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FINAL

## High court to hear sales tax case for online purchases

States, counties contend they lose billions

By Jessica Gresko  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Friday to wade into the issue of sales tax collection on internet purchases in a case that could force consumers to pay more for certain purchases and allow states to recoup what they say are billions of dollars in lost revenue annually.

Under previous Supreme Court rulings, when internet retailers don't have a physical presence in a state, they can't be forced to collect tax on sales into that state.

A total of 36 states — including Pennsylvania — and the District of Columbia had asked the high court to take up the issue because the current rule is outdated and unfair in an era when Americans do much of their shopping online.

In a brief filed with the court,

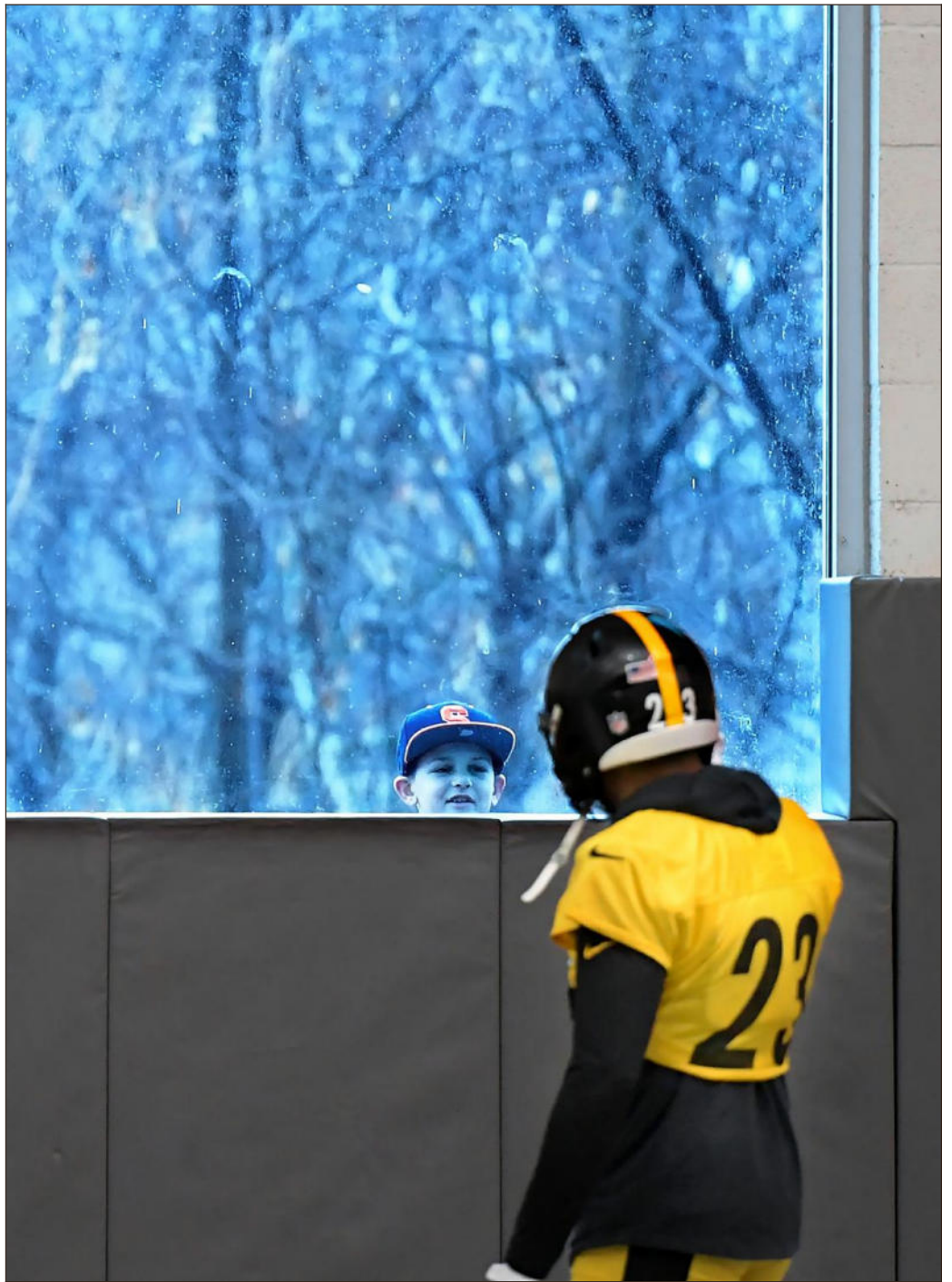
the states wrote, "As the volume of Internet-based retail transactions continues to compound daily, the controversial physical-presence rule exacts an ever-increasing toll on the States' fiscal health."

In 1992, when home shopping was dominated by mail-order catalogs, the high court ruled a state may require out-of-state companies to collect sales taxes only if the company had outlets or warehouses within the state. The justices said then that requiring companies to do more would amount to discrimination against interstate commerce.

But the explosion of internet sales has put pressure on Congress and the court to reconsider the issue. Traditional retailers — including large brick-and-mortar

SEE **TAX**, PAGE A-4

## GETTING A GLIMPSE



Peter Diana/Post-Gazette

A young Steelers fan looks through a window at the team's indoor facility on the South Side during afternoon practice Friday. Mike Mitchell gives him a wave from inside the UPMC Rooney Sports Complex.

## Trump, Pence visits to support Saccone reflect GOP value of 18th District

By Chris Potter  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Ordinarily, you'd expect pundits to be impressed by news that President Donald Trump plans to visit Pennsylvania's 18th Congressional District next week.

The visit, first reported by the online political magazine Politico Thursday evening, would bring

### INSIDE

- Trump partly denies vulgar immigration remarks, **Page A-4**.
- Iran nuclear deal given 'one last chance,' **Page A-5**.

serious stardom to help state Rep. Rick Saccone, the Elizabeth Republican competing to replace

SEE **TRUMP**, PAGE A-4

## By the time you read this, quick-moving storm could be gone

By Andrew Goldstein  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Good morning. If you slept in Saturday, you might have missed the ice and snow storm everyone was making a fuss about Friday. But you won't be able to avoid the expected aftermath.

That's because the 4 to 6 inches of snow anticipated to fall over much of the region prompted Pittsburgh officials to declare a Level 2 snow event on Friday — and that means snow removal crews will have a full 32 hours after the storm ends to treat roadways.

The system, which prompted a winter storm warning, was expected to have passed through the region by early Saturday, according to the National Weather Service in Pittsburgh.



Steph Chambers/Post-Gazette

Steam from a manhole obscures part of Grant Street as the temperature fell into the 30s from highs in the 60s Friday in Downtown Pittsburgh.

"[The storm] actually pulls out pretty quickly," said meteorologist Tim Axford. "By the time people wake up, snow should be tapering down."

The city said that beginning at 6 p.m. Friday, it would have at least 52 vehicles applying rock salt treated with liquid calcium chloride to roadways.

Complicating matters before the snow arrived was rain, which led to icy conditions on roadways after the temperature dropped below freezing Friday. The city said it was unable to pre-treat roads because the rain would have washed away the salt.

Port Authority said it planned to use special equipment called sleet cutters late Friday to keep overhead

SEE **WEATHER**, PAGE A-3

## Westinghouse seeks fees, protections for firm set to acquire it

By Anya Litvak  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It will be months before the proposed \$4.6 billion acquisition of Westinghouse Electric Co. by a Canadian asset management firm is hashed out.

But some details of the sales agreement, Westinghouse's plan to emerge from bankruptcy, and the possibility of a \$7.5 billion curve ball are likely to come into focus in the next two weeks.

The Cranberry-based nuclear firm is asking its bankruptcy judge to approve a path to a private sale of all of its assets to Brookfield Business Partners and, while that sale is pending, to give the asset management firm certain protections to keep the buyer's interest.

SEE **FEES**, PAGE A-3

## Kentucky first to win approval for Medicaid work requirement

By Adam Beam  
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky has become the first state to require many of its Medicaid recipients to work to receive coverage,

part of an unprecedented change to the nation's largest health insurance program under the Trump administration.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced the approval on Friday. The change

will require adults between the ages of 19 and 64 to complete 80 hours per month of "community engagement" to keep their coverage. That includes getting a job, going to school, taking a job training course or community service.

The decision marks a dramatic shift for Kentucky, which embraced former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act under its last governor, a Democrat,

SEE **MEDICAID**, PAGE A-4

### Weather

Cloudy and colder. Daytime high 20, tonight's low 4.

Page A-8

Bridge ..... C-8  
Business ..... B-6  
Classified ..... E-1  
Comics ..... D-3  
Crosswords ..... C-8  
Editorials ..... A-6

Horoscope ..... C-8  
Local News ..... B-1  
Lottery ..... B-2  
Magazine ..... D-1  
Movies ..... D-2  
Obituaries ..... B-3

Perspectives ..... A-7  
Pets ..... D-1  
Pgh in Focus ..... A-2  
Scoreboard ..... C-7  
Sports ..... C-1  
Television ..... D-4

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# Doctor says president is in 'excellent health'

By Darlene Superville and Ken Thomas  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's White House physician declared him in "excellent health" after the president received his first medical checkup at Walter Reed military hospital on Friday, undergoing a physical examination amid suggestions in a recent book and by his detractors that he's mentally unfit.

Dr. Ronny Jackson, in a statement released by the

White House, said the examination "went exceptionally well. The President is in excellent health and I look forward to briefing some of the details on Tuesday." Mr. Trump spent about three hours at the medical facility in Bethesda, Md., outside Washington, for the Friday afternoon checkup.

The fairly routine exam has taken on outsized importance in the age of Mr. Trump, given the tone of some of his tweets and his recent slurring of words on national TV.

## Corrections & clarifications

**Magazine.** Humane Animal Rescue says that more than 85 percent of the animals accepted by its two shelters are adopted into new homes. The Pet Tales column last Saturday contained an incorrect percentage. In addition, the organization's chief executive, Dan Rossi, says the shelters do not euthanize animals for space reasons.

**Perspectives.** Westinghouse Electric Co. has filed for bankruptcy but has not yet been sold. An op-ed piece Friday incorrectly stated the status of the company. A sale must be approved by a bankruptcy judge and regulators.

*If you have a correction and cannot reach the responsible reporter or editor, please call the office of David M. Shribman, executive editor, at 412-263-1890.*

## Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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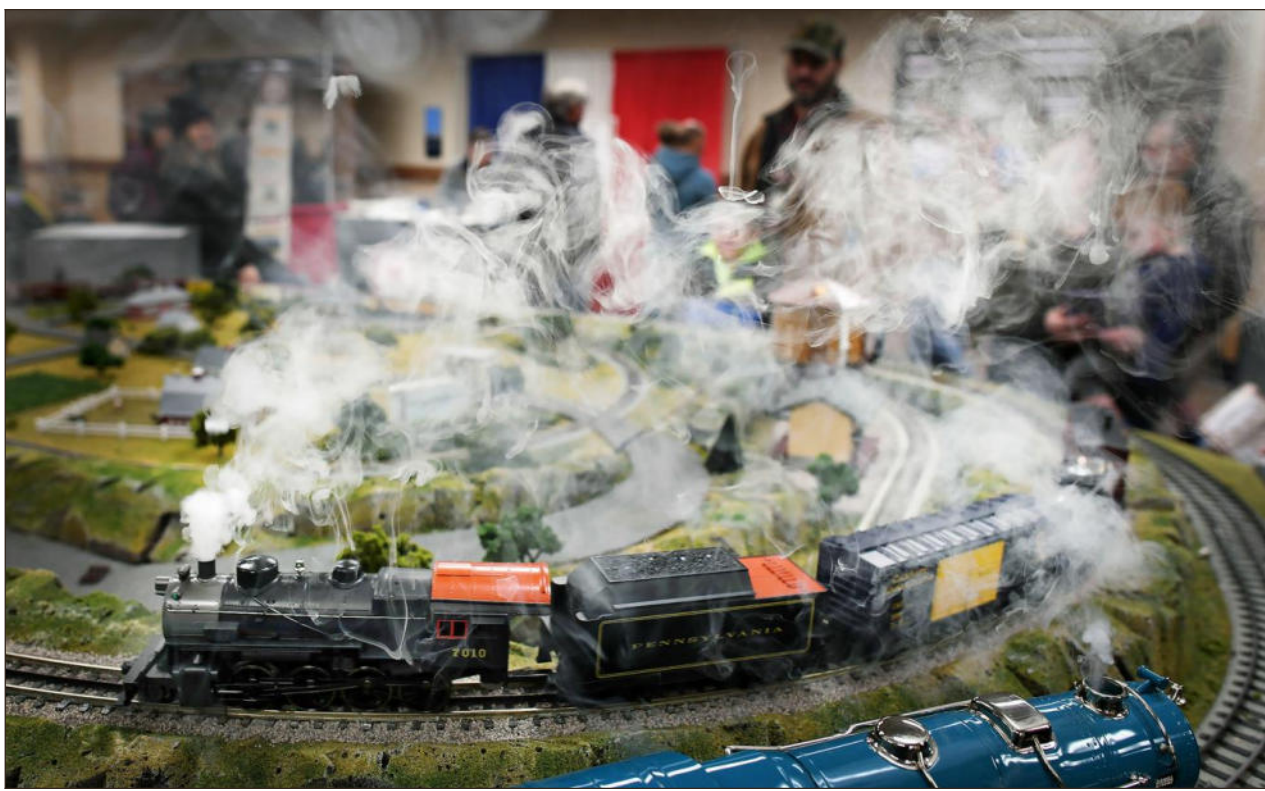


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Nate Guidry/Post-Gazette photos

Train lovers gathered at the Monroeville Convention Center for a model railroad show Sunday. The show featured thousands of square feet of operating model railroads, merchandising and displays.

# Trains are not just for the young at heart but for kids of all ages

Thousands of model train enthusiasts gathered at the Monroeville Convention Center last weekend for two days of the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour train show, which stops at a few cities across the country each year. There were new trains and vintage ones. There were vendor booths, trains kids could ride and seminars.

While trains have traditionally been toys of previous generations, the show was proof that kids of all ages get steamed up over these toys.

— Nate Guidry



POST-GAZETTE.COM/PHOTOS



Noah Lauck, 5, of Moon, assists the conductor to dump coal.



Marcus Coffin, 5, right, of Braddock, and his brother Marquis, 3, check out Lionel trains.

## ALMANAC

### On this day, Jan. 13

**1794** President George Washington approved a measure adding two stars and two stripes to the American flag, following the admission of Vermont and Kentucky to the Union. The number of stripes was later reduced to the original 13.

**1873** Carnegie, McCandless & Co., with \$750,000 capital, was organized to build a steel-rail mill at nearby Braddock; Andrew Carnegie had one-third interest.

**1898** Emile Zola's famous defense of Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, "J'accuse," was published in Paris.

**1967** Wesley Posvar was named chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh.

**1998** Savio Woo, a researcher with the University of Pittsburgh, was awarded the International Olympics Prize for Sports

Science for his work on the treatment of knee injuries.

**2012** The Italian luxury liner Costa Concordia ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio and flipped onto its side; 32 people were killed.

*Some items are from Stefan Laurant's "Pittsburgh: The Story of an American City" (digital.library.pitt.edu/chronology).*

— Compiled by Rick Nowlin

**Today's birthdays:** Actress Frances Sternhagen, 88. TV personality Nick Clooney, 84. Comedian Rip Taylor, 84. Comedian Charlie Brill, 80. Actor Billy Gray, 80. Actor Richard Moll, 75. Rock musician Trevor Rabin, 64. Rhythm-and-blues musician Fred White, 63. Rock musician James Lomenzo (Megadeth), 59. Actor Kevin

Anderson, 58. Actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus, 57. Rock singer Graham "Suggs" McPherson (Madness), 57. Country singer Trace Adkins, 56. Actress Penelope Ann Miller, 54. Actor Patrick Dempsey, 52. Actress Suzanne Cryer, 51. Actress Traci Bingham, 50. Actor Keith Coogan, 48. TV producer-writer Shonda Rhimes, 48. Actress Nicole Eggert, 46. Actor Ross McCall, 42. Actor Michael Pena, 42. Actor Orlando Bloom, 41. Meteorologist Ginger Zee (TV: "Good Morning America"), 37. Actress Ruth Wilson, 36. Actor Julian Morris, 35. Actor Liam Hemsworth, 28.

**Thought for today:** "A little too much is just enough for me."

— Jean Cocteau, French author and filmmaker (1889-1963)

## Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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## Winter cold to return for weekend

**WEATHER**, FROM A-1

light-rail vehicle lines free of ice. The authority also said snow might force some buses to travel only on main roads Saturday.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation reduced the speed limit to 45 mph on several major roadways through the area, including Interstates 376, 79, 279 and 579, U.S. Route 22/30 and Route 28.

Temperatures dropped dramatically Friday, from a high of about 60 degrees at 1 p.m. to an expected 13 degrees by Saturday morning.

"It'll be a pretty steep drop in temperature... it's going to be very cold on Saturday," said Chris Leonardi, another meteorologist with the weather service.

High temperatures were expected to be in the mid-teens Saturday with a wind chill close to 0, according to



Lake Fong/Post-Gazette

New vehicles are nearly submerged in a lot off Blazier Drive near Rave Cinema in McCandless on Friday. Heavy rain flooded roadways throughout the region.

the weather service.

The weather service's storm warning for Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver and Washington counties was set to expire at 10 a.m. Saturday. The weather service also issued a flood warning for those counties and others that would end at 5:15 a.m.

Flooding on Friday caused dozens of road closures in

southwestern Pennsylvania. Quaker Valley, Ambridge Area and Canon-McMillan school districts canceled classes because some streets were impassable.

Rainfall totaled 2¼ to 3 inches from Thursday afternoon through 2 p.m. Friday, according to the weather service.

And here's the most important weather news for

many people: Sunday should be dry but cold for the Steelers' playoff game against the sun-loving Jacksonville Jaguars. The temperature at the 1:05 p.m. kickoff is expected to be no higher than 17 degrees, with a wind-chill factor that could approach zero.

Andrew Goldstein: [agoldstein@post-gazette.com](mailto:agoldstein@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1352.

## Thomas wildfire finally declared 100 percent contained

By Michael Livingston and Shelby Grad  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The Thomas fire, the largest wildfire on record in California and the trigger point for this week's deadly mudslides in Montecito, was declared 100 percent contained Friday.

The fire burned for more than a month, though its spread was contained several weeks ago. Heavy rains earlier this week, which caused land burned by the fire to create mudflows that buried neighborhoods, helped fully extinguish the blaze.

In the end, the fire burned 281,893 acres.

The fire eclipsed the 2003 Cedar fire in San Diego County, which burned 273,246 acres.

The milestone reaffirmed 2017 as the most de-

structive fire season in the state. In October, a series of fires in wine country burned more than 10,000 homes and killed more than 40 people.

Those blazes, along with the Thomas fire, were fueled by dry conditions and intense winds.

Despite its size, the Thomas fire has been less destructive than either the wine country fires or the Cedar fire, which destroyed 2,820 structures and killed 15 people.

The Thomas fire claimed just over 1,000 structures, and two deaths were attributed to the blaze.

This week, the Montecito area was devastated by deadly mudflows that killed at least 18 people and destroyed scores of homes.

The Associated Press contributed.

## Westinghouse seeks fees, protections for its acquirer

**FEES**, FROM A-1

For example, Brookfield wants a breakup fee of \$75 million if the deal falls through, plus up to \$25 million to cover the costs of having pursued it. It also wants a pledge from Westinghouse that the company won't solicit other offers or share information with other firms that might want to best the deal.

The proposed sales agreement doesn't say anything about staffing levels or layoffs, but it does stipulate that after the sale closes, Brookfield will keep current Westinghouse employees at their same salary and benefits for a year. It also will have to give them "cash incentive

opportunities" that exist at closing or bring back the most recent ones that existed before Westinghouse cut them.

Westinghouse said last week that no further layoffs, beyond the approximately 1,500 cuts announced last year, are planned before the sale closes. The company employs about 11,000 total and 3,400 in Western Pennsylvania.

Retiree health and life insurance benefits will not be cut or reduced as a result of the deal, states the agreement between Westinghouse and Brookfield made public on Thursday.

The document also sets a deadline for Westinghouse to file its reorganization plan

with the bankruptcy court by Jan. 29.

### A claim like no other

Next week will be a busy one for Westinghouse's cadre of lawyers.

On Thursday, the bankruptcy court will take up the curious case of Citigroup Financial Products Inc., which last month filed a claim against Westinghouse for \$7.5 billion.

After South Carolina utilities canceled the massively delayed and overbudget project to build two Westinghouse AP1000 nuclear plants and Westinghouse's parent company Toshiba Corp. pledged to pay them \$2.2 billion to cover liabilities, the utilities sold all their claims

against Westinghouse to Citigroup.

Now, Citigroup is trying to amend those claims with a twist: It says that a liability cap negotiated between Westinghouse and its utility clients doesn't apply because Westinghouse lied to its clients.

"Despite knowing that its business was not viable [Westinghouse] attempted to 'extend' the time until its unavoidable collapse and 'pretend' that its business remained viable to extract over \$1.275 billion from the [utilities]," Citigroup wrote in a lengthy document which, among other things, accused Westinghouse of running a Ponzi scheme by trying to secure new power

plant orders and use the proceeds to complete existing ones.

Citigroup, it should be noted, also is the bank behind Westinghouse's \$800 million bankruptcy financing.

Westinghouse has objected to Citigroup's claim, both its content and its filing, saying the claim would scuttle the sales process if allowed to proceed. The company will make its case to the judge next week.

### Sales process

On Friday of next week, Westinghouse will be back in bankruptcy court to ask for approval of the sales process for Brookfield. Westinghouse and its suitor would like this to be a private sale instead of the common bankruptcy process of holding an auction to get the highest

bidder.

Westinghouse has argued in recent documents that it already has given anyone who might have been interested in buying the company a shot at the prize. Its bankruptcy advisors reached out to 118 potential investors, signed nondisclosure agreements with 54 of them, and got 14 bidders to submit indications of interest.

By mid-December, the company had three binding bids in its hands and one nonbinding proposal that it rejected.

Westinghouse and its advisers spent 2½ weeks negotiating with the bidders and pulled an all-nighter in New York on Jan. 3, going between them to extract the highest offer.

The next day, they signed a letter of intent and announced the news.

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## National

## NEW CITIZENS



Joe Raedle/Getty Images

Elisabeth Volmar, from Haiti, becomes an American citizen Friday during a U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services naturalization ceremony at the Hialeah Field Office in Hialeah, Fla., where 150 people from different countries around the world took part in the Oath of Allegiance.

## National briefs

## Senate target of hackers, firm reports

Compiled from news services

PARIS — A cybersecurity firm says that the same Russian government-aligned hackers who penetrated the Democratic Party have spent the past few months laying the groundwork for an espionage campaign against the U.S. Senate.

The revelation in a report published Friday by Trend Micro Inc. suggests the group often nicknamed Fancy Bear, whose hacking campaign scrambled the 2016 U.S. electoral contest, is still busy trying to gather the emails of America's political elite.

The Senate Sergeant at Arms office, which is responsible for the upper house's security, declined to comment.

## Arizona race heats up

TUCSON, Ariz. — Republican U.S. Rep. Martha McSally called on the national GOP to "grow a pair of ovaries" as she launched her Senate bid Friday, joining the race to replace retiring GOP Sen. Jeff Flake by embracing President Donald Trump and his outsider playbook in one of the nation's premier contests.

The 51-year-old retired Air Force combat pilot cast herself as a tough-talking outsider as she vowed to work closely with the Republican president to combat illegal immigration.

## Porn star settlement

NEW YORK — A lawyer for President Donald Trump arranged a \$130,000 payment to a former porn star a month before the 2016 election — part of an agreement to keep her quiet about an extramarital affair she had with the president, according to a report Friday.

Attorney Michael Cohen arranged the payment to Stephanie Clifford in October 2016 after her lawyer negotiated a nondisclosure agreement, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Ms. Clifford, who has made dozens of movies under the name Stormy Daniels, has privately alleged the encounter with Mr. Trump took place after they met at a July 2006 celebrity golf tournament in Lake Tahoe, people familiar with the matter told the newspaper.

Mr. Trump has denied several allegations of sexual misconduct in the past.

## Suspect charged

WICHITA, Kan. — The man accused of making a false report to Wichita police that ended with an officer fatally shooting a 28-year-old man was charged with involuntary manslaughter, reporting a false alarm and interference with a law enforcement officer in his first court appearance in Wichita.

His bond was set at \$500,000.

Tyler Barriss, 25, was arrested in South Los Angeles on Dec. 29, less than 24 hours after he called Wichita police claiming a homicide and hostage situation was underway in Wichita.

Mr. Barriss was in Los Angeles when he made the call, and a man inside the home — identified by his family as Andrew Finch — opened the door to see why police were outside and was shot by an officer who was in a driveway across the street.

Mr. Barriss waived extradition to Kansas last week and was booked into the Sedgewick County Jail on Thursday afternoon.

## Trump, Pence to stump for Saccone in 18th District

TRUMP, FROM A-1

Tim Murphy in a March 13 special election. Mr. Trump, after all, won the district by roughly 20 points in 2016, and Vice President Mike Pence also is expected to visit at least once.

Mr. Trump's appearance would have "huge" benefits for Mr. Saccone, Erie Congressman Mike Kelly told the political journal.

Yet the day after the report, political prognosticators at the University of Virginia Center for Politics shifted the district from "likely Republican" to "lean Republican," suggesting a Democratic upset could be more likely.

Kyle Kondik, who handicaps congressional races for the center, said he changed the rating because the moves suggested Republican anxiety — though he noted the new rating still gave the edge to Mr. Saccone.

Republicans "see real trouble," said Tim Waters, the national political director for the United Steelworkers. The union is backing Mr. Saccone's rival, Democrat Conor Lamb. And Mr. Waters said, "I've never seen the president and the vice president be in a district that should be so safe. ... If they didn't need to do that, they wouldn't be doing it."

Officially, Mr. Trump will be speaking about a Republican tax-cut plan, and its benefits for business owners. But Politico reported that Mr. Trump's political advisers had expressed "displeasure with the progress [Saccone] was making on fundraising," among other concerns about the race.

With the exception of a recent Senate race in Alabama, where GOP candi-

date Roy Moore was accused of accosting teenage girls when he was in his 30s, Republicans have beaten back Democratic challenges in special elections. Republican insiders maintain the focus on the 18th District — which includes outside funding and on-the-ground support for Mr. Saccone — simply reflects the fact that the party is taking nothing for granted.

Mr. Saccone's campaign brushed off the notion that the campaign is lagging.

"Fundraising is always an ongoing process, and we're pleased with how it's going," said campaign manager Patrick Geho. "We're comfortable we'll have what we need to run a successful campaign."

News of Mr. Trump's likely visit arguably was overshadowed by simultaneous reports that he had decried immigration from poor "shithole countries" in a meeting on immigration with senators. But Western Pennsylvania Republicans were standing by him.

Mr. Kelly's office called the controversy "a distraction from the important overall goal of crafting sensible immigration and border security policy," and directed a reporter's attention to an announcement that Kittanning-based NextTier Bank would give \$1,000 bonuses to employees. The bank credited a Republican tax-cut bill signed by Mr. Trump last month for the move.

Similarly, the Saccone campaign said "Rick is not focused on the beltway gossip of the week. From passing historic middle-class tax cuts to fixing our broken immigration system, President Trump's bold agenda continues to deliver results for hardworking Pennsylvania families."

## Trump partially denies vulgar remarks in public, defends them in private

By Jill Colvin and Alan Fram  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday offered a partial denial in public but privately defended his remarks disparaging Haitians and African countries a day earlier.

Mr. Trump said he was only expressing what many people think but won't say about immigrants from economically depressed countries, according to a person who spoke to the president as criticism of his comments ricocheted around the globe.

Mr. Trump spent Thursday evening calling friends and outside advisers to judge their reaction to the tempest, said the confidant, who spoke on condition of ano-

nymity because he wasn't authorized to disclose a private conversation.

Mr. Trump wasn't apologetic about his inflammatory remarks and denied he was racist, instead, blaming the media for distorting his meaning, the confidant said.

However, critics of the president, including some in his Republican Party, spent Friday blasting the vulgar comments he made behind closed doors.

In his meeting with a group of senators, he had questioned why the U.S. would accept more immigrants from Haiti and "shithole countries" in Africa as he rejected a bipartisan immigration deal, according to one participant and people briefed on the Oval Office conversation.



Evan Vucci/Associated Press

**MLK CEREMONY** President Donald Trump hands a pen to Isaac Newton Farris Jr., nephew of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., during an event to honor the late civil rights leader in the Roosevelt Room of the White House on Friday in Washington.

## Kentucky to require Medicaid recipients ages 19-64 to work

MEDICAID, FROM A-1

and won praise for posting some of the largest gains in getting its residents insured.

Republican Gov. Matt Bevin, who was elected in 2015 and vowed during his campaign to reverse the strong embrace of the Affordable Care Act, said Friday that the state consistently ranks near the bottom of the country in health outcomes.

"The idea we should keep doing what we are doing is an insult to the people of Kentucky," Mr. Bevin said, adding that while more Kentuckians have insurance, it is not making them healthier.

In its application to Wash-

ington for a so-called 1115 waiver, Mr. Bevin's office said the new rules will apply to about 350,000 Kentuckians, about half of whom already have jobs.

Mr. Bevin expects the changes to save the state more than \$300 million over the next five years. But he also estimated as many as 95,000 people could lose their Medicaid benefits, either because they did not comply with the new rules or because they make too much money.

"It will be transformational," Mr. Bevin said at a news conference. "Something we have not seen in America in a quarter century."

Kentucky, along with the rest of Appalachia, still falls behind the rest of the coun-

try in 33 out of 41 population health indicators, according to a recent study. Mr. Bevin said he believes his program, with its emphasis on work and community service, will encourage people to be healthier.

"There is dignity associated with earning the value of something that you receive," Mr. Bevin said. "The vast majority of men and women, able-bodied men and women ... they want the dignity associated with being able to earn and have engagement."

Kentuckians subject to the work requirement will need to send documentation to prove their compliance. If they do not, they will receive a notice after a month, then

be given one more month to "cure" their violation. After that, their benefits will cease until they prove they have begun following the rules.

Advocates for the poor have said work requirements will become one more hoop for low-income people to jump through, and many could be denied needed coverage because of technicalities and challenging new paperwork.

Lawsuits are expected as individual states roll out work requirements.

Mr. Bevin has dubbed the new program Kentucky Helping to Engage and Achieve Long Term Health, or Kentucky HEALTH. It is expected to begin in July.

"Overall, CMS believes

## Court mulls sales tax collection

TAX, FROM A-1

retailers like Walmart and Target — joined the fray, arguing it is unfair to require them, but not their online competitors, to charge sales tax with each purchase.

States and counties told the court they lose between \$13 billion and \$34 billion each year because they cannot collect sales taxes on all online purchases.

The states said that according to one estimate they will lose out on \$211 billion in tax revenue over the next five years if the Supreme Court's previous rulings stand.

The Government Accountability Office, which provides nonpartisan reports to Congress, wrote in a report last year that state and local governments would have been able to gain between \$8.5 billion and \$13 billion in 2017 if they could require out-of-state sellers to collect tax on sales into the state. All but five states charge a sales tax.

Consumers who purchase from out-of-state retailers are generally supposed to pay the state taxes themselves, but few do.

Internet giant Amazon.com fought for years against collecting sales tax but now does so nationwide, though third-party sellers on its site make their own decisions. But the case before the high court does directly affect other online retailers.

The case the Supreme Court agreed to hear Friday comes from South Dakota, which has no state income tax and relies on retail sales and use taxes for revenue.

In 2016, South Dakota lawmakers passed a law requiring out-of-state sellers like Overstock.com and home goods company Wayfair to collect and turn over sales tax to the state.

The state's highest court struck down the law.

## International

## Trump blames 'bad deal' for London trip cancellation

President was to open new embassy

By Jill Lawless  
Associated Press

LONDON — President Donald Trump late Thursday said he had decided not to come to London to open the new U.S. Embassy, blaming the Obama administration for doing a "bad deal" to move the diplomatic mission.

"Reason I canceled my trip to London is that I am not a big fan of the Obama Administration having sold perhaps the best located and finest embassy in London for 'peanuts,' only to build a new one in an off location for 1.2 billion dollars," the president asserted in his late-night tweet. "Bad deal. Wanted me to cut ribbon-NO!"

Many Londoners on Friday offered their own reasons for Mr. Trump canceling a possible trip to the British capital: He was nervous about the expected protests that could greet him.

The cancellation was welcomed by Mr. Trump's many critics in Britain on Friday, even as it deepened the diplomatic problems confronting a British government struggling to forge closer ties to Washington without offending opinion at home.

"It seems he's finally got the message," wrote London's mayor, Sadiq Khan, af-

ter saying that Mr. Trump is not welcome in London while he pursues a "divisive agenda."

With Britain to leave the European Union in 2019, Prime Minister Theresa May hopes to negotiate a new trade agreement with the United States, and the state visit was partly seen as a way of cementing ties with Mr. Trump.

But while Britons may pride themselves on their "special relationship" with the United States, that does not appear to extend to its president. A petition calling for the invitation to be withdrawn was signed by more than 1.8 million people, the issue was debated in Parliament, and large-scale protests were threatened.

Still, at least one prominent British Cabinet official took no joy in the gloating. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson — a former mayor of London — accused the Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Mr. Khan of endangering the "crucial relationship" between the United States and Britain. He even got in an extra jab at Mr. Khan, calling him a "puffed up pompous popinjay."

Some British officials also reportedly believed that Mr. Trump decided not to come because he felt the arrangements for the visit were too low key.



Alastair Grant/Associated Press

The Madame Tussauds wax figure of President Donald Trump is seen on Friday outside the new U.S. Embassy in Nine Elms in London.

The old United States Embassy, in a famous square in the exclusive Mayfair neighborhood, was deemed to be vulnerable to terrorist attacks. The new one, which includes a small moat, is a high-tech construction in a former railway yard.

Though Mr. Trump blamed the Obama administration for the move, the decision to move the embassy from its historic location in Grosvenor Square was made under then-President George W. Bush and announced in October 2008.

U.S. officials said it would have taken several years and hundreds of millions of dollars to bring the old embassy, completed in 1960, up to standard. The new building also is larger and more energy efficient.

The embassy said Friday that the old building "had aged beyond its ability to be improved to current security and life safety standards without extensive investment in infrastructure that would require appropriated dollars."

Hours after the president's tweet, Mr. Trump's

diplomatic appointee to the U.K., businessman and New York Jets owner Robert "Woody" Johnson, took an entirely different approach to the embassy's relocation and construction. The new embassy "is the most secure, hi-tech and environmentally friendly embassy that the United States has ever built," Mr. Johnson wrote in the U.K.'s Evening Standard newspaper.

*The New York Times, Philly.com and The Washington Post contributed.*

## Trump extends waivers, gives Iran nuclear deal one 'last chance'

By Matthew Lee  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday delivered an ultimatum to America's European allies to fix the "terrible flaws" in the Iran nuclear deal, or he will pull the U.S. out in a few months' time.

Mr. Trump made the threat as he extended waivers of key economic sanctions on Iran, keeping the accord alive at least for now. But his explicit warning to Europe that the deal must be

fixed by the time the next sanctions waivers are due in the spring creates a high-stakes diplomatic deadline that will be difficult to meet.

"This is a last chance," Mr. Trump warned in a statement that outlined several tough new rules on Iran. "In the absence of such an agreement, the United States will not again waive sanctions in order to stay in the Iran nuclear deal."

Mr. Trump's declaration puts great pressure on Britain, France and Germany, the European signatories to

the Iran nuclear pact. Mr. Trump wants them to help the U.S. devise a new agreement designed to prevent Iran from escalating nuclear activity again next decade, as permitted under the 2015 arrangement reached by former President Barack Obama.

Iran has said it's not interested in any renegotiation and would almost certainly view a side agreement between the U.S. and Europe as a violation of the deal. The Europeans have said they are willing to discuss the matter with the U.S., but

have shown little enthusiasm with Mr. Trump's hard line.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohamed Javad Zarif accused Mr. Trump of "maliciously violating" the nuclear deal.

"Trump's policy [and] today's announcement amount to desperate attempts to undermine a solid multilateral agreement," Mr. Zarif tweeted shortly after Mr. Trump's statement. "Rather than repeating tired rhetoric, US must bring itself into full compliance —

just like Iran."

The sanctions Mr. Trump had to waive Friday dealt with Iran's central bank. These penalties largely cut Iran out of the international financial system, until they were suspended by Mr. Obama under the nuclear deal. Mr. Trump also is waiving other U.S. penalties covered by the agreement, including on Iran's oil and gas sectors, which were up for renewal next week.

Mr. Trump will next have to deal with these decisions in mid-May.

## Merkel, Social Democrats reach preliminary agreement to form new government

By Patrick Donahue,  
Arne Delfs  
and Birgit Jennen  
Bloomberg News

Chancellor Angela Merkel reached a preliminary accord with Germany's Social Democrats to negotiate a coalition government, advancing her bid to end political gridlock and open the door for her fourth term.

After a marathon of more than 24 hours of talks, leaders of Ms. Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, her Bavarian sister party and the Social Democrats hammered out an agreement that outlines a possible alliance. Almost 16 weeks after her party won

an inconclusive federal election, Ms. Merkel's second attempt to restore leadership in Europe's dominant country yielded progress, with an agreement to move on to a shared program for government.

"We've carried out intensive, serious and profound exploratory talks," Ms. Merkel told reporters in Berlin on Friday.

The main hurdle to a re-run of the so-called grand coalition of Germany's two main parties now lies with the Social Democrats, who at first refused to extend their alliance with Ms. Merkel. The SPD leadership will put the result of the exploratory talks to a party convention on Jan. 21.

## ELECTION PROTEST



Fernando Antonio/Associated Press

In Honduras, a supporter of opposition presidential candidate Salvador Nasralla shatters a window during clashes with military police Friday near the presidential house in Tegucigalpa. Following a disputed election marred by irregularities, incumbent President Juan Orlando Hernandez was declared the victor and will be inaugurated Jan. 27.

## Saudi Arabia's women now allowed into stadiums to watch soccer

By Abdullah Al-Shihri  
and Aya Batrawy  
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi women were allowed into a sports stadium for the first time Friday to watch a soccer match between two local teams — though they were segregated in the stands from the male-only crowd with designated seating in the so-called "family section."

And when the first goal was scored during the game, a new noise joined the ruckus in the stands: the sound of women cheering.

The move was the first of Saudi Arabia's social re-

forms planned for this year to ease restrictions on women, spearheaded by the soccer-obsessed but ultrarigid Islamic kingdom's 32-year-old crown prince. The kingdom has also announced that starting in June women will be allowed to drive, lifting the world's only ban on female drivers.

Saudi Arabia has long been one of the world's most restrictive places for women, where a combination of religion, social custom and government regulation has dictated what they wear and barred them from driving, holding a range of jobs and traveling as they wish.

More than just an incre-

mental step toward greater rights, the presence of women in the sports stadium underscored a wider effort to integrate women in society and grant them more public visibility in a country where gender segregation is widely enforced and where most women cover their faces and hair with black veils and don loose-flowing black robes, known as abayas.

The first stadium to open its doors to women was in the Red Sea city of Jiddah. The stadium in the capital, Riyadh, will open to women on Saturday, followed by the western city of Dammam on Thursday.

At the Jiddah stadium Fri-

day, young Saudi women wearing bright orange vests over their abayas were deployed to help with the female crowds. "Welcome to Saudi families," read a sign in Arabic erected across the section of the stadium reserved for women.

"It's very festive and very well organized. A lot of people are just really happy to be here. I think there's a lot of excitement when you walked in, especially among the children," said Sarah Swick of the match between Saudi soccer teams Al-Ahli and Al-Batin. (Al-Ahli trounced Al-Batin 5-0, according to the Saudi Gazette.)

Ahead of the football

game, there was another small sign of change: the country's first car showroom dedicated to female customers was opened.

## World briefs

## U.S. to move forward with missile tests

Compiled from news services

The U.S. Air Force is going ahead with two long-planned flight tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles next month despite efforts to damp tensions over North Korea's nuclear ambitions and encourage fragile talks with South Korea.

Test launches of American missiles — without the nuclear warheads they can deliver — would be unlikely to cause much of a stir under regular circumstances. But they may prove sensitive coming the same month as the Winter Olympics, which are to be hosted by South Korea beginning Feb. 9. North Korea has agreed to send its athletes, and the U.S. has postponed joint military exercises with South Korea that normally would begin next month.

## Bombs mark visit

SANTIAGO, Chile — Firebombs exploded before dawn Friday at three churches in Santiago, violence aimed at Pope Francis, who is to begin a weeklong visit to Chile and Peru on Monday. The police defused two other explosive devices that failed to detonate outside other churches.

No one was injured, and only minor physical damage was reported.

No organization immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but pamphlets left at some of the sites alluded to several issues, including the Mapuche, an impoverished indigenous people. Several militant indigenous groups associate the Catholic Church with the history of oppression.

## Ambassador resigns

The U.S. ambassador to Panama resigned Friday, saying he could no longer "faithfully" serve the president.

Notice of John Feeley's resignation came a day after President Donald Trump referred to Caribbean and African nations as "shithole countries."

The U.S. State Department confirmed Mr. Feeley's departure from the post, saying he decided to "retire for personal reasons," according to Reuters.

## Funds for Rohingya

BANGKOK — Japan's foreign minister on Friday urged Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi to guarantee the safe and voluntary return of Rohingya Muslims who have fled violence in Myanmar.

While Foreign Minister Taro Kono is visiting Myanmar, the Japanese government announced a grant of \$3 million to Myanmar's government to help facilitate the repatriation of the Rohingya.

More than 650,000 Rohingya have fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape a brutal crackdown in which security forces have been accused of systematic abuses tantamount to ethnic cleansing.

Myanmar and Bangladesh signed an agreement on the repatriation of Rohingya refugees on Nov. 23, and Myanmar said it would start the process by Jan. 23.

# Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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## Sounding the alarm

Gov. Wolf is right to term opioids an emergency

Like any complex problem in society, the opioid epidemic does not have one simple solution. State government cannot take a direct action and wipe out the epidemic as if it were a virus controlled by a vaccine. Despite this fact, we welcome Gov. Tom Wolf's declaration on Wednesday of a disaster emergency in the case of the opioid crisis.

The governor's declaration allows the epidemic to be treated like a natural disaster or severe storm, temporarily pushing aside regulations that the state believes hamper its response. Pennsylvania becomes the eighth state in the nation to declare such a state of emergency.

Although the statistics are not final, officials estimate that there were 5,260 drug-related deaths in the state in 2017, which gives Pennsylvania the fourth highest rate of such deaths in the country. In a time when no strong federal response has been forthcoming, states see the need to take action.

The Wolf administration says the declaration opens a series of new possibilities for patients, such as allowing them to be admitted to narcotic treat-

ment programs without first meeting face-to-face with physicians. According to officials, it will also expand access to naloxone, a drug used in overdose cases. It may also reduce separate licensing requirements for hospitals that wish to provide treatment.

Karl Williams, the Allegheny County medical examiner, called the emergency measures "a valuable, necessary, and welcome contribution" but mourned the lack of a broader response. He said the federal government and the insurance industry must fully commit to a high level of response. He particularly cited the inadequate amount of rehabilitation that is covered by insurance. Families of drug abuse victims have also explained that one month of rehabilitation is not sufficient for full recovery.

The state's acting secretary of health recently reported that doctors in Pennsylvania wrote 12 percent fewer prescriptions for opioids in the third quarter of 2017 compared with the same period a year earlier. Actions by physicians, along with those taken by government and many other partners, are crucial in curbing this epidemic.

## On the job

Committee to Protect Journalists tabulates bravery

2017 was a record-setting year for journalists facing persecution for doing their jobs.

A report by the Committee to Protect Journalists revealed that an all-time high 262 men and women were imprisoned around the world last year for practicing journalism. This tops the previous record, from 2016, of 259.

In many cases, the journalists were jailed on charges of being "anti-state," the committee found.

The committee found a large percentage of the journalists targeted by authorities in 2017 covered politics, government or similar topics.

The report illustrates the problem of journalists being persecuted for working to hold governments accountable to their citizenry. Journalists seeking to reveal the truth about misdeeds and misconduct among government leaders are being tossed behind bars.

More than half the world's jailed journalists, 51 percent, are in three

countries: China, Turkey, Egypt. The latter two countries on that list are, nominally, U.S. allies.

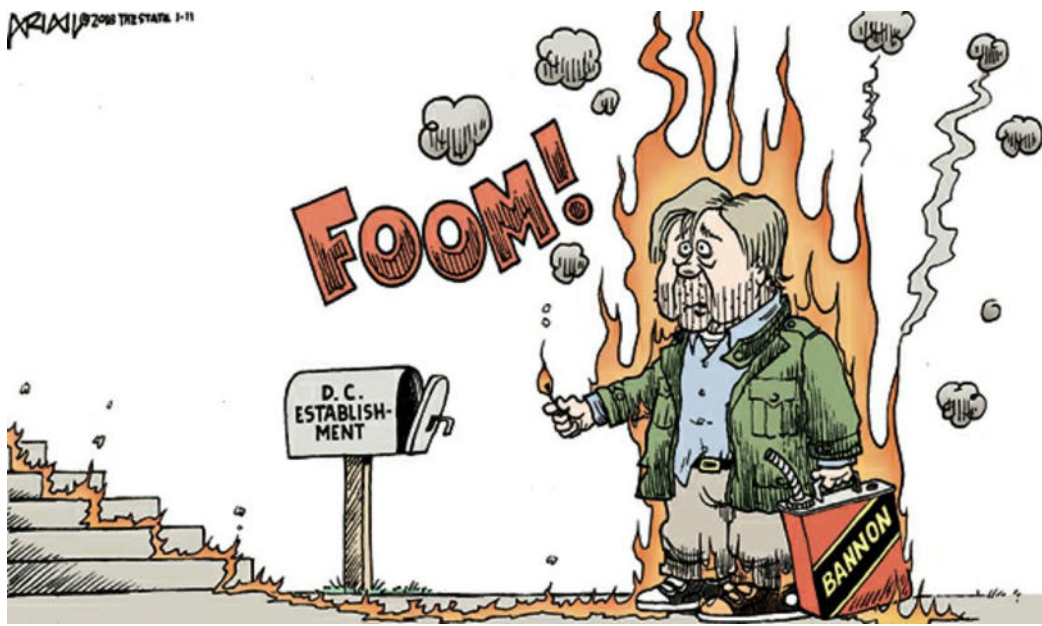
Journalists are not only risking jail to do their work. The report also showed 42 journalists around the world were killed while doing their jobs last year.

Americans too often take a free press for granted. The demonization of journalism not only shows a lack of gratitude for our freedoms, but a lack of understanding of how a free society works, and stays free.

Journalists play a vital role in three kinds of society: The society based on liberty; the society seeking to build a culture and a system of constitutional liberty; and the society in which there is little freedom and the people are oppressed but yearn to be free. That some journalists risk jail and even death for standing up for free speech, press and thought in closed societies should fill those of us who observe their valor from safe havens with awe.

### EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Editorials reflect the collective opinion of the Post-Gazette editorial board. In addition to the publisher and editor-in-chief and the editorial page editor, the board comprises Tony Norman, associate editor, Dan Simpson, associate editor, and Joe Smydo, associate editor.



Robert Ariail / The State / Columbia, S.C.

### Letters to the editor

## Corrosion of nation's soul feeds opioid crisis

Rich Lord let Pittsburgh know that Pennsylvania is among the four states hardest hit by heroin overdoses (Dec. 22, "Pennsylvania Among States Hardest Hit by Overdoses"). His subdued delivery of this news ends with a remark from the University of Pittsburgh's Donald Burke that belies the cynicism of something the doctor had been quoted as saying earlier in the article. When Dr. Burke tells us that the opioid epidemic is the result of a deep despair that grips our nation, a calamity that flows from "hopelessness," a "loss of purpose" and a "loss of community," it clues us into the hollow nature of his previous expression of hope that some technological innovation may come (in what form, who can say) and rescue our people from this profound malaise.

I think the doctor, and all of us, know that "technology" is not coming to restore us.

The only thing that can be a national awakening, a collective realization of the dark slide to which our nation has slid, of the moral decay that permits what Rev. William Barber of the New Poor People's Movement has called a "shameful disregard for the poor," and what Cornel West has termed "spiritual blackout." An existential malnutrition values the obscene profits of the gangster few over the basic dignity of the least of our countrymen.

Until we again remember the value of concrete human beings, and remember what it means to love, our nation will remain mired in ethnic hatred, in moral free-fall, in nihilistic consumerism and, yes, hopelessness.

JONATHAN WHALEN  
Oakland

### Teary lady

Against the beliefs of my religion, I have never been one to believe in miracles.

I do not know what to make of the tears that are coming from the eyes of the Statue of Liberty.

R. JEROME LESNAK  
Ohio Township

### We welcome your opinion

Letters to the editor must include name, address and phone number for verification. Because of the large volume of mail, letters should be 250 words or less, original and exclusive to the PG. They are subject to editing for length, clarity and accuracy.

Pseudonyms, anonymous letters and form letters will not be used. Please do not send attached email files or more than one letter every three months. We cannot acknowledge or return letters.

Email: letters@post-gazette.com  
Mail: Letters to the Editor, Post-Gazette, 358 North Shore Drive, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
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### On casting stones

After watching the evening news Thursday night, I can't help but wonder ...

A Russian visitor was shot and killed by a stray bullet on Dec. 19 while driving through South Oakland. Does his widow regard the United States as a "blank-hole country" (as President Donald Trump is reported to have called certain other countries with respect to immigration issues) as she faces the nightmare of paperwork and red tape involved in taking her husband's ashes home with her?

DIANA BARBOUR  
Bethel Park

### Flaws are OK

President Donald Trump's recent alleged vulgar characterization of Haiti and countries from Africa has prompted many of his opponents to accuse him of being greatly flawed and unworthy of his position.

But being a flawed leader may not as harmful as some believe. Leadership in government and business is populated with those with impeccable resumes and credentials. And that is often why things that need to be done don't get done. These near-flawless individuals do not want to rock the boat and

blemish their precious reputations.

Thus many of our leaders fear speaking out against the great policy blunders of our times — the insanity of illegal immigration, or a bloated social welfare system that allows able-bodied people to game the system, or the foolishness of government controlling health care, or the climate-change hoax where shysters steal money belonging to real energy producers. Many of our leaders do not have the courage to criticize bad policy for fear of losing their sterling reputations and being called selfish, racist or stupid by browbeating progressive bullies.

Numerous great leaders in history such as Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant and Winston Churchill were deeply flawed and yet accomplished substantially more than their contemporaries who had perfect resumes.

Flawed but great leaders in history succeeded because they were willing to criticize bad policy and take the heat instead of just going along to get along to protect their "good" reputations.

DAVE MAJERNIK  
Plum

The writer is vice chairman of the Republican Committee of Allegheny County.

### Story hour identity

It was nice to see the Post Gazette acknowledge 12 people who have made positive contributions to our city (Jan. 7, "12 People to Meet in 2018"). I was, however, a little put off by "Drag Queen Story Hour."

I admire people who take time out of their day to read to children, and I appreciate Akasha L. Van-Cartier's efforts on behalf of literacy. But by calling it "Drag Queen Story Hour," it seems to me like you are using children to promote your agenda. Why not just call it "Story Hour with Akasha"?

I have spent a lot of time reading to kids, but I never thought to call it Female Caucasian Heterosexual Story Time.

SUSAN MCCOOL  
Bethel Park

### David Ignatius

## North Korean nuclear crisis will resume after Olympics

Sometimes diplomacy is the art of going in two directions at once, and the Trump administration seems to have chosen that sweet spot of ambiguity, for now, in managing its continuing confrontation with North Korea.

President Donald Trump has paused his "Little Rocket Man" rhetoric and boasts about the size of his own nuclear button. He insisted this week that talk of a U.S. military strike (which he had encouraged) is "completely wrong," and called for discussions with North Korea "under the right circumstances."

A fragile detente seems to have begun. North Korea hasn't tested weapons in more than a month and is talking to the South. North Korean athletes and spectators will attend the Pyeongchang Olympics. The U.S. has delayed military exercises until after the last gold medal is awarded. Call it speed-skater diplomacy, if you like; but the table for negotiations has at least been set.

Trump administration diplomacy is like the oft-quoted descrip-

tion of New England weather: If you don't like it, wait awhile. But at least through late February, we're likely to experience a thaw on the Korean Peninsula, and it's interesting to explore what it means.

Mr. Trump is already taking credit for the success of "peace through strength," and you can't dismiss his argument that firmness brought some benefits. But the real winners in this round are probably North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who pivoted toward diplomacy in a Jan. 1 speech, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who responded positively to the overtures. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson probably gets a "save," but not a win, for persisting with his diplomatic agenda despite periodic thunderbolts from Mr. Trump.

The problem with this Olympic peace parade is that nothing has really been resolved. Once the games have ended, all the same problems will exist. If the U.S. resumes military exercises, North Korea may go back to testing missiles and bombs. "We have avoided escalation of ten-

sion," said one U.S. official, but in several months, "we're back to square one."

Ideally, the next step would be direct U.S.-North Korean talks. A senior State Department official told me he hopes face-to-face talks will start before the Olympics end; the U.S. will characterize the goal as eventual de-nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The North may offer a different formula, but Washington probably won't care so long as the other side shows up. There's no sign yet that it will, however.

The State Department official explains that the conversation with Pyongyang can "start at the edges," with each country describing how it sees the future, and then "work toward the center," meaning de-nuclearization. "The Olympics themselves might be the perimeter" from which talks start, says the official.

Mr. Trump argues that his nuclear brinkmanship over the past year has worked. "Does anybody really believe that talks and dialogue would be going on between North and South Korea right now if I

wasn't firm, strong and willing to commit our total 'might' against the North," he tweeted Jan. 4. Mr. Trump famously likes to be flattered, and Mr. Moon this week wisely lauded his "huge contribution" to peace talks.

Who has blinked here? It's hard to argue that it's Mr. Kim. The mutual stand-down for the Olympics looks very much like the "freeze for freeze" approach that Russia and China were recommending last year, although U.S. officials resist the characterization.

For all Mr. Trump's bluster and self-congratulation, the past month's diplomacy really has been a Korean show, with Mr. Kim and Mr. Moon both showing considerable finesse. Mr. Kim gave his New Year's speech with the confidence of a member of the nuclear club, but he was also deferential toward Seoul. Mr. Moon responded avidly, but he also kept faith with Washington by stressing that diplomacy must eventually encompass de-nuclearization.

What the Trump administration

can take credit for is building a robust international coalition around the demand that North Korea must eventually give up its nuclear weapons. Russia and China have joined in a series of U.N. Security Council resolutions sanctioning North Korea, and this slow squeeze is beginning to hurt. Diplomats report the beginnings of food shortages in North Korea, and China is sending some North Korean workers back home.

Mr. Tillerson will meet in Canada next week with diplomats from countries that sent troops to fight the Korean War nearly 70 years ago. That gathering is meant to signal global solidarity and resolve. But it will also highlight the failure of the U.S.-led coalition, so far, to stop North Korea from becoming a de-facto nuclear power.

A pause for the Olympics, and then, alas, the crisis resumes.

David Ignatius is a columnist for The Washington Post. Charles Krauthammer remains on medical leave.

## Weekend Perspectives

**First person**  
CALLEY TINLEY

# Worrywart

*I've tried on a lot of names for my condition. This one fits.*

I didn't learn until I was 23 years old that not everyone has a book of "back-up plans" for every possible contingency. Not everyone has panic attacks after driving past roadkill, convinced it's still alive, convinced that it's following the car, convinced that it's a sign that her son is in danger. Not everyone checks the Keurig three times to make sure it's off before leaving the house, because it might not be off or the cat might've bumped it on and then it would overheat and burst into flame, burning the house down.

Not everyone thinks the way I think.

The second visit with Therapist No. 7 consisted of a series of questions, which I answered as truthfully as I could. I knew it was time to try another round of therapy, because for the previous two weeks I'd been obsessing about my tongue.

It was too big for my mouth. It didn't fit neatly between my teeth; it lolled around in there like a beached whale, diseased, dying. I couldn't focus. So I answered his questions, trying not to let my whale tongue fumble the words.

*You've seen several other therapists, counselors, psychiatrists, tried medication?*

Yep. Six other mental health professionals, two year-long bouts on antidepressants, no changes.

*What brought you here?*

My tongue is too big for my mouth and it bothers me.

I've had some bad days recently.

Because there is something wrong with me, and I need to find out what it is.

I'm good at defining myself — I fit each piece of me into a box. I'm organized, mostly. I've got my obsessive box. My depression box. My mood-swing box. My phobia box. But there are still some things scattered on the floor, and I need help sorting them and labeling those boxes.

*(Silent pause)*

To be blunt, I want to know what the hell is wrong with me. I've tried on every hat in that DSM handbook — bipolar, antisocial, depression, obsessive compulsive, borderline ... and I can't find the right one. Tell me what is wrong with me.

*(Pause)*

Did I mention my tongue?

After reviewing my life, Therapist No. 7 told me I display the classic symptoms of

generalized anxiety disorder. I had a textbook childhood of an adult with anxiety, and I've got a family history of anxiety to top it off. There are probably other issues, too, but I should use that as my base. It fits better than depression ever did, which always felt like a shirt that was too big. I didn't realize, until he pointed it out, that I was anxious. It was just my natural state. I didn't know it was something to be fixed.

When I was 8 or 9, I found a book titled "The Worrywarts" at a school book fair. I brought it home to my grandmother, who cackled when I told her it was for Pappy. My grandfather spent most of his time sitting in his rocking chair in the dining room, and whatever time he spent out of it was devoted to warning my sister and me to "be more careful!" "Don't go near that railing, you might fall through." "Don't run, you'll slip!" "Careful with that peeler, you'll cut your thumb off." "Sit on the bucket and don't fidget, you'll topple on your ass." My grandmother hushed him, telling him to let us be kids. We called him a worrywart, just like the characters in the book: Wombat, Weasel and Woodchuck, who used humorous alliterations to worry about silly things that might happen if they wandered the world.

I can't remember the look on his face when I gave him that book, but I know my sister and I laughed at him. Looking back, I wonder if I hurt him; he never read that book to me, and I don't remember sitting on his lap after that.

One day soon after, he came over as we were getting ready to ride our bikes. I kissed his bristly cheek and told him, "We're going to be careful, Pappy." He nodded his head. I thought of the way those worrywarts in the book never tried anything new because they were too preoccupied with what might happen, all those exaggerated "what ifs." I put my helmet on and rode away.

Later that week, he died. A heart attack — he spent so much time worrying about us that he never worried about himself. Or maybe the worrying weakened his heart. But whatever it was, his heart quit working and suddenly my worrywart was gone.

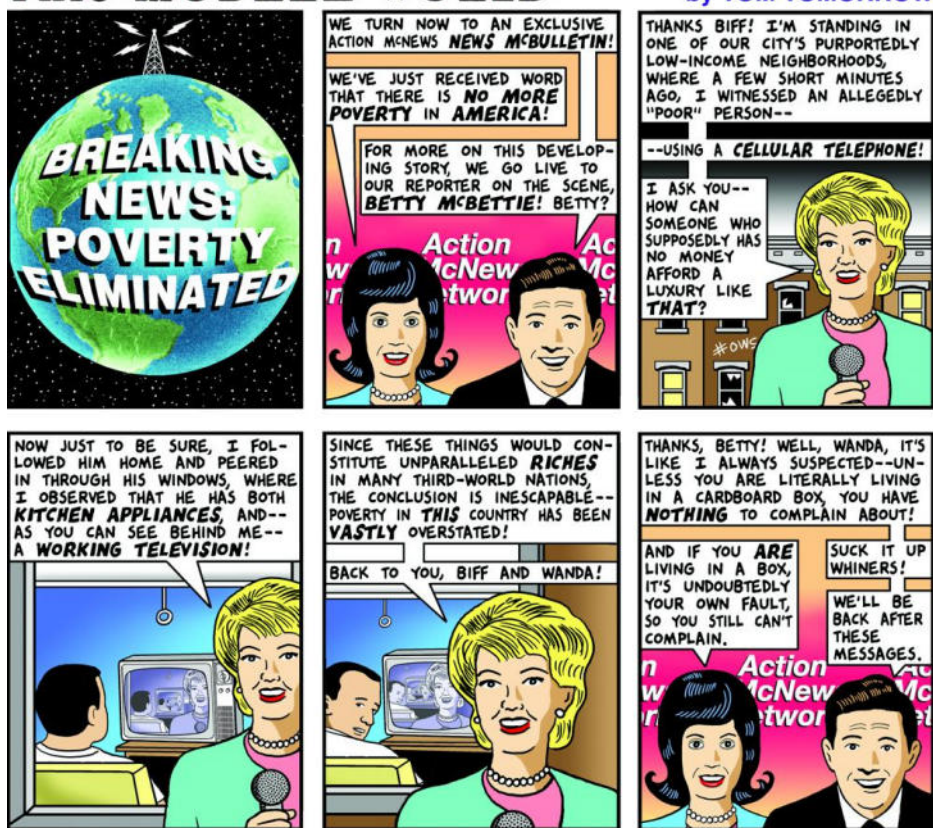
*Do you want to change something?*

Eventually. For now, I just want a label for this box. Worrywart. That's me.

*Calley Tinley, a writer living in Herminie, received the Joan Didion Award for Digital Writing from the University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg and was a fellow at the Chautauqua Writers' Festival in 2016.*

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



**Paul Krugman**

# Dollars, cents and sadism

*There is no economic rationale for shredding the safety net*

Democrats want to strengthen the social safety net; Republicans want to weaken it. But why?

GOP opposition to programs helping the less fortunate, from food stamps to Medicaid, is usually framed in monetary terms. For example, Sen. Orrin Hatch, challenged about Congress' failure to act on the Children's Health Insurance Program, which covers nearly 9 million children and for which federal funding expired back in September, declared that "the reason CHIP's having trouble is that we don't have money anymore."

But is it really about the money? No, it's about the cruelty. Over the past few years, it has become increasingly clear that the suffering imposed by Republican opposition to safety-net programs isn't a bug, it's a feature. Inflicting pain is the point.

Consider three stories about health care policies. First, there's the saga of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. The Supreme Court allowed states to opt out of this expansion. But accepting expansion should have been a no-brainer for every state: The federal government would initially pay the full cost, and even in the long run it would pay 90 percent, meanwhile bringing money and jobs into state economies.

Yet 18 states — all of them with Republican-controlled legislatures, governors or both — still haven't expanded Medicaid. Why?

If it was out of enmity for Barack Obama, he's been

out of office for a year. So it's clear that Republicans simply don't want lower-income Americans to have access to health care and are actually willing to hurt their own states' economies to deny them that access.

Second, there's the issue of work requirements for Medicaid. Some states have petitioned for years for the right to force Medicaid recipients to take jobs. This week the Trump administration declared that it will allow them to do so. But what was driving this demand?

The reality is that a vast majority of adult Medicaid recipients are in families where at least one adult is working. And a vast majority of those who aren't working have very good reasons: They're disabled, they're caregivers to other family members or they're students. The population of Medicaid recipients who "ought" to be working but aren't is very small, and the money that states could save by denying them coverage is trivial.

Oh, and of the 10 states reportedly seeking to impose work requirements, six have accepted the ACA Medicaid expansion, which means that most of the money they could save by kicking people off would be federal, not state, dollars. So what's this about?

It's about stigmatizing those who receive government aid, forcing them to jump through hoops to prove their neediness. Again, the pain is the point.

Finally, there's children's health insurance. Millions of children will lose coverage soon if fed-

eral funding isn't restored. So what will it cost the Treasury if Congress restores funding? The answer, according to the Congressional Budget Office, is: less than nothing. A 10-year extension of CHIP funding would save the government \$6 billion.

A budget office analysis found that many families whose children currently are covered by CHIP could alternatively be covered by subsidized private insurance through the Obamacare exchanges. Private insurance is, however, considerably more expensive than Medicaid, which uses its bargaining power to hold down costs. As a result, subsidies for private insurance would end up costing more than the direct coverage children get through CHIP.

And remember: A significant number of children thrown off CHIP wouldn't be able to get private coverage. The number of uninsured kids would rise substantially. Furthermore, private insurance often involves large out-of-pocket expenses and is much worse than CHIP for lower-income families.

So, Republican foot-dragging on CHIP, like opposition to Medicaid expansion and the demand for work requirements, isn't about the money, it's about the cruelty. Making lower-income Americans worse off has become a goal in itself for the modern GOP, a goal the party is willing to spend money on and increase deficits to achieve.

*Paul Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times.*

## Marcescence (or Everything I don't know about enlightenment)

The vacuum quiet of a bare forest snow-clad and bright. Beech leaves quiver on the crisp wind. I stare at the depressed knot of an oak; I can't understand — is it another empty gnarl or is there a small brown owl tucked into the opening?

My eyes water under the concentration, needing, desperately, to know. I stand too long; the cold grows through me, aching my fingers and toes.

All winter I strive to be the holler — the bird calls bouncing between the hills, echoing, but not permeating. I look for God. Not the unknowable God, but the God of my youth: a large hand dropping soft and harmless from above.

I search for signs in the branches. I wait for animals to cross my path. I make a mantra: *this is mine and I can let it go. This is mine and I can let it go.* Somewhere in me the brown leaves cling to their branches, they tremble: and this is mine to keep.

—Christine Stroud

*Christine Stroud is the author of two chapbooks, "Sister Suite" and "The Buried Return." Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in journals such as Prairie Schooner, Hobart, Cimarron Review, The Patterson Literary Review. She is the editor in chief of Autumn House Press.*

**First Person**  
JEAN MARTIN

# I keep running into foreigners at the local convenience store

We have a lot of convenience stores here in Swissvale. They're useful places if you need a quart of milk in a hurry or you're out of toilet paper and there's two feet of snow on the ground.

I used to be a regular at the store near the Busway, then I got a Connect Card pass. Now, I don't have to stop and buy something cheap so I'll have change for the bus.

I don't visit the store on Brad-dock as much as I used to because it got an ATM I have to pay to use. I am enough of a tightwad that I will go all the way to Edgewood Towne Center to save \$2.50.

My only real problem with the local convenience stores is that my neighbors go to them to buy soda and chips and then toss the bags and cans in my flower beds. That is not the fault of the owners of the stores or their employees.

One of the local stores is owned by members of an Indian family. They have the same surname as my friends Sherry and Shridhar. Sherry is from Swissvale. Shridhar is from Mumbai. For more than 40 years, Sherry and Shridhar were the only people in town with an Indian surname. Now, they're one of three families with the same last name. This has caused no confusion whatever.

Kim, who works at the store with the ATM, is a local lady, a fellow cat lover and a fellow gardener. We talk sometimes. She has a replica of the Lion of Lucerne in her garden. She didn't know what it was until I gave her a Wikipedia article about the memorial in Lucerne of Swiss soldiers killed during the French Revolution. Now, she probably knows more than she wanted to. But she hasn't complained.

I discovered that a clerk in one of

the nearby stores comes from somewhere in Africa where French is spoken. His English wasn't that great. But I don't get to use my high school French all that often. It also is not that great, because it has been a while since I was in high school. He was very nice about it.

A lot of the local convenience store clerks are immigrants. I haven't checked their green cards. That isn't my job. I expect the store managers do.

I've had to prove I was a U.S. citizen when I applied for jobs, and I was born that way. I presume that, if you have an accent, potential employers are even more insistent that you provide the right documents. Especially if you're going to deal with the public. Especially if that public includes police officers who stop in for coffee pretty regularly.

Anyway, I have never considered convenience store clerks a threat to my well-being. I think of

them as I think of waiters, waitresses, Walmart employees and plumbers, people to whom I must be extra kind because they spend all day on their feet dealing with difficult customers.

So, I'm not all that sure why federal immigration agents have been spending our tax money going after 7-Eleven clerks to see if they are in this country illegally. I don't suppose they've found many criminals, just good people trying to make a living.

My friend Sherry gets calls now and then telling her that her husband will be arrested because there's a problem with his immigration status. Sherry's husband has been a naturalized U.S. citizen for more than 30 years. He's working for the Navy, helping to build ships. Sherry has complained to the district attorney's office about the calls, but there isn't much anyone seems to be able to do about

them. Xenophobia, fear of outsiders, is as American as fireworks on the Fourth of July. Benjamin Franklin worried that Germans were taking over Pennsylvania.

But the fact is that everybody in this country came from someplace else. And our ancestors weren't always welcome. There was a time when "No Irish Need Apply" was commonly written in employment ads. A time when hotels displayed signs that said "No Dogs or Jews." A time when Chinese were "the yellow peril."

Those times have past, I'm glad to say. I look forward to the day when these times pass, and we look back and think how foolish we were to be afraid of a few new Americans.

*Jean Martin is a writer living in Swissvale (LadyJean-aol.com).*





## Fitzgerald mum on armed officers for fare collection

By Ed Blazina  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A coalition of groups against the proposed use of armed officers for fare enforcement on Port Authority vehicles came away dissatisfied from a meeting Friday with Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald.

Representatives from the Thomas Merton Center, Casa San Jose and the Alliance for Police Accountability met with Mr. Fitzgerald at the Allegheny County Courthouse. Mr. Fitzgerald, who oversees the authority, wouldn't take a position on the use of armed officers for fare enforcement and said he would wait for a recommendation from the authority's new executive director who starts Tuesday, said Gabriel McMorland, executive director of the Merton Center.

Mr. Fitzgerald wouldn't comment later on the private meeting, his spokeswoman said.

Mr. McMorland said Mr. Fitzgerald listened to the advocates' concerns about treating fare evasion as a criminal matter, subject to a \$300 fine and a criminal background check, rather than a civil matter such as a parking fine. The cashless fare policy on the subway system was scheduled to begin last summer but has been delayed by equipment problems until at least the second quarter of this year.

The advocates fear potentially deadly confrontations between the officers and public school students, recent immigrants with limited language skills, and mental patients, among others, who may not understand why they are being approached.

The advocates are frustrated, Mr. McMorland said, because Mr. Fitzgerald won't take a position on an issue they have been pushing for 10 months. It began under former authority CEO Ellen McLean and continued under interim CEO David Donahoe, who served from July through this week.

"This is the third CEO in the last year, and he won't take a position," Mr. McMorland said of the county executive. "As a leader, he often is very open about what his vision is for the county. Why not this?"

Krystle Knight, the Merton Center's community organizer, said she's bothered that Mr. Fitzgerald seemed more interested in hearing from incoming CEO Katharine Eagan Kelleman than from transit users.

"We would hope he would look at our people as experts on what people are concerned about," she said.

The groups say other transit agencies that treat fare evasion as a civil matter and use unarmed civilians for enforcement do not have more passengers who refuse to pay.

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## LOOKING GOOD



Andrew Rush/Post-Gazette

Staff at the National Aviary weigh an African penguin chick during an exam Friday. Two chicks hatched at the North Side aviary in December and went on display Friday.

## Attorneys seek dismissal of charges in blaze that killed city firefighters

By Paula Reed Ward  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Attorneys for a man accused of setting a fire in East Hills on Valentine's Day 1995 that killed three firefighters argued to a federal court judge Friday that prosecutorial misconduct and the destruction of evidence ought to prohibit their client from being tried again.

Gregory Brown Jr. 40, initially was tried in Allegheny County Common Pleas Court in 1997 and found guilty of three counts of second-degree murder for the deaths of Thomas Brooks, 42, Patricia Conroy, 43, and Marc Kolenda, 27. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In February 2014, however, Common Pleas Judge Joseph K. Williams III ordered that Mr. Brown's conviction be vacated and granted a new trial, finding that the defense should have been told that the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives agents had offered reward

money to witnesses in exchange for their testimony.

The state Superior Court upheld Judge Williams' decision, and the case was slated for a new trial before him.

But in November 2016, faced with Judge Williams' decision not to recuse himself from the case as the District Attorney's office had requested, the state prosecutor's office decided to withdraw its charges.

At the same time, the U.S. Attorney's Office obtained a federal indictment against Mr. Brown on one count of malicious destruction of property by fire resulting in death.

The case now is assigned to U.S. District Judge David S. Cercone, who originally heard the state case when he served on the Common Pleas bench.

On Friday, Judge Cercone heard arguments on two defense motions — one seeking dismissal of the case and another seeking suppression of evidence. The hear-

ing will conclude Feb. 20.

In their motion to dismiss, Mr. Brown's attorneys argued that to try their client in federal court is a violation of his right against double jeopardy — or being tried twice for the same crime.

The prosecution, however, contends that federal court is a separate jurisdiction. And Judge Cercone questioned whether jeopardy is even attached since Mr. Brown's first conviction was vacated.

The defense also argued that because the ATF was a lead investigator, and because Assistant U.S. attorney Shaun Sweeney was loaned to the DA's office to help try the case because of his expertise in arson, the federal government was so intricately intertwined in Mr. Brown's first case that trying him now in federal court is double jeopardy.

But deputy district attorney Rebecca Walker, who has been

SEE FIRE, PAGE B-2

## Chiropractor to seek Saccone's House seat

By Chris Potter  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

An Elizabeth Township chiropractor hopes to replace Republican state Rep. Rick Saccone in the Pennsylvania House's 39th District.

"I want to put my business and government experience to work for this community," Democrat Robert Rhoderick said in a statement announcing his campaign. "I believe that every challenge has a solution,

and that by bringing everyone together and listening we can come to an understanding."

Mr. Saccone, of Elizabeth Township, is running in the March 13 special election for the 18th Congressional District. His campaign manager confirmed Friday that Mr. Saccone will not seek to hold his seat in Harrisburg this year. Mr. Saccone faces Democrat Conor Lamb in the special election to replace

SEE SEAT, PAGE B-2



Darrell Sapp/Post-Gazette

**FOGGY MORNING** Towboat deckhands working in heavy fog early Friday lash together a string of barges on the Ohio River near the West End Bridge.

## State to be responsible for safety of county drinking water

By Don Hopey  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The state Department of Environmental Protection is taking over inspection responsibilities from the Allegheny County Health Department for 66 public drinking water systems.

The change in oversight is effective Feb. 1, and the DEP said it has added experts assigned exclusively to the county's public water systems.

The state and the county health department have shared safe drinking water program responsi-

bilities in Allegheny County since the mid-1980s.

The DEP will conduct full, federally mandated, water system inspections every three years, a requirement now handled by the county. The state also will continue its existing drinking water permitting and enforcement programs.

"We see it as we have the ability with our permitting and compliance staff in place and are familiar with the systems, so we won't be starting from scratch," said Lauren Fraley, a DEP spokeswoman.

Ms. Fraley said the switch in regulatory responsibility was not

linked to lead contamination problems or boil water advisories the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority has faced in recent years. The DEP now also will have full oversight of the city system.

DEP Southwest Regional Director Ron Schwartz said the decision to make the water program changes "reinforces our commitment to safe drinking water."

Except for Erie County's restaurant water supply oversight, no other county in the state has retained responsibility over drinking water system regulation, Ms. Fraley said.

In August, the DEP announced plans to expand inspection staffing in its Safe Drinking Water Program statewide. Also last year, it announced public water system fee increases projected to bring in an additional \$7.5 million for the program that receives \$7.7 million in general fund appropriations and \$12 million from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Karen Hacker, director of the Allegheny County Health Department, said the DEP approached the county last fall about the oversight switch.

"The state has the capacity," Dr.

Hacker said. "But we will still have some areas where we'll be working on health-related water issues. If there's a boil water advisory, or legionella issue or situations where we'd be working with restaurants or health care systems on water problems, that would be a role for the health department."

The health department also will continue to work with the DEP on sewage and wastewater compliance programs.

Don Hopey: dhohey@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1983, or on Twitter @donhohey.

# Brothers ordered to trial in fatal shooting over drugs

Homicide charged in Penn Hills case

By Jonathan D. Silver  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Two brothers charged in the shooting death of a man in Penn Hills during a November drug deal were held for trial following a preliminary hearing Friday.

Raymond Crumby III, 21, and Tyrelle Duncan, 19, both of Penn Hills, are charged with homicide and other offenses in the Nov. 18 death of Zachary Walls, 28, residence unknown, in the 300 block of Bryant Street.

Allegheny County Police detectives said the brothers were meeting Mr. Walls that morning to consummate a drug deal that Mr. Crumby brokered through Facebook. Mr. Walls was going to sell them a quarter-pound of marijuana for \$950, according to police.

Mr. Crumby traveled to the meeting with a revolver under his seat, according to a criminal complaint. The men were seated in Mr. Crumby's green Honda when either Mr. Walls or Mr. Duncan drew a gun, according to differing accounts the defendants told police.

"Duncan said the 'dude' asked if they had the money and then the 'dude' pulled out a pistol at which time Raymond started tussling over the pistol with the 'dude,'" said the criminal complaint supporting the charges against Mr. Duncan.

"Duncan said he grabbed the pistol while Raymond and the 'dude' were tussling, and he said he shot the 'dude' one time. Duncan said the 'dude' kept tussling with Raymond so he shot him again and the 'dude' said, 'I ain't trying to rob you no more,' exited the vehicle and got into [his] car," the complaint continued.

In the complaint supporting the charges against Mr. Crumby, however, police said Mr. Crumby told them that the victim showed them four knotted baggies of mari-



Allegheny County Jail  
Raymond Crumby III.



Allegheny County Jail  
Tyrelle Duncan.

juana and then Mr. Duncan pulled a gun from his pocket, pointed it at Mr. Walls and grabbed the pot.

"A struggle ensued and two shots were fired," the complaint said. "Walls yelled, 'OK, OK,' and ran from the vehicle."

After the shooting, police said, the defendants drove to a convenience store in Monroeville before returning to a woman's home in Penn Hills. Police said Mr. Duncan told them that he took the guns inside her apartment, hid the pistol under a bedroom dresser and a revolver in a bathroom closet.

An unnamed witness who was with Mr. Walls and stayed in the victim's car during the alleged drug deal described to police a struggle in the green Honda. It ended, the witness said, with Mr. Walls running from the vehicle and collapsing.

The witness described the driver of the green car as a black man with an "unkept [sic] high top box style haircut." A second unnamed witness recognized the green car from a recent accident in the area and described the man in the same terms.

Investigators checked with Penn Hills police, who said Mr. Crumby and his car fit the witnesses' description.

Police picked up Mr. Crumby at his girlfriend's house in the 2000 block of Garden Drive in Penn Hills. At the house they found Mr. Duncan, a man named Calvin Anderson, four knotted baggies of marijuana and two guns — a revolver and a pistol.

Mr. Crumby's attorney, Anne Marie Mancuso, said prosecutors called three police officers to testify during the preliminary hearing in City Court, Downtown, but neither of the unnamed witnesses.

"The commonwealth didn't put forth any witness who could tell the court or anyone exactly what occurred," Ms. Mancuso said. "The commonwealth is relying solely on statements that were allegedly made following the incident by the two young men."

She claimed that investigators questioned her client — whom she said had physical and learning disabilities — for seven hours.

"We're challenging the knowing, intelligent and voluntary nature of the statement that he gave. My client was interrogated for seven hours. When he initially gave his statement to police there was no mention made whatsoever of a robbery."

"It wasn't until hours and hours and hours of him sitting in a small room at the homicide office when the detectives said, 'We know there was a robbery,' did he finally say after seven hours, 'There was a robbery.'"

Mr. Duncan's attorney, Justin Ketchel, said, "Any firearm that was used in conjunction with this killing I wholeheartedly believe was brought there by the victim himself."

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Haley Nelson/Post-Gazette

**ROCKY ROAD** Passengers on a Port Authority bus Friday look at a pile of rubble in the roadway from a rock slide at Boggs and Southern avenues on Mount Washington.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY

### Three flu deaths reported in past week

Three people in Allegheny County have died from flu complications in the past week, health officials said Friday.

Karen Hacker, director of the Allegheny County Health Department, said the two men and one woman were all over 60 years old and had underlying medical conditions.

As of last Saturday, the number of flu cases in the county totaled 1,719, a 37 percent increase from the 1,256 cases reported for the same period a year ago, the department said.

## SOUTH

### Man shot to death in Duquesne

A man was fatally shot Friday evening in Duquesne.

Allegheny County Police said the shooting occurred about 7 p.m. on South Seventh Street.

When first responders arrived, they found a man who had been shot multiple times. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The county police homicide unit was investigating.

## REGION

### Closings to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day

All city of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and federal offices and courts will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Post offices will be closed, with no pickup or delivery of regular mail. State liquor stores normally open on Mondays will be open.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Driver's License and Photo License Centers will be closed Saturday through

Monday. Garbage pickup in the city will be delayed one day.

The Port Authority will operate bus, T and incline service on a regular weekday schedule Monday. The customer service line will operate normally, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., at 412-442-2000 (TTY 412-231-7007). The Downtown Service Center on Smithfield Street will be closed.

## CITY

### McKees Rocks man arrested in bank robbery

Pittsburgh police have arrested a McKees Rocks man in connection with a Downtown bank robbery on Wednesday afternoon.

Mark Hammond, 53, faces charges of robbery and conspiracy in the robbery at 2:44 p.m. of Huntington Bank on Smithfield Street.

Police were continuing to search Friday for a second suspect in the robbery in which a man entered the bank, approached a teller and demanded money. No weapon was shown.

### Help available to pay water bills

Pittsburgh water rates will increase in 2018, but an assistance program is available to help low-income customers pay their bills.

The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority's monthly Bill Discount Program is now accepting applications for enrollment. Customers whose income is at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level qualify for assistance that will reduce their PWSA fixed or minimum monthly water and sewer conveyance charges by half for one year. Eligible customers may be asked to verify income levels on an annual basis to continue in the program.

PWSA customers can begin the program application process by calling Dollar Energy at 866-762-2348. More information on the program is available at [www.pgh2o.com/CAP](http://www.pgh2o.com/CAP) and also will be included in PWSA billing statements.

## Attorneys say man's retrial would be double jeopardy

**FIRE**, FROM B-1

loaned to the U.S. Attorney's office to work on the case, argued that Mr. Sweeney was representing the commonwealth at that trial.

Defense attorney David Fawcett countered that it's not just Mr. Sweeney's role in the case, but that of the entire U.S. government.

"This was a joint effort from the very start," he said. "It was the actions and inactions of the United States that led to the violations. There is no question he was representing the interests of the United States in that courtroom."

Judge Cercone noted that it is common for state and federal law enforcement and prosecutors to work together.

But Mr. Fawcett said, "It's the involvement and wrongdoing. It's the confluence of all the issues."

The defense further argued that because of prosecutorial misconduct in the first trial, the U.S. Attorney's office ought to be barred from trying Mr. Brown again — to act as a deterrent to protect against other wrongdoing.

As for the defense argu-

ment regarding the destruction of evidence, Mr. Brown's attorneys told Judge Cercone that their client would be prejudiced to have to go trial when all of the fire scene evidence was destroyed by order in 2005, and after several of the witnesses in the case have died.

Federal public defender Michael Novara argued that had the prosecution acted appropriately during the trial — or even in the days and months after questions about the reward money came up — the evidence and witnesses might still be available.

"If they didn't fight at every step of the way ... year after year while our client sat in jail," Mr. Novara said. "Now, they want a do-over. They didn't kill these witnesses, but they created a situation where we will be prejudiced."

"They should not be allowed to get away with this." The prosecution countered that there was never any finding of willful misconduct by the prosecuting attorneys.

"There is nothing they can point to of willful misconduct that rises to the level of prejudice," Ms. Walker said.

## Rhoderick announces candidacy

**SEAT**, FROM B-1

former U.S. Rep. Tim Murphy, a Republican.

Mr. Rhoderick declared himself a candidate in the May primary, though if Mr. Saccone wins his race, a special election would need to be held in the 39th District.

Mr. Rhoderick is a commissioner in Elizabeth Township and chairs its Democratic committee. He's a former staffer for state Rep. Bill Kortz, D-Dravosburg, and a former board member for the Elizabeth Forward School District.

As a township commissioner, Mr. Rhoderick has backed a proposal by the firm Invenergy to build a



Chiropractor Robert Rhoderick hopes to replace state Rep. Rick Saccone in the state House's 39th District.

natural gas-fired power plant on a former industrial landfill. His campaign announcement referred to that plan, which has generated controversy, observing, "I support the economic growth and workforce development that the energy industry offers."

Mr. Rhoderick appears to be the only candidate to formally declare his candidacy and numbers a slew of Democratic legislators as supporters.

The 39th District spans portions of Allegheny and Washington counties, including Elizabeth Township and Elizabeth Borough and portions of Bethel Park, South Park, Jefferson Hills and Finleyville.

## Three face trial in Sheraden shooting

**SHOOTING**, FROM B-1

driver's side closest to her. A man got out of the passenger side and started shooting. When asked to identify that shooter in the courtroom, Ms. Black pointed to Ricco Green.

Ms. Black, who was 57 at the time of the shooting, identified the driver as Mr. Saunders-Davis, whom she said she didn't see with a gun.

She described a chaotic scene that followed — including seeing another

man, short in stature, getting out of the minivan — before they drove away from the scene. She said the smaller man was wearing a mask. She did not identify him as Mr. Hollinger during the hearing.

A witness described the incident similarly to police in September, and said that one of the men had a shirt over his face.

Jaquan Green was shot in the knee and hip, while the child was shot once in the head.

A detective who pursued the minivan testified Friday that police retrieved surveillance video from a private business that showed the van coming to a stop in the middle of Behan Street in Central North Side.

The three men, being held in Allegheny County Jail, will be formally arraigned March 5.

Julian Routh: [jrouth@post-gazette.com](mailto:jrouth@post-gazette.com), 412-263-1952, Twitter @julianrouth.

Friday, January 12, 2018

### PENNSYLVANIA LOTTERY

For prize amounts and more information, go to [post-gazette.com/lottery](http://post-gazette.com/lottery)

**Friday's Mega Millions**  
17-18-33-46-60  
Mega ball: 24 Megaplier: 4

**Friday's Cash 5**  
20-30-31-34-39

**Friday's Match 6**  
4-7-12-14-42-43

**Friday's Treasure Hunt**  
3-4-10-11-19

**Friday's Pick 5**  
5-0-2-7-0 (day); 3-4-9-1-1 (night)

**Friday's Pick 4**  
2-2-3-1 (day); 9-7-0-8 (night)

**Friday's Pick 3**  
8-5-9 (day); 9-9-1 (night)

**Friday's Pick 2**  
8-5 (day); 7-0 (night)

**Wild ball**  
6 (day); 4 (night)

Tonight's **CASH 5** is worth an estimated \$300,000.  
Tonight's **TREASURE HUNT** is worth an estimated \$30,000.  
Tuesday's **MEGA MILLIONS** is worth an estimated \$45 million.  
Tonight's **MATCH 6** is worth an estimated \$500,000.  
Tonight's **POWERBALL** is worth an estimated \$50 million.

Register your school  
[post-gazette.com/spellingbee](http://post-gazette.com/spellingbee)

## Pittsburgh pride available here

### PG STORE

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**MARKET PULSE** **DOW JONES** 25,803.19 (+228.46) **S&P 500** 2,786.24 (+18.68) **NASDAQ** 7,261.06 (+49.28) **GOLD** \$1,334.90 (+12.40) **PLATINUM** \$994.32 (+9.64) **SILVER** \$17.14 (+0.18)



Darell Sapp/Post-Gazette

U.S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works in 2014.

## New tax code helps PNC profits to spike

By Patricia Sabatini  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PNC Financial Services Group kicked off a batch of earnings reports due from local banks for the fourth quarter, reporting Friday that profits more than doubled as it benefited from a \$911 million boost from the new federal tax code.

The Pittsburgh-based banking giant earned \$2 billion, or \$4.18 per share, up from \$982 million, or \$1.97 in the same period a year earlier. Excluding the impact of tax legislation and special items, per share profits were \$2.29.

Revenue for the quarter climbed 10 percent to \$4.3 billion from \$3.9 billion.

Pittsburgh's market leader was the first of the region's biggest financial institutions to report year-end results for 2017. The area's No. 2 retail bank, Citizens Financial, is to release results next Friday, with No. 3 FNB reporting the following week.

Meanwhile, money management and investment services powerhouse Bank of New York Mellon is scheduled to release results on Tuesday.

"By just about any measure, 2017 was a successful year for PNC," Chairman and CEO William S. Demchak said in a statement.

"We grew loans and deposits and added customers across our businesses, continued to focus on expense management, and generated record fee income for the year, as well as in the fourth quarter."

PNC previously announced it would be handing out \$1,000 bonuses to most of its employees in the first quarter because of the tax windfall.

The tax benefit in the fourth quarter was primarily because of revaluation of deferred tax liabilities at the lower statutory tax rate, PNC said.

On another bright note, PNC said that consumer loan balances grew for the first time in four years. The bank has been working on streamlining the consumer loan process to make it easier for consumers to navigate.

In a conference call, Mr. Demchak told analysts PNC would continue to shrink its brick-and-mortar footprint this year by roughly 100 branches as customers do more of their banking electronically. The bank has some 2,460 branches.

The Pittsburgh-based bank also will continue to focus on controlling expenses with a goal of identifying \$250 million in cost savings this year, on top of \$350 million last year.

For the full year, PNC earned \$5.1 billion, or \$10.36 per share, up from \$3.7 billion, or \$7.30, in 2016. Excluding the tax benefit and special items, per share profits were \$8.50.

Revenue for 2017 was \$16.3 billion, up 7 percent from \$15.2 billion the previous year.

Separately Friday, the Federal Reserve said it was fining PNC Financial Services Group and four other major U.S. financial institutions a total of \$35 million to settle enforcement actions over improper handling of mortgage foreclosures.

The other firms were Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, CIT Group and U.S. Bancorp. PNC's fine is \$3.5 million.

Previously, Ally Financial, Bank of America, HSBC North America Holdings, JPMorgan Chase and SunTrust Banks paid fines in the cases, which date to 2011 and 2012.

The Fed said it was ending the enforcement actions against all 10 banks because of "sustainable improvements" in their servicing practices.

Patricia Sabatini: PSabatini@post-gazette.com; 412-263-3066.

# Steel makes its case on national security

## Imports are a threat, it tells White House

By Len Boselovic  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

President Donald J. Trump has received a long-awaited report on whether steel imports pose enough of a threat to national security to do something about it.

And domestic steelmakers are optimistic the White House will provide them with the relief they say they need.

"We are confident that we have made the case that repeated surges in steel imports in recent years threaten to impair our national security," American Iron and Steel Institute president Thomas Gibson said in a statement released by the Washington, D.C.-based trade group.

Mr. Trump ordered U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, a for-

mer steel producer, to investigate the issue last April. Mr. Ross raised hopes he would report back by June. But that deadline came and went as opponents argued import restrictions would endanger jobs and the economy.

The study was authorized by a seldom used 1962 trade law that allows the White House to impose penalties on imports if they threaten national security. President George W. Bush last invoked the law in 2001 in the case of iron ore and semifinished steel imports. That probe determined national security was not threatened and no penalties were imposed.

Mr. Ross' policy recommendations to the White House were not disclosed. They could include duties or quotas on imports, or a combination of both. A decision to do nothing would be a major disappointment to those who expected Mr. Trump to protect American jobs and industry.

The White House has 90 days to

determine what action, if any, to take.

Mr. Trump ordered a similar investigation of aluminum imports. Mr. Ross' report on that issue is due by Jan. 22.

The Republican president's campaign promises to "Make America Great Again" have bolstered anticipation that the administration will act.

"We are confident that President Trump takes actions and remedies that are broad, meaningful and impactful," Steel Manufacturers Association president Philip Bell said in a statement.

Pittsburgh steelmaker U.S. Steel encouraged the White House to take "swift and decisive action."

Last summer, a group of former White House economic advisers, including former Federal Reserve Board chairmen Alan Greenspan and Ben Bernanke, warned that import restrictions would jeopardize trade relations with Canada, Mexico and other important allies

and harm the U.S. economy.

The European Union threatened to retaliate if penalties were imposed on its steel exports by imposing duties on a host of U.S. exports, including Kentucky bourbon.

U.S. manufacturers who make products from steel say domestic steelmakers cannot provide some of the products that are essential to their businesses. Penalizing or restricting imports would jeopardize jobs and profits, they say.

Other critics point out that Mr. Trump used imported steel and aluminum in his construction projects.

Through November, steel imports were up nearly 18 percent, according to the American Iron and Steel Institute. Imports of higher-margin finished steel have captured about 27 percent of the U.S. market, the industry group said.

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## Retailers help market set record

By Stan Choe  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rising retailers pushed U.S. stock indexes further into record territory Friday, as the market's fabulous start to 2018 carried through its second week.

Interest rates also climbed after a report showed a key component of inflation accelerated last month. But stocks absorbed the gains without a hiccup, unlike earlier in the week when rate worries helped send the Standard & Poor's 500 lower for its lone blemish this year.

The S&P 500 rose 18.68 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,786.24 to close out its seventh week of gains in the last eight. The index is already up more than 4 percent for 2018.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 228.46, or 0.9 percent, to 25,803.19, the Nasdaq composite rose 49.28, or 0.7 percent, to 7,261.06 and the Russell 2000 index of small-cap stocks gained 5.18, or 0.3 percent, to 1,591.97.

Retailers led the way after a government report confirmed that the holiday shopping season was a strong one, with retail sales rising 0.4 percent last month following a 0.9 percent surge in November. The numbers fit with what individual retailers have said recently, and several have raised their profit forecasts as a result.

Shares of Kohl's, Target, Nordstrom and Dollar Tree all jumped more than 3 percent.

### Business briefs

#### Forest Devices Inc. closes funding round of \$2.3 million

Forest Devices Inc. has closed an oversubscribed seed round of \$2.3 million, which was led by the Grand Order of Successful Entrepreneurs of Texas. Veteran entrepreneur Ashok Rao of GOOSE has joined Forest Devices' board. Also investing was Innovation Works and individual investors. Forest, which was founded in 2015, is developing a device to detect stroke. Efficacy trials are anticipated during the first quarter, CEO Matthew Kesinger said.

#### AHN developing cancer treatment centers in area

Allegheny Health Network is developing community cancer treatment centers at Forbes Hospital in Monroeville and in Butler and Beaver counties, the hospital system said. The centers are part of a previously announced \$225 million investment, which includes an expanded relationship with Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center.

#### Holiday gift for retailers: sales up a solid 0.4 percent

Ebullient U.S. consumers shopped at the healthiest pace in more than a decade during the holiday season. Retail sales rose 0.4 percent in December, the Commerce Department said, after a 0.9 percent surge in November. Spending for the two months combined was the best since 2005.

#### Bon-Ton creditors may propose bankruptcy within weeks

Senior creditors of Bon-Ton Stores Inc. are pushing the troubled retailer to file for bankruptcy, a development that could happen as soon as this month, according to people familiar with the matter. Bon-Ton, however, hasn't made a decision and is still trying to avoid a

### Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE	STOCK	CLOSE	CHANGE
AK Steel	6.19	-0.24	GNC	3.72	0.00
Alcoa	56.76	-0.15	II-VI	51.45	0.75
American Eagle	18.34	0.16	Kennametal	51.92	0.54
Ansys	154.22	2.01	Key Bank	21.42	0.23
Ampco	14.75	0.40	Koppers	48.80	-0.35
Arconic	30.84	0.44	Kraft Heinz	77.35	0.22
Allegheny Technologies	28.70	-0.44	Limbach	13.14	-0.16
Ameriserv	4.05	-0.05	Matthews International	51.70	-0.15
Black Box	3.60	-0.10	MSA Safety	80.05	-0.34
BNY Mellon	58.42	0.59	Mylan	46.90	0.19
Calgon Carbon	21.30	-0.05	NiSource	24.07	-0.06
Citizens Financial	45.52	0.22	Northwest	16.97	0.05
Comcast	42.44	-0.16	Philips	40.64	0.72
Consol Energy	16.16	0.00	PNC	151.84	0.35
Dominion Resources	75.94	-0.27	PPG	118.17	0.60
Dick's Sporting Goods	33.33	0.76	Range Resources	17.58	0.31
Emerson Electric	73.91	0.03	Siemens	74.65	1.78
EQT	58.46	-0.24	S&T Bancorp	41.86	0.24
Eaton	84.24	0.25	Supervalu	16.33	-0.14
Evoqua	24.60	0.09	Thermo Fisher	210.17	1.51
ExOne	9.92	0.18	Tristate	24.10	0.25
First Commonwealth	15.09	0.12	Universal Stainless	22.86	0.26
FedEx	271.85	0.66	US Steel	39.14	-0.38
FirstEnergy	30.07	-0.17	Verizon	51.86	-0.25
Federated Investors	35.14	0.14	Wabtec	85.20	1.18
First National Bank	14.49	0.05	Wesco	67.30	0.90
LB Foster	25.90	0.05	Wesbanco	42.60	0.20

Closing prices for the week ending Jan. 12, 2018.

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court filing, the people said. If the company does enter bankruptcy, it's not clear whether it would seek to liquidate or to reorganize, the people said. The York, Pa.-based company has been coping with declining mall traffic, management upheaval and about \$1.2 billion in debt.

#### McDonald's to drop foam packaging by year's end

McDonald's will stop using plastic foam cups by the end of this year. The world's largest restaurant operator quietly disclosed the decision on its website, along with its plan to use recycled and certified sources for all of its fiber-based packaging by 2020.

#### Wall Street's Goldman Sachs to offer home improvement loans

Wall Street's best known investment bank is looking to help you renovate your bathroom. Goldman Sachs will start offering home improvement loans to borrowers this month, its latest push into the world of consumer lending — a business the bank has avoided for much of its nearly 150-year history. The bank has offered debt consolidation loans since late 2016, and for a couple years it's had an online savings account, both under the brand name Marcus.

From staff and wire reports

## What else could happen? Stay tuned



**On the Steelers**  
RAY FITTIPALDO

Something else is going to happen between now and the time the Steelers play host to the Jacksonville Jaguars in an AFC divisional-round playoff game Sunday afternoon. It's just a matter of what.

Here are some possibilities:  
• Antonio Brown is running routes against Chad Johnson in Point State Park Saturday afternoon to make sure his injured calf is ready for the game. Von-



**Sunday**  
**Game:** Steelers vs. Jacksonville Jaguars, 1:05 p.m., Heinz

Field.  
**TV:** KDKA.

taze Burfict emerges from the shadows of Fort Pitt and clotheslines Brown. The video is posted on Instagram Sunday morning, explaining why

Brown hasn't arrived at Heinz Field.

• Little Ben Roethlisberger injures his father in a game of knee football while the Titans are putting the finishing touches on a victory against the New England Patriots Saturday in Foxborough, Mass. Landry Jones gets the start against the Jaguars a few hours later while Roethlisberger holds a clipboard with his casted right

hand.  
• Le'Veon Bell drops his latest rap album entitled "I'm a need \$25 Million a Year and You Know This." He later drops the mic and breaks the big toe on his left foot, ensuring he won't finish this year's playoffs, either.

Absurd, you say? Well, you haven't been paying attention to the 2017 Steelers. Their season has been right out of the

Theater of the Absurd.

In the latest scenes, Bell told ESPN he could retire if the Steelers place the franchise tag on him again. Mike Mitchell guaranteed a win against the Patriots in the AFC championship just days before the Steelers play the Jaguars. And, of course, offensive coordinator Todd Haley was injured New

SEE **STEELERS**, PAGE C-2



Peter Diana/Post-Gazette

Patric Hornqvist took his daughter to Disney World during the break, but said thoughts of hockey started "creeping in" after a few days.



**On the Pirates**  
BILL BRINK

## Only reliever Rivero remains in arbitration

Cole, Mercer, Kontos agree to new contracts

The Pirates agreed to terms Friday on 2018 contracts with three of their four arbitration-eligible players.

Gerrit Cole, Jordy Mercer and George Kontos avoided arbitration by agreeing to one-year contracts. According to sources with knowledge of the agreements, Cole and Mercer will make \$6.75 million and Kontos will make \$2,725,000.

The Pirates did not agree to terms with closer Felipe Rivero, who, according to a source, filed at \$2.9 million. According to Jon Heyman of FanRag Sports, the Pirates submitted a desired salary of \$2.4 million. Should they reach a hearing, a panel of arbitrators will select one salary after hearing arguments from both sides.

The deadline to exchange desired salary figures was 1 p.m. Friday. Eight hours later, the Pirates had not made an announcement, which they did in previous years when agreeing to terms on the day of the deadline.

The Pirates are a "file-and-trial" club, meaning they don't negotiate one-year deals after the deadline passes, but they still could discuss a multi-year contract with Rivero, who said at PiratesFest he would be open to the idea.

But the two sides also might not discuss an extension, or those discussions might lead nowhere, and a hearing would determine Rivero's 2018 salary.

Cole, 27, a right-hander, had a 4.26 ERA, and allowed 31 home runs, in 2017. He made 33 starts and pitched 203 innings. As the Pirates consider retooling for the future and forgoing a serious effort to compete in 2018, they are discussing trading Cole, with the New York Yankees and Houston Astros expressing the most interest.

Cole was in his second year of arbitration. He made \$3.75 million in 2017.

Mercer, 31, hit a career-high 14 home runs with a .326 on-base

SEE **PIRATES**, PAGE C-3

## Time for fresh start

Hornqvist, Penguins enjoy off week, but hockey rules life again

By Sam Werner and Jason Mackey  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



**Saturday**  
**Game:** Penguins vs. Detroit Red Wings, 1 p.m., PPG Paints Arena.  
**TV:** AT&T SportsNet.

Patric Hornqvist spent the Penguins "bye week" doing one of the few activities potentially more exhausting than playing in an NHL hockey game.

He took his four-year-old daughter, Isabella, to Disney World for the first time.

"She was excited, she met all the princesses," Hornqvist said. "Me and my wife had fun, too. It

was a great experience."

Hornqvist admitted it was "maybe a little bit" stressful taking a kid to Disney for the first time, but said the week off was a nice mental break. Still, as the time away from the ice grew —

and even among princesses and cartoon characters — he found his mind drifting back to the rink.

"I think the first few days, you just let it go," Hornqvist said. "Then after a few days, you're checking stats, what the other teams do and all that. We live and die with hockey and we love it so much. The first few days it was easy to get away from it, but then after that it starts creeping in."

Most, if not all, of the Penguins players stayed off the ice entirely

in the time between their 6-5 overtime win against Boston Sunday night and their first practice back Friday afternoon. But they were in constant contact with the team's strength and conditioning staff, making sure they had daily workouts so they were ready to jump right back in when the team reconvened.

"Our strength and conditioning guys do a great job of giving us an idea of what to do and

SEE **PENGUINS**, PAGE C-6

## No. 1 Penn Hills lets win do all the talking

Crickets. That's all you'll hear from the Penn Hills boys basketball team after games. The school district has forbidden coach Dan DeRose or any players from talking to the media after contests.

But if wins talk, Penn Hills can be heard loud and clear. They have a perfect pitch.

Penn Hills' record stayed perfect after knocking off rival Woodland Hills, 68-60, in a WPIAL game Friday between two of the top teams in



**On high schools**  
MIKE WHITE

Class 6A. Penn Hills, the Post-Gazette's No. 1 WPIAL 6A team, is 14-0 overall and 6-0 in Section 3. Woodland Hills, ranked No. 3, is 10-2, 5-1.

SEE **HOOPS**, PAGE C-3



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Woodland Hills' Jayquan Smith drives to the basket against Penn Hills' Daivon Stephens Friday.

## Luther's absence puts Pitt frontcourt in trouble

As a long-term play, Ryan Luther missing the remainder of the 2017-18 season makes enough sense for Pitt.

The stress reaction in the senior's right foot hadn't progressed since it was first discovered in mid-December. If anything, it had gotten worse, sidelining the 6-foot-9 forward for the season and prompting the program to seek a medical redshirt. A chance to bring Luther in the fold with a more seasoned 2018-19



**On the Panthers**  
CRAIG MEYER

team seems right for all parties. For this season, though, that decision leaves Pitt with a Herculean task.

Without Luther, Pitt has four

SEE **PITT**, PAGE C-4

**MORE SPORTS INSIDE**



**McConnell's struggles**  
Robert Morris' Matty McConnell will have to shoot way out of slump. **Page C-5**

**Steelers injury report**  
Antonio Brown sent home with flu-like symptoms; other updates. **Page C-2**

**Kessel's All-Star snub**  
Penguin has the stats of an All-Star, but he won't be going to Tampa. **Page C-6**

**More at post-gazette.com**

**ZEISE:** Steelers defense aims to make amends Sunday.  
**PENGUINS BLOG:** Latest news and instant analysis.





## High Schools / Baseball



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Penn Hills' Myles Yarbough reaches for a loose ball against Woodland Hills' Tre'mon Josey in a WPIAL Class 6A showdown Friday at Penn Hills.

# No. 1 Penn Hills lets victory talk for itself

HOOPS, FROM C-1

The start of the game was moved up 2½ hours because of the impending winter weather. But a 5 p.m. start didn't stop a fairly big crowd from showing up. As Penn Hills' student section and cheerleaders danced in the bleachers during timeouts, Penn Hills senior Daivon Stephens did a pretty good routine on the court. You won't find a more versatile player in the WPIAL, and the 6-foot-5 guard showed it against Woodland Hills with 21 points, 10 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 blocks.

"We have a couple guys who I think are pretty good defensively," Woodland Hills coach Odell Miller said. "But, when you're 6-5, handle the ball, go inside and shoot halfway decently, that's a tough matchup. We don't have a guy like [Stephens]."

It's just that no one from Penn Hills would talk about Stephens' performance or

the team's afterward.

Penn Hills athletic director Stephanie Strauss said the district has decided not to have DeRose or players talk to reporters after games. She said it's because of what happened after last season, when the WPIAL ordered Penn Hills to suspend DeRose for the first four games of this season because of the way he and his team behaved after a WPIAL play-off loss against North Hills. Penn Hills' players allegedly caused damage to a locker room and DeRose used an expletive and criticized game officials to a Post-Gazette reporter. PIAA and WPIAL rules state a coach can be penalized for criticizing officials to the media.

Now onto what happened on the court in the Woodland Hills game. Penn Hills opened a 17-point lead in the third quarter, but Woodland Hills scored the final 12 points of the third quarter to cut the lead to 47-43.

Penn Hills widened the

lead again to 12 points (62-50) in the fourth quarter, but Woodland Hills again came back, making it 63-60 with 52 seconds remaining. Then, Woodland Hills had two turnovers and a missed 3-pointer on its final three possessions, while Penn Hills senior guard Corey Fulton made 5 of 6 free throws. Fulton finished with 19 points.

Woodland Hills was led by Amante Britt, a talented senior guard who averages 20 a game. Britt scored 21. Keandre Bowles, who averages 19, was held to 8.

"They sped us up," Miller said. "We like to run, but we were a little too fast. I told our guys we needed to settle down. This is a blemish for us right now. It will make us more hungry. We're going to see them again, and my team is very confident we can beat them. But they own it right now."

Mike White: [mwhite@post-gazette.com](mailto:mwhite@post-gazette.com) and Twitter @mwhiteburgh.

# Three Pirates take new deals

PIRATES, FROM C-1

percentage and .255 average in 145 games last season. Mercer, who made \$4,325,000 in 2017, reached his final year of arbitration eligibility. He will be a free agent after the 2018 season.

Kontos, 32, joined the Pirates on a waiver claim in August from the San Francisco Giants. In a two-month stint in Pittsburgh interrupted by a groin strain, the right-hander had a 1.84 ERA and 15 strikeouts in 14½ innings.

Kontos could join Daniel Hudson in the setup role. He is in his third of four arbitration seasons after qualifying for Super Two status in 2015, and made \$1.75 million last year.

Rivero, 26, saved 21 games after taking over the closer's role from Tony Watson in



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Felipe Rivero saved 21 games after taking over the closer's role from Tony Watson in June.

June. Untouchable for the first half, more human in the second, he had a 1.67 ERA and struck out 88 in 75½ innings.

This was Rivero's first year of arbitration because he qualified for Super Two status, meaning he ranked among the top 22 percent of players with at least two years of service time but fewer than three. He made \$564,500 last year.

Offering hard-throwing relievers under team control an

extension goes against the Pirates' general strategy, but it is possible they want cost certainty with Rivero entering the season as the closer. Saves increase arbitration salaries. Likewise, Rivero could seize a guaranteed contract to insure against injury.

The hearings will take place sometime between Jan. 29 and Feb. 17 in Phoenix.

Bill Brink: [bbrink@post-gazette.com](mailto:bbrink@post-gazette.com).

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VIN HD037633. Lease a new 2017 Buick Envision Preferred FWD for \$299 per month for 36 months and 10,000 miles per year. \$2,615 cash or trade. 1st month's payment, title, and license fees due at signing. Offer includes \$1,500 GM Lease Loyalty (must have current GM lease in household). No security deposit with approval. Tax extra. Offer expires 1/31/2018.



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SLE AWD | STK# D2511

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VIN J184600. Lease a new 2018 GMC Terrain SLE AWD for \$189 per month for 36 months and 10,000 miles per year. \$3,484 cash or trade. 1st month's payment, title, and license fees due at signing. Offer includes \$1,500 GM Lease Loyalty (must have current GM lease in household). No security deposit with approval. Tax extra. Offer expires 1/31/2018.



NEW 2018 GMC ACADIA  
SLE-2 AWD | STK# G6669

**\$249** PER MONTH LEASE FOR 36 MONTHS \$3,773 CASH OR TRADE

VIN J260952. Lease a new 2018 GMC Acadia SLE-2 AWD for \$249 per month for 36 months and 10,000 miles per year. \$2,773 cash or trade. 1st month's payment, title, and license fees due at signing. Offer includes \$1,500 GM Lease Loyalty (must have current GM lease in household). No security deposit with approval. Tax extra. Offer expires 1/31/2018.



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**\$289** PER MONTH LEASE FOR 36 MONTHS \$1,733 CASH OR TRADE

VIN J284654. Lease a new 2018 GMC Sierra 1500 Double Cab 4x4 for \$289 per month for 36 months and 10,000 miles per year. \$1,733 cash or trade. 1st month's payment, title, and license fees due at signing. Offer includes \$2,000 GM Lease Loyalty (must have current GM lease in household). No security deposit with approval. Tax extra. Offer expires 1/31/2018.



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## College / Pro Basketball



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Duke's Grayson Allen works around Pitt's Kene Chukwuka in the Panthers' 35-point loss this week. Chukwuka and the rest of the young frontcourt will likely be overmatched in most of their remaining games without senior forward Ryan Luther.

# Panthers must put trust in unproven frontcourt

PITT, FROM C-1

players on its roster standing taller than 6 feet 6 — freshmen Terrell Brown, Peace Ilegomah and Samson George, as well as sophomore Kene Chukwuka — an almost entirely unproven quartet that has made only marginal contributions in the minutes they have played. Together, the group is averaging 7.6 points, 7.7 rebounds and 1.8 blocks per game while attempting just 4.7 field goals per game.

Each is also in his first year of Division I basketball and presents his own set of challenges by playing major minutes for an ACC team. Brown is tall and enticing at 6-10 with a 7-4 wingspan but has struggled mightily on defense. Chukwuka is feisty and aggressive, but he's slight in frame and easily can be brushed aside when going for rebounds or defending the low post. While intriguing from a physical and defensive standpoint, Ilegomah ideally would have redshirted this season, as he has often looked slow and overwhelmed. George has shown promise at times, but he has played just 24 minutes in 17 games.

There's a feeling among the players that, despite those stumbles, there has been progress.

"Every day, it's just getting better with us," Chukwuka said. "In practice, every game, we keep getting better. We like each other. As long as we keep doing what we're doing, we're going to be good."

The struggles have been most pronounced in the team's four ACC games, all of which have come without Luther.

In those contests, those four big men combined for 24 points (an average of 1.5 per player per game) and 27

### Game day

**Matchup:** Pitt Panthers (8-9, 0-4 ACC) vs. Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets (9-7, 2-1), Petersen Events Center.

**When:** 2 p.m. Saturday  
**TV, Radio, Internet:** WTAE; KDKA-FM (93.7); WatchESPN.com, Sirius/XM Ch. 134/193.

**DYK?** Pitt has used 12 different starting lineups this season, tied for the most in NCAA Division I.

rebounds (1.7 per player per game) in 170 minutes (42.5 per game as a group) while posing almost no scoring threat on the low post, as they averaged just 4.5 shots per game. None of them possess the kind of 3-point shot Luther does, something that can stretch out an opposing defense and create opportunities for others. Chukwuka is the best shooter from 3 of the group, at 20.8 percent, and they have combined to go 5 of 29 from beyond the arc (17.2 percent). Neither George nor Ilegomah has attempted a 3 this season.

Defensively, their fortunes haven't been much better. ACC opponents 6-7 or taller have collectively scored 120 points, 96 more than Pitt's quartet, grabbed 63 rebounds and shot 58.8 percent from the field. They've regularly gotten to the basket easily and, once there, frequently converted on those opportunities, as they've shot 64.6 percent at the rim and gotten 64 points from those attempts. ACC foes have bullied Pitt's bigs while going for rebounds, as well. In those four games, opponents have gotten offensive rebounds on one out of every three missed shots — 33.6 percent — while largely preventing Pitt from capitalizing on those same



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Ryan Luther was averaging 10.1 rebounds a game for Pitt, but he also stretched defenses with his 3-point shooting.

chances.

Those challenges figure to only continue. Among the players the Panthers are scheduled to face in their next four games, in order:

- Ben Lammers, a 6-10 center for Georgia Tech and the reigning ACC defensive player of the year. This season, he is averaging 12.2 points and 8.8 rebounds per game while blocking 9.2 percent of opponents' 2-pointers while he's on the court, ranking him among the top 60 players in Division I in that category.

- Syracuse freshman forward Oshae Brissett, who is averaging 15.2 points and 9.7 rebounds per game. As a team, the Orange is blocking 21 percent of opponents' 2-pointers, the best mark in Division I.

- Duke's tandem of 6-11 Marvin Bagley III and 6-foot-10 Wendell Carter, who combined for 26 points and 22 rebounds, 12 of which came on the offensive end, in an 87-52 rout Wednesday of Pitt. In

that game, Duke had 22 second-chance points.

- Omer Yurtseven, N.C. State's 7-0 center who is among the top 50 players in Division I in block percentage and among the top 25 players in offensive rebounding percentage.

Those shortcomings haven't come without some traces of hope. In the loss to Duke, for example, the Panthers had 15 offensive rebounds, seven of which came from Chukwuka and Brown while going up against that Bagley-Carter frontcourt. The key now becomes extending those momentary glimpses into something more lasting.

"Our challenge now, as I told them after the game, is to get that kind of play as close to 40 minutes as we can," Pitt coach Kevin Stallings said.

*Craig Meyer: cmeyer@post-gazette.com and Twitter @CraigMeyerPG.*

### College basketball notebook

# Unlikely surge gives Auburn national buzz

By The Associated Press



### Game day

**Matchup:** Duquesne Dukes (12-5, 3-1 Atlantic 10 Conference) vs. La Salle Explorers (7-10, 1-3), Palumbo Center.

**When:** 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

**TV/Radio:** NBCSN; WJAS-AM (1320), iHeartRadio.

**DYK?** Duquesne has only been rebounded three times this season. VMI outrebounded the Dukes by three, Robert Morris by 17 and VCU by 19. The 78-67 loss Jan. 9 to VCU was the first time Duquesne was outrebounded in 14 games.

Saturday's game at Mississippi State.

The Tigers are off to their best start since opening the 1999-2000 season 16-1.

### Penn State

Tony Carr scored nine of his 17 points, including a game-winning long jumper with three seconds left in overtime, and Penn State beat visiting Nebraska, 76-74, Friday night. Lamar Stevens scored 26 points and Mike Watkins added 20 and grabbed 15 rebounds for the Nittany Lions (13-6, 3-3 Big Ten), who led by as many as 16 in the second half. Glynn Watson Jr. and Isaac Copeland scored 21 points apiece for the Cornhuskers (12-7, 3-3).

### Texas

Texas announced a fundraising website for Longhorns basketball player Andrew Jones as he undergoes treatment for leukemia. The site's donation tracker showed more than \$32,000 pledged within the first few hours after it was launched. Texas announced Wednesday the 20-year-old sophomore had started treatments for leukemia, but disclosed no more details on his condition or diagnosis. Jones had returned to the Longhorns after considering a move to the NBA after his freshman season. Texas said donations to the website will be given directly to the Jones family to help with medical and necessary family expenses as permitted within NCAA rules. It is the only donation website approved by the Jones family.



Butch Dill/Associated Press

Auburn coach Bruce Pearl and his Tigers are ranked for the first time in nearly 15 years.

### NBA notebook

# Golden State holds out Curry with ankle injury against Bucks

By The Associated Press

Golden State star Stephen Curry didn't play Friday night against Milwaukee, the second consecutive game the sharpshooting guard will have been sidelined by a right ankle injury.

Curry re-sprained the troublesome ankle before the Warriors' loss Wednesday night to the Clippers.

Coach Steve Kerr said

Curry lobbied to return Friday and felt good at shootaround, but that the ankle still wasn't well enough for him to play.

The Warriors are beginning a five-game trip. Kerr said Curry also will be listed as questionable for the game Saturday night in Toronto.

### Cavaliers

Isaiah Thomas and Dwyane Wade were out of

the lineup for Cleveland against Indiana. Thomas has not yet been cleared to play on consecutive nights as he continues to play his way back from an injured right hip. Wade was resting. Two other guards, Iman Shumpert and Derrick Rose, also were unavailable for the Cavaliers on Friday night. Shumpert missed his 20th consecutive game since having arthroscopic surgery on

his left knee. Rose hasn't played since early December with a sprained left ankle.

### Jazz

Guard Rodney Hood was \$35,000 by the NBA for slapping a phone out of a fan's hand. Hood was forced to leave a game Wednesday against the Washington Wizards after receiving a second technical foul. He knocked the phone out of a

fan's hand while walking past the man who was sitting courtside and looked to be recording Hood exiting the court.

### Knicks

Tim Hardaway Jr. returned Friday night at Minnesota after missing 20 games with a stress injury in his lower left leg. New York coach Jeff Hornacek said Hardaway's minutes would

be limited as he builds up stamina and the fifth-year swingman will come off the bench initially. Hardaway previously played Nov. 29 and has been practicing with the team to test his injury. In his first year back with the Knicks after signing a four-year, \$71 million contract in the offseason, Hardaway has averaged 17.8 points, 4.2 rebounds and 3.3 assists in 21 games this season.

## College Basketball



Lake Fong/Post-Gazette

Robert Morris guard Matty McConnell has missed 21 of 22 3-point attempts since the Colonials' Dec. 22 game against Canisius.

# Usual shooting touch still eludes McConnell

After producing the two best games of his career in the Northeast Conference tournament last season, Matty McConnell knew he would have high expectations placed on his shoulders this season.

Coach Andy Toole has put pressure on McConnell, the lone returning junior, to take the next step. The shooting guard has remained one of the best defenders at his position in the conference, and Toole has often praised McConnell's leadership.

But McConnell is dealing with what he calls the worst shooting slump of his career. After missing all four 3-point attempts in an 89-80 loss Thursday night against Saint Francis, Pa., McConnell has missed 21 of his past 22 attempts from behind the arc for the Colonials (10-8, 4-1 Northeast Conference).

The streak began Dec. 22 against Canisius, when he missed all three attempts. His lone make came Saturday against LIU Brooklyn, when he shot 1 of 5 from outside. The shooting guard has made 22.7 percent of his 3-point attempts this season, a regression from his 31.7 percent mark last season.

McConnell and Toole don't have any solutions to the problem, other than to keep shooting.

"Right now, I'm probably in one of the worst shooting slumps that I've ever been in, and I need to find a way to get out of that," McConnell said. "But I'm not going to stop shooting. Shooting is what I do. I'm just going to keep working in practice and pregame and try to find my shot back."



### Game day

**Matchup:** Robert Morris Colonials (10-8, 4-1 Northeast Conference) vs. Fairleigh Dickinson (5-11, 2-3), Stratis Arena, Hackensack, N.J.

**When:** 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

**Radio:** WBG-AM (970).

**DYK?** Robert Morris has scored at least 80 points in three consecutive games, the first time the program has done so since February 2008.

"I think it's just repetition, just not being scared to shoot. I'm never scared to shoot, I need to just take the right ones and take the open ones."

In the NEC tournament last season, McConnell scored 20 points and hit six 3-pointers against LIU Brooklyn. He followed that with a 19-point, 10-rebound, 3-steal performance against Mount St. Mary's, knocking down three of his five attempts from behind the arc. He shot a combined 13 of 22 from the field in both games.

"McConnell shot just 33.5 percent from the field, and 31.7 from 3 last season, but those two games displayed his offensive potential. After the playoff loss against Mount St. Mary's, Toole sent McConnell a text message telling him that his performance needed to become the new normal.

"That's gotta be the standard, the confidence you played with in the last couple weeks, the energy you played with, your playmaking ability," Toole said he told McConnell. "That's

gotta be the guy we have all season long next year."

While his offense has yet to live up to expectations, McConnell has continued to be a playmaker for the Colonials. When adjusting for pace, his defensive rating of 95.4 is the second-best among Northeast Conference shooting guards.

And he has been a good free-throw shooter, making a career-high 82 percent of his attempts. He has taken 61 free throws through 18 games. Last season, he shot 39 free throws total.

Toole said McConnell has been working with director of basketball operations Tray Woodall to snap his cold streak from behind the arc. While his shooting isn't where it needs to be, Toole is confident McConnell will figure out what's been going wrong.

"You go in the gym and you shoot and you don't leave until it feels good," Toole said. "He got in a couple days this week with Tray, but I think there's a level, a speed, that I think we have to get him at from a shooting perspective that's different in the game."

"But he's doing a lot of really positive stuff for us," Toole said. "[Thursday] he didn't play his best game for us, but he's been defending great and he's made a ton of winning plays, he's rebounded the ball, he's helped orchestrate things. We need a better performance from him in games like this, and he knows that. I think he'll respond."

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## Sports

## Morning briefing

## Bryant, Cubs agree to record deal

From local and wire dispatches

Kris Bryant put up another big number. Bryant agreed to a \$10.85 million, one-year deal with the Chicago Cubs, a record for a player eligible for arbitration for the first time.

The previous mark was held by former Philadelphia slugger Ryan Howard, who was awarded \$10 million by a three-person panel in 2008. The Cubs and Bryant avoided arbitration, and the 26-year-old third baseman receives a hefty raise after making \$1.05 million in 2017.

The Cubs also reached one-year deals with right-hander Kyle Hendricks (\$4,175,000), shortstop Addison Russell (\$3.2 million) reliever Justin Wilson (\$4.25 million) and infielder Tommy La Stella (\$950,000).

## More baseball

The St. Louis Cardinals agreed to a one-year, \$9 million contract with newly acquired outfielder Marcell Ozuna, avoiding arbitration. The Cardinals also reached one-year deals with outfielder Randal Grichuk, right-hander Michael Wacha and left-hander Tyler Lyons. Wacha's agreement is worth \$5.3 million.

• NL batting champion Charlie Blackmon and the Colorado Rockies avoided salary arbitration by agreeing to a \$14 million, one-year contract.

• Third baseman Josh Donaldson and the Toronto Blue Jays agreed to a \$23 million contract, the largest one-year deal for an arbitration-eligible player. The 32-year-old, a three-time All-Star, topped the \$21.625 million, one-year deal covering 2018 agreed to in May 2017 by outfielder Bryce Harper and Washington.

## College football

Penn State hired David Corley as its running backs coach. He had been wide receivers coach at Army and replaces Charles Huff, who joined former Nittany Lions offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead at Mississippi State, where Moorhead has taken over as head coach. Before working at Army, Corley was on staffs at Connecticut and his alma mater, William & Mary.

## Tennis

Angelique Kerber came from 3-1 down in the final set to beat qualifier Camila Giorgi, 6-2, 6-3, to reach the Sydney International final in Australia. Kerber will face Ashleigh Barty, who beat Australian compatriot Daria Gavrilova, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, in the other semifinal.

• Juan Martin del Potro and Roberto Bautista Agut will meet Saturday in the final of the ASB Classic in Auckland, New Zealand. Second-seeded del Potro beat David Ferrer of Spain, 6-4, 6-4, while Bautista Agut defeated Robin Haase, 6-7 (7), 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5).



Peter Diana/Post-Gazette

Phil Kessel made a strong case for All-Star status, leading the NHL in power-play points and power-play assists.

## Penguins rally around Kessel

## All-Star snub for winger riles teammates

By Jason Mackey  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

There's been no shortage of high-stakes hockey for these Penguins the past two seasons, which makes freaking out over a meaningless exhibition such as the NHL All-Star Game, on the surface, seem a little silly.

OK, it's probably worse than that, but have you thought about how wrong it is that Phil Kessel isn't going?

Even though they were on their NHL-mandated off week — which expired at 4 p.m. Friday as they reconvened for practice at UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex in Cranberry — the Penguins certainly have paid some mind to Kessel not making it.

"I was definitely surprised," Olli Maatta said Wednesday after the announcement. "He deserved to be there."

"If you're asking me if I think Phil's deserving, I would say, 'Yes.'" Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said.

"He's leading our team in points," said Sidney Crosby, who along with Kris Letang is one of two players who will represent the Penguins. "He's been consistent all year."

Kessel, of course, still could go to Tampa, Fla., at the end of the month for the two-day event that culminates in a three-on-three tournament — perhaps rubbing salt in an open wound, as it's one of the things at which Kessel excels the most.

If someone gets hurt between now and then, you have to think that Kessel is a logical replacement. Then again, he was a logical participant in the first place:

• Entering Friday, 10

## Scouting report



Who:

Penguins vs. Detroit Red Wings.

When, where: 1 p.m. Saturday, PPG Paints Arena.

Look, listen: AT&T SportsNet; WXDX-FM (105.9), PittsburghPenguins.com.

**Noteworthy:** Penguins have scored two or more power-play goals in 10 of their first 44 games, including in four of their past nine. They did that 12 times all of last year. ... Red Wings G Jimmy Howard was in a groove before sustaining a lower-body injury and missing Detroit's final game before its off week. Howard won four consecutive starts with a .960 save percentage. He's day-to-day and likely will play against the Penguins. ... Penguins have 13 wins at home. A franchise-record eight have come after regulation, including six of their past eight. Their most recent regulation victory at PPG Paints Arena was Dec. 2, 2017 vs. Buffalo.

**Did you know?** Penguins C Sidney Crosby has had a hand in seven of the Penguins' past 10 goals. That's the first time he has produced three or more assists in back-to-back games since Jan. 13-16, 2015.

players had more than Kessel's 47 points. One, the Philadelphia Flyers' Jakub Voracek, was on the outside looking in like Phil.

• Kessel leads the Penguins in goals (18) and points.

• Kessel leads the league in power-play points (27) and power-play assists (20).

• He has produced at least a point in 32 of 44 games while going back-to-back games without a point exactly once.

So, what exactly was missing on Kessel's résumé?

The answer is nothing. Kessel was simply the victim of a screwy formula that divides teams by division,

then makes it mandatory that every team is represented — eight in this case. The unfortunate byproduct is diminishing the event's entertainment value by keeping two top-12 scorers home.

"He's producing a lot of points," Patric Hornqvist said of Kessel. "He deserved to be in the All-Star Game."

If anything, perhaps the Penguins should count their blessings that they got two representatives. Only the Washington Capitals and New York Islanders join them in having that luxury, which means that one of the top five and two of the bottom three teams had multiple representatives. Go ahead, make sense of that.

"Phil's had a terrific year for us," Sullivan said. "I think he's very deserving. I think the format of the All-Star Game is such that some good players are going to be left out. Phil's one of them. It doesn't diminish our appreciation for what he's done for our team this year. Those of us who are close to our team understand how important his game has been for us. Phil has quietly had a really, really solid year for us."

If you've watched the Penguins from afar, perhaps you're assuming that Kessel has piled up a bunch of points in garbage time or is simply just firing his ridiculous shot at will.

Doing so would be wrong, although Kessel is shooting more.

In addition to that deadly shot, he has been as consistent as anyone and has adapted his game to be a little more responsible and engaged defensively while still managing to do what he does best, which is create offense and score.

"He keeps producing," Maatta said. "I feel like every game he's scoring or doing something to give us a chance to win the game."

Others have done that,

too, of course, Crosby and Letang among the group.

Crosby has seven points in the past two games, 43 overall and might be nearing the hot streak that so many Penguins fans have expected. While Letang has admitted that he's had some struggles thus far, easily noticeable with the minus-13 next to his name, he's also in the top 15 in scoring by a defenseman and remains one of the most exciting players to watch when it comes to three-on-three.

"It's always an honor to represent your team for a big event in the NHL," Letang said Friday. "It's a show for skilled guys with the three-on-three. It's a hard game to play, but it's fun."

"You learn so many things being with all those guys and being around the different coaches. It's a cool experience."

It's apples and oranges talking Letang and Kessel.

Try to pick which forward you would send home in favor of Kessel, and it's much more difficult. Washington's Alex Ovechkin was voted captain, meaning he's in. Claude Giroux of the Flyers and John Tavares and Josh Bailey of the Islanders have more points.

There's probably nobody other than Taylor Hall you could pick from the New Jersey Devils — sorry Brian Gibbons — which brings us to Crosby, who actually endorsed Kessel's candidacy over his own before the break.

"I didn't expect to be there," Crosby said.

"I thought Phil would be the guy selected. It's always an honor to go there. A lot of guys who are deserving. Feel fortunate."

"[Kessel] played really well in the first half. Like I said, I thought he was deserving of it. But I don't select the team."

Nah, it would make entirely too much sense to give those actually playing some legitimate input.

## Penguins ready for fresh start vs. Detroit

PENGUINS, FROM C-1

making sure we're ready when we come back," Conor Sheary said. "They sent us emails and workouts and stuff like that. I think that was a good thing for us."

Carl Hagelin, who spent the week in Florida, said he didn't think it should take too long for players to get their hockey legs back under them after a week off the ice.

"Hopefully, just one practice," Hagelin said. "I think it's a lot of hockey the last couple of years, so we should be fine."

And some players had an easier time taking their mind off the game than others.

"Once you get to a place like Florida, I think it's easy to stop thinking about hockey," Sheary said.

Justin Schultz, too, pointed to the fact that, over the past two seasons, the Penguins have had hockey on their brains more than even every other NHL team.

Schultz's planned trip home to Kelowna, B.C., got cancelled because of flight issues, but he still enjoyed his week off in Pittsburgh.

"We've played so much hockey the last couple of years that I think it's nice for everyone to just sit back and relax, not think about hockey or do anything," Schultz said. "We've got the stretch run coming now, so we're right into it. It was nice to recharge the batteries."

But if there's one person on the Penguins bench who had no problem admitting he couldn't completely tune out — no surprise — it was coach Mike Sullivan.

"We [coaches] try, but I don't know how possible it is," Sullivan said.

"It's just the nature of what we signed up for. I think we're all cut from the same cloth in that regard. It's nice to get away a little bit, spend some time with family, and I think that's an opportunity for all of us to recharge our batteries, but I'm not going to sit here and say that it wasn't on my mind. It always is."

## Murray on leave

Matt Murray will miss the Saturday afternoon game against the Detroit Red Wings at PPG Paints Arena because he returned home to Thunder Bay, Ontario, the result of a personal/family situation.

"He went home for personal reasons," Sullivan said after practice Friday at the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex. "His status will be day-to-day at this point. Matt's going to get as much time as he needs. He will not play [Saturday]. We will go from there."

To account for not having Murray, the Penguins called up goalie Casey DeSmith from AHL Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Friday.

While Murray's out, Tristan Jarry will reprise his role as starter. Jarry is 7-3-2 this season with a 2.46 goals-against average and a .919 save percentage with two shutouts.

DeSmith has gone back and forth between Pittsburgh and Wilkes-Barre much of the year because the Penguins have dealt with injuries and some inconsistent play from their NHL goalies. He has played in two NHL games this season, both in relief.

DeSmith has been excellent in his AHL action and was selected to the league's All-Star Game earlier this month. In 19 AHL games, DeSmith, 26, is 12-5-2 with a 2.53 goals-against average and .915 save percentage.

Murray is 15-12-1 in 28 starts this season with a 2.93 goals-against average and a .903 save percentage. He won in relief last Sunday against the Bruins, stopping all six shots he faced.

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Matt Beard photos

"Tempete" is one section of "Cirque du Soleil: Crystal," the new ice show that enters the world of a teenage girl's imagination.

## CRYSTAL CIRCUS

Cirque du Soleil picks up speed with new ice show

By Sharon Eberson  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Cirque du Soleil is always looking for new worlds to conquer. So, it was only natural that the entertainment giant that has offered everything from a Beatles-themed Las Vegas show to an "Avatar"-inspired extravaganza should take to the ice.

Cirque's arena-sized spectacle is "Crystal," a version of what we've come to expect from the Canadian company. Bringing together the acrobatic and skating worlds has added elements of speed and danger, even for a company that incorporates high-flying aerialists and BMX riders into performances.

"You go by what you are known for and what you are strong at, which is the acrobatic aspect of your show, the marriage between live music and artistry," said Fabrice Lemire, the ballet dancer and choreographer-turned-artistic director for touring Cirque shows. "Then we brought the element of the ice skating world into our world, and I love what I see."

"Crystal" makes its Pittsburgh debut at PPG Paints Arena starting Jan. 17, with eight shows in five days — a Friday matinee was added because of brisk ticket sales.

One element that lends itself to a Cirque spectacle is the ability to have projections on ice, a sight known to hockey fans who have attended pregame festivities at NHL



"Cirque du Soleil: Crystal" blends the worlds of acrobatics and skating.

### PREVIEW

#### 'Cirque du Soleil: Crystal'

**Where:** PPG Paints Arena, 1001 Fifth Ave., Uptown.

**When:** Jan. 17-21. 7:30 p.m. Wed.-Thurs.; 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Fri.; 4 and 7:30 p.m. Sat. and 1 and 5 p.m. Sun.

**Tickets:** \$32-\$155 (depending on day and time); www.cirquedusoleil.com/crystal; Ticketmaster.com or 1-800-653-8000.

playoff games.

"The ice also is offering us the notion of speed we didn't have in the past," Mr. Lemire said. "There are some fantastic formations evolving in front of us by ensembles. It's gorgeous, and we didn't have that

ability on the normal stage floor for a more traditional circus show."

"Crystal" also offers slippery new challenges, from recruiting performers with adaptable skills to the shoes and gloves worn on the ice by nonskaters. The company's costume and prop department created its own version of hand-and-foot grips that allow an acrobat to do handstands or tumbles without slipping or creating divots.

The search for performers with particular skill sets took the casting department to places it had never been. "Acrobat" is a very big word," is how Mr. Lemire put it. For "Crystal," it can mean the ability to excel on blades and, in some case, wheels. Some performers come from the competitive skating world, and others "are the kids on skateboards you might see at a city park," Mr. Lemire said.

SEE **CIRQUE**, PAGE D-2

### Let's eat

GRETCHEN MCKAY

#### BLACK BEAN ENCHILADAS

PG tested

The cold weather is back, which calls for comfort food. Enchiladas are always a crowd pleaser, plus they're super-easy.

The original recipe calls for vegan cheese, but I substituted a mix of mozzarella and sharp cheddar. It might seem as if you won't get enough sauce from the cooked beans, but don't worry — you will. Maybe even more than enough.

Serve with a citrusy Mexican slaw for a complete meal.

**1 tablespoon olive or coconut oil**  
**1 medium red onion, finely chopped**

**2 cloves garlic, minced**  
**1 teaspoon red pepper flakes**  
**2 teaspoons ground cumin**  
**1 medium jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped**

**1 cup tomato puree**  
**2 tablespoons tomato paste**  
**½ teaspoon dried thyme**

**1 cup water**  
**Salt and freshly ground black pepper**

**1 bay leaf**  
**15-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed**  
**12 corn tortillas**

**4 ounces shredded sharp cheddar**  
**4 ounces shredded mozzarella**  
**2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro**

**Preheat** oven to 350 degrees.

**Heat** oil in saute pan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook for 3 minutes. Add red pepper flakes and cumin and cook for another 2 minutes. Add jalapeno, tomato puree and paste, thyme, 1 cup water, salt and pepper and stir well. Add bay leaf and black beans and bring to boil. Reduce heat to low, mash the beans and let simmer for 5 minutes before turning off heat.

**Drain** bean mixture over a bowl and save the liquid as the sauce.

Place 3 tablespoons of bean mixture in the middle of each tortilla, a generous pinch of cheddar and roll tightly. Spread half the sauce on the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish and place tortillas seam side down. Pour remaining sauce over tortillas and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

**Cover** dish with foil and bake for 15 minutes. Top with chopped cilantro before serving.

**Serves 4.**

— Adapted from "Power Vegan Meals" by May Sozer (Page Street, December 2017, \$22)



Gretchen McKay/Post-Gazette

## Building family ties with fly tying

There's nothing like a shared challenge to bond a family. Fly tying instructor Bob Heil Jr. of Sewickley said something special happens when a parent and child share a creative endeavor and neither is in charge.

"What I see in the faces of kids and adults is happiness: 'We're doing something together,'" he said. "For the kids, they're on an even level with mom or dad. For the parents, they're having fun learning something with their kids."

In fly fishing circles winter is tying season, and throughout the region demos, clinics, classes and courses are held. Mr. Heil, a volunteer instructor for Allegheny Fly Tyers, said it's mostly families with some fishing experience.

"But it's pretty common for a spouse or girlfriend or son or daughter to want to learn how to go out with the fly fisherman in the family," he said. "Sometimes retired couples are looking for something tranquil but rewarding to do together. In the classes you can see the pleasure they get out of their pro-

### Get out JOHN HAYES

gression and the shared achievement of learning how to tie."

Fly tying demonstrations are almost always free. Beginner clinics are generally free, although students are sometimes charged a token fee for materials. Multiclass beginner and intermediate courses can run \$75 or more. One-on-one tutoring is more expensive, and the cost of a fly tying, fly fishing getaway weekend, including food and cozy lodge accommodations, can exceed \$500.

Allegheny Fly Tyers frequently holds classes at the International Angler fly shop in Robinson. Owner Bob Phillips said that like fly casting, fly tying can seem more complicated than it really is.

"It can be overwhelming to look at a drawer full of flies or a vise and all the materials," he said. "Some people get into all the Latin names and complicated patterns, but the

beauty of fly fishing is it can be as easy or as complex as you want and you never stop learning."

Anglers can buy quality flies at any fly shop and even some big-box sporting goods stores. But fly shops have a vast variety of raw materials — hooks, feathers, fur, thread and tying tools — as well as knowledgeable staff to help tyers of all experience levels.

In a pastime that puts little apparatus between angler and fish, using a self-tied fly can bring a feeling of accomplishment.

"It's like nothing else," said Sam Presutti of East Liverpool, Ohio, fishing manager at the Orvis fly shop at The Galleria of Mt. Lebanon. "The No. 1 reason people have an interest is because of the satisfaction you get from catching a fish on something you've created yourself."

Anyone can tie a fly, he said. "Kids 6 years old can do this and folks in their 90s. There are no age limits, no limits on what you can do."

John Hayes: 412-263-1991, jhayes@post-gazette.com.

## Grupo Corpo dances its past and future

By Jane Vranish  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### Dance preview

When Grupo Corpo takes to the Byham Theater stage on Wednesday, it will celebrate both past and present. For over 40 years, the company whose name translates as "Group Body" has been a symbol of Brazilian generosity and ingenuity.

The first of two pieces to be performed represents the troupe's origins and was created for its recent 40th anniversary. "Danca Sinfonica" builds on a history that began with founder and artistic director Paulo Pederneiras in 1975. Grupo Corpo made its debut here for Pittsburgh Dance Council in 2003.

Mr. Pederneiras surrounded himself with family members. The company still boasts choreographer Rodrigo, technical director Pedro, choreographic as-

sistant Miriam and technical coordinator Gabriel. As with most families, there are some-time problems.

"Conflicts had always existed and will go on," said Rodrigo Pederneiras. "But the fact of being a family made us learn how to overcome quickly our conflicts and how to forget it easily."

All of them had a hand in "Danca Sinfonica," which Paulo designed with a memorialist theme. The backdrop features images carefully chosen from more than a thousand photographs contributed by collaborators and influencers.

The score is also a patchwork of new and original music by composer Marco Antonio

SEE **GRUPO**, PAGE D-2





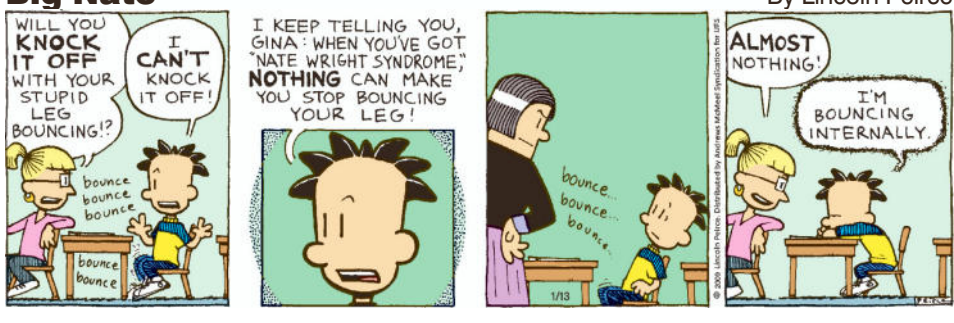
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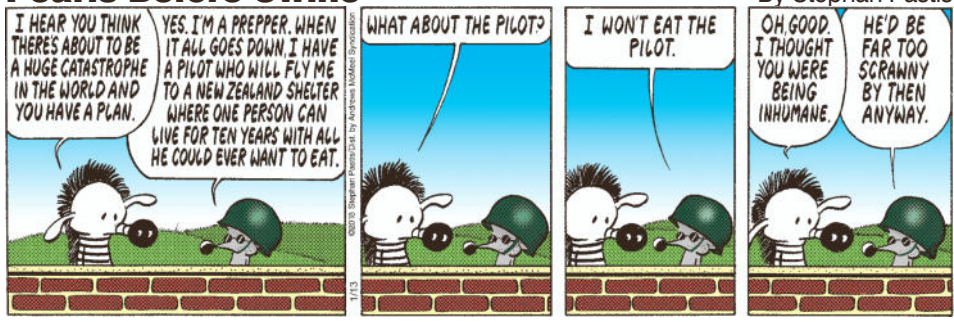
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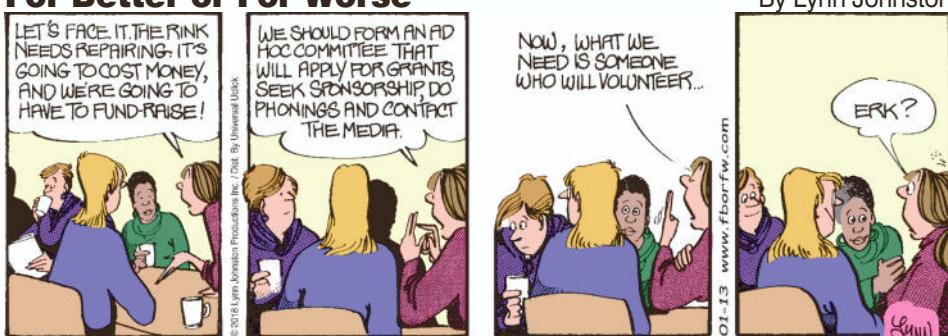
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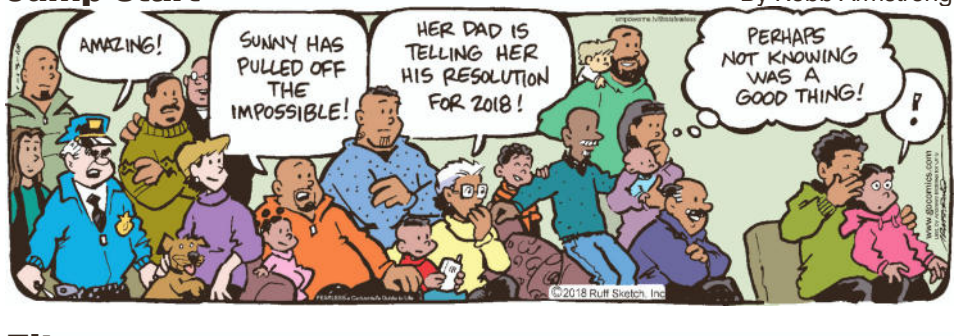
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Jump Start

By Robb Armstrong



Rex Morgan, M.D.

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Mary Worth

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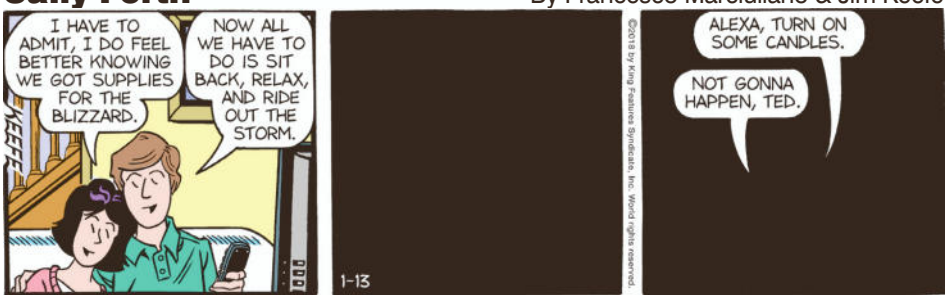
Curtis

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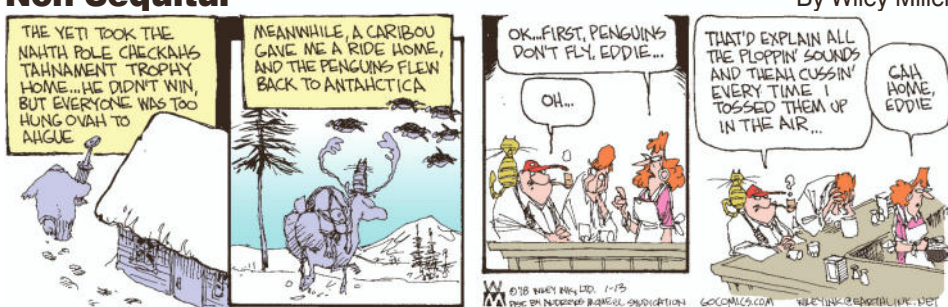
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By Darby Conley



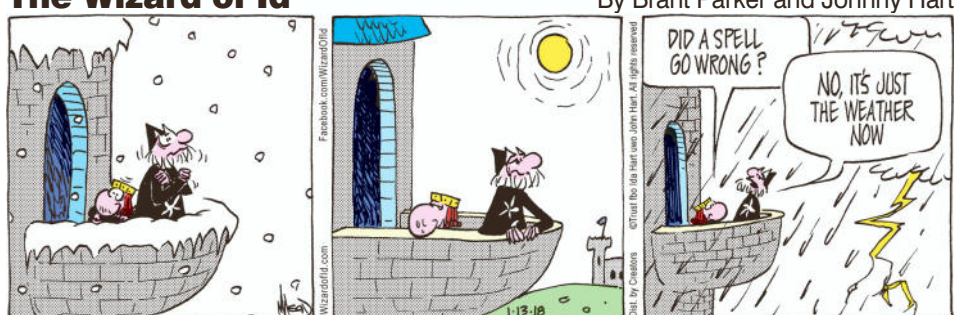
Non Sequitur

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The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



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Shots in wormed. Tails docked. Serious inq only. Text or call \$750 412-513-5478</p> <p><b>Pekepo puppy</b> trained, loving, sweet, no shed companion! Health guarantee, UTD all vaccines! Boy \$250 304-312-2958</p> <p><b>Pittsburgh Reptile Show January 14th</b> 1000's of Reptiles &amp; Exotic pets ALL UNDER 1 ROOM! Tons of chances for hands on photo opportunities. All animals &amp; Supplies are for sale wholesale pricing! <a href="http://PitReptileSHOW.com">PitReptileSHOW.com</a> 724-516-0441</p> <p><b>POM POODLE MIX</b> Black and white, ready to go, 1 girl, 1 male, \$500. 724-413-9619</p>  <p><b>Pomsky Puppies</b> Cuddly, Adorable, Family Raised, Caring, Playful, Sweet, Friendly <a href="http://www.LancasterPuppies.com">www.LancasterPuppies.com</a> 717-984-7532</p>  <p><b>Purebred &amp; Designer hypoallergenic Mix Bichon &amp; Maltese &amp; Havanese PUREBRED ACA papers - no shed great w kids. Designer mixes like Toy poodle mix, Teddy Bear &amp; Cavachon</b> <a href="http://www.northeastpup.com">www.northeastpup.com</a> 412-346-0585 now/deposit</p>	<p><b>Pets &amp; Supplies</b></p>  <p><b>Labrador Retriever Puppies</b> Sweet, Playful, Loyal, Charming, Family Raised 330-466-3875 <a href="http://www.LancasterPuppies.com">www.LancasterPuppies.com</a></p> <p><b>LAB RETRIEVER PUPS</b> AKC Vet checked, parents on site dew claws, \$400 814-654-7032</p>	<p><b>Pets &amp; Supplies</b></p> <p><b>ROTTWEILER PUPPIES</b> AKC, large boned, shots, micro chipped, tails docked, \$900. 330-550-8435</p> <p><b>ROTTWEILER PUPPIES,</b> AKC reg. 1st shots, docked, dew claws removed, dewormed, excellent health, parents on premises. \$800. 724-718-6585</p> <p><b>SCHNOODLE PUPPIES</b> Brown w/ black or all white, shots &amp; dewormed, \$600. 330-243-1247</p> <p><b>SEAL POINT SIAMESE KITTENS \$300, ready 1/13, 724-735-2033</b></p> <p><b>SHEEPADOODLE</b> Puppies, born 11/11/17, black &amp; white colored, great pets, great family dog. \$500. 814-330-0851</p> <p><b>SHIH TZU PUPPIES</b> ACA Born 11/15, 3f, 2m, tri color, UTD on shots &amp; worming, health guarantee, adorable, \$600, call or text for pics 330-763-4614</p> <p><b>Shih Tzu purebred</b> ACA &amp; Designer Mix Shorkies &amp; Shih Chons (teddy bears). 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Our ambition is, and always will be, to produce top quality puppies, and make our puppies affordable so all of our buyers can enjoy, and love, this wonderful breed.</p> <p>Call or text 330-892-8895 or visit our website at <a href="http://pipersposhpuppies.com">pipersposhpuppies.com</a> for more pictures and video, or to schedule an appointment.</p> <p>We accept cash or credit card.</p> <p>330-892-8895</p> <p><b>Tiny Yorkie Poos, Mini Dachshund more</b> English Puggle-Bull, 330-259-1286 Big Male Sale Xtra \$50.00 off 10 week &amp; older, Morkie, Maltese, Yorkies, Chihuahuas, Malti-Poo, Yorkie-Poo, Cute Shih-Tzus, Shih-Chon, Malti-Shih, Shih-Poo, Mal-Shih, Cav-A-Chon, CC, cash or easy financing on our web <a href="http://www.ohiopuppy.com">www.ohiopuppy.com</a> 1560 E Liberty St Girard Ohio (Youngstown) 330-259-1286</p> <p><b>Westie pure w papers 8 weeks. Lollipop 16wk lower \$\$. YORKIE pure</b> <a href="http://www.yorkiesandwesties.com">www.yorkiesandwesties.com</a> no shed, smart \$699-899 Vet ck, Shots, wormed, Yorkie Male \$775 normal size Fem \$950 Tcups r more - ALEX 6/2/17 \$550 training Aca male Yorkie New Years Reductions 412-259-3396 shots</p>
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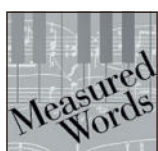
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**POPi** – It's all geek to them: Sharon Ebersson and Maria Sciuillo blog about pop culture.



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**Garage Sales-North**

ESTATE SALE, SUN, 1/14, 7:30-3 FOX CHAPEL, 15215 500 GUYASUTA Upscale lr/dr/brs, artw, piano, dec rugs, china, glswe, pottery, books, w/d, fridge, electronics, patio, grdn tools! (remove shoes) Cash! www.ijavestatesales.com

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