



President Donald Trump greeted attendees at a White House dinner held in October 2025 to highlight the ballroom construction project. (Photo by John McDonnell/AP)
Note: Executives are shown with donation amounts from their companies. Donations are rounded to the nearest \$100,000.

LESLIE SHAPIRO / THE WASHINGTON POST

Secret records reveal donors to build ballroom

ABSENT FROM DOCUMENTS IS TRUMP HIMSELF

Files give panoramic view of \$330 million campaign

BY JONATHAN O'CONNELL, SARAH BLASKEY AND AARON SCHAEFER

A list obtained by The Washington Post reveals all the major donors to President Donald Trump's White House ballroom project, including previously undisclosed contributors who have benefited from regulatory decisions, government contracts and, in one case, a pardon for a family member.

Tech giants Nvidia and Apple each committed \$25 million, the top contribution amount, the list shows. The Adelson family, one of the GOP's largest donor dynasties, committed that sum as well, as did billionaire Charles Ergen, co-founder and chairman

of telecommunications company Dish Network.

Absent from the list is Trump himself, who has said that he is helping to pay for the project. "It's being paid for a hundred percent by me and some friends of mine," he said last year, days after demolition began on the old East Wing.

The White House publicly identified 37 people, companies and foundations as donors last October, without revealing the amount of their individual gifts.

The list obtained by The Post, an internal spreadsheet used to track contributions for the fundraising effort, contains the source, date and amount of all 67 donations above \$10,000 re-

SEE BALLROOM ON A8

Trump cancels live stream of firing squad

Rare rebuke of Hegseth; execution of Fort Hood killer still set to proceed

BY DAN LAMOTHE AND TARA COPP

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that the forthcoming execution of a former U.S. Army psychiatrist who killed 13 colleagues at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009 will not be live-streamed, upending a controversial plan that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth unveiled last week.

Nidal Malik Hasan will still be put to death by firing squad, but

"this event will not be streamed," Trump said in a social media post.

"I think streaming the execution for all to see might have been a strong deterrent for the World to witness how America deals with Terrorists and SCUM like Hasan but, many very good and well meaning people would rather not watch him die, through streaming, or through any other visual device," Trump said.

The decision, announced less than three weeks before the midterm elections, marks a significant rebuke of a senior Cabinet official whom Trump has stuck with through numerous controversies despite flagging support for Hegseth within the Republi-

can Party.

A spokesman for Hegseth, Sean Parnell, said in a statement that Trump and Hegseth discussed the decision not to live-stream the execution ahead of the president's announcement on social media.

"The Secretary supports the President's decision, and they are completely aligned," Parnell said.

Parnell's statement does not address questions about whether Trump and Hegseth had discussed the issue before Hegseth announced his plan last week. Neither the Pentagon nor the White House responded to related questions.

Hegseth touted his live-stream plan on social media last Thursday, and it faced significant

backlash almost immediately, including from many of the administration's biggest allies. Vice President JD Vance and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) both indicated they did not intend to watch the event, if it was to move forward, and Trump himself had suggested over the weekend that he would review the issue, an indication that he was not yet sold on the idea.

A Trump administration official said after the president's social media post Thursday that they "can say with absolute certainty the White House was caught off guard" by Hegseth's announcement last week. The official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity

SEE FIRING SQUAD ON A10

Mice and bugs in food at D.C. jail, inmates say

BY LIAM SCOTT AND SOPHIA SOLANO

Kevin Condray recalls feeling an unexpected crunch as he bit into a spoonful of rice and beans. In a sliver of light in his dim cell in the D.C. jail, as he tells it, he examined the wad he had just spit out of his mouth and saw a dead baby mouse.

"When I looked, I saw some ears and a nose," Condray told The Washington Post in a phone interview about the 2023 incident.

The inmate recalled feeling shocked and nauseated as he banged on the door to get the attention of an officer, who told

him to flush the dead rodent down the toilet. Instead, Condray said, he put the mouse on the toilet seat, flushed to make it seem as if he had complied and hid the mouse's remains in his pants, hoping he might find someone willing to document the evidence.

Condray is one of six plaintiffs named in a class-action lawsuit filed against the city Thursday in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The suit alleges that the jail repeatedly fed inmates food containing mice and insects.

All plaintiffs are either still in the D.C. jail or have been moved

SEE D.C. JAIL ON A2

Arrest revives fears of spies landing jobs at tech firms

This article is by Elizabeth Dwoskin, Ian Duncan, Warren P. Strobel, Mohamad El Chamaa, Gerrit De Vynck and Zach Dorfman

On paper, Abdulrahman Alfozan seemed like an ideal candidate for one of Silicon Valley's most coveted artificial intelligence jobs.

The Saudi national attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and landed an engineering job at Meta, according to his LinkedIn page and online records. Alfozan later secured a green card, spoke enthusiastically on a podcast about his Silicon Valley career and was invited to speak at Stanford University, all while working as a part-time partner at a venture capital fund dedicated to expanding the tech ecosystem in the Middle East. He had lived in the United States for more than a decade when he scored a mid-level role at OpenAI last year.

But Alfozan's arrest on Tuesday for allegedly planting a recording device in OpenAI's headquarters has ignited a fierce debate about the potential risks of Silicon Valley's international

SEE FBI ARREST ON A14

A survival guide for eastern Ukraine

Residents live largely in a spider's world, with roads, sidewalks and gas stations draped in netting to entangle drones



HEIDI LEVINE/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A funeral is held this month for two Ukrainian troops at Kyiv's St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery.

BY STEVE HENDRIX AND SERHIY MORGUNOV

DONETSK REGION, UKRAINE — Two foresters entered the woods on a recent morning with chainsaws and marking ribbons — those were for the trees — and two new tools: a handheld box bristling with antennae, like a futuristic transistor radio, and a pump-action 12-gauge shotgun.

Those were for the drones. "There's one now," Volodymyr Cherkasov, 41, said as soon as he switched on his Dzyga drone detector. It sounded an alert meaning that an FPV — first person view — drone was active within four kilometers (about 2.5 miles), one of dozens a day launched from Russian-held territory nearby.

Cherkasov and his partner, Volodymyr Matsui, 53, started work anyway, counting on the detector to buy time to hide from an attack drone, or to blast it in midair. Both have occurred recently in this war-torn region, where anything that moves is a potential target from above.

Such is daily life in eastern Ukraine, where foresters, bus drivers, farmers and commuters live in fear of Russian drones, now the main cause of civilian casualties near the front, where

SEE UKRAINE ON A12

Funding for Kelly Johnson nonprofit not disclosed

BY ALEXEI KOSEFF

After House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) ascended to one of the most powerful offices in Washington three years ago, his wife, a faith-based counselor, turned her focus to the nation's capital.

Kelly Johnson reoriented a religious nonprofit she was running back home in the Shreveport area into a ministry focused on female congressional staffers. Its new purpose, according to an IRS filing, was to help "the hundreds of unreachable young women" working around Capitol Hill "find purpose, belonging, and Christian community."

Through the organization, a part-time endeavor run solely by Johnson, she provides counseling, delivers speeches and conducts "spiritual heritage tours" of the U.S. Capitol that highlight the nation's Christian history. In 2024, financial disclosures show Johnson was paid \$50,000 for 10 hours of work per week.

The nonprofit, Onward Christian Education Services, has become part of the rising presence in official Washington of evangel-

SEE JOHNSON ON A6

IN THE NEWS

Cornell case One of the students accused of rape transferred to a Florida school, where officials say they were unaware of the claims, raising questions about records sharing. A7

'Suspicious substances' The materials were sent to some Capitol Hill offices, authorities say, including those of Chuck Schumer. A5

THE NATION Texas is being sued over a backlog of more than a half-million voter registrations. A4
Matt Gaetz, a former Florida congressman, is accused of sex trafficking young women. A4

THE WORLD Russia's frozen hinterlands have long been feared to harbor dormant pathogens. A11
At least 30 kids and a teacher were killed in Pakistan when a school roof collapsed. A12

THE ECONOMY In 401(k) plans, target date funds are often the go-to option, sometimes even without the savers' knowledge. But advisers say that may not always be the best choice. A13
U.S. stock indexes muscled higher, led by companies delivering bigger profits. A13

STYLE The new Dashwoods: Daisy Edgar-Jones and Esmé Creed-Miles star in "Sense and Sensibility," now in theaters. B1

SPORTS Jayden Daniels' poise under pressure, and more X factors as Commanders face the undefeated 49ers. B7

THE REGION The National Zoo is floating three names — Dolly, Pyra and Dolpa — for a baby red panda. You get to choose. B13

WEEKEND The D.C. area's 10 best sports bars for college football, baseball and European soccer, as recommended by readers.

BUSINESS NEWS.....A13
COMICS.....B4
OBITUARIES.....B17
OPINION PAGES.....A15
TELEVISION.....B6
WORLD NEWS.....A11

CONTENT © 2026
The Washington Post
Year 149, No. 54736

0 70628 21100 3