling of Pownall's case.

See **FORCE** on A7

A cruel choice: Die in Ukraine or live in Russia

Many refugees are subjected to abuse, stripped of documents, and left confused.

the besieged Ukrainian port city of Mariupol.

Russian forces had bombed the orphanage where he worked, and he was huddling with dozens of others in the freezing basement of a building without doors and windows. When she next heard from him, he was in tears.

"I'm alive," he told her. "I'm in Russia."

Zadonov was facing the next chapter of devastation for the people of Mariupol and oth-

er occupied cities: forcible transfers to Russia, the nation that killed their neighbors and shelled their hometowns almost into oblivion.

Nearly 2 million Ukrainians refugees have been sent to Russia, according to both Ukrainian and Russian officials. Ukraine portrays these transfers as forced journeys to enemy soil, which is considered a war crime. Russia calls them humanitarian evacuations.

See **UKRAINE** on A6

“You understand that you are going, as it were, into the mouth of a bear ... an aggressor state, and you end up on this territory. ... I did not have the feeling that I was safe in Russia.”

Ivan Zavrazhnov, who escaped to Estonia



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