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Wolf orders more business closures

By Mick Stinelli
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Gov. Tom Wolf ordered all “non-life-sustaining” businesses in the state to close by 8 p.m. Thursday to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Enforcement on this policy will begin on Saturday, Mr. Wolf said. The announcement follows the state’s first COVID-19 related death Wednesday in Northampton County.

On Sunday, all nonessential businesses were asked to close to help curb the spread of the deadly, novel coronavirus that causes the disease.

“I had hoped for voluntary compliance so our public safety officials could focus on assisting with the crisis,” Mr. Wolf said in a video statement. “Unfortunately, we have not seen full compliance.”

Mr. Wolf said all businesses that are not life critical should work remotely.

All health care and social-assistance businesses, except child day care, can remain open. That includes hospitals and nursing care facilities.

Most transit systems — including air, water and bus transportation — are to continue operating, but charter buses and “scenic and sightseeing” transportation are to stop.

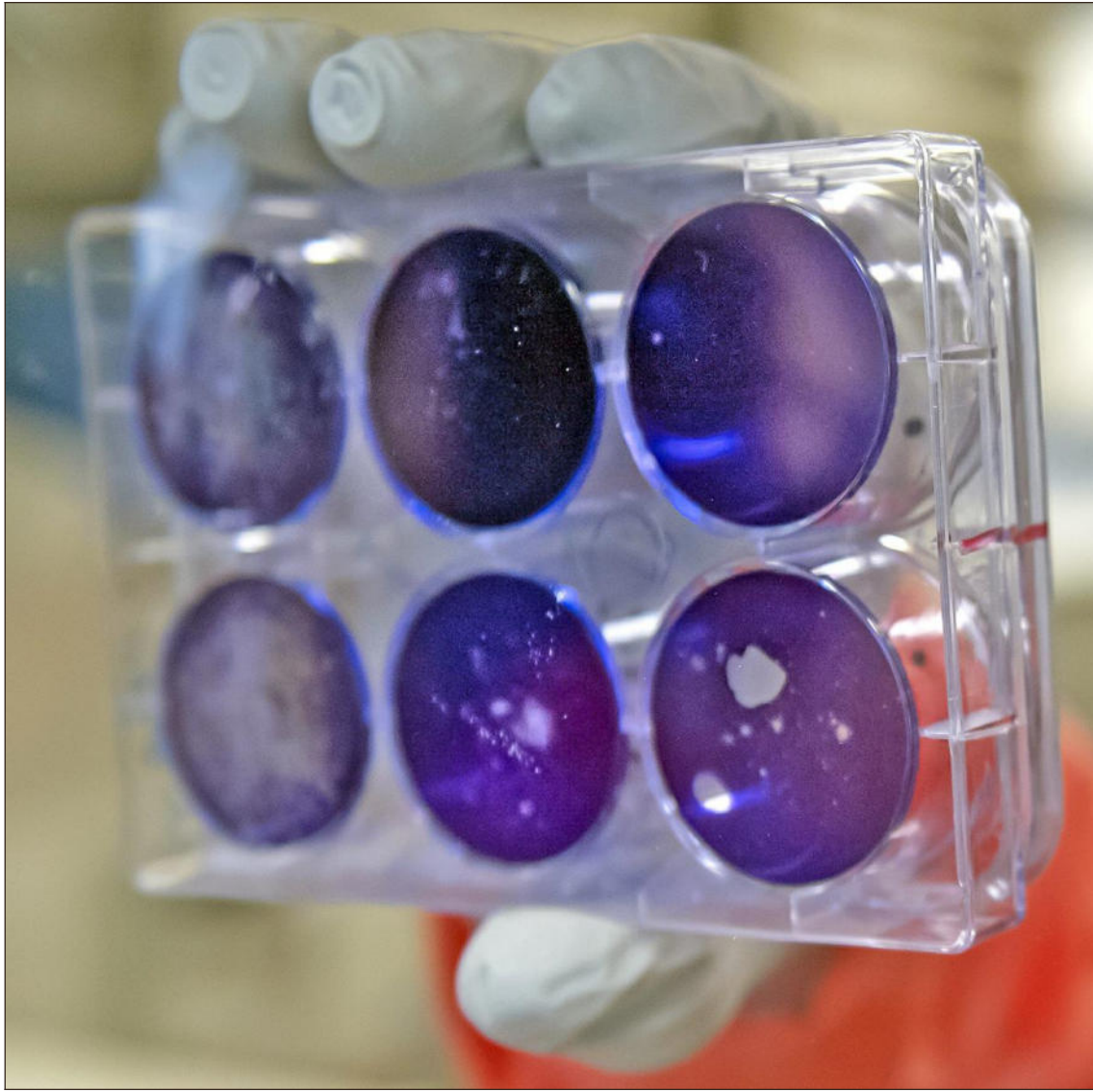
Other businesses that can continue operations include:

- Crop and animal farming
- Food and beverage manufacturing
- Grocery stores
- Beer distributors
- Utilities
- Telecommunications businesses except resellers

Business that are to cease physical operations include:

- Bars
- Barbershops, salons and gyms
- Clothing and accessory stores

SEE **WOLF**, PAGE A-4



Nate Guidry/Post-Gazette

Matt Dunn, a researcher for the Center for Vaccine Research at the University of Pittsburgh, holds dead samples of the coronavirus on Feb. 27 at the Biomedical Science Tower 3 in Oakland.

Pitt to get COVID-19 vaccine grant

By Sean D. Hamill
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Vaccine Research is part of an international consortium of three organizations receiving a \$4.9 million grant to develop a COVID-19 vaccine candidate based on measles-vector technology.

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, known as CEPI, said in a news release Thursday that it is making the grant to Pitt, as well as Themis Bioscience in Austria and Institut Pasteur in France, as part of the coalition’s ongoing investment to attempt to rapidly develop a vaccine.

“All of our efforts will be directed to address this rapidly

changing public health emergency,” Dr. Paul Duprex, the director of Pitt’s Center for Vaccine Research, said in a news release. “We are delighted to be part of this multinational, world-class consortium.”

He added that Pitt’s state-of-the-art facility has a “mandated role to respond rapidly to global outbreaks such as COVID-19; to develop animal models of disease; to use these to test the efficacy of candidate vaccines such as recombinant measles viruses expressing a range of SARS-CoV-2 [the virus that causes COVID-19] genes.”

Pitt’s Center for Vaccine Research was one of the first research labs in the country to receive samples of the coronavirus when it

received them Feb. 14 from a patient in Washington state. In addition, Dr. Duprex is one of the world’s leading experts on measles viruses.

Richard Hatchett, CEO of The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, said in the news release that CEPI chose Pitt and its partners’ approach using measles-vector technology because of the science behind the strategy they propose.

“The measles vaccine is used here as a vehicle” against COVID-19, Mr. Hatchett said. “Using the measles vaccine (also called MV) as a vector, recombinant vaccines can be designed to express

SEE **GRANT**, PAGE A-2

Positive region cases total 25

By Sean D. Hamill
and Mick Stinelli
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto announced on his Twitter account Thursday night that he is in self-isolation after two colleagues at a Washington, D.C., news conference tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

The mayor says he is not symptomatic but is acting out of an abundance of caution.

“I have absolutely no symptoms,” Mr. Peduto said in a video. “I feel great. Not great enough to clean my basement, but great.”

The mayor’s announcement was the latest proof that COVID-19 continues to hit close to home.

Midday Thursday, Allegheny County Health Department said that the county’s total number of COVID-19 cases is at 18 after six new cases were reported Thursday morning.

The cases are all “positive,” the ACHD said, using terminology that the state is now using as well.

The state Department of Health reported Thursday that Allegheny County’s six new cases were part of 52 new positive cases statewide, with 185 total cases spread across 22 of the state’s 67 counties. Beaver County has two cases, Washington County has three and Westmoreland County has two. The first death from COVID-19 in the state was reported Wednesday in Northampton County.

Like many workers in the area, Mr. Peduto said he would continue to work remotely from home while completing his quarantine.

“I was on the phone yesterday with the White House and with Vice President [Mike] Pence, and it was made abundantly clear that over the next 72 hours we will see a rise in the number of cases throughout the country” due to more test kits being available and the continued spread of the virus, Mr. Peduto said in the Twitter video.

The mayor continued:

SEE **CASES**, PAGE A-4

Around Pittsburgh neighborhoods, people refusing to give in to COVID-19

Mt. Lebanon group uses lunches to support those in need, local businesses

As the COVID-19 crisis began rolling into their neighborhood like a terrible storm this week, some Mt. Lebanon homemakers and neighbors mused about how they wished there were something they could do — specifically, something to help others who already were getting slammed.

They felt helpless. But it turns out, they could do a couple of things.

One was submarine sandwiches.

Annie Skiba started it on the “Just” a Mt. Lebanon Housewife Facebook group that she administers, and discussion spread to another Facebook group with a self-deprecating name for this generally well-to-do south suburb, Inside the Bubble.

Out of her and her neighbors’ concern for vulnerable people caught up in domestic abuse, Bubble administrator Stephanie Fedro-Byrom called the Women’s Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. They found out it was extra busy and had a pressing need for food, and not just for clients, but also for staff who have been staying in with them.

SEE **LUNCHES**, PAGE A-3

Pittsburgh Fine Drinking Society brings happy hour online with #AloneTogether

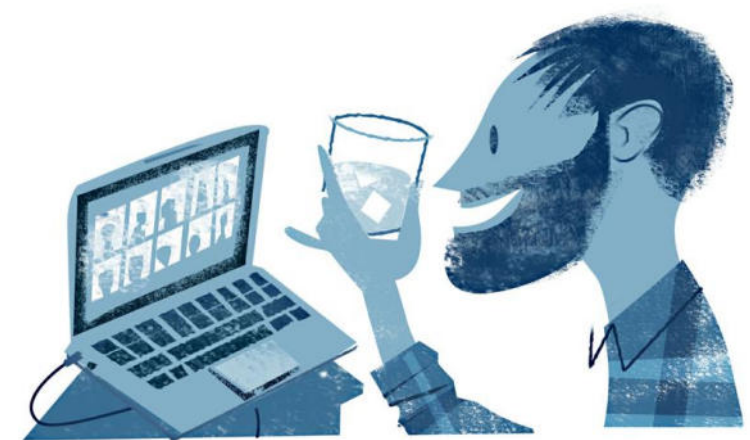
For going on nearly nine years and roughly 400-plus Thursdays, members of the Pittsburgh Fine Drinking Society have gathered at hundreds of bars in the city limits, from hot new restaurants to smoky dives, chic clubs, swanky cocktail lounges, speakeasies, breweries, gay bars and sports bars to kick back and toss back a tippie or two.

And their president, Lou Kroeck, won’t let a pandemic panic stop them: They’re taking their weekly happy hour online.

“Everyone is stressed as hell right now, so we thought, ‘How can we be together without being around each other?’” Mr. Kroeck, an attorney from the South Side, said. “We want to stay positive despite this terrible thing.”

Mr. Kroeck invited group members — and strangers — to a Google Hangout at 5 p.m. Thursday, where they socialized, mingled, played games and, of course, drank, COVID-19 be damned. They plan to keep doing this weekly from the comfort of their home, via their laptops or smartphones, with whatever beverages they may have on hand.

“We’re still kind of working out the details. We’re just trying it this week for the first time. The Google Hangout will support up to 50 people. The 10 people that are participating the most will be displayed.



But if people want to break off and have their own separate conversation, they can do that, too — the same as if you move to a different part of the bar.”

A week ago, the group convened at Harp & Fiddle in the Strip District for its annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration; this week, the group was supposed to gather at the Sharp Edge in Downtown. When that clearly was not going to happen, he said one of the group’s regulars called him and asked, “What are we gonna do?”

Mr. Kroeck first read about people in Japan using a teleconferencing app called Zoom to drink with strangers.

“Zoom looks like the best technology to do this,” he said, adding that it was quicker and easier to get it off the ground with Google

Hangouts. He’d like it to catch on so that it can be a regular event.

“Oh, absolutely. Until this thing is over,” he said.

“We’re actually looking for someone to bartend. We want a bartender who’s off of work to participate as an emcee, and we can tip them through PayPal or Venmo to make up for lost wages,” he said.

“We’re looking for a nice queue of bartenders, and we can throw them some cash. It sucks so many places might not open again, and the service industry folks need to figure out how to pay their rent,” Mr. Kroeck said. “So how can we support them, be social and have some fun?”

What exactly would an online bartender do?

“Maybe introduce people, ask

SEE **HAPPY HOUR**, PAGE A-3

Dormont woman starts ‘CoronaChoir’ to sing from the sidewalks

Oliver Brooke has been rehearsing for a choral concert at Keystone Oaks High School for months.

That is, until last week, when the district instructed students and staff not to return for at least the next two weeks due to impact of the new coronavirus.

Although the concert is still scheduled for May, the pause in school activities left the 16-year-old with a lot of uncertainty.

“I was kind of cheering on the inside, but I was also thinking, ‘Oh, no. My musical. My band trip. ... What’s going to happen with that?’”

The performance was set to feature classic numbers from the 1980s musical “Les Misérables,” adapted from a novel about a French peasant in the early 19th century.

Oliver assumed he and his classmates’ hard work would go to waste, but what he didn’t know was that a neighbor of his in Dormont was crafting a choir of her own.

Amy Kline became the organizer of the Dormont CoronaChoir after she was inspired by viral videos of Italian citizens singing from their balconies while on lockdown. Italy

SEE **CHOIR**, PAGE A-3

Weather

Warmer with thunderstorms.
Daytime high, 70;
tonight’s low, 27.
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Online today: As our region confronts the COVID-19 epidemic, we want to hear about those stepping up to help. Share at <http://bit.ly/FindTheHelpers>

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Ask the Medicare Specialist

by: Aaron Zolbrod



QUESTION:

I have two questions regarding last week's column. 1) You stated, "you need to understand all the differences between Advantage Plans and Supplements. Failure to do so can affect you for the rest of your life." What did you mean by that? 2) You also stated that those who are staying on their employer plans after they turn 65 do not have to enroll in Part B. I thought if you didn't, there's a penalty when you do enroll?

Before I get to the question, I want to let everyone know that the support staff and agents of The Health Insurance Store will continue to be available to help and advocate for our current clients if they have any issues or questions about medical bills, prescriptions, claim denials, etc. We are also able to counsel and advise anyone who lives in Pennsylvania as well as facilitate enrollments for those who are going on Medicare for the first time. We will also assist those who may lose health insurance from their employer. Although we cannot meet face to face, we can take care of all needs over the phone, online, and through the mail. Consultations are always free of charge. We hope everyone stays safe and healthy during this trying time.

ANSWER:

Regarding question #1: Most people are unaware that companies who sell Supplements utilize "medical underwriting," meaning they can discriminate against people based on their current or previous health conditions and deny applicants for coverage. There are a few exceptions, the most common being going on Medicare Part B for the first time due to turning 65, retiring after 65, or receiving Medicare after being awarded disability. Companies must accept everyone in these scenarios.

Those who choose Advantage Plans when first going on Medicare and have certain pre-existing conditions such as insulin dependent diabetes, heart disease, auto immune disorders, Lymphoma, A-Fib, among others, may never be able to get a Supplement as long as they live. That's what I meant when I said not understanding the differences between the two types of plans can affect you the rest of your life. There are a couple of exceptions. Those who chose an Advantage Plan when they were new to Medicare have 12 months to move to a Supplement without going through underwriting just like those who are going on Part B for the first time. However, there are limits to when one can make this change. If by October, the next Annual Election period, it has been over a year since you enrolled in your Advantage Plan HMO or PPO, you have a pre-existing condition such as the ones I listed, you will not be able to get a Supplement. If you went on Medicare for the first time in the past 11 months, chose an Advantage Plan, and are concerned about this, call us immediately. I can't stress enough how important it is to act right now, however.

Regarding question #2: Who needs to have Medicare Part B and who doesn't is one of the most widely misunderstood regulations for those 65 or older. If you or your spouse are "working" and getting insurance from an employer, neither the employee nor the spouse needs to enroll in Part B! There's no penalty in this case, and you can request Part B to start the first day of any month you choose when you decide to retire. Although most people are better off to stay on their plan at work, it's not always best to stay on an employer plan. It's more likely a spouse is better off going on Medicare as many employers don't pay as much towards the premium for spouses and dependents as they do the employee. We can easily advise those who will continue to work past age 65 if staying on an employer plan or going on Medicare is the better option.

I used quotation marks around the word working because we have met far too many people, specifically teachers, who got low or no cost health insurance as an early retirement package and didn't enroll in Part B. It isn't until they go to sign up that they find out they should have enrolled at age 65 and now have a penalty, 10% for every year they went without, because they weren't "working." In addition, people in this position can only request to be enrolled in Part B between January 1st and March 31st with an effective date of July 1st. This means if someone were to find out the bad news in April or May, they would have to go more than a year before Part B would start. The only option for these folks would be COBRA, which can be as much as \$2,000 per month for retired teachers, or the Marketplace where plans with \$7,000 deductibles cost as much as \$600/month. Those aren't great choices.

Instead of taking advice from friends, family, your HR person at work, representatives at Social Security, or others, all of whom have given our clients bad advice on plenty of occasions, call or email us. One of the licensed agents will give you the correct answer when it comes to taking or opting out of Part B.

Please call or visit our website if you would like to make an appointment or have questions about this topic or any other that is health or Medicare insurance related. You are also welcomed to email me personally, aaron@getyourbestplan.com.

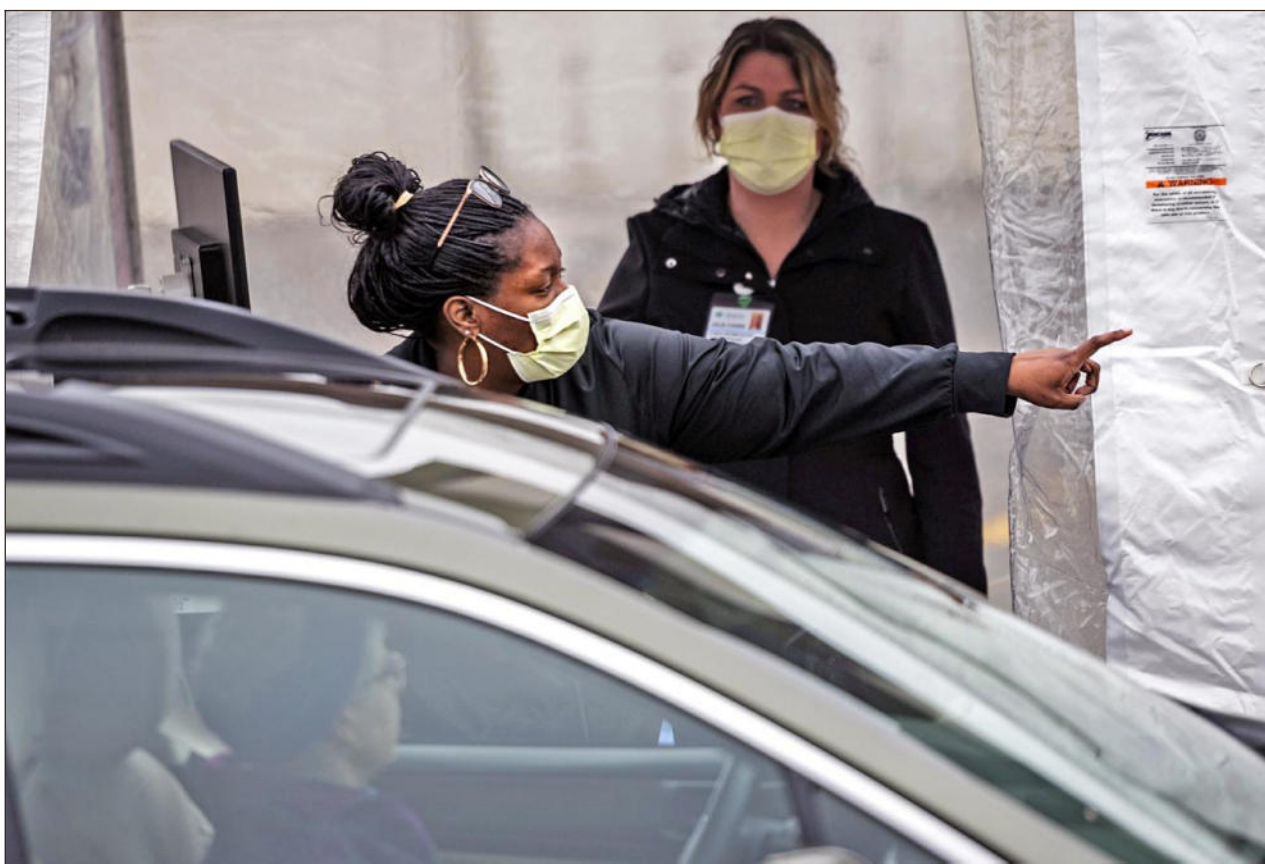


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Michael M. Santiago/Post-Gazette

A medical official directs a patient toward the testing tent Thursday at one of Allegheny Health Network's two new COVID-19 drive-through testing centers in the parking lot of First National Bank in Monroeville.

Pitt part of group to receive COVID-19 grant

GRANT, FROM A-1

antigens from other pathogens," including MERS, HIV and yellow fever, among others.

"The use of the modified MV as a vehicle for vaccination against these pathogens makes it possible to deliver the antigens directly in the compartments of the immune system capable of inducing a protective memory response" against the virus.

But CEPI also chose the organizations because it had worked before with Themis — to develop a candidate vaccine for SARS — and Institut Pasteur in partnership with Themis to develop candidate vaccines for MERS, Lassa fever and chikungunya, a mosquito-borne infection.

Themis is an 11-year-old private vaccine and immunology company. Since 2010, it has had a joint research

and development agreement with Institut Pasteur to use the institute's measles virus vaccine vector technology. Institut Pasteur is a non-profit that was formed in 1887 by famed French chemist and microbiologist Louis Pasteur.

CEPI is an international partnership between public, private, philanthropic and civic organizations at the 2017 Davos conference specifically to develop vaccines to stop future epidemics. (Davos is the informal name of the annual conference held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, by the World Economic Forum.)

Any vaccine developed by the coalition will be given "to populations when and where they are needed to end an outbreak or curtail an epidemic, regardless of ability to pay," the news release said.

"The COVID-19 vaccines

that we are developing will exist for the benefit of all humanity, in rich, middle income, and poor countries alike."

The grant awarded Thursday is just the latest made for work on a possible COVID-19 vaccine since the organization put out a call in early February for applications.

It has now awarded a combined \$29.9 million toward COVID-19 vaccine proposals, including to seven other institutions around the world, and it hopes to greatly expand the investment.

On March 6, CEPI called for \$2 billion in new funding, with a goal of having at least three vaccine candidates for use in the global pandemic.

So far it has raised \$185 million from the governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom, and hopes both governments and private-sector partners and

philanthropies around the world will invest.

"CEPI was set up to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious threats like COVID-19," Mr. Hatchett said in the news release. "One of the ways we're doing this is by bridging the gap between public and private sectors to pool resources and expertise to jump-start the vaccine development process."

"It is clear that an effective vaccine against COVID-19 is crucial if we are to beat this virus," he said.

"By investing in a range of partners and vaccine technologies, we are giving ourselves the best chance of developing a vaccine that can stop COVID-19."

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@SeanDHamill

ALMANAC

On this day, March 20

1760 A 10-hour fire erupted in Boston, destroying 349 buildings and burning 10 ships, but claiming no lives.

1842 Charles Dickens, the English author, arrived with his wife at the Exchange Hotel, Penn Avenue at Sixth Street, for a three-day visit.

1941 Dr. Joseph H. Barach of Presbyterian Hospital, in the first public hearing before the smoke commission, testified smog increased the incidence of colds, pneumonia and other illnesses in Pittsburgh.

1998 The 105-year-old Phipps Conservatory was renamed Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens as plans were revealed for a \$30 million expansion.

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

— Compiled by Rick Nowlin

Today's birthdays: Singer Dame Vera Lynn, 103. Producer-director-comedian Carl Reiner, 98. Actor Hal Linden, 89. Country singer Don Edwards, 81. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Pat Riley, 75. Country singer-musician Ranger Doug (Riders in the Sky), 74. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Orr, 72. Blues singer-musician Marcia Ball, 71. Actor William Hurt, 70. Rock musician Jimmie Vaughan, 69. Country musician Jim Seales, 66. Movie director Spike Lee, 63. Actress

Theresa Russell, 63. Actress Holly Hunter, 62. Actress-model-designer Kathy Ireland, 57. Actor David Thewlis, 57. Actress Jessica Lundy, 54. Actress Liza Snyder, 52. Actor Michael Rapaport, 50. Actor Alexander Chaplin, 49. Actor Cedric Yarbrough, 47. Actress Paula Garcés, 46. Actress Bianca Lawson, 41. Comedian-actor Mike Day, 40. Rock musician Nick Wheeler, 38. Actor Michael Cassidy, 37. Actress-singer Christy Carlson Romano, 36. Actress Ruby Rose, 34.

Thought for today: "Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson, American writer and poet (1803-1882).

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Dormont woman orchestrates new 'CoronaChoir'

CHOIR, FROM A-1

is one of the countries that has been hit hardest by COVID-19.

Ms. Kline said Thursday that she was scrolling through social media this week when she came across a tweet from a woman who wanted her neighbors to be ready to sing "Les Miz" songs out their windows, just as the Italians have been doing for weeks.

She thought it was a funny idea and went on to share it in a Dormont community Facebook group, telling members that if her status got 100 likes, she would organize a way for her town to all come outside and sing at the same time.

"Then I went to bed and woke up, and it had like 110 likes," Ms. Kline said. "And

I'm like, 'OK, I guess I'm all in.'"

Ms. Kline, who moved to Dormont from Carrick in January, went on to create another Facebook group specifically for the event named Dormont CoronaChoir, which quickly grew to over 200 members in just two days. She created a Google map for participants to pin their locations across the town. The map now has sign-ups from residents on many streets.

"I wasn't shocked that it got 100 likes. I'm more shocked that people keep joining. It's been nonstop," she said.

Ms. Kline plans to start a Facebook livestream on Sunday evening at 7 p.m. and screen-share a YouTube video of an a cappella version of the "Les Miz" song

"Do You Hear the People Sing" that includes the lyrics. The plan is for residents to sing the song in its entirety in front of their homes.

Ms. Kline wants the group to abide by social distancing guidelines that have been handed down by health officials. She has asked members keep a safe 6 feet of distance while singing on the streets and sidewalks. "I just want people to like go outside for 10 minutes and go for it."

Those minutes may turn into more camaraderie between neighbors in the small borough of Dormont, Ms. Kline hopes. The choir, she said, also will be about getting to know who lives to the left and right of you.

"I am also enjoying watching people post what streets

they live on and introducing themselves to their neighbors," she said. "I think there's great potential here for building community right now, but also for an opportunity to meet your neighbors after this is all over."

For Oliver, when his mom told him about the Dormont CoronaChoir, he saw it as more than an opportunity for a fun distraction.

"I'm glad to see my practice won't completely go to waste because I'll be able to sing 'Les Miz' songs [from home.] And it won't be just me and the people in the choir, it will be everyone. I think that's pretty cool."

—Alexis Johnson

Alexis Johnson: ajohnson@post-gazette.com and Twitter @alexisjreports



Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

Amy Kline, of Dormont, stands outside her home Thursday. Ms. Kline organized a Facebook event called "Dormont CoronaChoir" and is calling on her neighbors to head outside onto their sidewalks at 7 p.m. Sunday to sing "Do You Hear the People Sing" from the classic musical "Les Miserables" while maintaining social distance.

Group uses lunches to support those in need

LUNCHES, FROM A-1

"We can do this," the Mt. Lebanon neighbors decided. "We can do this one small thing."

They announced that they would collect money and buy the shelter lunch. By doing so, Ms. Skiba pointed out, they also could help one of the local restaurants struggling because of the crisis: Lebo Subs.

Lebo Subs offered the submarine sandwiches at a big discount.

The owners of Betsy's Ice Cream saw the online posts and contacted the neighbors, offering to donate dessert.

So here were two things — submarine sandwiches and ice cream — that they could do, but the Mt. Lebanon neighbors insisted on paying for both.

They had, before they knew it, collected almost \$2,000 in donations. They were buying boxed lunches for 50.

"Blown away," posted Ms. Fedro-Byrom, who carefully kept track of the money as her phone blew up. "Please do not feel like you have to continue donating. If you do, we will put it toward having a dinner catered by Totopo Mexican Kitchen and Bar."

Totopo, another restaurant on that stretch of Washington Road, had offered to donate some food, too.

One neighbor posted about these suffering businesses' generosity, "This makes me cry."

Ms. Skiba and others were feeling emotional, too, but good.

Just before lunchtime on Thursday, Allison Carey headed out to pick up the food with her daughters Amelia, off from nearby Mellon Middle School, and Lauren, a University of Pittsburgh sophomore now home studying online. The neighbors, practicing good social distancing, had pre-paid online.

At Lebo Subs, co-owner Mike Crupi had big bags of sandwiches ready to go on a



Bob Batz Jr./Post-Gazette

Allison Carey, center, with her daughters, Amelia, left, and Lauren pick up an order of ice cream from Betsy's Ice Cream, the Mt. Lebanon business owned by Besty and Ryan Miller. The Millers' 2-year-old son, Cameron, helped hand the Careys their bags of ice cream, which the ladies delivered as part of a lunch for 50 people at the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

table set up right at the door and helped carry them out to the car. "Thank you, guys," he said. "I appreciate the order!"

Next stop, a block up, was Betsy's Ice Cream — also open only for takeaway sales — where the women were greeted by co-owner Betsy Miller and her sons Landon, 3½, and Cameron, 2. Both boys helped their mom hand over the bags containing 15 pints of assorted ice cream.

Beaming with the rest of her rookie food delivery team, Ms. Carey said, "We are super, super appreciative!"

"Well, we have to do

something," Ms. Miller said.

"Oh, it's amazing," she elaborated after the volunteers had left for the Women's Center & Shelter. "The fact they they want to give back and still help these businesses? It says a lot about our community."

By then, that community already had greatly lifted the spirits of the Women's Center and Shelter's adult and child residents and workers. So confirmed President and CEO Nicole Molinaro, who, after that "amazing" lunch, sent her neighbors virtual hearts and hugs.

Those neighbors also had

arranged several more meals, including dinner Friday evening at Uptown's Bethlehem Haven Shelter, provided by Mt. Lebanon's Arancini House. The Totopo dinner at the Women's Center and Shelter is Tuesday.

Then there are three more lunches—for the Ronald McDonald House (where the community kitchen has become problematic) provided by Il Pizzaiolo, for the Ronald McDonald House by provided by Zorros Restaurant and for Meals on Wheels provided by Io Deli.

"We will be supplementing with cookies from

Uptown Coffee," updated Ms. Fedro-Byrom. "Because if this situation doesn't call for dessert, I don't know what does!"

They're still accepting donations, because people still are sending them — they were closing in on \$4,000 Thursday night — and because people still are in need. And now these neighbors know there are other small things — maybe small things — that they can do to help.

—Bob Batz Jr.

Bob Batz Jr.: bbatz@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1930 and on Twitter @bobbatzjr.

Drinking society brings happy hour online

HAPPY HOUR, FROM A-1

everyone what they're drinking, give suggestions on how to make drinks at home, stuff like that," he said, adding that they're looking for DJs as well.

Mr. Kroeck formed the group as an offshoot of his prolific and entertaining blog, pittsburghhappyhour.com, in which he reviews local watering holes. A half-dozen people convened at the former Easy Street in Oxford Centre, Downtown, in June 2011 for the first happy hour event, and Mr. Kroeck knew only two of them.

He estimates that since, hundreds of different people have attended events, and the group has over 1,800 followers on Facebook and almost as many on Twitter. New faces appear regularly, and the group cuts a wide demographic swath with respect to age, race, gender, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status. Group members occasionally take a week off if a major holiday falls on a Thursday, but otherwise they get together religiously. And still will — sort of.

Mr. Kroeck said that although a single Google Hangout is limited to 50 participants, if there is a demand that "doesn't mean we couldn't create multiple hangouts."

And what will he be drinking?

"Whiskey," he said. "I gave beer up for Lent."

For more information, email Mr. Kroeck at lkroeck@gmail.com or visit the group's Facebook page.

—Dan Gigler

Dan Gigler: dgigler@post-gazette.com; Twitter @gigs412

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Governors raise alarm as outbreak taxes health systems

The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — U.S. governors told the president Thursday that their states are in dire need of federal help as they expand measures to contain the new coronavirus, with Louisiana's governor saying his state's health system could be overwhelmed in a week.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said a surge in new cases filling hospital beds could push past the state's capacity to deliver health care in seven to 10 days as New Orleans becomes one of the nation's virus hot spots.

In a conference call with other governors, Mr. Edwards warned President Donald Trump of the "worst-case scenario" modeling. But he also told reporters

that Louisiana was on track for that "sobering" reality if the state's residents don't actively work to decrease contact with others — staying home more and distancing themselves from people.

Louisiana had nearly 400 positive tests for COVID-19 on Thursday, up from 280 a day earlier, Mr. Edwards said. Ten people have died.

"Our trajectory is basically the same as what they had in Italy. And if there's anything I said today that ought to get people's attention, it is that," the Democratic governor said. "If we are not going to look like Italy in 10 days or two weeks, it will only be because of these mitigation measures."

In their teleconference with Mr. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence,



Gerald Herbert/Associated Press

A sanitation worker walks past boarded-up businesses Thursday on the usually bustling Bourbon Street in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

governors pressed for more supplies — masks and other protective equipment for

medical professionals, test kits and life-saving supplies such as ventilators.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said she wanted better coordination between the federal government and the states regarding the supply chain for essential medical equipment.

"Where is it, who is making it and where is it getting deployed?" said Ms. Grisham's spokesman, Tripp Stelnicki. "There really needs to be more clear communication."

They also asked for additional oversight of their National Guard units, mostly to have more leeway to deploy them for humanitarian purposes. They want Guard units to help run mobile screening facilities, disinfect public spaces and distribute medical supplies such as gloves,

gowns and face shields.

"We need all levels of government working together to get through this crisis," said Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, chairman of the National Governors Association.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday asked congressional leaders for \$1 billion in initial federal funding to help the nation's most populous state fight the virus. He also asked Mr. Trump to have the federal government deploy the USNS Mercy Hospital Ship to the port of Los Angeles to help the state "decompress" its health care system.

Mr. Hogan said governors also are requesting a delay or greater flexibility for completing the 2020 census and the transition to Real ID.

Wolf orders more business closures to curb outbreak

WOLF, FROM A-1

•Construction
"This is an extremely difficult situation for businesses," said Gene Barr, president of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. "It will cause real economic harm — it already has. But the governor had to make a tough choice."

The order follows the mandatory closures of restaurants' and bars' dine-in facilities across the state.

The closure orders will be enforced by the Liquor Control Board, the Department of Health, the Department of Agriculture and the State Police.

Local officials, too, may use "their resources to enforce closure orders within their jurisdictions," according to a release from the governor's office.

Businesses that don't comply with the orders could face citations, fines or license suspensions.

NFIB, a small business advocacy association with 13,000 state members, wrote in a statement Thursday evening it "wants to better understand the medical basis for the Governor's decision — because it will cause personal and financial devastation statewide."

"We understand that there are necessary precautions that must be taken to protect life, but no other governor, even in states with many more cases and wider community spread, has taken this extreme action," said Gordon Denlinger, state director of NFIB in Pennsylvania. "We want to

know the basis for Gov. Wolf's decision and whether it is justified by specific CDC directives. That's because the economic impact on businesses and their employees will be massive, and they are much less likely to ever recover."

In ordering the stricter shutdown Thursday, Mr. Wolf is drawing on powers that his administration said come from the disaster emergency declaration he signed on March 6, as he and his administration scrambled to slow the spread of COVID-19.

When Mr. Wolf declared the disaster emergency, he triggered a part of the state's emergency management law that vastly expands a governor's powers. They include everything from ordering mass evacuations to limiting or outright halting liquor and firearm sales.

Also among the new powers: controlling "ingress and egress to and from a disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises therein."

That is the section — coupled with other powers given to his administration from the state's Disease Prevention and Control Law — that Mr. Wolf's advisers have said gives the governor the authority to shut down schools and even order businesses to close.

Angela Coulombis of Spotlight PA contributed. Mick Stinelli: mstinelli@post-gazette.com; 412-263-1869; and on Twitter: @MickStinelli.

McConnell unveils plan with \$1.2K checks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell proposed direct payments of \$1,200 per person and \$2,400 for couples as part of a sweeping Republican response to the coronavirus outbreak, according to a copy of the legislation obtained by The Associated Press.

The GOP leader unveiled his plan Thursday as Congress raced to craft a \$1 trillion rescue package to shore up households, health care and the U.S. economy amid the pandemic crisis and nationwide shutdown that's hurting the country toward a likely recession.

"We need to take bold and swift action as soon as possible," said Mr. McConnell as he announced his plan on

the Senate floor.

It's an opening salvo in fast-track talks with Democrats as President Donald Trump urges Congress to "go big" to respond as Americans reel from the crisis.

Keeping paychecks flowing for idled workers as jobless claims skyrocket is a top priority for both the Republican and Democratic plans emerging from Congress.

Mr. McConnell's proposal aligns with the Trump administration's push to swiftly send checks to American households.

Under the GOP leader's plan, the aid would be phased down at income thresholds of \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 per couple. Additionally, there would be \$500 payments for each child.

But Democrats have their own proposals for ushering aid to Americans, and even Mr. McConnell's GOP senators panned Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin's idea of direct checks of \$3,000 for a family of four — preferring instead to use the federal dollars to keep workers who are asked to stay home on the business payrolls.

"What I want is income, not one check," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., while exiting a long, private meeting of GOP senators on Capitol Hill.

"It's not a check. It's checks. It's not a payment, it's income," Mr. Graham said. "The best thing for us to do is create an income stream."

The swift-moving effort in an all-but-shuttered Capitol

came as the first two lawmakers tested positive for COVID-19, others are self-isolating and the usually tradition-bound Congress faced calls to ease rules and allow remote voting.

Trump administration officials, including Mr. Mnuchin and economic adviser Larry Kudlow, are expected to return to Capitol Hill on Friday to launch bipartisan negotiations with Senate Democrats.

Vast government spending is causing unease among GOP senators whose careers have been built on halting the flow of federal dollars and trying to halt rising debts.

But others said they had no choice but to provide a lifeline to Americans and small businesses.



Claudio Furlan/LaPresse via AP

Medical personnel at work in the intensive care unit Thursday at the hospital of Brescia, Italy. Italy has become the country with the most novel coronavirus-related deaths, surpassing China by registering 3,405 dead.

Region cases reach 25; Peduto in self-isolation

CASES, FROM A-1

"Pittsburgh, we're going to get through this. And the reason we're going to get through it is because we're going to work together."

Other members of Mr. Peduto's staff are "fine and teleworking as necessary," mayoral spokesman Tim McNulty said.

The county's earlier announcement did not include information about which of the cases are "confirmed" versus "presumed," as the county and the state have indicated in prior announcements.

"Presumed" cases have been those that have positive test results from new laboratories that have come on line that have to have their results checked with a second test by another established lab test,

such as the state's lab in Exton, Pa. Outside labs have to check their results from their first five positive and five negative tests

to confirm their work is in line with expectations.

County spokeswoman Amie Downs said in an email response to questions that the county is now using "positive" because "we're treating all cases from a perspective that they're positive and not focusing on confirmed or presumed."

She wrote that with so many more labs now testing samples — some of which are not yet established and technically have positive cases noted as "presumed" — it is changing rapidly, so the county is avoiding any distinction between presumed and confirmed.

The county said it is continuing to investigate the most recent cases, including contact tracing.

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The Associated Press

ROME — Italy's death toll from the coronavirus outbreak eclipsed China's on Thursday as the scourge extended its march across the West, where the United States and other countries increasingly enlisted the military and improvised at every turn to get ready for an onslaught of patients.

In the U.S., the Army prepared mobile military hospitals for deployment in major cities. In Madrid, a four-star hotel was turned into a hospital. Medical centers around the United States set up drive-through testing sites that drew long lines of motorists waiting for nurses to swab their nostrils.

As the outbreak spread westward, it infected at least one European head of state: Monaco's 62-year-old Prince Albert II, who continued to work from his office. And it appeared to be opening a new front in Africa, where health care in many countries is already in sorry shape.

At the United Nations in New York, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the world is "at war with a virus" and warned that "a global recession, perhaps of record dimensions, is a near certainty."

"If we let the virus spread like wildfire — especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world — it would kill millions of people," he said.

Italy, with 60 million citizens, recorded a total of at least 3,405 deaths, or roughly 150 more than in China, a country with a population over 20 times larger. At the same time Italy reached its bleak milestone, Wuhan, the Chinese city where the coronavirus first emerged three months ago, recorded no new infections, a sign that the communist country's draconian lockdowns had worked.

Health authorities cited a variety of reasons for Italy's high toll, key among them its large population of elderly people, who are particularly susceptible to serious complications from the virus. Italy was the world's second

oldest population, and the vast majority of its dead — 87% — were over 70.

In a measure of how the fortunes of East and West have shifted, New York officials were sent to China to buy more ventilators. And in Italy, the leader of a delegation from the Chinese Red Cross openly castigated Italians for failing to take the country's national lockdown seriously.

On a visit to the hard-hit city of Milan, Sun Shuopeng said he was shocked to see so many people walking around, using public transportation and eating out in hotels.

"Right now we need to stop all economic activity, and we need to stop the mobility of people," he said. "All people should be staying at home in quarantine."

Worldwide the death toll crept toward 10,000 and the total number of infections topped 240,000, including nearly 85,000 people who have recovered.

The U.S. State Department, meanwhile, warned

Americans in the strongest terms yet not to travel abroad under any circumstances.

Around the world, the British government, criticized as slow to react to the virus, shifted gears and drew up legislation giving itself new powers to detain people and restrict gatherings. The bill is expected to be approved by Parliament next week.

The British supermarket chain Sainsbury's reserved the first hour of shopping for vulnerable customers. Among them was Jim Gibson, 72, of London, who was concerned the country wasn't ramping up testing fast enough.

"You can't go on ignoring World Health Organization guidelines — if they're wrong, who the hell is right?" he said. "Let's have no shilly-shallying."

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe pleaded with people to keep their distance from one another to avoid spreading the virus, even as the crisis pushed them to seek comfort.

Allegheny sheriff's deputies sent home after possible exposure

By Lacreteria Wimbley
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Fifteen Allegheny County sheriff's deputies were sent home with pay after possible exposure to the coronavirus through another deputy on Wednesday, Chief Deputy Kevin Kraus confirmed Thursday.

A deputy with the county sheriff's department reportedly came to work Wednesday after having taken off

sick the day before. While there, he told a supervisor he felt symptoms of COVID-19, Deputy Kraus said. The deputy was concerned he might have contracted it through his son's girlfriend. She had been around his son after recently returning from a trip to Spain, Deputy Kraus said.

"Over the weekend, the deputy was out of town, and the girl came to visit his son at his home in the Pittsburgh area," Deputy Kraus said.

"When he got back, he learned that she was there and that she had not been tested. He had concerns and notified a doctor, who initially told him not to come in."

It was not immediately clear if the girlfriend experienced any symptoms, and the deputy was never in her presence, officials said. "No one has been exposed to anyone who has tested positive," Sheriff William Mullen said. The unidentified deputy

interacted with 15 other deputies in the sheriff's Downtown office for nearly 12 minutes Wednesday, Deputy Kraus said. Of the 15 deputies, none has shown or reported any symptoms of COVID-19. They also have not been tested. Their absence has not negatively affected operations, Deputy Kraus said.

The department later learned that sending the 15 deputies home may not have

been completely necessary, Sheriff Mullen said.

The sole deputy has been tested and is waiting for results from a North Side medical facility. The county sheriff's department would not confirm which facility the deputy was tested at but said doctors have ordered him to quarantine for 14 days.

Test results are expected back within three to four days, Deputy Kraus said. "We sent the other deputies

home strictly out of an abundance of caution," Deputy Kraus said, steering away from saying the deputies were self-isolating. The department expects to have them back "as soon as possible," he said, pending protocol by the department and test results for the lone deputy.

Lacreteria Wimbley: lwimbley@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1510 or on Twitter @Wimbleyjourn.

URA OKs fund to help with utility, mortgage payments

By Ashley Murray
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Starting Monday low- to moderate-income Pittsburghers experiencing economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to apply for utility and mortgage payment assistance.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority board unanimously approved the COVID-19 Housing Stabilization Fund on Thursday.

The "really critical action" is "probably one of many to come," said board chair Sam Williamson.

The short-term assistance will be in amounts of \$3,000 for residents struggling to pay rent or utilities and who are at 50% or below the area's annual median income.

That's \$39,950 for a family of four, according to 2019 federal standards.

Homeowners at 80% AMI may be eligible for \$3,000 in assistance for mortgage payments, including late fees.

That's \$63,900 for a family of four.

Residents can call the Urban League of Pittsburgh at 412-227-4163 starting Monday to find out if they qualify.

The Urban League will

administer the fund that is being established with \$300,000 from the city's Housing Opportunity Fund.

"We're going to have to continue to evaluate what the need is and be flexible about making sure we're putting together programs that meet the needs of people in Pittsburgh," Mr. Williamson said.

On Wednesday, the authority announced interest-free loan opportunities up to \$15,000 for its current small business borrowers, according to a news release.

Business owners should email tlink@ura.org or jwillhelm@ura.org to see if they're eligible.

In other business, the URA board unanimously approved additional financing and deed of sale for the New Granada Theater development in the Hill District, as well as an option agreement for possible "conveyance of URA parcels" for the Millcraft development in the Chateau area of the North Side, which is in "very early" stages, according to the board.

Ashley Murray: amurray@post-gazette.com or [@Ashley_Murray](https://twitter.com/Ashley_Murray)

Penn State postpones all commencement ceremonies

By Bill Schackner
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Penn State University is postponing spring commencement ceremonies across its campuses statewide, including University Park, and will extend online instruction through spring semester's end.

In addition, university officials said Wednesday that students will receive instructions on when they are allowed to return to campus to remove their belongings from dorms.

The move follows Tuesday's announcement by the University of Pittsburgh that it, too, is postponing commencement. A number of institutions across the U.S. have taken similar steps. The University of Pennsylvania said Tuesday it would hold a virtual ceremony.

Robert Morris University said its May 8-9 ceremonies will be replaced by a livestreamed virtual event and that students will receive souvenir programs and honors medallions, as well as honorary cords and sashes. Graduates also can walk in a future traditional commencement.

"I am very sorry this has to happen, and I can only imagine what a disappointment this must be to our graduating seniors and those preparing to complete master's and doctoral degrees," RMU President



Haley Nelson/Post-Gazette

Penn State postponed its spring 2020 commencement ceremonies Wednesday because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Christopher Howard said.

Penn State is exploring "options for celebrating the achievements of our students," according to a statement regarding its decision on final exams and various events planned for May.

"These decisions align with recommendations from the federal government that call for restricting of all gatherings of more than 10 people," officials added.

"Graduation is a significant milestone for our students, and while it may not be the same as our traditional ceremony, we are committed to finding the best way possible to recognize the achievements of our graduates," Penn State President Eric J.

Barron told campus. "However, as the world works together to slow the spread of COVID-19, these decisions must be made with public health at the forefront along with the health and wellness of our students, faculty, staff, their families and our local communities."

Pitt had hoped to hold ceremonies next month, including an April 26 event for undergraduates in Petersen Events Center. Officials said they intend to reschedule when it is safe to do so.

"We recognize that this is not how any of you imagined this year ending — without the time to celebrate together and say farewell to the friends, mentors and the

University that has fostered and witnessed your academic and personal success," Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher told campus.

State System of Higher Education spokesman David Pidgeon said Wednesday that officials were not yet ready to announce a decision on commencements at the 14 state-owned universities. However, at least one in Western Pennsylvania, Clarion University, began notifying seniors that it would look for alternative dates.

On Tuesday, Saint Vincent College said it had decided to look for an alternate date for its May ceremony.

The University of Pennsylvania's president sought to reassure students.

"The day of your scheduled Commencement, May 18, should not pass without recognizing that you are now Penn graduates, which we will do virtually," Amy Gutmann wrote to campus. "We also will celebrate and honor you in person with Commencement ceremonies on Penn's campus when it is safe and feasible to do so."

She vowed to graduating students: "Your amazing Penn story does not end this way. I promise."

Bill Schackner: bschackner@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1977 and on Twitter: @Bschackner

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Man won't be tried again for fatal fire

By Paula Reed Ward
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Daniel Carnevale, who had been incarcerated since 2006, when he was accused of setting a 1993 fire that killed three people, has always maintained his innocence.

In December, he won a new trial based on new evidence.

But this week, prosecutors with the Allegheny County District Attorney's office agreed to withdraw the charges against him entirely.

On Wednesday, when Carnevale got called off his pod from the Allegheny County Jail to be released, the officers and other inmates around him gave him a standing ovation.

"He just cried all day that it was finally over," said Elizabeth Anne DeLosa, managing attorney for the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. "He's excited to rebuild."

Carnevale, 56, was released Wednesday evening and is staying with his brother, Ms. DeLosa said. He won a new trial in December after the DA's office consented to it based on "after-discovered evidence."

That evidence was a report found in a case file showing that one chemist from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives disagreed with another about whether accelerants were found at the scene of the Bloomfield fire.

The Jan. 17, 1993, blaze at the Columbia House and Regal Apartment buildings on Taylor Street killed three residents: Anita Emery, 31; Florence Lyczko, 63; and Chris Stahlman, 22.

Ten days later, ATF investigators, who had been asked to assist, ruled that the fire was incendiary. They cited the nature of the burn pattern, alerts from an arson dog and a 5-gallon can of lacquer thinner recovered at the buildings.

Carnevale, who frequented the area, was questioned in the days after the fire and admitted he had stolen checks from residents' mailboxes there. However, he denied starting the fire.

No arrests were made, and the investigation stalled. But 13 years later, Pittsburgh cold-case detectives found a new witness who came forward.

Carnevale was arrested and then went to trial in August 2007. The case lasted a day and a half, including testimony from a jailhouse informant.

Carnevale was found guilty of three counts of second-degree murder and ordered to serve a prison term of life without parole.

He continued to appeal his conviction for the next 12½ years.

In June 2018, in a petition for post-conviction relief, Ms. DeLosa argued that the ATF experts who testified to it being an incendiary fire failed to follow proper scientific procedures in reaching their conclusions.

One of those experts, Special Agent William Petraitis, who

SEE **FIRE**, PAGE A-7

COVID-19 COVERAGE

County treasurer extends real estate tax discount, suspends court enforcement on drink, other taxes

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Allegheny County Treasurer John Weinstein is extending a discount on real estate taxes until the end of April and suspending court enforcement for some businesses in an effort to ease the economic burden of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Weinstein announced Thursday that the 2% discount for property owners will be in effect until April 30, extending the

discount beyond the initial March 31 deadline.

The office is encouraging residents to pay online at www.AlleghenyCountyTreasurer.us, where payments will be processed without fees when made by electronic check. Public office hours have been reduced to weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All mailed tax payments must be postmarked by April 30 to be eligible for the discount.

The treasurer also will suspend new court enforcement actions to

collect delinquent drink, hotel and car rental taxes "to avoid placing any additional strain on struggling, often small businesses during the current pandemic and time of economic uncertainty" — though the taxes will continue to be collected as scheduled, according to the announcement.

"So much of our economy is tied to the service sector, which is being hit particularly hard right now," Mr. Weinstein said in a news release. "Restaurants are transi-

tioning to take-out or delivery only or shutting their doors entirely. Travel and tourism are declining. By doing the right things to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and flatten the curve, it's forcing local businesses to make difficult decisions. We're always willing to work with any business to bring them into compliance, but for now, if this means one business can keep even one more employee who can then keep food on their family's table, it's the right call."

HALL OF FAME KINDNESS



Steph Chambers/Post-Gazette

Aniyah Allen, 5, eats her free lunch from Hall of Fame Pizzeria while walking home with friends Thursday in Clairton. Hall of Fame Pizzeria is giving all schoolchildren a free slice of cheese pizza and a small drink from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. until school starts again. "Being in the district, a lot parents of school-aged kids depend on them eating in school," co-owner Shane Briggs said. "We're trying to help how we can."

Stamping out the scammers

Joint task force of Pa., federal authorities to probe virus-related fraud

By Torsten Ove
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

U.S. Attorney Scott Brady and state Attorney General Josh Shapiro have created a joint task force to pursue fraud related to the coronavirus.

The top prosecutors announced the task force Thursday, saying it will bring together state and federal agencies to receive information on scams related to the virus, with prosecutors cross-designated to work on investigations together.

The task force will be led by Assistant U.S. Attorney Shaun Sweeney and an executive deputy attorney general.

In addition to the prosecutors' offices, the agencies on the task force are the FBI, the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. postal inspectors, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Social Security

Administration's inspector general, the U.S. Department of Education's inspector general and the state police.

Mr. Brady said he and Mr. Shapiro have been in contact throughout the crisis and decided to create the task force to protect the public from fraudsters exploiting the outbreak.

"Bad guys should know we are open for business," Mr. Brady said in a statement. "We will find you and we will stop you."

Mr. Shapiro said it's "despicable that retailers, distributors and wholesalers are taking advantage of people" during the crisis and said that the new task force will combat them.

The two prosecutors said fraudsters have been setting up websites to sell bogus products and are using fake emails, texts and social media posts to take people's money

or steal personal information.

The emails and posts may promote awareness and prevention or include phony information about virus cases in someone's neighborhood. Some ask for donations, offer advice on unproven treatments or contain malicious email attachments as part of phishing scams.

In some cases, scammers are posing as doctors and hospitals, claiming that they have treated someone with the virus and then demand payment. Other scammers are posing as the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in phishing emails.

Yet another fraud is related to the stock market in which scammers offer online promotions claiming that products of publicly traded companies can prevent or

SEE **FRAUD**, PAGE A-7

Action urged to protect state prison inmates from virus

By Julian Routh
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Warning that an outbreak of COVID-19 in state prison facilities would signal a "death sentence" for many inmates, three legal reform groups sent a letter to Pennsylvania officials this week urging immediate action to dramatically reduce the prison population.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, Abolitionist Law Center and Amistad Law Project are asking Gov. Tom Wolf to exercise executive powers to release elderly people and inmates who have serious health complications, as well as direct the parole board to work with the Department of Corrections to release as many people on parole "as quickly and safely as possible."

Until then, thousands of prisoners and staffers across the state's 24 correctional institutions — which incarcerate approximately 47,000 people — are at risk of being at the "epicenter" of the pandemic as unavoidable close contact exacerbates the spread of the virus, the groups warned.

Without a significant reduction in the prison population, the groups fear that COVID-19 will "devastate" the elderly and immuno-compromised inside the facilities, then spread throughout the surrounding communities via the prison employees, said Abolitionist Law Center legal director Bret Grote — who painted a picture on a Thursday conference call of infirmaries overwhelmed with sick people and inmates transported to already-overwhelmed hospitals nearby.

"Right now, people inside [the prisons] are scared. They're apprehensive," Mr. Grote said. "They're even more isolated than normal, and they're in need of action from state officials."

The governor can lead that action by exploring emergency measures, the groups say, starting by releasing as many elderly and vulnerable inmates "as quickly and as safely as possible," said Nyssa Taylor, the state ACLU's criminal justice policy counsel. Vulnerable inmates, according to the groups, include those who have cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory illness, high blood pressure or cancer — or those who are pregnant.

The parole board, meanwhile, "has the immediate ability to release people who have already served their minimum term of incarceration and the authority to grant parole ... 'when the interests of justice require,'" the groups wrote, urging the paroling of all inmates who have served their minimum sentence and have been determined to be low risk, have demonstrated rehabilitation or have been misconduct free for a certain length of time. They also suggested waiving hearings for people who already meet the guidelines for parole.

SEE **PRISON**, PAGE A-7

Parishes mull ways to make up lost fish fry income, fellowship

By Peter Smith
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When a nearby Roman Catholic parish stopped running a fish fry this year, St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church in Greenfield decided to start a Lenten meal tradition of its own, with baked fish supplemented with foods from its Slavic ethnic tradition.

It was a fundraiser, but it was more than that, said its pastor, the Rev. Tom Schaefer. It was an opportunity for neighbors — as well as drivers who pass the church on the Parkway East with its two towers topped by golden crosses — to finally get a chance to see the stunning interior of the church. "I love to watch their ex-

pressions" as they see the multi-level iconostasis, or icon stand, Father Schaefer said. "Their jaws drop."

But at St. John, as with other parishes around the region, the fish fries and other Lenten meals have been canceled, leaving parishes without the community-building activity that is a regional tradition, and also without a source of fundraising that they could have used as the nation heads into a coronavirus-driven economic slump.

This week, the bishops overseeing the Roman Catholic dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg and the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh directed

SEE **FISH**, PAGE A-7



Steph Chambers/Post-Gazette

Fish fry coordinator Mike Renk, of Cranberry, carries cases of cod out of the freezer as St. Ferdinand Catholic Church sells off food it was planning to cook for its Lenten fish fries.

Action urged to protect inmates

PRISON, FROM A-6

For cases in front of the Board of Pardons, the groups are asking Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, who chairs the board, to convene an emergency session to conduct a merit review with a focus on vulnerable populations — as well as conduct public hearings “to recommend as many people for commutation as possible.”

There are currently no positive cases of COVID-19 in the state prison system, said Maria Finn, spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.

“We are fully compliant with [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines for testing,” Ms. Finn wrote in an email. “Our inmates have access to robust medical staff/operations not only in the facilities but we also have a centralized contracted doctor, Nicholas Scharff, who is the former chief of clinical services here at the PA Department of Corrections.”

The ACLU, though, has pointed to a death row inmate at SCI-Phoenix in Montgomery County whose attorneys say is showing symptoms of COVID-19. The attorneys for Walter J. Ograd have filed an emergency motion to request his release from prison and for him to receive outside medical care.

Ograd, 55, hasn't yet been tested for the coronavirus, said Andy Hoover, spokesman for the ACLU of Pennsylvania.

“His attorney has filed for emergency relief to have him released from prison, as the district attorney in his case recently filed to have his conviction and sentence vacated because he is likely innocent,” Mr. Hoover said.

The last public announcement from the Department of Corrections came last week, when it canceled visits to inmates in state prisons for a period of 14 days beginning March 13.

“We are closely monitoring our entire system and individual facilities daily,” Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel said in a statement at the time. “We are taking steps to protect our employees and our inmates.”

Several Allegheny County groups are involved in reviewing the process in which prisoners here could be released.

A joint statement released by the criminal court administrators, the Public Defender's Office and the District Attorney's Office said they are “continually reviewing cases to determine which inmates are appropriate for release. Those cases are then addressed in Motions Court or reviewed with the assigned Judge depending on the circumstances.”

The statement added that the “review is not limited to just those inmates with health problems, although those cases are being considered first. The Public Defender's Office is working to identify all non-violent inmates held only on cash bails.”

Julian Routh: jrouth@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1952, Twitter@julianrouth.



Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

SIGN OF THE TIMES A sign displays a hopeful message on Thursday in front of UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh in Lawrenceville.

Parishes look to make up for fish fries

FISH, FROM A-6

parishes to cancel their fish fries and other Lenten meals. All cited the need for social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

These guidelines also have led to churches livestreaming liturgies and doing whatever else they can to connect spiritually. But for an inherently physical act like eating together, that will have to wait.

And while people associate fish with Lent, there's nothing to say they can't eat it in the Easter season or beyond.

Father Schaefer said he asked parish lay leaders, “Wouldn't it be fun in May or June to do something unique and say, ‘Come and join us for fish and more?’ The people loved the idea, so we may do something

like that.”

Some other parishes are following similar plans, including those that have the freezer capacity to wait or those that had a limited inventory in stock.

“Our plan is whenever the coast is clear to have alternating fish fries for four weeks between the two places,” said the Rev. David Bonnar, administrator of the grouping of St. Bernard and Our Lady of Grace parishes.

At least one parish, St. Ferdinand in Cranberry, sent out word earlier this week it was selling its inventory of thawed and frozen fish to customers on a first-come, first-served basis.

At another grouping of four parishes in the North Hills and Beaver County, the parishes hope to make

up for the cancelation with a later event, said the Rev. Jay Donahue, their administrator. The parishes include Ss. John and Paul in Franklin Park, Good Samaritan in Ambridge, Our Lady of Peace in Conway and St. John the Baptist in Baden.

“It's just a great fellowship,” Father Donahue said. “There's just so much fun to see everybody. Secondly, it's a great source of income. With no Mass, we have no income coming in from the baskets. It's really putting a huge stress on paying the bills, keeping the lights on and meeting payroll.”

Peter Smith: peter-smith@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1416; Twitter @PG_PeterSmith.

Task force to probe fraud

FRAUD, FROM A-6

cure the virus and that the stock of those companies will increase.

Mr. Brady and Mr. Shapiro also warned about price gouging, in which businesses sell goods — such as hand sanitizer — at inflated prices, defined as 20% or more above the price it was one week before the state declared an emergency.

They also offered numerous tips, including not opening suspicious emails with addresses that differ only slightly from those sent from real organizations. As an example, scammers might use “cdc.com” in an email purportedly from the CDC, but

the real email domain is cdc.gov.

The prosecutors also encouraged citizens to ignore offers of cures or vaccines.

“Remember,” they said, “if there is a medical breakthrough, you won't hear about it for the first time through an email, online ad or unsolicited sales pitch.”

The task force has set up a toll-free hotline and an email address to collect suspected fraud. The hotline is: 888-C19-WDPA, or 888-219-9372. The website is: usa-paw.covid19@usdoj.gov

The state attorney general has also set up an email address to report price gouging: pricegouging@attorney-general.gov

CITY

City program to distribute senior meals

A program used by the city to distribute meals to seniors in need will be providing food for those registered for normal “congregate meal service” beginning Friday.

The meals will be available for takeout only and will be served between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the following City Healthy Active Living (Senior) Centers: Glen Hazel, 945 Roselle Court; Sheraden, 720 Sherwood Ave.; South Side, 12th Street and 1 Bedford Square; Lawrenceville, 4600 Butler St.; Homewood, 7321 Frankstown Ave.; Ha-

zelwood, 5344 Second Ave.

Seniors who are not registered for the program but are in need of food should call the Allegheny County Area on Aging's SeniorLine at 800-344-4319.

NORTH

I-279 HOV lanes to stay closed for now

The HOV lanes along Interstate 279 between Ross and the North Side will remain closed indefinitely because the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has limited staff available during the pandemic.

The lanes — inbound in the morning, outbound in the evening — have been closed since Monday.

Man won't be tried again

FIRE, FROM A-6

led the investigation and testified at trial, claimed the fire had to be intentionally set because he had eliminated the possibility of it being a natural or accidental cause.

An expert cited by Ms. DeLosa, though, said that using the process of elimination to determine the cause of a fire has been “deemed wholly unreliable,” and is “expressly forbidden” in the field.

Then, in the fall, attorneys found a never-before-disclosed report from one ATF scientist, Julia Dolan, now the ATF Forensic Laboratory chief, who concluded that the findings by now-deceased ATF scientist William Kinard that lacquer thinner was present, were “meaningless.”

At that point, the DA's office agreed Carnevale should have a new trial.

Over the past few months, Ms. DeLosa attempted to convince the prosecution of her client's innocence.

She gave the DA's office a binder with 1,000 pages of evidence to help make her case.

Then, at the beginning of this week, Ms. DeLosa went to the prosecution with additional new evidence, including pre-

viously lost police reports that were recently authenticated by the officers who wrote them. The reports, from the night of the fire, contradicted critical evidence from a witness at the 2007 trial who claimed to have seen Carnevale leaving the apartment building covered in soot at the time of the fire.

On Monday, the DA's office filed a petition to withdraw the case against Carnevale, which was signed the next day by Allegheny County Common Pleas Judge Jeffrey A. Manning.

Assistant District Attorney Ryan Kiray wrote on the form withdrawing the case: “Due to the age of the case, certain witnesses are unable to be located or are deceased. As a result, the commonwealth is unable to proceed at this time.”

Ms. DeLosa said she appreciated that the prosecution took time to review the entirety of the case.

“I am thankful to the Allegheny County District Attorney's office for being willing to collaborate with us and be willing to take a fresh look at the facts of the case,” she said.

Paula Reed Ward: pward@post-gazette.com, 412-263-2620 or on Twitter: @PaulaReedWard.

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Keep your distance

Patient 31 illustrates need for social distancing

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced new phrases like “social distancing” and “self-quarantine” into the public lexicon. But putting these concepts into practice — a strange reality for most Americans that will require significant effort — is necessary to help stem the tide of this crisis. Failing to adhere to these new social protocols can create significant danger.

In South Korea, where the virus first appeared on Jan. 20, public officials said the situation was largely under control for the first several weeks, as the first 30 infected people adhered to strict containment strategies.

But patient 31 changed everything. “The situation here was not really serious until mid-February,” said Hwang Seung-sik, a spatio-temporal epidemiologist at Seoul National University, in an interview with Al-Jazeera. “It began to get very serious starting with patient 31.”

Patient 31 traveled extensively through South Korea, even after doctors had suggested she isolate herself due to a high likelihood that she had been infected. The Korean Center for Disease Control found that she ultimately had contact with approximately 1,160 people. There are now more than 7,800 confirmed cases in South Korea, and more than 60 people have died.

South Korea has done an excellent job controlling the virus's spread, thanks to rapid and widespread testing, offering a successful model for how a democracy can handle the crisis. But the crisis in South Korea would be greatly diminished were it not for one person's disrespect for the request to limit contact and exposure to other people.



Associated Press

People stand in designated areas on the floor of an elevator, Thursday, as a social distancing effort to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus at a shopping mall in Surabaya, Indonesia.

It is clear that officials in the United States do not want an American version of patient 31. In Kentucky, a 53-year-old man who reportedly tested positive for the virus but refused to quarantine himself has been forced into isolation by the state's governor. Such extreme measures should be used sparingly, though they would not have to be used if all people comply with the recommendations of public health officials.

It remains to be seen how much worse the COVID-19 crisis will deepen in the United States. President Donald Trump has cautioned that current public health guidelines discouraging group gatherings and encouraging social distancing and isolation could continue for months. Respecting these recommendations, as peculiar as it may seem, could make a significant impact on reducing the longevity and severity of the situation.

Do your part for public health, and keep your distance.

A tool vs. dementia

Keep a list of medications, and check it

The recent update of a list of medicines that could mimic dementia or worsen its symptoms is important for two reasons: It adds a piece to a puzzle solving the puzzle of an ailment that affects 5 million people and is expected to double per capita by 2060; and it provides a reminder to doctors, seniors and the latter group's caregivers to keep track of and review their medications regularly.

Dr. Michael Steinman, a geriatrician at the University of California, San Francisco, recently helped update an American Geriatrics Society list of potentially inappropriate medicines for older adults. They include prescription and over-the-counter medications, so it's important to keep a complete list of all medications being taken.

Those medicines — including certain types of muscle relaxants, antihistamines, allergy medicines, stomach-acid remedies, antidepressants, anti-anxiety medicines, pain relievers, sleep aids and other common treatments — should be reviewed with a doctor, Dr. Steinman said.

Reviewing medications as one ages is important because the benefits of some of them, Dr. Steinman and other doctors say, are too small to outweigh the risks. The list of medicines on the list are risky because they have anti-cholinergic effects, meaning they can cause drowsiness, confusion, blurred vision, dizziness and otherwise impair a person's thinking skills.

Even if it worked for a person while young, they can have a big

negative impact on those skills in the same person as they age, according to Dr. Andrew Budson of Boston University's Alzheimer's disease center.

“The drug hasn't changed, the person has,” said Dr. Greg Jicha, a dementia specialist at the University of Kentucky.

A federally funded research study is underway to determine whether managing medicines can delay the start of dementia symptoms.

Meanwhile, seniors, their caregivers and their doctors should do the following to help avoid the potential for medication-induced memory problems:

- Be aware of all the medications someone is taking, including prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and dietary supplements.
- Keep a running list with the date each medicine is started and stopped and note any symptoms. The National Institute on Aging has a worksheet for this; find it online at bit.ly/MyMedList.

• Review the list with a doctor, a geriatrics specialist or a pharmacist.

• If you suspect a problem, bring it up and don't wait for your doctor to ask.

The growing problem of dementia deserves the attention it is getting from researchers. Although no easy task for some — with about 91% of people over 65 taking at least one prescription medicine and 41% using five or more — keeping a medications list while the experts figure things out is a solid preventative step.

SKILLI ©2020 PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE CREATORS SYNDICATE



Letters to the editor

Legislation, EPA oversight is necessary

One thing that the oil and gas industry and environmentalists agree on is that millions of metric tons of methane leak into our atmosphere every year. However, the latest science and direct measurements prove the Environmental Protection Agency is underestimating methane emissions by up to 60%. Groups that actually care about our air and aren't led by a coal lobbyist say the oil and gas industry leaks around 13 million metric tons annually. Pennsylvania can't afford a single extra ton of this dangerous greenhouse gas to be leaked into the air we breathe.

Oil and gas infrastructure in Pennsylvania leaks about half a million tons of methane per year, and production is supposed to expand in the next decade. Other harmful chemicals leak right along with methane from every point of production. About 54,000 tons of volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), including known carcinogens like benzene, leak each year in Pennsylvania. These chemicals can exacerbate respiratory illness in children and the elderly.

Strong legislation and oversight from the EPA is the only way to ensure everyone is protected from methane emissions. Greenhouse gases know no borders, and every metric ton of leaked methane puts us deeper into the climate crisis. We can't trust the oil and gas industry to detect, repair and report leaks on their own. The EPA must end these careless rollbacks and start protecting the environment instead of polluter profits.

B.J. CAMPBELL
Burgettstown

“baby daddy” who “probably sells heroin” are explicit examples of his obvious racist beliefs. Many of his ill-stated opinions or attempts at advice are on record and are against the rules of the commonwealth.

Our city is flourishing in the areas of technology and health care, yet, according to the Gender and Equity Commission's 2019 report, over one-third of Pittsburgh's black women live in poverty; 85% of cities have higher black employment than Pittsburgh; and black children experience police referrals and arrests within their schools at rates 3 to 5 times that of their white classmates. These are staggering statistics that cannot be expected to change with racist individuals like Judge Tranquilli holding positions of power.

NICHOLE SHEETS
Plum

Church repentance

Thank you to the writer of the March 18 letter, “Where Does the Church Go From Here?” The writer took the words, that I have been saying, right out of my mouth. I must hear more repentance from the Catholic Church.

I feel very betrayed by the Catholic Church. I went to Catholic school for 12 years, and the priests and nuns were held to a higher standard. I was actually afraid of our parish priest. He was like God to us. After reading what those priests did to these little boys, I was literally sick to my stomach. I

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understand why these children never told anyone. Who would believe them?

I went to a parish meeting regarding the sexual abuse, and never once did I hear, “We are so very sorry.” What I did hear was that most of the people who spoke up were telling lies, and that the mothers of these priests were to blame. Are you kidding me?

I haven't been to church in over a year. I have not lost my faith — I have just lost my faith in the men who represent the Catholic Church.

SALLY GEISLER-MILTON
Stowe

New buildings

When one considers the majesty of the Cathedral of Learning and the grandeur of the Mellon Institute, it is so very difficult to accept the unappealing and grossly unattractive buildings recently erected on Forbes Avenue in Oakland.

For example, the SkyVue Apartments building is one of the most unattractive residential structures I have ever seen. Can you imagine this building included on a city tour promoting Pittsburgh?

It seems that developers and architects have decided that they can go the cheap and uninspiring path in Pittsburgh and get away with it. The citizens of Pittsburgh deserve better, and the city officials of Pittsburgh should demand better.

HARRY JAMES FORD
Swissvale

City falls behind

I was appalled to read about the blatantly racist remarks made by Judge Mark Tranquilli in the March 8 article “Allegations of Racist Comments Put Judge Tranquilli Under Scrutiny.” As a judge, this individual has a responsibility to interpret the law, not to offer his own personal opinions or judgments about the defendants or jurors in his courtroom or chambers.

Referring to an African American female juror as “Aunt Jemima” or assuming she has a

Protect workers, provide health coverage



We are all connected, a community of people experiencing vulnerability in the face of the coronavirus which threatens us, our families, neighbors and friends. We are becoming aware of how the well being of one person can affect the well being of many. This puts a focus on community. We are all interconnected in the web of our complicated lives. This pandemic causes interruptions for all of us.

Social distancing, reports of closures, concerns about cascading economic fallout are all part of our national conversation. Health issues such as the availability of tests, treatment, masks, ventilators are high priority. We are missing the conversation about the need for universal health coverage, how important it is, and critical in time of a pandemic.

This is the time when we must call for universal health coverage. This virus should be our wake up call. Many of our own citizens are uninsured or cannot afford medical care. When the public service industry does not provide health coverage for their

employees, workers who have much contact with the public are vulnerable. Among others, there are those who work in the food industry, restaurants, bars, fast food places, grocery stores, barber shops, hair salons. They need to be protected, as well as the customers they serve.

Many uninsured workers have low incomes and live paycheck to paycheck. They don't qualify for government programs, ironically, because they have jobs. Seven out of 10 uninsured have jobs, but no insurance. Others have jobs that offer health care coverage, but the premiums, the deductibles, co-pays and medications essentially make that coverage unaffordable. The reality of at least 29 million uninsured cannot be ignored. There is no safety net for them.

Today, it's the coronavirus. In the future, there likely will be other infectious diseases that threaten the health of our nation. We can do better. We must have universal health coverage.

JOYCE SCHLAG
Banksville

Perspectives

Megan McArdle

A libertarian's unlikely pandemic plea

The U.S. needs to subsidize everything

Last week, Yascha Mounk of *The Atlantic* called on America to “cancel everything.” At the time, this seemed radical. This week, approximately 17,000 years later in COVID-19 time, it is conventional wisdom.

As Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin stepped up to the lectern Tuesday to announce that the government would be looking for a way to send checks to every American in the next week or so, I thought of my own parallel proposal to Mr. Mnuchin: subsidize everything.

Those are hard words for a libertarian to say. But then this is a harder crisis than we've faced in anyone's living memory. To put this in perspective: By some of the higher estimates, this virus could kill more than 1.5 million Americans. That's more than all the Americans who have died in all wars since the country announced its independence from Britain.

To avoid this disastrous outcome, we need to “cancel everything” for some, hopefully short, period of time. But that won't work unless we ensure that the people who will be most hurt — people and businesses who make things or provide services in a physical location — come through this relatively unscathed.

We're going to have a recession, and in a certain sense we want a recession; if the economy is growing, it means too many people are still moving around. So there's little use for traditional policies like payroll tax cuts, which aim to get people back to working and shopping as fast as possible. Instead, we have to think first about mitigating the suffering of those who have lost their jobs and, second, about keeping businesses on life support so they can go back to normal production as quickly as possible whenever we get the virus under control.

In this unprecedented situation, the government will need novel,



The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Matt Rourke/Associated Press

creative policymaking to minimize the damage — and not just the same old predigested ideological programs. The first priority should be laid-off workers, who need secure access to what financial guru Dave Ramsey has dubbed the “four walls”: food, transportation, rent or mortgage, and utilities. That will mean, in part, putting cash into the hands of individuals who have been laid off or quarantined, first through checks, then through unusually generous unemployment insurance and some sort of federal sick-leave program. It will also mean declaring a moratorium on evictions, utility shutoffs, vehicle repossessions and residential mortgage foreclosures.

But that won't be enough. Halting evictions, repossessions and the like will just shift the problem and the cost back to utilities, landlords and other providers of vital services, who have their own loan payments to make. So the government must keep those businesses solvent, with zero-interest loans if

necessary, to help them survive the coming months.

Finally, the government must target employers, to ensure that as many people have a job to go back to when all of this is over. There are a lot of ways we could do that, but one of my favorites is Tim Bartik's proposal to encourage “labor hoarding.”

Labor hoarding sounds nasty, but actually it's good: It's how economists describe employers who hold on to more employees than they really need during recessions. Finding and training good workers are expensive, so it is often cheaper in the long run to keep people on when demand falls.

This is a tendency the government should encourage right now. So Mr. Bartik suggests we offer employers a tax credit to maintain their payrolls above 90% of their 2019 average. It's much cheaper than offering a payroll tax cut to people such as me who can easily transition to working from home, and provides employers a much

more direct incentive to do what we want.

At this point, conservative readers may be shuffling uneasily. Isn't this going to be expensive? Won't unscrupulous people try to game the system? Won't this distort the economy?

The answer to those questions is yes, yes and yes. In a normal time, or even a normal recession, I'd never suggest any of these measures.

But this is a most abnormal time. Our collective health relies on every other citizen doing the right thing and keeping their distance from everyone else. We need to make it as easy as possible for everyone to do the right thing. That's going to cost money, some of which will go to people who don't deserve it. The only justification is that it will cost all of us a lot more if we don't take these steps. They are as necessary as they will be expensive.

Megan McArdle is a columnist for The Washington Post.

Patrick Gallagher

The race to protect the helpers

Everyone must play their part

Earlier this week, I talked with students and parents as they pushed about the University of Pittsburgh's iconic blue moving bins filled with personal belongings. These families were moving home, six weeks too soon — an unwelcome exodus happening at campuses nationwide.

This is the last thing that any of us wanted. Businesses hitting pause. Playgrounds silent. Streets emptied. It's the Pittsburgh we all know and love, but with a barely discernible pulse.

This pandemic has offered all of us an unwelcome crash course in public health management, and it's become clear that our collective shift to working, learning and living remotely is contributing to a bigger cause: our health care system's capacity to handle this pandemic.

We have likely all heard the advice from one of Pittsburgh's most beloved figures — Fred Rogers. In the face of tragedy, he reminded us to “look for the helpers.” Except, now, the helpers need us.

Pittsburgh is one of the most vibrant medical and scientific hubs in the nation, with more than 200,000 health care workers in our region. These helpers are our family members, neighbors and friends — front-line workers facing an unprecedented challenge.

At the University of Pittsburgh, this effort is deeply personal. Our researchers are rushing to unlock the mysteries of preventing and treating COVID-19 infections. Our talented alumni, members of Pitt's world-renowned health science schools, are reporting for shifts in thousands of hospitals and clinics across the nation. And our faculty — some of the finest medical experts in the country — have cared for our family and friends in exam and operating rooms across the region.

Absent a medical treatment or vaccine and without the benefits of built-up immunity, the only real tools that we have for combating COVID-19 is distance and time. If we slow the spread of the disease enough, there's hope. Our world-class health care system will be left to manage a substantial, but largely surmountable, outbreak. But if the spread of COVID-19 runs unchecked, it will almost certainly overwhelm the system and its workers.

The solution is simple — a combination of individual and collective actions, everything from frequent handwashing to widescale social distancing. But these steps only work if everyone plays their part. If too many of us opt out in ambivalence, then we will all lose.

This playbook isn't painless. In fact, the sacrifices required are profound. COVID-19 has upended our daily routines and forced unwanted changes to the ways we study, live, worship, play and work. In tackling this crisis, the machinery of our nation's vast economy is coming to a grinding halt — and the full scale of the pandemic's economic impact is becoming clear.

But the stakes give our sacrifices a new meaning. We are undertaking a powerful and shared act to support our region's response to this pandemic and — equally important — to protect the thousands of Pittsburghers working the front lines.

Acknowledging our collective responsibility within this new abnormal is critical. The finish lines will move, the rules of engagement will change, and lives will unknowingly be lost or saved depending on how much we — individually and collectively — can adjust.

To again borrow the words of our favorite cardigan-wearing leader: “What really matters is helping others win, too, even if it means slowing down and changing course now and then.”

The good news is that Pittsburghers could tour the world giving motivational talks on the art of resiliency and the power of working together. And our city itself, an inveterate shape shifter, is soldered together by equal parts grit and a strong sense of community. Our past successes have laid bare the vital importance of running life's hard races together, and now — more than ever — we must remember these lessons.

With an untold number of human lives hanging in the balance, our only option is to fight this pandemic together. We must look to and figuratively lean on one another and acknowledge our role in the bigger picture. And now is our time to truly help the helpers, our health care heroes across the region, so that this becomes a race we can — and will — win.

Patrick Gallagher is chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh.

When a slur sounds nothing like the truth

When President Donald Trump stood before the microphone during a White House briefing about the coronavirus on Wednesday in which he declared himself a “wartime president,” it only required a slight adjustment of reality as far as he was concerned.

He had already laid the groundwork in a press conference the day before when he told reporters that contrary to what they had seen, heard and reported for weeks, he never called the coronavirus a “hoax.”

“This is a pandemic,” he said Tuesday. “I felt it was a pandemic long before it was called a pandemic. All you had to do was look at other countries.”

Mr. Trump assumed that just because the heads of the reporters didn't explode from the weight of sheer cognitive dissonance, his Jedi mind trick had somehow worked. It hadn't.

Everyone knew that every word he said was in direct conflict with reality. With several members of the coronavirus task force flanking him, Mr. Trump declared war on an “invisible enemy” he could barely acknowledge weeks before.

So on Wednesday, the task force did not applaud or pin epaulettes on Mr. Trump's shoulder, but they did not embarrass him with gentle rebukes for wasting weeks of precious time that has endangered the public's health, either.

After only a few weeks of working with the Trump administration, these learned men and women have already taken the lessons of George Orwell's “1984” to heart: “The past was alterable. The past has never been altered. Oceania was at war with Eurasia; therefore, Oceania had always been at war with Eurasia.”

While Mr. Trump's position on the legitimacy of fears concerning the coronavirus could charitably be described as “fungible” over time, he and his allies have been remarkably consistent about one element — the open embrace of anti-Asian xenophobia and racism for geopolitical advantage.

While everyone is keenly aware of Mr. Trump's clumsy attempts to distract from his administration's incompetence in rallying the nation and marshaling its resources



Tony Norman

to combat COVID-19, his attempts to racially brand a global disease still can't go unaddressed.

Racism matters. It is only those who have benefited most from the privileges afforded by racism who insist with a straight face that “rising to the Trump administration's bait” by even objecting to it at this time endangers the public health.

It is possible to do two things at once — call out the president's incompetence while also pointing out his racism and those of his surrogates who are trying to rebrand COVID-19 the “Chinese virus” in the middle of a global pandemic.

Bear in mind, these are members of a political party that, until a few days ago, wasn't willing to entertain the possibility that COVID-19 was anything more than an elaborate media hoax concocted to embarrass Mr. Trump, tank the economy and steal the election for the Democrats.

Sen. John Cornyn, one of Texas' two Republican senators, spelled it out for a reporter who quizzed him about the cost of demonizing Asians in a land that has been historically intolerant of them, especially during pandemics.

“That's where it came from,” Mr. Cornyn said, as if geographic origin was anything more than a twirl of the dice. “I think China is to blame because the culture where people eat bats and snakes and dogs and things like that, these viruses are transmitted from the animal to the people and that's why China has been the source of a lot of these viruses like SARS, like MERS, the Swine flu, and now the coronavirus,” he said. “So I think they have a fundamental problem, and I don't object to geographically identifying where it's coming from.”

Mr. Cornyn and his ilk would've objected strongly if the strain of deadly Creutzfeldt-Jakob bovine disease, otherwise known as “Mad Cow disease,” that re-emerged on an American farm and in Canada in 2003, had been re-dubbed “North American Mad Cow disease.” That's because the Republican



President Donald Trump pauses during a news briefing March 18 on the latest development of the coronavirus outbreak.

Alex Wong/Getty Images

senator and all of those eager to paint a worldwide pandemic as uniquely Chinese are well aware of the power of stigma and what it would mean if it were ever used against many American factory farms where diseases thrive.

To xenophobic ears in America, “China is to blame” translates into “Asians are to blame” at street level, which may explain why Asian Americans of all backgrounds are reporting more assaults and acts of bias and discrimination leveled at them and triggered by COVID-19.

Throughout American history, both political parties have been guilty of using anti-Asian American bias to advance cynical political ends, but it has been the Republicans that have turned an ethnic smear into an art most recently with not-so-subtle dog whistles about what Asians allegedly eat when decent Republicans aren't looking.

While it is true that Chinese authorities have finally shut down the infamous “wet markets” of Wuhan where exotic animals were cooked and served to adventurous natives and tourists, there's more to the origin and spread of this disease than a pot of “bat stew” gone bad.

If we ever hope to understand and treat new versions of this virus going forward, we're going to have to work in concert with the Chinese government and its scientists. A strategy of mutual cooperation might be endangered if China objects to being made the racial bogeyman of the American right, displacing Muslims and Hispanics.

But nativism and racism run thick in Mr. Trump's Republican Party, where most pendants fall back on the excuse for racism that amounts to no more than: “Well, that's where the virus came from so that's what I'm going to call it, no matter what.”

If you ask the folks who want to redub COVID-19 the Chinese virus what's wrong with referring to it as the coronavirus without assigning a region to it, they fake offense and accuse you of being both Orwellian and “politically correct.”

On Wednesday, senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway took her defense of the Trump administration to absurd lengths by casually reminding the reporters grilling her that she knows a thing or two about discrimination herself. “I'm married to an Asian,” Ms. Conway said referring to conservative attorney George Conway, one of Mr. Trump's fiercest critics.

The reporters didn't know quite what to do with that bit of irrelevant information, so Ms. Conway quipped that since they were all “so obsessed with race,” she assumed they were aware of that fact. Again, the reporters scratched their heads over such a pointless non sequitur, hoping against hope that her ultimate point was not that some of her best friends were Asian. Even the Trump administration's highest-ranking propagandist had to do better than that.

Tony Norman: tnorman@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1631. Twitter @Tony_NormanPG.

Biden bides time as he chases the nomination

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the three weeks since his blowout win in the South Carolina primary, Joe Biden has emerged as the Democratic presidential nominee-in-waiting. But, amid the uncertainty of the coronavirus pandemic, put the emphasis on waiting.

Mr. Biden holds an essentially insurmountable delegate lead over his last remaining rival, Bernie Sanders, yet the Vermont senator remains in the race. And with several states delaying their primaries to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Mr. Biden can't reach the required majority of pledged convention delegates until May or June.

Yet the former vice president, who proudly calls himself a "tactile politician," can't chase those votes in public because he's essentially confined to his Delaware home like any other American in a quasi-national quarantine. His new campaign manager and her staff are working from home, too.

For now, Mr. Biden's campaign has little choice but to embrace an unprecedented political purgatory.

"Three weeks ago, we were on the verge of collapse as a campaign, so this is a very recent phenomenon," said Biden senior adviser Anita Dunn, insisting that the 77-year-old candidate remains focused on playing a productive role in the coronavirus response and sewing up a nominating fight that he doesn't see as finished.



Eyal Warshavsky/Associated Press

A man holds a sign that reads "Democracy" in Hebrew during a protest Thursday outside the Israeli Parliament in Jerusalem. Hundreds of people defied restrictions on large gatherings to accuse Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of exploiting the coronavirus crisis to solidify his power and undermine Israel's democratic foundations.

Hundreds of Israelis protest Netanyahu's strict measures

By David M. Halbfinger
The New York Times

JERUSALEM — Hundreds of Israelis mounted a protest convoy on a main highway into Jerusalem on Thursday, demonstrating against what they called anti-democratic measures by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies that they said were taking the country down a path to dictatorship.

In what appeared to be a concerted effort to stymie the demonstration, the police closed the highway and shut roads surrounding Parliament and the Supreme Court, then arrested some who protested outside Parliament on foot.

That Israelis were taking to the streets to protest — with many flying black flags from their cars — despite concerns about the coronavirus indicated how

furious many have become about a series of contentious steps Mr. Netanyahu has taken since his defeat in the March 2 elections.

"We are proud to be the only democracy in the Middle East, and we want to keep it that way," said Shikma Schwartzman, a physicist from northern Israel whose angry Facebook post, widely shared Wednesday night, gave rise to the vehicular demonstration Thursday.

Mr. Netanyahu has portrayed those actions as vital to contain the virus. They include his decision Sunday to shut down most courts and, on Tuesday, to order the Internal Security Agency to use a secret database of citizens' cellphone data to track down people who may have come into contact with carriers of the illness.

Both moves came in middle-of-the-night decrees

without legislative consultation or oversight.

For many, the last straw came Wednesday, with the closing of Parliament by the departing speaker, Yuli Edelstein, a member of Mr. Netanyahu's Likud party.

He adjourned Parliament despite calls by a majority of the newly elected lawmakers to convene to allow them to assume the leadership of important committees and to elect a replacement for Mr. Edelstein.

Mr. Edelstein said Thursday that he would allow Parliament to convene on Monday.

The centrist Blue and White party — whose chairman, former army chief Benny Gantz, is seeking to form a government and succeed Mr. Netanyahu as prime minister — planned to seek the Supreme Court's intervention Thursday to try to reconvene Parliament.

Nation and World briefs

NOAA warns of another soggy spring

Compiled from news services

Brace for another flooded spring — but not one as bad as last year, forecasters from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warned Thursday.

"Flooding continues to be a factor for many Americans this spring," with major to moderate flooding likely to occur in 23 states, said Mary Erickson, deputy director of the National Weather Service, in a call with reporters. The flooding should not be as severe, or last as long, as the ruinous conditions much of the country experienced last year, she said.

Major flooding involves "extensive inundation of structures and roads," with significant evacuation, while moderate flooding involves "some inundation of structures and roads" near streams, according to NOAA.

The most severe flooding is expected in the Dakotas and Minnesota, but high water could range from the Northern Plains to the Gulf Coast, Ms. Erickson said.

That forecast puts 128 million people at risk of flooding, and 1.2 million at risk for major flooding, said Edward Clark, director of NOAA's National Water Center. Heavy rains, he added, can be expected to lead to a larger-than-average zone of hypoxia — an area of low or depleted oxygen where life cannot be sustained, commonly called a dead zone — in the Gulf of Mexico this summer.

Farmers, hit hard by last year's heavy rainfall, can expect less severe conditions this year, but nonetheless could encounter "significant planting delays" in 2020, said Brad Rippey, a Department of Agriculture meteorologist.

Astronaut to blast off without family, fanfare

A NASA astronaut who's about to leave the planet for six months will blast off without any family or fanfare

because of the coronavirus.

Chris Cassidy said Thursday that he won't have any guests at his April 9 launch from Kazakhstan. He expects to say goodbye in Russia to his wife, Julie, on Friday, three weeks earlier than planned.

Because of the pandemic, she's going home to Houston. One of their three children, meanwhile, is trying to get back to the U.S. from New Zealand.

There will be a smaller team than usual at the launch pad, too.

"It really is going to be strange," Mr. Cassidy said from cosmonaut headquarters in Star City, Russia.

He said he's already in quarantine ahead of his launch to the International Space Station.

India executes 4 men in rape, murder case

Four men were executed Friday for the brutal gang rape of a young woman in the Indian capital in 2012.

The men were hanged in Delhi's Tihar Jail, a jail official confirmed.

A lone hangman carried out the executions after courts rejected last-minute pleas by the convicts' lawyers Thursday night.

"Our daughter has finally got justice. I thank the judiciary, the government," the rape victim's mother, Asha Devi, said outside the jail, where a large crowd gathered. They broke into cheers as news of the hanging was confirmed.

The 23-year-old medical student was gang-raped and heavily injured on a moving bus in the Indian capital on Dec. 16, 2012, sparking mass protests. She died nearly two weeks later in a Singapore hospital.

The four men — Mukesh Singh, Akshay Thakur, Vinay Sharma and Pawan Gupta — were found guilty of the crime and sentenced to death by a trial court in 2013.

Americans held overseas in Iran, Lebanon freed

The New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration Thursday announced the release of two Americans imprisoned overseas and said it had intensified demands for a third, amid global fears that the coronavirus could quickly spread among detainees and result in deaths.

Amer Fakhoury, 56, a Lebanese-born naturalized U.S. citizen, was headed to his home state of New Hampshire from Beirut, where he had been detained for months on decades-old charges of torturing Lebanese prisoners.

Michael White, a U.S. Navy veteran and cancer patient, was released from an Iranian prison where he had been held since July 2018, the State Department announced. Mr. White, of Imperial Beach, Calif., was freed on a medical furlough.

For now, he must remain

in Iran, undergoing medical testing and evaluation at the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, which has acted as a diplomatic intermediary between the United States and Iran.

"The United States will continue to work for Michael's full release as well as the release of all wrongfully detained Americans in Iran," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement.

He said Mr. White was serving a 13-year sentence; the charges included insulting Iran's supreme leader and posting private photographs on social media. Mr. White was arrested in the northeastern city of Mashhad while visiting an Iranian friend.

And at the White House, President Donald Trump said he was working to free Austin Tice, a journalist and former Marine who was abducted in Syria in August 2012.

Our Commitment to You

To Our Customers:

West Penn Power is committed to keeping power flowing to you around the clock as we face the coronavirus health emergency together.

We know your normal routines are being disrupted during this time. Schools are closed and businesses are shut down. For customers, that could mean a loss of income. To help customers facing financial difficulties, we have suspended all service shutoffs for past-due accounts until further notice.

If you have trouble paying your bill, please contact us and we will work with you. Various payment options are available including budget billing, energy assistance programs or other payment arrangements.

Unfortunately, this crisis also provides an opportunity for scammers. Please remain alert to interactions that seem improper, including calls demanding payment to avoid immediate shutoff. If you sense something isn't right, give us a call at 800-686-0021.

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Amanda Matlovich/Netflix

Blair Underwood and Octavia Spencer star in the Netflix miniseries "Self Made," based on the Madam C.J. Walker story. At one time, her base of black hair-care product operations was in Pittsburgh.

By Maria Sciuolo
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The remarkable story of Madam C.J. Walker was a journey that began in Louisiana, wound through Pittsburgh, and ultimately touched the lives of thousands of African American women throughout the United States.

"Self Made," a four-part miniseries that begins Friday on Netflix, is a dramatization of her life. Octavia Spencer, an Oscar winner for 2011's "The Help," stars as Madam Walker, who was born Sarah Breedlove to former slaves in 1867 Louisiana.

Carnegie Mellon University graduate Blair Underwood plays her husband, who helped her grow a small hair-care venture into a million-dollar business.

"It's very exciting that something that has been a 50-year journey for me — telling the story of Madam Walker — is now going to be seen by an international audience," said A'Leia Bundles, Walker's great-granddaughter.

"We get to see Octavia Spencer bring her to life ... from being a poor washer woman to being a millionaire who employed and empowered others."

Madam C.J. Walker's business began out of personal need. She had a scalp condition that caused severe hair loss, and, in finding treatment, discovered there were others who could benefit.

She and her husband traveled the country promoting "The Walker Hair Culture Method" and "Madam Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower."

They would eventually spend

'Self Made'

Madam C.J. Walker, focus of Netflix show, had Pittsburgh stop on her millionaire path

about two years in Pittsburgh, arriving between late 1907 and early 1908, and establishing a hair parlor on Wylie Avenue in the Hill District. There also was a house on Mignonette, near what is now the Ace Hotel in East Liberty.

Ms. Bundles is the author of "On Her Own Ground," the biography on which "Self Made" is based. She had been scheduled to attend three screenings this week in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Indianapolis, but those plans were scuttled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"So I'm trying to get this out there through social media," she said. "You just roll with the punches."

A former network news executive with NBC and ABC and the author of three other books about her family's legacy, Ms. Bundles said she understands why the Netflix story isn't entirely accurate. What screen adaptation ever is?

"I'm a journalist," she said. "I'm a person who is very, very fact-based, and Hollywood always, in these kinds of projects, takes license."

"There are certain requirements, in conjunction with the studios, that they use to create drama."

As played by Spencer, she said, Madam C.J. Walker is pretty true-to-life. Same with Freeman B. Ransom (Kevin Carroll), the attorney who helped get her business off the ground. Tiffany Haddish plays Lelia, Madam Walker's daughter and the subject of Ms. Bundles' upcoming book "The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance."

There are composite and fictional characters as well. For example, Bill Bellamy plays Sweetness, a numbers runner.

"He didn't exist, but it serves the purpose from the writers' perspective as an example of how many black people were sort of pushed into illegal activities because they were denied jobs."

Given that Ms. Bundles' book is 250 pages and based on decades of research, telling the story in four episodes is a daunting task.

Ms. Bundles was in high school when she wrote her first paper on Madam Walker. That was 1970, "and now, four books later, there's a core group of people who really know who C.J. Walker is and have a great affinity for her."

"Whether it's kids doing national history day projects, or beauticians who see her as kind of a patron saint, or CEOs who were

inspired by her."

The Netflix series begins with a voiceover: "It came to me in a dream. Hair is beauty, hair is emotion. Hair is our heritage."

The Walker Method and its line of products became a success through not only its salons but also mail-order business. Pittsburgh and its connectivity to the rest of the country through its rail system must have been a draw for the Walkers.

Once here, "she found a welcoming community, and she always had a network with the AME church," Ms. Bundles said.

But they eventually moved on to Indianapolis. The series skips over the Pittsburgh detour, showing the Walkers move straight from St. Louis to Indiana.

"I think a critical piece of this might have been that this was right before the Pittsburgh Courier [newspaper] was started. Although she was friends with Robert Vann [who would eventually publish it], there was still no black newspaper in Pittsburgh."

"Indianapolis had a much more cohesive and thriving black business community than Pittsburgh at that point," she said.

"They had three black newspapers, including one that was nationally distributed once a week."

Ms. Bundles' great-grandmother, A'Lelia, helped run the company. And Ms. Bundles' mother, A'Lelia Mae Perry Bundles, earned a degree in chemistry from Howard University and became vice president of Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing. Her father, S. Harry Bundles, got a degree in journalism at Indiana University

SEE **NETFLIX**, PAGE B-2

Tuned in
ROB OWEN

COVID-19 crisis also impacting television

It didn't take long for the global COVID-19 pandemic to impact what viewers see on TV, and what's happened so far may be just the beginning of changes from the TV routine.

Most live or live-to-tape entertainment programs have ceased production, including late-night shows, along with live sporting events.

On Monday, CBS "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert started recording timely amusing monologues from his home that air at the start of episodes that are otherwise reruns. (Jimmy Fallon is now doing something similar on NBC's "Tonight Show.") "Conan" on TBS will resume airing full new episodes on March 30, albeit shot on iPhone remotely without an audience or in-person guests, per Variety.

The effects of the global crisis will be felt down the road, too.

Almost every scripted prime-time series has gone on an unplanned production hiatus, including ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" and several shows scheduled to end their series runs, Fox's "Empire" and "Supernatural."

It's unclear what will happen to the programs nearing their endpoints.

Shows expected to return in the fall likely will end their seasons one to four episodes short of their 2019-20 season orders, per Vulture.com.

NBC's "Saturday Night Live" is on hiatus until further notice, and FX has pulled its planned April 19 launch of the fourth season of "Fargo," which was still in production in Chicago.

Awards shows, including the "2020 Billboard Music Awards" slated for April 29, will be postponed and rescheduled at a later date.

On Monday, game shows "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune," which had already switched to audience-free tapings, suspended production entirely.

Daytime soaps have also shut down, although they produce episodes between one and eight months in advance, so it will be a while before some of those programs run out of original episodes. ABC temporarily replaced daytime's "GMA3: Strahan, Sara and Keke" with "Pandemic: What You Need to Know."

Showtime's "Black Monday" will shift from two episodes premiering each Sunday to one episode per week through April 12 due to delays in post-production work on episodes. HBO Max delayed the production of its unscripted "Friends" reunion special that was expected to film next week, per The Hollywood Reporter.

Some networks have begun rolling out reruns in place of previously scheduled original episodes: The CW's "Legends of Tomorrow" has switched from originals to reruns on March 24 and 31, and "The Flash" will now be a rerun on March 31.

The stockpiling of originals is necessary in the event some programs never resume production on their current seasons. That will allow the networks to have original episodes left over in May to use to launch summer series. Of course, some of those summer shows could conceivably get pushed to fall.

The impact on what viewers see on TV will likely linger longer than the 2019-20 TV season, which wraps in May.

Networks have tabled production of pilot episodes of potential new series that would normally be announced at the upfronts in May (the upfronts have all been moved from splashy New York venues to online-only presentations due to COVID-19). It's unclear when those productions might gear up.

Some new shows may wind up skipping the pilot process and go straight to series. Depending on the duration of the current hunker down mode, the TV season that typically starts in September could get pushed back.

Showtime's Jeff Daniels-starring "Rust," which was scheduled to begin filming in Western Pennsylvania this month, has been delayed at least two weeks although it seems

SEE **TV**, PAGE B-2

Amid theatrical closings, artists align online

By Sharon Ebersson
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Mark Clayton Southers chronicled a dark time in his life, when he was recovering from a horrific 2015 car crash that left him with life-threatening injuries and a reconstructed leg.

While coping with pain, depression and the side effects of medication, the founder and leader of Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company wrote it all down. The former chief photographer for the Pittsburgh Courier has a journalistic eye, but his writings from that time often took him down a nightmarish rabbit hole that he eventually escaped.

Although physical and psychological effects of that time remain with Mr. Southers, his is come-back story. He has bound his writings into "The Chronicles," a book that he hopes to have published. It is a reminder of how far he has come — and now, he is using it to help others cope with the current state of anxiety and fear over COVID-19.

With his company and every other in-person theatrical event



Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

Amid COVID-19 cancellations and postponements, artists are turning to digital alternatives to deliver their performances. Hear Corp, for example, is producing livestreams of performances such as the concert by Bastard Bearded Irishmen, kicking off the 25 Pandemic Series.

closed down or postponed, he has asked his fellow artists to read excerpts of "The Chronicles" for The Pittsburgh Playwrights Artists Assistance Fund. Their videos will be posted on the Playwrights

website, with a link to make donations that will go to artists, designers and crew members associated with the company.

Actors answering the call so far include Eugene Lee, seen

recently on Broadway and Netflix in "American Son" and a Post-Gazette Performer of the Year for his work at Pittsburgh Public Theater ("Between Riverside and Crazy," "How I Learned What I Learned").

Members of the arts community on board so far are David Conrad, Tami Dixon, Monteze Freeland, Ben Cain, Wali Jamal, Jonathan Berry, Marya Sea Kaminski, Kevin Maynor, Patrick Jordan, Vanessa German, Kim El and LeLand Gantt, with more to come.

Mr. Southers had sent out this call to arms as the edicts for social distancing put a stop to the livelihoods of workers from all walks of life.

"My good friends I really appreciate you coming onboard to make this happen," his email said. "I haven't read the majority of these since I wrote them several years ago. Some are hard for me to hear while others gently remind me of what my family and I have been through."

He followed with instructions about how to record the excerpts

SEE **ARTISTS**, PAGE B-2

Peanuts

By Charles Schulz



Mutts

By Patrick McDonnell



Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



Zits

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Baby Blues

By Jerry Scott and Rick Kirkman



Sally Forth

By Francesco Marciuliano & Jim Keefe



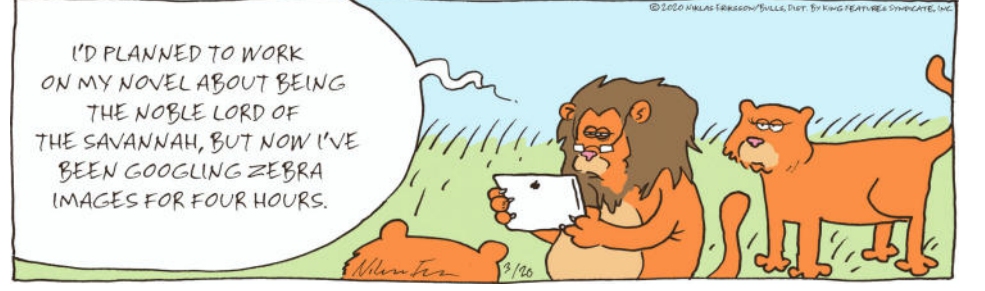
Blondie

By Dean Young and John Marshall



Carpe Diem

By Niklas Eriksson



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Curtis

By Ray Billingsley



Dustin

By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



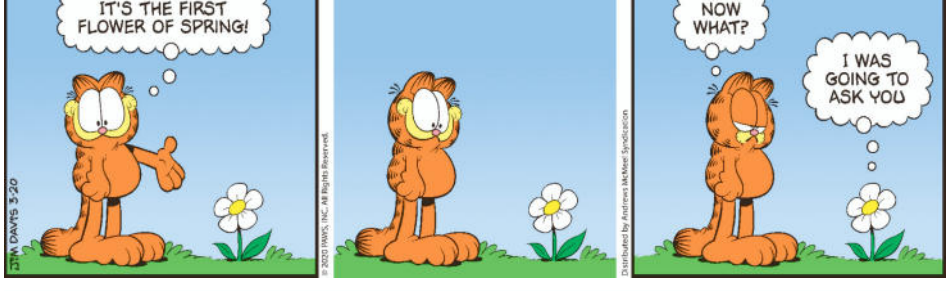
Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Born Loser

By Art and Chip Sansom



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Rhymes With Orange

By Hilary Price



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



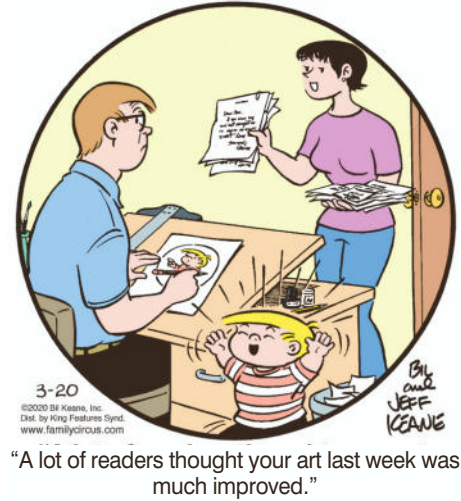
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



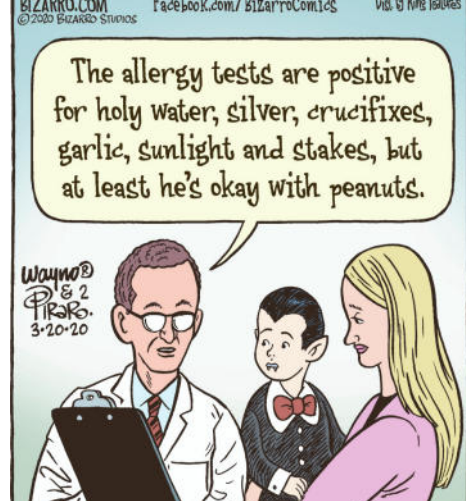
The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



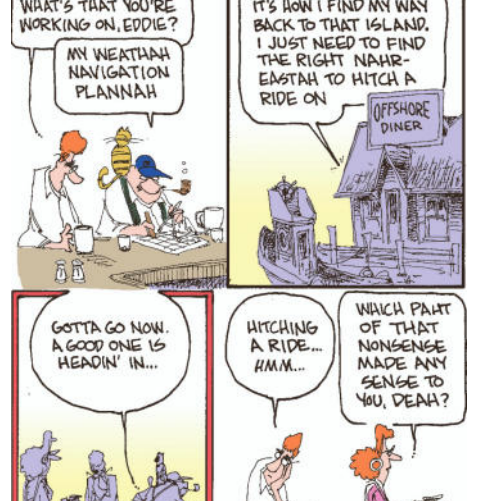
Bizarro

By Wayne and Piraro



Non Sequitur

By Wiley Miller



"Oh yeah! I used your jewelry for our hidden treasure hunt. But don't worry ... I made a map of everything."

"A lot of readers thought your art last week was much improved."

TO BE CONTINUED

Friday PUZZLES, HOROSCOPE AND BRIDGE

Contract Bridge

STEVE BECKER

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
2 NT	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠ Q9743 ♥ 8 ♦ Q65 ♣ J962
- ♠ KJ852 ♥ 953 ♦ A94 ♣ Q7
- ♠ KQ6532 ♥ 6 ♦ KQ5 ♣ J32
- ♠ Q7643 ♥ K9872 ♦ 10 ♣ 94

1. Four spades. Partner's four-club bid is a slam try indicating good spade support and guaranteeing first-round club control. The two-notrump opening announced 20 to 21 points and balanced distribution (though not necessarily

adequate spade support). But the four-club bid redefines partner's values as a maximum with good spades.

You are therefore in good position to gauge partner's values, but since you have an absolute minimum for your previous bid and know that a slam is virtually impossible, you should sign off at four spades. Partner may have a hand that looks something like: ♠ AK6 ♥ K72 ♦ A104 ♣ AK85, in which case even four spades is in jeopardy.

2. Four diamonds. This time you have a far better hand and should identify it by bidding four diamonds. If partner then bids four hearts - still another slam try - you should willingly undertake six spades. But if, over four diamonds, partner retreats to four spades, you are best advised to pass.

3. Four notrump. This is Blackwood, pure and simple.

You plan to bid six spades if partner's response shows either three or four aces. Of course, if partner indicates only two aces, you will stop at five spades. It is possible that if partner has exactly the right hand, including all the aces, you might make a grand slam. But since you have no way of knowing for sure, the most sensible move is to settle for the small slam.

4. Four spades. You may be tempted to bid four hearts at this point, but that action should be firmly resisted. Partner is trying to get to a slam in spades, and the best way of talking him out of this notion is to bid four spades and let him know that you have no interest in slam. A four-heart bid at this point would constitute a cooperative move toward slam and could get you into a lot of trouble.

Horoscope

JACQUELINE BIGAR

Friday, March 20, 2020

The following astrological forecasts should be read for entertainment value only. These predictions have no reliable basis in scientific fact.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ☆☆☆☆ Today friends and professional colleagues can't get enough of you. This makes you impatient for the workday to be over. You will have something to celebrate, and you can do it in grand style. Tonight: Stay out as late as possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ☆☆☆☆ Despite work responsibilities you feel like being a homebody today. You can easily accomplish your work from home. Beam in more of what you want. Don't hold back. Discussions go better via email, and you end up winning. Tonight: A nicely cooked dinner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ☆☆☆☆ You are day-dreaming today how to make the world a better place. Instigate brainstorming sessions with willing colleagues. A professional organization invites you to be a speaker for a future event. Friends want you to go out after work. Tonight: Fun times.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ☆☆☆☆ A professional partner-

ship is proposed at work that makes you think twice. It would involve mutual monies, so ask advice from a trusted mentor. You're normally cautious with finances, but consider taking the plunge. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ☆☆ Despite a prior commitment with a partner, a part of you dreams of getting away from it all today. You reach a happy compromise after honestly sharing your feelings. Still, you are restless. Allow yourself to satisfy your wanderlust. Tonight: Make no plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ☆☆☆ A financial matter needs settling and can be done by adding it to your to-do list. You accomplish a lot today simply by checking off each errand. The urge to rework your wardrobe for spring must be. Tonight: Buy new clothes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ☆☆ Your thoughts turn to relationships when you should be working. You are asked to sign on the dotted line for something that you feel hesitant about. Take the time to discuss this with loved ones, and don't be afraid to ask for direction. Tonight: Take a breather.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ☆☆☆ A health matter which may be genetic to your family is foremost in your mind today. You must consult the specialist you have been waiting to see. When you do, you will sigh a breath of relief.

Family will want to celebrate with you. Tonight: Spend quality time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ☆☆☆☆ News comes in via a light flirtation at work and surprises you. You may wish to publish online, thereby helping many people. A child is especially needy of your time. You discover a secret hurt and resolve it. Tonight: Plan a special outing with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ☆☆☆ A home concern calls for more money to be poured into it. Research options and get estimates. Despite family weighing in, you are the best judge of what to do in this matter. Trust yourself and your sharp instincts. Tonight: Spend a cozy time indoors and eat well.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ☆☆☆ You are in for a surprise as your day begins. A neighbor brings you unexpected news about the neighborhood. You must decide which side you are on. Your opinion is greatly valued. Work goes swiftly, and you are able to leave early. Tonight: Only casual chat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ☆☆☆ Your profitable idea leads you out of what you feel might be a slight depression. Your mood brightens considerably as the day gets underway. A financial matter has to be dealt with. You resolve it after a relatively light-hearted talk. Tonight: To sleep early.

Sudoku

DAVE GREEN

3								6
	9	2					5	4
		6	4		9	1		
		3	8		7	9		
	5	8				6	9	
2			7	3				4

2	1	7	4	6	9	5	3	8
3	9	5	2	1	8	6	4	7
4	6	8	3	7	5	9	1	2
1	3	6	7	2	4	8	9	5
9	8	4	1	5	6	7	2	3
5	7	2	8	9	3	1	6	4
6	2	3	9	8	7	4	5	1
8	4	9	5	3	1	2	7	6
7	5	1	6	4	2	3	8	9

Complete the grid so that every row, column, and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Cryptoquip

MOOB-IRFQ HFFTHI OZOFL
 LEHL JRVVOVRXHLOC LEO
 DIOHCTXOC RU BKCKFKQ: H
 LMR-IKD UOCLKZHI.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals W

Solution for previous Cryptoquip: If you're monitoring the number of kitties a guy has, I suppose you're keeping tabbies on him.

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words, and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

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Ken Ken

72X			11+	3+			20X
36X					5		
		6		2+			
8+	8+			24X			11+
		3-	1-	4			
				2-			6

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Directions: Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6 without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

Previous solution

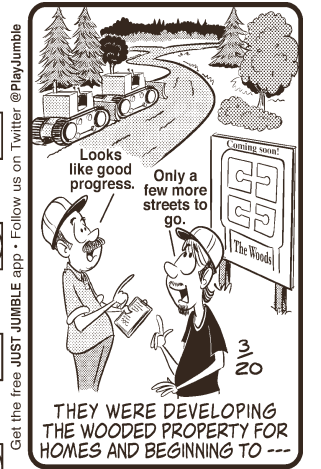
Jumble

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Previous Jumble solution below Quick Crossword

SREIK
 WARND
 HOLAMO
 LJACEO

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Joseph Crossword

ACROSS

- Safekeeping
- Endure
- Keen
- Took steps
- Like lions
- Glisten
- Green prefix
- Merry
- More fuzz-filled
- Work wk.'s end
- Pallid
- Purposes
- Corn unit
- Mine yield
- Short hit
- Amused looks
- Aardvark snack
- Was a braggart
- Refuse to let go of

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		
9				10		11				12
13						14				
15				16	17					
18			19					20		
	21					22				
		23			24					
25	26				27				28	
29				30						31
32			33					34		
35						36	37			
38						39				
	40							41		

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 34 Seine water | 38 Spanish hero | 12 Sub shops |
| 35 Italian seaport | 39 Orlando attraction | 17 Cariou of "Blue Bloods" |
| 36 Sides in turf wars | 40 -majesté | 19 Not this |
| 41 Hotel units | | 22 "Exodus" author |

DOWN

- Caravan creature
- Spiny tree
- Grammatical no-no
- Summer in Paris
- Intense beam
- Massage target
- Twenty years, say
- Prof protector
- More avant-garde
- Police ID
- Sick
- Sticky stuff
- Neptune, e.g.
- Dagger part
- Does some
- housework
- Clark's colleague
- LAPD issuance

N	A	P	A		P	A	R	I	S		
A	B	A	S	H		I	N	A	N	E	
M	U	S	K	Y		P	E	S	C	I	
E	S			G	E	E	W	H	I	Z	
S	E	E	F	I	T			E	T	E	
				B	E	A	U	R	E	D	
				M	A	I	N	P	U	S	S
C	A	D		E	A	T	S				
O	D	D		T	E	E	O	F	F		
B	E	E	B	A	L	M		M	A	R	
R	I	D	E	R		P	I	E	T	A	
A	R	O	S	E		O	R	G	A	N	
S	A	N	T	A		S	A	L	K		

Thursday's Jumble: Digit, Adapt, Dismal, Muffle. After Charlie Daniels had his favorite violin repaired, it was — Fit as a fiddle.

The New York Times Crossword

No. 0214

ACROSS

- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band led by Iggy Pop
- Intermediate gait
- Do thumb traveling?
- Someone who's well-off
- "Well, then ..."
- Balanced
- See 20-Across
- 19-Across pitcher
- "No you ___!"
- Tankerful
- Successor language to Common Brittonic
- 0 on the Beaufort scale
- Billionaire philanthropist — Broad
- Some road trip entertainment
- Basement feature
- Former Supreme Court justice William
- (x, y), in math
- Low, low price, in an expression
- Subuniverses
- Lessen
- Losing money
- Superimposed
- Message in smoke signals, maybe
- Chummy
- "___ So Fine," 1963 #1 hit for the Chiffons
- Deal with it
- ___ Douglas-Home, 1960s British PM.
- Corellia, to Han Solo
- Roman counterpart of the Greek goddess Selene

C	C	S		H	E	R	B		S	T	A	G	E		
H	A	I		E	A	V	E		O	C	E	L	O		
O	R	G		I	N	S	E	R	V	I	D	A	S		
O	W	N	E	D		F	I	E	F		N	A	Y		
S	A	U	C	I	S	H		P	R	I	M	A			
E	X	P	O		E	I	N	E		B	E	L	A	Y	
				A	U	D	I		N	O	I	D	E	A	
R	E	V	E	R	S	E	C	T	I	O	N	A	R	Y	
G	R	A	T	I	S		E	I	N	K					
S	A	L	T	S		F	R	E	T		E	P	I	C	
				H	A	T	H	A		S	H	A	V	E	D
E	T	A		O	A	T	H		L	E	T	I	N		
R	O	L	L	T	H	E	D	I	C	E		A	D	S	
M	A	L	A	L	A		T	R	O	U		L	I	U	
A	D	A	G	E		V	E	S	T		S	T	S		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14			
15													16				
17														18			
19								20			21						
				22	23	24		25		26							
27	28	29						30			31						
32										33		34	35	36	37		
38										39		40					
41								42		43							
								44	45			46					
47	48	49						50			51						
52										53		54		55	56	57	58
59										60		61	62				
63										64							
65										66							

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 64 "Flash Gordon" genre | 27 Uses a tissue, maybe |
| 65 Trousers part | 28 Capital of Latvia |
| 66 Driving distractions | 29 Mideast's Gulf of ___ |
| | 30 Actress Anderson of old TV |

DOWN

- No, not that!
- Very small amount
- ___ Candy, friend of Wonder Woman
- Thought experiment in quantum physics
- Fourth letter in Arabic
- Kind of grass
- Apex predator of the sea
- Composer Puccini
- Automotive sponsor of "Wagon Train" in the 1950s
- Date
- "You're doomed!"
- Get tangled up
- Things with timers
- Constitutional amendment regarding states' rights
- Rebus symbol for "everything"
- Much-admired person
- 1987 #1 hit with Spanish lyrics
- Kim Jong-un and others
- 33 Grammy-winning metal band with a tasty-sounding name
- 35 Georgia was once a part of it
- 36 Social media phenomenon
- 37 V.A. concern
- 40 Second coming?
- 43 Premium channel since 1980
- 45 Nellie who circumnavigated the world
- 47 Precious collection of Queen Victoria
- 48 Prize
- 49 Author Ferrante of the "Neapolitan Novels"
- 50 "Fingers crossed!"
- 54 Abbr. on an arena ticket
- 56 Remarkable person
- 57 Cheeky
- 58 H H H
- 60 Presidential monogram
- 61 Word with sweet or snow
- 62 Not just a "heh"



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On the Penguins
MATT VENSEL

Playoff scenarios to consider



An expanded field makes sense

We are going to attempt to talk about hockey, with a disclaimer that there are more important things to worry about in our world than whether or not NHL commissioner Gary Bettman hands somebody the Stanley Cup this spring or summer.

Another disclaimer: There is a legitimate chance that isn't going to happen.

Based on the latest recommendation from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, that all events with 50 or more people be canceled for the next eight weeks, the NHL has said the best-case scenario for players even being permitted to practice is around May 1. Again, that's a best-case scenario. It's probably unrealistic.

The story of this COVID-19 pandemic is evolving every day, the news seemingly bleaker each time. So let's indulge the NHL and consider what the playoffs might look like.

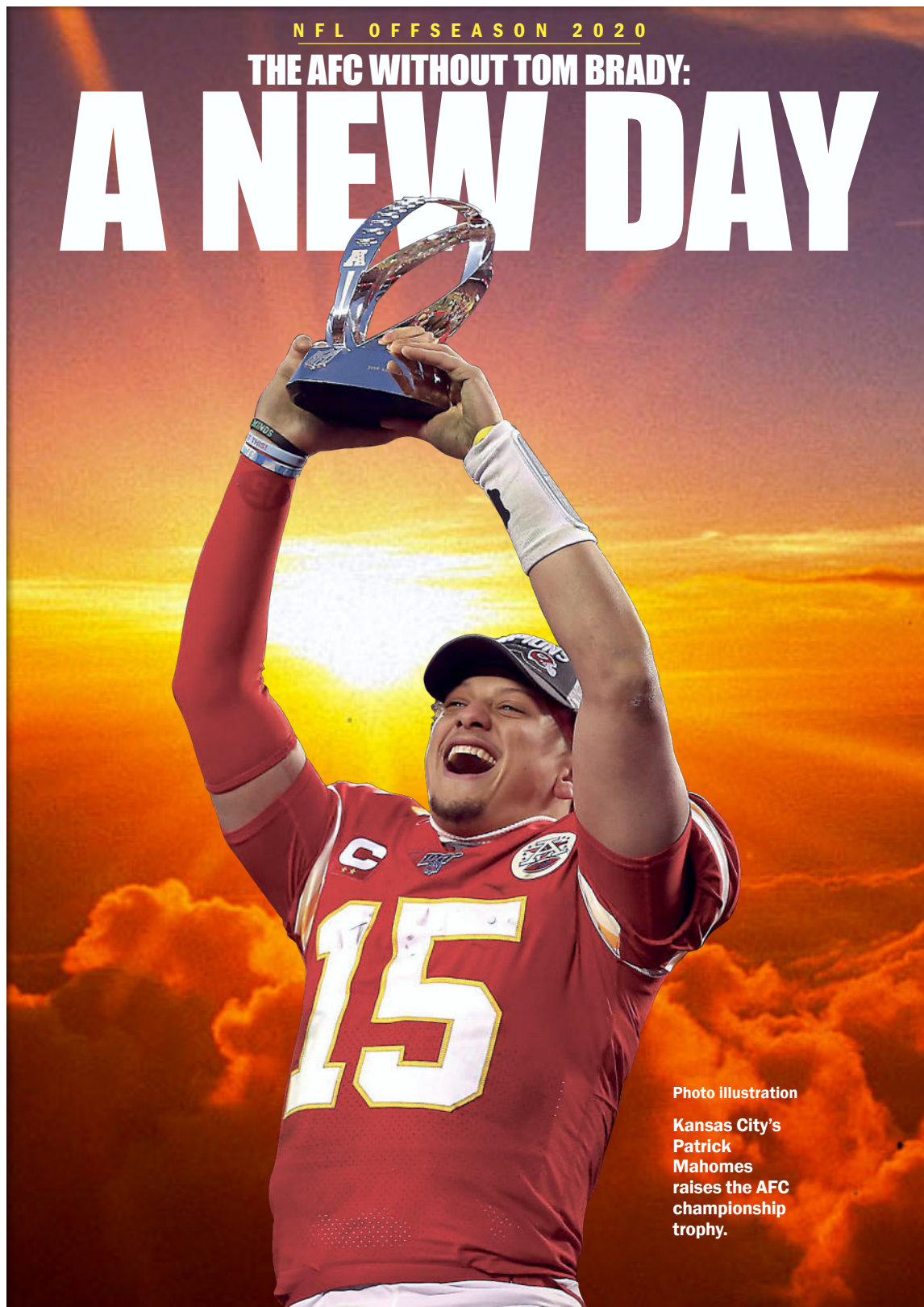
Bettman has made the media rounds in recent days to answer questions about the direction of the league. Understandably, he doesn't want to guess on the record about what the future might hold because he knows the circumstances we face could be much different a week from now.

Remember, a week ago the Penguins played what could be their last game of the season, in a fairly crowded arena in New Jersey. Players got their first glimpse at the league's new media access policy in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, expecting that to be the new normal for the playoff push.

But the NHL, for now, is keeping the doors open for its Zambonis, hoping the United States and Canada have done and will continue to do enough to allow sports leagues to resume operations, even if games must be played in empty arenas.

Bettman, in an interview with TSN, estimated that for an NHL game to take place, between 200 and 300 people must be on hand. That includes coaches, officials, training staff, doctors, maintenance workers, etc. It's not just 40 players.

SEE **NHL**, PAGE C-4



NFL OFFSEASON 2020

THE AFC WITHOUT TOM BRADY:

A NEW DAY

Photo illustration

Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes raises the AFC championship trophy.



On the Pirates
JASON MACKEY

Shelton keeping players in shape

He leaves teaching 4th-grader to wife

Derek Shelton has been one of the Pirates' point people for individual workouts in Bradenton, Fla., the first-time manager describing those sessions as "nothing extremely advanced" and mostly a way for some guys to stay in shape during this awkward time.

Furthermore, Shelton, 49, has waited his entire life to manage in the major leagues. Now, COVID-19 has pushed the date of that first game back indefinitely.

But one of the more difficult parts of the virus outbreak for Shelton — aside from the whole global pandemic thing — might be the part-time job it forced him to try, and quit — fourth-grade math teacher for his daughter, Gianna.

"I found out both from Gianna and from [his wife] Ali that I am not fit to teach any fourth-grade subjects because of my lack of patience," Shelton said Thursday on a conference call with local reporters. "I will step back and let them do that."

While elementary education might not be Shelton's thing, he seemingly has been handling this entire time about as well as anyone could expect. Shelton met with other members of the major league coaching staff Thursday to discuss spring training, stressing the need to keep conversations going. He has talked about players with general manager Ben Cherington. He has entrusted pitching coaches Oscar Marin and Justin Meccage to manage their pitchers' workloads, and he even has started reading a couple of books.

One is on one of Shelton's favorite bands, the Beastie Boys. The other is a Roberto Clemente book Shelton swiped from Cherington's office.

"I'll have it done by the time [Cherington's back]," Shelton joked. "He won't even notice it's gone."

SEE **PIRATES**, PAGE C-3

"I found out both from [my daughter and my wife] that I am not fit to teach any fourth-grade subjects because of my lack of patience."
— Derek Shelton

Young, elite quarterbacks elevate Chiefs, Ravens



On the Steelers
RAY FITTIPALDO

It's the end of an era in New England, though some might argue that came Jan. 4, when the Tennessee Titans beat the Patriots in an AFC divisional round playoff game on their home field. If there was any remaining doubt, the final confirmation came Tuesday when six-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback Tom Brady announced his career with the Patriots was

over. The Patriots won six Super Bowls and appeared in nine over the past 19 years with Brady at the helm. He is expected to sign with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the NFC, much to the delight of every team in the AFC.

With Brady's decision, the balance of power in the conference shifted. Right now, the quarterback atop New England's depth chart is Jarrett Stidham, a fourth-round pick a year ago who has thrown just

SEE **AFC**, PAGE C-2

Spending big-time cash on running back is crazy

The Los Angeles Rams flushed a bunch of running back money down the toilet Thursday. They cut Todd Gurley — 2017 NFL offensive player of the year, still just 25, perhaps suffering from a chronic knee injury — and thereby incurred a "dead money" charge of anywhere from \$11.75 million to \$20 million.

Maybe the Rams learned their lesson. Maybe we all should: *Don't spend big money on a back.*

It took a while for me. Not long ago, I was in the pay-Le'Veon Bell camp. Much as the Steelers tried, that would have been a mistake. Bell's tires are balding faster than, well, me.

The evidence overwhelmingly suggests you don't need a star running back to win the Super Bowl. You don't need a workhorse back. In some cases, you barely need a back at all.



Joe Starkey

SEE **STARKEY**, PAGE C-2



Steph Chambers/Post-Gazette

This unexpected down time has affected the NFL future of Maurice Ffrench and others like him.

Ffrench focused on ultimate goal: A career in NFL

Maurice Ffrench is trying to kill time like the rest of us. Except instead of playing "Fortnite" or "Call of Duty" for an inordinate amount of time, Pitt's single-season receptions leader is lifting trash bags filled with books and running stairs, doing what he can to get himself ready for the NFL ... within the confines of an unofficial national quarantine. Ffrench is back in Pittsburgh.

He left town Jan. 2, a week after the 2019 regular season wrapped up, to train at the Michael Johnson Performance facility in McKinney, Texas. There, he prepared for the Hula Bowl, a senior showcase game Jan. 27 in Honolulu, and his pro day.

A pro day that likely isn't happening.

As previously scheduled, Ffrench returned to his old house

in Oakland ahead of Pitt's pro day, which was supposed to take place Wednesday at the Panthers indoor facility on the South Side. But Ffrench received word that the event wouldn't go on due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Pitt spokesperson told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that, after the NFL issued a directive to halt



On the Panthers
JOHN MCGONIGAL

SEE **PITT**, PAGE C-3

MORE SPORTS INSIDE

VarsityXtra
Lack of NCAA tournament doesn't diminish efforts

Today in VarsityXtra
Mike White revisits another time when the public good forced high school sports to close. The year: 1918. **Page LX-4**

Best of the best
Oregon's Sabria Ionescu headlines AP women's All-America team. **Page C-3**

More at post-gazette.com
HIGH SCHOOLS: Vote for your all-time Fab 5 team.
COVID-19: Virtual workout options.

Pro Football

NFL OFFSEASON 2020

Payton has virus; Steelers will sign G

By The Associated Press

New Orleans Saints head coach Sean Payton says he tested positive for COVID-19, is resting comfortably at home and is making his test result public in hopes he can motivate people to do more to fight the pandemic.

Payton learned Thursday that he tested positive for the coronavirus, he told ESPN before posting a photo of himself smiling as he sat on a couch next to his dog.

"Appreciate the well wishes," Payton wrote on his Twitter page. "I'm feeling better and fortunate to not have any of the respiratory

NFL notebook

symptoms. 4 more days at home."

Payton, 56, is the first employee of either an NFL team or the league to make such a diagnosis public.

Payton told ESPN that he was tested Monday for coronavirus after he began to feel ill a day earlier. He added that he has not been admitted to a hospital and does not have a fever or cough.

Steelers

The Steelers are signing veteran guard Stefen Wisniewski to a free-agent contract. Wisniewski, who

played at Central Catholic High School and Penn State, sent out a picture on his Twitter account with the message: "Guess what Steelers fans ... I'm coming home!!!! And I'm coming home to win!!!!" Wisniewski has done a bunch of that recently. He has been a starting guard on two of the past three Super Bowl champions. In 2017, he won a Super Bowl with the Eagles. Then in February, he won his second title as a member of the Chiefs.

Broncos

Denver reportedly is waiving quarterback Joe Flacco with a failed physical desig-

nation, putting another veteran signal-caller on the open market. Flacco went 2-6 as Denver's starter in 2019 before a neck injury ended his season. He eventually was replaced by rookie Drew Lock, who went 4-1 down the stretch and was named the incumbent in 2020. The move to cut ties with Flacco comes with a \$13 million cap hit for the Broncos in 2020, but it frees up \$10 million to spend in free agency.

Ravens

Baltimore announced a trade with Jacksonville that secured defensive end Calais Campbell, a skilled run

-stopper who also has a knack for getting to the quarterback. In exchange for Campbell, Baltimore gave up the 2020 fifth-round pick it got from Atlanta in a trade earlier this week that sent tight end Hayden Hurst to the Falcons.

Eagles

Darius Slay got what he was waiting for — a trade out of Detroit and a big new contract. The Lions agreed to trade Slay to the Philadelphia Eagles, ending the standout cornerback's seven-year stint in Detroit. Agent Drew Rosenhaus confirmed the trade and that Slay agreed to a three-year, \$50 million extension

with Philadelphia.

Browns

Cleveland beefed up its front by agreeing to a one-year contract with free-agent Andrew Billings, who spent the past three seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals. The Browns also added a nickel back by agreeing to a one-year deal with cornerback Kevin Johnson.

Rams

Los Angeles released veteran linebacker Clay Matthews and running back Todd Gurley. For more on Gurley, see Joe Starkey column, Page C-1.



Associated Press

Rams running back Todd Gurley was NFL offensive player of the year in 2017. On Tuesday — little more than two seasons later — he was nothing more than dead salary cap money for the Rams.

Brady's exit completes power shift

AFC, FROM C-1

four passes in the NFL. Patriots coach Bill Belichick is likely to add a veteran to the mix; former Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton has been mentioned, among others.

Regardless, the Patriots won't be the same. It's a new era in the AFC, and here's a look at how the conference shapes up after the first wave of moves in free agency:

Co-favorites

Kansas City: Of course the Super Bowl champions are going to be atop the conference. The Chiefs were an offensive juggernaut in the playoffs, averaging 39 points per game. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes put on a show, throwing 10 touchdowns and only two interceptions in three postseason games. And he has a bevy of playmakers returning in his supporting cast. What could slow them down in 2020? Well, slow starts plagued them throughout the playoffs. They had to overcome a 24-point deficit against Houston in the divisional round, a 10-point deficit against Tennessee in the conference title game and a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit against the 49ers in the Super Bowl. The Chiefs definitely have the quarterback and talent to repeat, but they won't be able to live as dangerously in do-or-die games.

Baltimore: After winning 14 games in the regular season the Ravens were the top seed in the AFC playoffs. Behind MVP Lamar Jackson, they led the league in scoring with a whopping 33.2 points per game. Their downfall was defense, which was exposed by the Titans in the playoffs. Derrick Henry stomped all over the Ravens, running for 195 yards in a dominating 28-12 victory. It wasn't just a problem in the playoff game. The Ravens gave up 4.4 yards per rush in the regular season. To bolster their defensive line, the Ravens traded for Calais Campbell and signed Michael Brockers; whether that's enough to get the Ravens over the top next season remains to be seen.

Next in line

Tennessee: Why did the Titans choose Ryan Tannehill over Brady? Well, maybe his 2019 performance should not be overlooked. Sure, the Titans sneaked into the playoffs with a 9-7 record, but four of those losses came with Marcus Mariota as the starting quarterback. Once Tannehill took over, the Titans went 9-4 and reached the AFC title game. The Titans recognized his importance and signed him to a \$118 million deal. They also placed the franchise tag on Henry, a second-team All-Pro who rushed for 1,540 yards in the regular season and another 446 in the playoffs. With Houston's de-

cision to trade All-Pro receiver DeAndre Hopkins, the Titans now are the favorites in the AFC South Division and appear poised to show their postseason run was not a fluke.

Buffalo: The Bills will be looked at as the top dogs in the AFC East now that Brady is out of New England. Like the Ravens and Chiefs, the Bills have a young and productive quarterback playing on a rookie contract that has enabled the front office to build a contender in short order. The Bills have a rock-solid defense that ranked among the best last season. This week they traded for receiver Stefon Diggs, who had back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons in his final two seasons in Minnesota. He's another weapon for quarterback Josh Allen, who showed he can lead a team to the playoffs. Now he has to take the next step in his development and show he can make the Bills a Super Bowl contender.

Wild-card caliber

Steelers: They almost made the playoffs with fourth-string quarterback Devlin Hodges. If Ben Roethlisberger can return to form after elbow surgery, the Steelers should be in position to push the Ravens in the AFC North. The Steelers had one of the best defenses in the league last season and return all but one starter. A more balanced offense that doesn't put as much pressure on Roethlisberger could be the ticket back to the playoffs.

Indianapolis: It was a rough season for the Colts after they lost Andrew Luck to retirement only weeks before the season started. Jacoby Brissett stepped in and led the Colts to a 7-9 record, but they tumbled all the way to 25th in the league in total offense. Unhappy with the drop in production, the Colts signed Philip Rivers to a one-year contract in hopes he can boost the offense. The Colts have a strong offensive line and receiver T.Y. Hilton. In a weakened AFC South, Rivers can get the Colts back to the playoffs.

New England: Yes, Brady is gone, but who remembers 2008? After Brady was injured in the first game of the season, Matt Cassel took over and led the team to an 11-5 record. The Patriots didn't make the playoffs — one of the few occasions in league history an 11-win team didn't qualify for the postseason — but they remained competitive without their superstar quarterback. Belichick has a top-ranked defense to keep the Patriots competitive; how competitive will depend upon the quality of his quarterback play.

Ray Fittipaldo: rfittipaldo@post-gazette.com and Twitter @rayfitt1.

Spending big for RBs is crazy

STARKEY, FROM C-1

Running-back-by-committee works, and the harsh truth is that passable backs — guys you can win with — are a dime a dozen. They can be found anywhere.

The Rams are a prime example. Gurley was injured late in 2018, but that did not block their run to the Super Bowl. They pulled a very large C.J. Anderson off a couch somewhere and watched him run for more than 400 yards in three games, including 123 in a playoff victory against Dallas.

Of the past 12 Super Bowl champions, just three featured a 1,000-yard rusher — and one of them was LeGarrette Blount. Another was Ray Rice, and he wound up sharing time with Bernard

Pierce that year. The only team of recent vintage to win it all with a star workhorse back was Seattle with Marshawn Lynch in 2013.

Other than that, you see a James White here, a Corey Clement there, a Damien Williams here, a Ronnie Hillman there, a Mike Bell here, a Sony Michel there, a Brandon Jacobs here, a Brandon Jackson there. Blount was the leading rusher on consecutive Super Bowl winners, for goodness sake (2016 Patriots, 2017 Eagles). The San Francisco 49ers practically were pulling guys out of the stands this year, and it didn't hurt their running game.

It's just a fact: You don't need a star running back. So why pay one?

Look at the five highest-paid running backs in the

NFL, by annual salary, at least before Gurley was unceremoniously dumped:

- Ezekiel Elliot (\$15 million): Still very good, but what has Dallas won with him, other than a single playoff game?

- Gurley (\$14.375 million): One day you're the offensive player of the year, the next you're quoting the legendary movie "Friday" and tweeting, "Damn, I got fired on my day off."

- Bell (\$13.125 million): An epic disaster so far in New York.

- David Johnson (\$13 million): Injured shortly after he signed his big deal, now traded.

- Derrick Henry (\$10.2 million): The Titans were wise to slap a franchise tag on him. They wouldn't be wise to turn that into a long

-term deal.

Look what happened to Devonta Freeman. In August 2017, he signed a five-year, \$41.25 million extension with the Falcons. Soon enough, he was injured, now released.

The Rams made Gurley the highest-paid back in NFL history before the 2018 season — awarding him a four-year, \$60 million extension that included \$45 million in guarantees. He still had two years left on his rookie deal. He was never the same after 2017, struggling through what appears to be a chronic knee injury.

It's sad, actually, to consider the plight of running backs. Their careers are shorter than the average player, they have been devalued in the draft and are paid less on average than nearly every other position.

There was talk last summer of running backs forming their own union, separate from the NFLPA. If that happens, the group should focus on getting players to the NFL before three years post-high school. That rule beats up backs more than any other position — and yet, a bunch of excellent NFL running back prospects surprisingly will forgo the draft and head back to school next year.

Maybe they figure the NFL doesn't want them that badly.

And maybe they're right.

Joe Starkey: jstarkey@post-gazette.com and Twitter @joestarkey1. Joe Starkey can be heard on the "Cook and Joe" show weekdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 93.7 The Fan.

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Baseball / Colleges

Shelton's backup workouts on point

PIRATES, FROM C-1

In terms of actual baseball, Shelton has seen some of it lately, though not much. The same as Cherington, he said the greater concern has been the safety of everyone associated with the Pirates and the world at large.

"Baseball is very much secondary right now," said Shelton, who added that, to his knowledge, no Pirates players, coaches or members of the front office have been tested for COVID-19.

Only a handful of major league players remain in Florida, Shelton said. They're working out Monday, Wednesday and Friday, staggering times to ensure social distancing. They're basically just doing some strength and conditioning stuff, with a little hitting and throwing mixed in.

Players departed the Pirates spring training facilities with a framework of what to do, Shelton said. And yes, it was definitely a little easier because they had a month or so of spring training before the entire thing was put on hold.

"It's a little different than a general offseason where guys are training their own way because of the fact that we had been together for four-plus weeks," Shelton said. "They went home with specific guidelines in terms of strength and conditioning and training."

How to handle the pitchers is an important topic right now — and will be again once a ramp-up starts, as much will depend on how quickly and safely guys can get ready to go.

Marin and Meccage tailored individual plans for guys to incrementally throw less, although they still want everybody doing something.

"We don't know when we're going to start again," Shelton said. "We have to make sure that we don't go from 75 [pitches] to nothing, and we also have to make sure that we don't waste a ton of bullets trying to stay fresh because we don't know when we're going to start."

"More than likely it's a gradual de-load just to make sure their arm care situation is consistent. Then once we do have a general timetable and we make sure arms are maintaining that strength, we will



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Although most of the players have gone home, Derek Shelton has monitored those who stayed and continue to work out at Pirate City in Bradenton Fla.

build back up."

Among the other topics Shelton addressed:

- Shelton described any personnel moves at this time as "on the back-burner." Basically anything baseball-related has taken a backseat to greater concerns right now, as it should.

- "We still are talking about different things because we have to be prepared, but I don't think we have anything that's imminent or anything we've gotten to the point that we've finalized," Shelton said.

- MLB and the MLBPA agreed on a package earlier Thursday that would pay minor league players a flat sum to cover them through April 8 — the day before the start of their season — with another piece expected to compensate them from April 9 onward. Suffice to say, Shelton is a fan.

- "First and foremost, I think you have to commend Major League Baseball and the Pirates and the 29 other teams of stepping up and doing something for those minor league players," Shelton said. "As we all well know, those guys are the future of major league teams and they're very important for the sustainability of a lot of teams, especially us in Pittsburgh."

- Shelton was asked about The Associated Press report that MLB was thinking about postponing the draft amid the pandemic, but the Pirates manager said until something becomes official, it's really not worth worrying about.

- "The draft is important to us," Shelton said. "To speculate on how they're going to do it or what they're going to do, it's too hard to tell. The next

time they do have a draft, whether it's this year or however they go going forward, that is going to be an important part of our organization. But to speculate on what's going to happen this year or how they're going to do it, until they set forth the guidelines, it would be too hard to answer that."

- While Shelton isn't a huge football fan, he lives near Tampa, Fla., and has noticed something about the Buccaneers' reported new quarterback, some guy named Tom Brady. He also has no issue with the NFL, continuing to conduct business.

- "We've had some news here recently with speculation about who the next quarterback of the Bucs is going to be," Shelton said with a laugh. "I think the fact that people are talking about sports in some regards is good. Because sports, regardless of what it is, in society is an outlet."

- "I think the hope for all of us has been that at some point — hopefully sooner than later — society is going to get back to being normal, or more normal, and we are going to have professional sports, and there's going to be events. The fact that the NFL is running business as usual without doing anything to harm anybody, I think it's great."

Minor league package

MLB announced plans to pay its minor league players through April 8 — the day before what would have been the start of their season. The majority of those players were not getting paid because of the COVID-19 pandemic putting baseball — and everything

else — on hold.

Each player with a minor league contract will receive a lump sum equal to the allowances that would have been paid through April 8. The exceptions include players not on the 40-man roster who already are receiving major league allowances; players who currently are receiving housing, food or other services from clubs; and players who were not participating in, or expected to participate in, minor league spring training.

MLB said it will remain in contact with clubs about the second half of this equation — how to continue to pay minor leaguers after their season would've started April 9.

In the past several days, MLB and the MLBPA together announced a \$1 million donation to be split evenly between Feeding America (FeedingAmerica.org) and Meals on Wheels America (MealsonWheelsAmerica.org). All 30 MLB clubs also have pledged \$30 million — \$1 million per club — to support ballpark workers.

College basketball

Senior Ionescu joins elite list

Oregon star three-time All-American

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sabrina Ionescu joined an elite group, becoming a three-time All-American.

The Oregon senior shattered the NCAA career triple-double mark and became the first player in college history to have 2,000 points, 1,000 rebounds and 1,000 assists. She earned a spot on The Associated Press women's basketball All-America team Thursday as a unanimous choice from the national media panel that votes on the AP Top 25.

She was joined on the first team by Oregon teammate Ruthy Hebard, Baylor's Lauren Cox, Kentucky's Rhyne Howard and Connecticut's Megan Walker.

Ionescu is the eighth player in women's basketball history to earn AP All-America honors three times. The most recent player to do so was South Carolina's A'ja Wilson.

"Sabrina is a transcendent basketball player," Oregon coach Kelly Graves said. "There's really nothing that she couldn't do on the court. She was the ultimate leader."

Baylor's Brittney Griner, Tennessee's Chamique Holdscaw, Duke's Alana Beard, Oklahoma's Courtney Paris, and Connecticut's Breanna Stewart and Maya Moore are the only other players to earn first-team honors at least three times. Paris and Moore were All-Americans all four years.

Ionescu averaged 17.5 points, 9.1 assists and 8.6 rebounds this season as well as having eight of her 26 career triple-doubles.

Hebard was on the receiving end of many of those



Sabrina Ionescu Eighth three-time All-American

passes and averaged 17.3 points and 9.6 rebounds to help the Ducks win the Pac-12 Conference regular-season and conference tournament titles.

"I'm happy for Ruthy. Sometimes she gets overlooked. She's so darn good and important to what we do," Graves said. "Not that she played in the shadows so to speak, but she wasn't on top of everyone's mind."

Oregon teammate Satou Sabally made the second team, giving the second-ranked Ducks three of the top 10 players in Division I.

Cox earned first-team honors for the first time. The senior center averaged 12.5 points and 8.4 rebounds while blocking nearly 2.7 shots a game. She only played in 22 of the Lady Bears' 30 games because of a stress reaction in her foot early in the season.

Howard did nearly everything for Kentucky this season. The sophomore guard averaged 23.4 points, 6.5 rebounds and hit 84 3-pointers. She is the Wildcats' first women's player to be a first-team All-American.

Walker gave Connecticut a first-teamer for the seventh consecutive season. Walker, who declared she was entering the WNBA draft and not returning for her senior season, averaged 19.7 points, 8.4 rebounds and shot 47.7% from the field.

Ffrench working hard for shot at NFL

PITT, FROM C-1

in-person scouting a week ago, the pro day was "indefinitely postponed." But realistically, with the 2020 NFL draft moving ahead with its April 23 start, it's highly unlikely that Ffrench — who did not receive an invitation to the NFL Scouting Combine — will get a chance to show off his speed in front of scouts, coaches and executives.

"I was waiting. I felt like it was a day where I was going to shine and do what I have to do," Ffrench said. "I talked to 10 or 15 teams, and they were saying the same thing: 'We're excited to see you at pro day. We have you on our radar.' Pro day was going to be huge for me."

Ffrench, who caught 96 passes for 850 yards last season, was told by those same scouts not to stress over missing out on pro day. His tape is good enough for the teams interested to stay interested, he said.

"But everybody wants to have their pro day to show your talent and your skills. It was kinda disappointing," Ffrench added. "But you've got to prepare for the worst, especially when I started hearing about the virus and the cancellation of things. It was always on my mind. But I just kept working."

And Ffrench is still working — while practicing social distancing.

Right now, he has a three-story place to himself. Roommates and former teammates AJ Davis, Damarri Mathis and Keyshon Camp are at

home in Florida. With Pitt's spring break ending Monday and the university instituting "distance learning" for the remainder of the semester, that's where they'll stay for the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, the wideout is content with his setup and burgeoning routine.

Over the weekend, Ffrench bought dumbbells and exercise bands, fearing that stores would start closing because of the coronavirus. Michael Johnson Performance sent him workout suggestions, such as running stairs and stretching to keep his body maintained. When he cooks — steak and rice with broccoli and cheese is his go-to — the New Jersey native does ab work or curls in between.

If the dumbbells aren't heavy enough, Ffrench is stacking books in trash bags and using those — an idea he got from "Stack," Pitt's new strength and conditioning coach, Mike Stacchiotti.

"When I heard that, I was like, 'Yup, I like him,'" Ffrench said. "He found a way. And when things go bad, you've got to find your way."

In addition to in-home work and footwork drills outside — 40-yard dash, shuttle, you name it — Ffrench is watching tape, too. He's tuning in to workout videos to pick up new ways to lift and train. He's checking Tyreek Hill's YouTube page to glean whatever he can from the Kansas City Chiefs speed demon receiver. Ffrench also caught Larry Fitzgerald's never-before-seen spring practice highlights that Pat

Narduzzi tweeted out recently.

Ffrench marveled at how Fitzgerald made everything look "way too easy." The one-minute video also served as another pinch-me kind of moment, a reminder for Ffrench that he broke a Fitzgerald record as a career curtain call.

Ffrench, who missed Pitt's November games against North Carolina and Virginia Tech with a jaw injury, returned for the final two contests, at home against Boston College and in the Quick Lane Bowl. On Dec. 26 at Ford Field in Detroit, Ffrench caught 12 passes for 165 yards, including a 96-yard score that marked the longest pass play in program history. He also passed Fitzgerald's single-season receptions mark of 92, which the Biletnikoff Award winner set in 2003.

Ffrench knows his 2019 yardage total doesn't compare to Fitzgerald's 1,672 in 2003. His four touchdowns don't sniff Fitz's NCAA-leading 22, either. But passing Fitzgerald in receptions is something no one can take away. And it's something Ffrench surely is reminding scouts and coaches of as the NFL draft approaches.

"Breaking that record, those are things you live for and dream about. I never thought in my years that I'd break a Larry Fitzgerald record," he said. "That's something I'll always keep close to my heart, something I'll never forget."

John McGonigal: jmcgonigal@post-gazette.com.

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Weird Herb Shocks Doctors With Relief of Leg and Feet Pain, Burning, Tingling, Numbness

6 clinical studies show it is effective. Lost but now re-discovered. Thousands of new users report amazing relief from leg and feet problems in just 30 to 90 days - with no side effects. Available in all 50 states without a prescription.

By Michael Plane — National Health Press

A re-discovery from the 1600s is causing a frenzy within the medical system. A weird herb has been shown in six clinical studies (and by thousands of users) to be very effective for leg and feet pain, burning and numbness - with no side effects - at low cost - and with no doctor visit or prescription needed.

This weird herb comes from a 12-foot tall tree that grows in Greece and other countries in Europe. In the old days, people noticed that when their horses who had leg and feet problems ate this herb - it was almost like magic how quickly their problems got much better. They called it the "horse herb". Then somehow with Europe's ongoing wars, this herbal secret got lost in time.

"It works for people who've tried many other treatments before with little or no success. Other doctors and I are shocked at how effective it is. It has created a lot of excitement" says Dr. Ryan Shelton, M.D.

Its active ingredient has been put into pill form and improved. It is being offered in the United States under the brand name Neuroflo.

WHY ALL THIS EXCITEMENT?

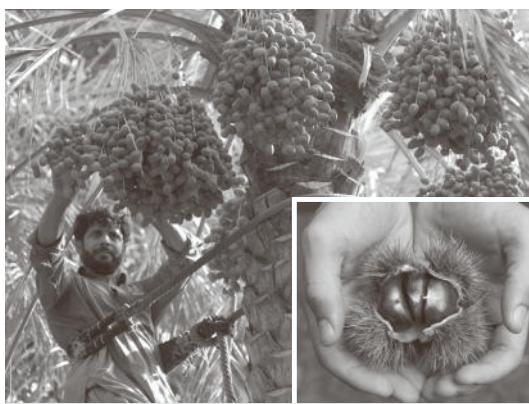
Researchers have found an herb originally from Greece that has been shown in six placebo-controlled medical studies (543 participants) to be effective and safe. This natural compound strengthens blood vessel walls and reduces swelling to stop the pain and suffering. Poor blood flow in the legs and feet is one of the common problems that develops as we age. Millions of Americans suffer from neuropathy and chronic venous insufficiency (CVI), edema, and other leg/feet problems - millions have these but are undiagnosed.

Today's treatments don't work for a high percentage of people - and they have side effects that make them hard to tolerate or that people do not want to risk. This includes prescription drugs, over the counter pain pills, surgery and compression.

Already popular in Europe, this natural herb is taking America by storm since it was announced last week.

HOW IT WORKS

Here's why you have pain now: Your arteries have weakened. Your arteries can't



RE-DISCOVERED LEG AND FEET PROBLEM SOLUTION: In Greece in the 1600s, this herb was originally called "horse herb" because it was fed to horses with ailing legs. It has now been re-discovered and is giving soothing comfort to Americans who have leg and feet pain, burning, tingling and numbness.

carry enough blood, nutrients and oxygen down to your legs and feet. This damages your nerves and causes your burning, tingling and numbness.

The herbs in the pill Neuroflo strengthen your arteries that carry blood, nutrients and oxygen to your feet and legs. It improves your circulation so oxygenated blood goes to the nerves and repairs them. This makes your nerves grow stronger so your pain fades away and your legs and feet feel much younger again.

Until now, scientists could not combine these herbs into one pill without losing their full potency, but finally, they have succeeded.

Katerina King from Murrieta, California says, "I had hands and feet tingling and snapping and burning feeling. It made my life very uncomfortable. I had a hard time walking, my legs felt like they each weighed 50 pounds. Once I got in my car and my feet felt so heavy I couldn't even drive the car. With Neuroflo I have no more tingling, cold or burning painful legs and feet. It went away."

WHAT DOCTORS ARE SAYING

"Now I finally have a natural solution I can recommend to my patients who suffer from leg and feet problems and pain. I'm delighted because previous treatments were not effective, but Neuroflo has worked for every one of my patients with no side effects" says Dr. Eric Wood, N.D.



Dr. Ryan Shelton, M.D. says "This is new and different. It works for people who've tried many other things before. It is natural with no side effects. Don't give up hope for your leg and feet pain, burning, tingling and numbing.

This pill is working for countless people after other treatments have failed them. I highly recommend it."

"Neuroflo is a terrific choice for people with leg and feet issues. The clinical trials in support of this herb show it is very effective for safe and fast relief," said Dr. Wood, a Harvard trained doctor who has appeared on award winning TV shows.

Now you can get a good night's sleep - peaceful, restful sleep - with no pain, tingling, zinging, itching or zapping. Improve your balance and coordination. No side effects - safe to take with other medications. Enjoy your favorite activities and hobbies again. Be more active, have more fun, enjoy life more. Don't risk irreversible damage to your feet and hands. Don't get worse and wind up in the hospital or a nursing home.

Neuroflo is GUARANTEED to work for you - or you will get full refund with a 90-day unconditional money-back guarantee. It is NOT sold in stores or online. No prescription or doctor visit is required.

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Hockey / Sports

If play resumes, NHL should expand playoffs

NHL, FROM C-1

Plus, for financial reasons, the NHL really doesn't want to have to play any games without paying ticket-holders in the arena to buy concessions. But the league knows it might have no other choice. Money will be one of the main considerations if the NHL gets a chance to salvage this season, perhaps behind only the health of the public and NHL family.

Another major factor will be time. Let's say the league gets the green light from health experts and government officials three months from now, in the middle of June. That wouldn't give the NHL enough time to squeeze in the current playoff format, especially when you consider the need for arena availability.

Bettman also has said he hopes to have a normal 2020-21 season, which would put a bookend on how far out the league is willing to push a potential 2019-20 postseason. Talking to TSN, he mentioned going into July, maybe August.

That would force the NHL to get creative as it looks to determine a Stanley Cup champion while also trying to recoup as many lost millions as possible.

There has been speculation the league could expand the playoff field to 20 or 24 teams, essentially creating a play-in tournament to get



Gary Bettman
So many decisions, so much uncertainty

into the regular field.

Look, hypothetically speaking, if your favorite team has a .500 points percentage, you shouldn't cry foul - especially given the backdrop of this pandemic - if the rest of the regular season is called off and your squad doesn't make the playoff field. From a fairness standpoint, mediocre teams are owed nothing.

But from a financial standpoint, it probably wouldn't be a bad thing if places such as New York, Chicago, Montreal and Minnesota made it into the field.

That's why the 24-team playoff format that Sportsnet's Chris Johnson wrote about, or something similar, could be appealing to Bettman and NHL owners.

Under that proposed format, the Penguins, who are third in the Metropolitan Division behind the Washington Capitals and the Philadelphia Flyers, would just miss out on a first-round bye. They would start with a best-of-three series against the Montreal Canadiens, the final Eastern Conference team above the playoff cut.

From there, given time

and scheduling constraints, additional playoff rounds might need to be only three or five games. Maybe it's best-of-five for the conference finals and then we get back to best-of-seven for the Stanley Cup final.

If and when the league gets the green light to resume will obviously have a major impact on what the playoff format will look like. And that's not even mentioning where they will be played - maybe even in empty practice facilities.

As Bettman has stressed in interviews, a lot of ideas will be put on the table.

But Bettman also made it clear that, if the NHL ever gets to the point where the season is back on, he wants to ensure the "integrity" of the game is intact.

"The most important thing will be that when we come back," the commissioner told TSN, "the tournament or the competition we put on [will have] integrity and [do] justice to the history and tradition of the Stanley Cup."

At this point, most hockey fans likely will take what they can get, even if the NHL playoffs are a hybrid of dizzy-bat races and 18-skater shootouts.

That would mean hockey was back and we had this pandemic under wraps.

Matt Vensel: mvensel@post-gazette.com and Twitter @mattvensel

Morning briefing

Sale likely to miss year after surgery

Boston Red Sox ace Chris Sale will have Tommy John surgery on his left elbow, an operation that would keep him out the entire 2020 Major League Baseball season if and when it resumes after the COVID-19 pandemic. The team made the announcement, two weeks after saying that the left-hander who turns 31 later this month had a flexor strain near the elbow. At the time, the Red Sox hoped Sale would avoid the operation that usually requires a full year of recovery.

More baseball

MLB announced it would cancel the Mexico series between the San Diego Padres and Arizona Diamondbacks April 18-19 in Mexico City and the New York Mets vs. Miami Marlins in the Puerto Rico Series April 28-30 in San Juan.

Soccer

The English Premier League followed others around Europe in ruling out a restart in April. The most valuable domestic competition in world soccer plans to continue the current season "indefinitely" before starting the next campaign. Italy's Serie A has said it hopes to play May 3. Romania's top-tier

league says not before May 16. In Sweden, clubs' requested was granted to move back their opening day to at least June from April 3. Major League Soccer announced Thursday that it will suspend its season another four weeks, to May 10, a delay that figures to push the MLS Cup into December.

Auto racing

The iconic Monaco Grand Prix was canceled because of the coronavirus outbreak and two other Formula One races were postponed. F1's show-case race was scheduled for May 24 in the tiny principality on the Mediterranean coast between France and Italy. Hours after being postponed, along with races in the Netherlands and Spain, it was scrapped for 2020.

Basketball

Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart and two Los Angeles Lakers players tested positive for the coronavirus. Both teams released statements announcing the positive tests, though they did not identify the players by name. Smart posted a tweet later confirming that he had tested positive. Earlier in the day, the Philadelphia 76ers announced that

three members of the organization have tested positive for the coronavirus, hours after the Denver Nuggets confirmed one positive test.

The Big3 basketball league is working to launch - under quarantine - a reality-show-style 3-on-3 tournament. Big3 executive Jeff Kwatinetz and co-founder Ice Cube have been negotiating with a high-profile television partner to air the show. According to a YahooSports report, the pre-season event would feature seven rounds of games, take place in Los Angeles and include 16 to 22 players who have tested negative for the coronavirus. Players would be under isolation in a large house with a basketball court.

Hockey

Seattle's expansion NHL franchise will "look for the right time," before revealing the team's nickname and brand, according to CEO and team president Tod Leiweke. In a statement posted on the team's website, Leiweke said the "unprecedented times" with the coronavirus outbreak is changing plans for the team. The team nickname, logo and colors were expected to be unveiled in the first quarter of this year.

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Banks offering breaks to customers struggling during COVID-19 pandemic

By Patricia Sabatini
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

As service industry workers across the country lose their jobs to the coronavirus, big banks and other financial services giants are stepping up to help customers who may be staring down credit card and other bills they suddenly can't pay.

This weekend, Goldman Sachs — issuer of the Apple credit card — pledged to allow all cardholders who ask for help to skip their March payments interest free. Tens of thousands of customers have already taken advantage of the offer, New York City-based Goldman Sachs said.

American Express, Capital One and JPMorgan Chase all told the New York Times this week that they similarly would work with customers to skip card payments and waive interest charges.

The actions follow recommendations earlier this month by state and federal regulators encouraging financial institutions to work with customers struggling during the pandemic.

Most big card issuers and lenders already have programs in place to help people through hardships. But during the current crisis, experts say it makes sense to reach out and ask for special help — such as delaying payments interest free.

"If you're really in a pinch, contact your credit card company and explain your specific situation," said Ted Rossman, industry analyst at Bankrate.com. "Maybe they can offer you a better deal."

In the Pittsburgh region, the top five retail banks — PNC, Citizens, First National Bank, Dollar and KeyBank — all said this week that they were willing to work with customers suffering financially during the COVID-19 crisis.

At No. 5 KeyBank, customers



Michael M. Santiago/Post-Gazette

A Highmark Health police officer directs traffic Thursday at one of two recently opened drive-through testing centers for the coronavirus conducted by Allegheny Health Network in the parking lot of First National Bank in Monroeville.

could be eligible for a loan extension, waived late fees, or waived penalties for an early withdrawal from a certificate of deposit, the Cleveland-based bank said in an email.

Market leader PNC, headquartered in Pittsburgh, said it was "prepared to assist those directly impacted customers by waiving or refunding fees associated with deposit accounts or lending products, including credit cards and mortgages."

"PNC understands the impact that this global pandemic could be having on our customers and small

businesses and we stand ready to assist them," spokeswoman Marcey Zwiebel said in an email Tuesday, adding that "emergency hardship" loans also were available to qualified customers. She declined to say whether waiving interest charges was an option.

Rhode Island-based Citizens Bank, which holds the second-biggest share of the market here, said aid could include "flexibility on things such as late fees, loan payments and providing easy access to CDs."

No. 3 FNB and No. 4 Dollar Bank — both based in Pittsburgh — were less specific about what help might

be available.

Customers "are encouraged to contact FNB to discuss their individual circumstances and potential solutions available to them," spokeswoman Jennifer Reel said in an email.

Dollar Bank spokesman Frank Buonomo responded similarly: "We are encouraging customers [who] are having concerns to reach out and contact us so we can customize solutions based on their needs."

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

PNC scaling back branch service amid virus outbreak

By Patricia Sabatini
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PNC, Pittsburgh's biggest bank, said Thursday it will begin operating on a primarily drive-up only basis beginning Friday to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus while minimizing disruption to customers.

The changes will take place across all markets. PNC has roughly 2,400 branches, including about 130 in the seven-county Pittsburgh region.

PNC said about three-quarters

of its branches will offer drive-thru service only, while most of the rest will remain closed until further notice. Select branches that do not offer drive-thru services will stay open on an appointment-only basis to ensure access across communities, the bank said.

Drive-thru service will operate from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturdays. PNC's branch locator is available at pnc.com.

Appointments will be available for customers requiring safe deposit box access, loan closings or

other banking services that cannot be delivered through via drive-up service, telephone, ATM, or mobile or online banking. Appointments should be made by calling the most convenient branch office.

PNC spokeswoman Marcey Zwiebel said no layoffs were planned. "Employees will be working on a rotational, split-shift schedule. We have communicated all of the details with them," she said. Employees who are off rotation and are at home will continue to be paid.

"Great consideration went into

these decisions and we are confident in our ability to seamlessly deliver through these changes with minimal disruption," bank CEO Bill Demchak said in a statement. "We also have the capital and liquidity to continue to meet the needs of our entire customer base."

Customers who are struggling financially because of the pandemic are urged to call customer service at 888-762-2265 to discuss options, PNC said.

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Retailers see big surge in demand for telework products

At-home workers hunt for computers

By Lauren Rosenblatt
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

As people are preparing to stay home to prevent the spread of COVID-19, some are stocking up on toilet paper, milk, bread and bottles of wine. Others are looking for computers.

"We are seeing a surge in demand across the country for products that allow people to work or learn from home as well as those products that allow people to refrigerate or freeze food," Best Buy spokesperson Claire Larson said. "Our teams are working hard to meet this demand while keeping their safety top of mind."

Best Buy, based in Richfield, Minn., is making a number of changes to keep customers and employees safe while "they meet the needs of Americans for their modern necessities," Ms. Larson said. The company announced earlier this month it was ramping up cleaning services and adding hand sanitizer to front entrances and cash registers.

Staples, headquartered near Boston, has seen a similar trend.

"As many of our customers' working environments have been dramatically impacted with a significant shift to at-home work, Staples stores have seen an increased demand for computers, monitors and technology," said Michael Hurwitz, vice president and general merchandise manager for Staples' U.S. division.

But running into a Staples or Best Buy to grab a computer isn't guaranteed anymore.

Following the closure of all restaurants and bars, Gov. Tom Wolf announced Monday all nonessential businesses should encourage employees to work from home. That includes "public-facing industries," like retail facilities and shopping malls but does not include grocery and household goods stores or convenience stores.

Already, several retail stores have announced changes in response to COVID-19, including

SEE **SURGE**, PAGE C-6

CMS issues detailed recommendations for elective procedures

By Steve Twedt
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has issued a three-tier recommendation for hospitals to decide whether to postpone or cancel elective procedures during the COVID-19 outbreak — a more detailed guidance which appears to bring Pittsburgh-area health systems' policies closer to alignment after UPMC initially balked at county and state health officials' request to halt non-emergency surgeries and procedures earlier this week.

CMS now suggests that less serious first-tier medical procedures — such as a colonoscopy or

minorOn Thursday, AHN spokesman Dan Laurent said "we are exactly aligned" with the CMS recommendations.

In a second tier, hospitals should consider postponing procedures such as hip and knee replacement and non-emergency angioplasty. The recommendation advises that outpatient and ambulatory surgical procedures should be postponed "if possible."

But third-tier surgeries for a patient who presents with heart problems and most cancers should not be postponed, CMS says.

The question of whether elective surgeries should be pushed back to a time when hospitals aren't battling the spread of the novel coronavirus came up earlier this week.

Allegheny County Health Department Director Debra Bogen and Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine asked health care facilities to stop doing elective procedures for now so they will be prepared for an expected surge in COVID-19 patients.

U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams similarly had urged hospitals to conserve their resources and staff during the outbreak.

Most Pittsburgh-area health systems, such as Allegheny Health Network and Heritage Valley Health System, had already moved

SEE **ELECTIVE**, PAGE C-6



AFP via Getty Images

Officials at UPMC and AHN say they are in compliance with the surgery directives.

Call to self-isolate tough on contractors — as is having no choice

By Anya Litvak
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Erik Hoolihan likes to hold up a cellphone and remind his kids how many thousands of people had to work to make it possible. His point: Every part of the supply chain is essential.

But on Monday, Mr. Hoolihan, the president of Tech Insulation in West Deer, was struggling to keep up with how the definition of es-

sential work is shifting in the face of COVID-19.

As a union contractor, he knows that if his employees don't work, they don't get paid.

And if they don't work for long enough, they may lose health and pension benefits, which typically depend on reaching a certain number of working hours.

"That's quite a scary situation for a lot of the guys if this extends multiple months and we have a workforce

that cannot meet the hours to get their health care," he said.

The government is giving orders for two-week windows, he said — Gov. Tom Wolf on Monday ordered all nonessential businesses to shut down for 14 days — but Mr. Hoolihan can't manage projects in spurts, especially if he doesn't know when the pandemic will end.

At this point, no one knows that. As the new coronavirus crisis unfolded in recent weeks, Tech In-

sulation, like many other employers, was leaving the decision of not working to prevent the spread of infection up to the workers.

Everyone has to do what they feel is in their families' best interests, Mr. Hoolihan reasoned.

The difficult decision of whether to follow the advice of public health experts — and President Donald Trump, who advised that people should not gather in groups of more than 10 — or risk life without a

paycheck for some indefinite amount of time, falls on individuals.

Some in the construction industry are wishing they still had that choice.

UPMC notified its contractors Monday that it is suspending all noncritical construction work. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation halted all of its current projects, as did the

SEE **OPTIONS**, PAGE C-6

Pipeline worker charged with falsifying records

Guilty plea scheduled for April 1 hearing

By Anya Litvak
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A pipeline worker from Westmoreland County is expected to plead guilty to a felony for forging documents that said a weld on the Mariner East pipeline was properly X-rayed when in reality, it was not.

Joshua Springer, of Scottdale, worked on Texas-based Energy Transfer's Mariner East 2 pipeline project between May 2017 and June 2018, according to court documents.

For the most part, he was assigned to work on a 20-mile segment between Houston, Pa., and Delmont. His job involved taking X-rays of welds, interpreting that data to ensure the weld was good and recording his findings in records that would go to Energy Transfer. It is not clear from the court records which company Mr. Springer worked for.

Documents filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania indicate Mr. Springer is scheduled to plead guilty to the charge during an April 1 hearing. He faces up to five years in prison and a fine up to \$250,000.

But that's unlikely to be the end of the story. A notification about Mr. Springer's felony charge

PowerSource

Energy news. In context.

posted on the state Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General's website indicates the investigation is ongoing and is being conducted with the FBI.

Energy Transfer spokeswoman Lisa Coleman said Thursday that the company's outside auditors discovered the falsified records at some point in 2018, before the pipeline was put into service. The company X-rays all of its welds, which it credited with being able to detect the forged report.

"Immediately upon learning of the situation, we reported it to the appropriate regulatory agencies,

and the individual was terminated by his employer," Ms. Coleman said. "We subsequently reinspected all welds in the section of pipeline where this individual worked and confirmed that the welds were in compliance with our welding specifications and Title 195 Code requirements."

She said Energy Transfer cooperated with regulatory agencies, which "determined that we were not in violation of any regulations."

The Mariner East pipelines — there are three that run mostly parallel to each other — carry natural gas liquids between the Marcellus and Utica shales in Ohio, West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania to processing facil-

ities near Philadelphia.

The \$3 billion construction project has been plagued by a number of problems, including sinkholes, landslides, water contamination and other environmental permit violations.

On the pipeline safety and integrity front, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Transportation, has sent Energy Transfer numerous warning letters over the course of Mariner East pipeline construction, alleging noncompliance with federal regulations and its own company policies.

Anya Litvak: alitvak@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1455.

Cautious optimism boosts stock markets

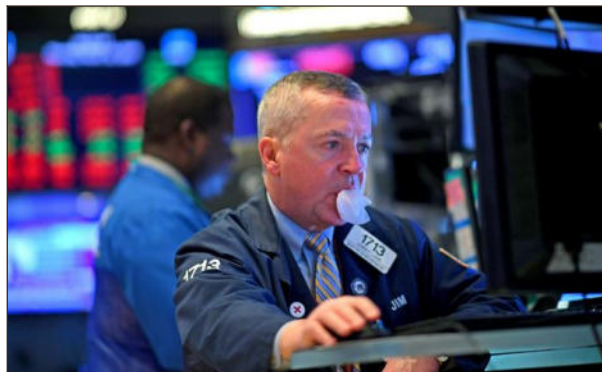
Emergency actions lead to small gains

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks capped a wobbly day on Wall Street with solid gains Thursday, reflecting cautious optimism among investors that emergency action by the U.S. government and central banks will cushion the global economy from a looming recession caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The swings in the market were markedly less volatile than recent days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained almost 200 points, or 0.9%. The S&P 500 rose 0.5% after bouncing between a gain of 2.9% and a loss of 3.3% early. That would be a notable change in normal times, but the index has had eight straight days where it bounced up or down between 4.9% and 12%.

Markets have been so volatile because investors are weighing the increasing likelihood of a recession on one hand against huge,



Johannes Eisele/AFP via Getty Images

A trader chews gum as he works Thursday during the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

emergency efforts to prop up the economy on the other. Markets got more of each on Thursday.

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits jumped by 70,000 last week, more than economists expected, in one of the first signs of layoffs sweeping across the country. Wide swaths of the economy are grinding closer to a standstill, from the travel industry to restaurants, as authorities ask Americans to stay home to slow the spread

of the virus. Another weak manufacturing report, this time in the mid-Atlantic region, added to the worries.

But the world's largest central banks announced their latest efforts to support financial markets and the economy. The European Central Bank launched an expanded program to buy up to 750 billion euros (\$820 billion) in bonds, and the Bank of England cut its key interest rate to a record low of 0.1%.

The Federal Reserve

unveiled measures to support money-market funds and the borrowing of dollars as investors in markets worldwide hurry to build up dollars and cash. The dash for cash has strained markets, and sellers of even high-quality bonds say they're having difficulty finding buyers at reasonable prices. Many of the Fed's moves, which are getting revived after being used in the 2008 financial crisis, are aimed at smoothing out operations in such markets.

Investors also appeared encouraged by reports that China is set to ramp up stimulus spending after the province where the virus first emerged showed no new infections on Wednesday.

The price of U.S. crude oil notched its biggest one-day jump on record Thursday, climbing nearly 24%. With the gain, oil recouped nearly all its losses from the day before. Traders likely bid up oil prices following published reports saying the U.S. may intervene in an oil price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia that's helped knock oil prices into a steep skid this month.

Philips seeks workers to assemble key ventilators

By Steve Tweed
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

With health officials warning of a possible shortage of ventilators for the sickest COVID-19 patients, Philips Respironics in Murrysville is ramping up its production and looking for production line workers to help.

The company's website says it needs second-shift production line workers to assemble and package "various Respironics medical devices," including ventilators, from 2:45 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. Workers also must be able to work overtime if needed.

A Reddit posting linking to the job description says the company is making ventilators and other oxygen-related medical devices "that

are essential for the most severe cases of COVID-19" and it is gearing up for round-the-clock mass production.

"They need help and fast," the post notes.

The job requires a high school diploma, GED or equivalent work history and "experience in manufacturing, service or assembly, in a regulated environment." English proficiency is also required.

The ad says the position offers "a competitive salary"; vacation and sick time; medical, dental and vision coverage; a 401(k); and "an opportunity to earn a yearly bonus."

Applications can be filled out online at <https://bit.ly/2QTEsNn>.

Steve Tweed: stweed@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1963.

CMS gives detailed guidelines for elective surgical procedures

ELECTIVE, FROM C-5

in that direction, as did major national medical centers such as Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

On Thursday, AHN spokesman Dan Laurent said "we are exactly aligned" with the CMS recommendations.

Earlier this week, UPMC declined to agree to a blanket postponement of non-emergent procedures.

"UPMC recommends that 'elective' procedures for those that are at higher risk

should be delayed only when it is clinically safe to do so," said spokesman Paul Wood at the time.

On Thursday, Mr. Wood reiterated, "We continue to serve our patients whose procedures our clinicians believe are not medically responsible to delay. Our careful triaging of upcoming elective procedures on a case-by-case basis meets the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidance."

Steve Tweed: stweed@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1963.

Contractors weigh self-isolation choice, quagmire

OPTIONS, FROM C-5

Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Those two agencies comprise nearly all the work of Plum Contracting in Salem Township, which laid off all its field staff and some shop workers — more than 100 people total — on Monday.

Company President Jack

Mills said in most instances, his workers would have been able to observe the 6-foot distance recommended to prevent virus particles from being exchanged, but what puzzles him most is that construction work was specifically listed as an essential service in Mr. Wolf's directive.

The Associated General

Contractors of America, a Virginia-based industry group, said in a statement Tuesday that "halting construction activity will do more harm than good for construction workers, community residents and the economy."

It urged project owners to reconsider such moves,

and, if they must delay work, the association asked that they pay their contractors as scheduled and consider it a down payment for work that will be finished later.

Anya Litvak: alitvak@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1455.

Retailers see big surge in demand for work-from-home products

SURGE, FROM C-5

Apple, which closed all of its stores outside of China indefinitely, and Walmart, which limited its overnight hours.

Of course, for those people who still want to buy a computer at midnight to enable them to work from home at the last minute — or buy an extra one to accommodate all

the people in one household that need access — online retail is always an option. (But even Amazon said it was going to prioritize essential orders to handle the volume of online shopping.)

In Pittsburgh, Computer Reach, a company that refurbishes computers and provides them to low-income individuals, has already seen an uptick in demand. The

company, based in Wilkesburg, is launching a computer takeout program for people to set up orders online and pick up outside the store, according to founder and executive director Dave Sevvick.

That solution comes with its own set of problems. For example, Mr. Sevvick wasn't sure how he and his team would complete the

standard "orientation" they like to do to show people how their refurbished computer works and that it is safe to use.

Another worry was how they would handle the increase of calls and increase of labor to set up those computers while they are short-staffed. Usually, Mr. Sevvick and his two co-workers have help from at least five volunteers each day and large groups of assistants about once a week. Now, his three-person team has to keep up with the influx of requests

on their own.

"The demand is higher than ever. ... It's really odd to have demand but no staff or volunteers to meet that demand," Mr. Sevvick said.

To streamline at least part of the process, Computer Reach is hoping to work directly with school districts to connect families in need with the right equipment to keep students learning and parents working.

"Everybody's caught in this bind where they're required to work and do school from home but they don't

have the equipment or internet access," Mr. Sevvick said. "The parents are working from home and the kids are working from home, and there's not enough computer power out there."

Computer Reach has 300 desktop computers and 200 laptops right now, but Mr. Sevvick is worried about future requests. It has already been difficult to get the right supplies, he said.

Lauren Rosenblatt: lrosenblatt@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1565.

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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Business briefs

Mall at Robinson, Pittsburgh Mills to temporarily close due to virus

The Mall at Robinson and the Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills in Frazer announced that they would close to help halt the spread of COVID-19. The Mall at Robinson said it would shut down at 6 p.m. Thursday. The Pittsburgh Mills mall, located in Frazer, wrote in a Facebook post that it will be closed "until further notice."

Ford suspends dividend to preserve cash reserves

Ford suspended the dividend that its management has vowed to maintain even through a downturn as the pandemic forces the struggling automaker to protect its cash reserves. The company took the step to prioritize financial flexibility and investments in a series of new-product launches this year, it said. Ford also said it will fully draw \$15.4 billion from two credit lines and withdrew the 2020 earnings guidance given to investors Feb. 4, which didn't factor in the effects of the coronavirus.

Metropolitan Opera cancels season amid outbreak

The Metropolitan Opera, the nation's largest performing arts organization, said that it would cancel the rest of its season because of the pandemic and begin an emergency fundraising effort aimed at covering an anticipated loss of up to \$60 million. The move came a day after the Metropolitan Museum of Art said it would stay closed at least until July and expected a nearly \$100 million shortfall.

Tesla will suspend production at San Francisco Bay Area plant

Tesla will temporarily end production at its Fremont, Calif., assembly plant beginning March 23 to comply with San Francisco Bay Area restrictions amid the virus outbreak. The company made the announcement after days of controversy as CEO Elon Musk kept the plant running full-tilt despite shelter-in-place lockdown orders from Alameda County, where Fremont is located.

From staff and wire reports

News Obituaries

AL WORDEN | Feb. 7, 1932 - March 18, 2020

Apollo 15 astronaut who circled moon in 1971

The Associated Press



Al Worden

Apollo 15 astronaut Al Worden, who circled the moon alone in 1971 while his two crewmates test-drove the first lunar rover, has died at age 88, his family said Wednesday.

His family said he died in his sleep in Houston. No cause of death was given.

"Al was an American hero whose achievements in space and on Earth will never be forgotten," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine in a statement. He also praised Mr. Worden for his appearances on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" to explain space flight to children.

Mr. Worden flew to the moon in 1971 along with David Scott and Jim Irwin.

tweeted Apollo 11 moon-walker Buzz Aldrin, borrowing from their West Point alma mater.

Once his crewmates were back on board and headed home, Mr. Worden performed the first deep-space spacewalk — nearly 200,000 miles from Earth. He inspected the service module's science instrument bay and retrieved film. His foray outside lasted just 38 minutes.

Mr. Worden said of the mission: "Now I know why I'm here. Not for a closer look at the moon, but to look back at our home, the Earth."

Apollo 15 was Mr. Worden's only spaceflight. He was in NASA's fifth astronaut class, chosen in 1966. He retired from NASA in 1975 and went to work for a few

aerospace companies.

Of the 24 men who flew to the moon from 1968 through 1972, only 11 are still alive.

Born and raised on a farm in Jackson, Mich., Mr. Worden graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1955 and was commissioned in the Air Force. He attended test pilot school.

"As I was growing up, aviation was not really something that was foremost in my mind," Mr. Worden said in a 2000 oral history for NASA. "From the age of 12 on, I basically ran the farm, did all the field work, milked the cows, did all that until I left for college."

While in the Air Force, "I began to realize that flying was kind of my game. It was a thing that I was very attuned to."

LATEST DEATHS

The Post-Gazette's comprehensive report of recent deaths includes three types of obituaries. News obituaries, prepared by our staff, are published at the discretion of our editors. Classified obituaries are paid death notices prepared by funeral home directors. To place a classified obituary, call 412-263-1371. To suggest a news obituary, call 412-263-1601. Funeral home directors may also call 412-263-1601 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to note a death for which there is no classified obituary. Those names will be listed under other deaths.

CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES

ABBOTT, Donald J., Brookline
ALTDORFER, David W., Aspinwall
CATONE, Peter J. Jr., Port Vue, formerly North Braddock
CHETTLE, Donald R., Evans City
DAWES, Joanne C., Wilksburg
DeLOUIS, Marco A., McKees Rocks

GEINZER, Shirley Ann
HOFFMANN, Clare A. Rodgers, Mount Washington
JANOSKO, Rudolph E.M., Squirrel Hill
KRIEGER, James A.
LEIENDECKER, Barbara J., Penn Hills, formerly East Liberty
LESSA, Robert, Pittsburgh
MATLACK, William F., Cranberry
McDERMOTT, Norbert Coyne III "Bert," Hampton
McDONOUGH, Robert E.
MILLER, Patricia Frazier, formerly Canonsburg
O'CONNOR, Richard Lawrence, North Hills
O'ROURKE, Terrence J., Seewick Heights
RUFFING, Thomas John, Birmingham, Ala.
SANDERSON, Patricia Agnes "Pat"
SMART, John W., Munhall
TIM, Barbara Ann, Morningside
TREEMARCHI, James, Sheridan
TRESER, Harvey H. "Skip," Penn Hills
WALAS, Norma Kazmierski, Pittsburgh
WYWARD, Joseph Michael, Fort Pierce, Fla.

DONALD J. ABBOTT

Of Brookline, peacefully passed away on Thursday, March 19, 2020. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Aleene Abbott, and two sons, Alan J. and Grant J. Abbott. Donald is survived by his son, Kevin (Edna) Abbott, three granddaughters, Amanda (Ryan) Mahaffey, Elizabeth (Nicholas) Quaglia, and Cynthia Abbott, and great-grandchildren, Grayson and Scarlett Mahaffey and Aria and Penelope Quaglia. Donald is also survived by numerous friends and family members. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree. Donald was also very active in his church, Church of the Resurrection. He was a Finance Minister, Eucharist Minister, and CCD Teacher. Funeral arrangements by **BEINHAUERS**. Services and Interment Private. Memorial contributions may be made to Animal Friends, 562 Camp Horne Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Please add or view tributes at www.beinhauer.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

DAVID W. ALTDORFER

Age 93, of Aspinwall, passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Beloved husband of 73 years of M. Jean (Cook) Altdorfer; father of Ellen Sadler and David W. (Noreen) Altdorfer, Jr.; also six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren; brother of Helen (the late Thomas) Protko, Patrick (Jan) Altdorfer and the late John Altdorfer (surviving wife, Joeal). David was a proud Navy veteran, serving during World War II and the Cuban Missile Crisis. A private viewing and service for immediate family will be held at the **WEDDELL-AJAK FUNERAL HOME**, 100 Center Avenue, Aspinwall. Private interment will be at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.weddellajak.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

PETER J. CATONE, JR.



Of North Braddock, recently of Port Vue, age 93, on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 while visiting in Florida. Beloved husband of the late Anna Marie (Monardo) Catone for 38 years; loving father of Mary Ann (late Gary) Mimmnaugh of Port Vue, Peter J. (Debra) Catone, III of Murrysville, Jim (Micky) Catone of North Braddock, Anthony (Sandy) Catone of Penn Twp. and the late Linda Catone; treasured

grandfather of Gary (Rae Ann) Mimmnaugh, Mark (Wrynee) Mimmnaugh, Peter J. (Allison) Catone, IV, William (Jennifer) Catone, Erica (Dan) Houlihan, Tanner Catone and Anthony (Carly) Catone; dear brother of Anna Marie (late Claude) Spennato of FL. Pete is also survived by 16 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Jennie Gottuso and his brothers, Jerry, Joseph and Tony Catone. Pete was a WW II Navy veteran and a retired employee of US Steel, Edgar Thomson Works. He was a member of the Sub-Alpine Club in Turtle Creek and the former East Pittsburgh VFW, Post 5008. Pete enjoyed solving crossword puzzles, rooting for Pittsburgh sports teams, wintering in Florida and, while there, going to Jai Alai matches. His most cherished moments were those spent with his family. Pete's visitation and Blessing Service will be private to his immediate family. He will be laid to rest with Military Honors at Braddock Catholic Cemetery. Arrangements are with **PATRICK T. LANIGAN FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY, INC.**, East Pittsburgh, 412-824-8800. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

DONALD R. CHETTLE



Age 85, of Evans City, on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Husband of Mary (Eyth) Chettle. Father of Mary (Corky) McCabe, Colleen (John) Ricchino, Eileen Chettle and Eric (Jocelyn) Snelsire. Stepfather of Yvonne (Steve) Buehler, Kimberly (Mark) Divelbliss and Robert Eyth, Jr. Grandfather of Bryan, Andy, Luke, Julia, Loreal, Maggie, Logan, Ava, Hayden and Ashten. Great-grandfather of London. Brother of Mary

Carol (Ron) Brown and the late Dorothy Mahoney, Alan Chettle and Joseph Chettle. Friends are invited to call from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Sunday, March 22nd at the **LEO J. HENNEY FUNERAL HOME**, 323 Second Avenue, Carnegie. Interment with a service will be held at a later date. Don was a retired Pepsi Truck driver, found great pleasure in playing the PA lottery, puzzle making, and word search books. A special thank you to his dear friends, Dean, Ray and Jake. www.leohenneyfuneralhome.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

JOANNE C. DAWES

Age 90, of Wilksburg, passed away March 17, 2020. Beloved wife of the late George A. Dawes; loving mother of George (the late Dolores) Dawes of Washington, Timothy (Jo Ann) Dawes of Cranberry Twp., Dennis (Lisa) Dawes of Orrtana, PA, Suzanne (Art) Wimssett of Shippensburg, Patricia (the late Frank) Slosar of Broken Arrow, OK; beloved sister of Barbara (the late Edward Eisman) Murray of Tulsa, OK, and the late Patricia (the late George) Dawes. Joanne is also survived by eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Sunday, March 22, 2020, at the **FINDLAY C. WYLIE FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 11311 Frankstown Rd., Penn Hills. A Blessing Service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, March 23, 2020, for immediate family only. Interment Calvary Cemetery. www.findlaycwyriefuneralhome.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

MARCO A. DeLOUIS



Age 102, of McKees Rocks, born February 18, 1918, husband of his beloved late wife, Virginia, passed away Saturday, March 14, 2020, surrounded by his daughters, Ginny and Patricia. He had seven children, Nancy, Pete (deceased), Patricia, Mark, Anna, Ginny and Joe, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Marco was a WWII veteran who served in the US Army's 300th Engineering Combat Battalion. He worked for the US Federal Government and the Pennsylvania Crime Commission. After retirement he worked on a self imposed project to improve several roads in the McKees Rocks and Pittsburgh areas in order to save lives. Marco was also an accomplished Accordion player and held a black belt in Karate. He was loved and respected by everyone he met. He was devoted to God, his country and his family. Friends and family welcome **SUNDAY**, 2-5 p.m., **McDERMOTT FUNERAL HOME**, (412-331-3311), 1225 Chartiers Ave., McKees Rocks, 15136. Mass of Catholic Burial, 9:30 a.m. **MONDAY** in The Archangel Gabriel Parish at old St. Mary's Church, Corner of Saint John Street and Church Ave., McKees Rocks, PA 15136. mcdermottfh.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

JAMES A. KRIEGER



Unexpectedly on Saturday, March 14, 2020. Beloved Husband of Judith; father of the late Valerie; brother of Janet Churchfield and Arlene Krieger; brother-in-law of Andy Peschka. Family and Friends will be received at the **FRANK F. DeBOR FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATIONS SERVICES, INC.**, 1065 Brookline Blvd. 412-561-0380, Sunday, 1-4 p.m. ONLY where a blessing service will be held Monday at 11 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, New York, 10016. www.deborfuneralhome.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

BARBARA J. LEIENDECKER



Age 91, of Penn Hills, formerly of East Liberty, on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Dearly beloved wife of William C. Leiendecker (deceased); loving mother of David (Christine), Donna Meade (Wayne), Kenneth (Colleen), Sandy, Stephen (Angela), and the late John Leiendecker. Sister of the late Fredrick Seibel, Marian Simmons, Lawrence (Buv) Seibel, and Pat Legan; also survived by 17 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren; dearest grandma to Melissa, Christopher, Jessica, Justin, Sarah, Bill, Christian, Michael, Nathan, Andrew, John, Cory, Caleb, Kevin, Alexandra, Julianna, and Aubrey Rae; dearest grandma Barb to her 17 great-grandchildren. Barbara was a loving mother dedicated to her family, strong in her Catholic faith, a prayer warrior, famous to her grandchildren for Grandma Barb kisses. Funeral services will be held privately, as per CDC guidelines. Online tributes welcome at **TREZZ FUNERAL HOME**. A memorial celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your local food pantry as a tribute to Barb. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

SHIRLEY ANN GEINZER

On March 19, 2020, Shirley Ann Geinzer; beloved wife of the late Donald Charles Geinzer; devoted mother of Jay Geinzer (Lucie), Scott Geinzer (Miriam), Glen Geinzer (Linda), and the late Sandra Geinzer; also survived by many loving family and friends. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

CLARE A. (RODGERS) HOFFMANN



Age 89, of Mt. Washington, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Beloved Wife of the late Joseph A. Hoffmann; loving mother of Mariclaire (David) Draxler, Carol (Charles) Kunkle, Donna (Gary) Cole, James M. Hoffmann, Mark G. Hoffmann, Kathleen (Richard) Turley and the late Joseph A. Hoffmann; sister of the late Leonard, George and James Rodgers; also survived by many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Visitation Sunday, 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. **WILLIAM SLATER II FUNERAL SERVICE**, (412-563-2800) 1650 Greentree Rd., Scott Twp. 15220 Private Funeral Mass in St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish. www.slaterfuneral.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

ROBERT LESSA



Age 73, of Pittsburgh, PA, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 due to a longtime battle with a breathing disorder. He was the son of the late William and Blanche Lessa. Robert was the loving husband of the late Roberta Lessa for over 38 years. He is survived by his three children, Michael (Colleen) Lessa, Timothy Lessa, and Deborah (Scott) Sayne and his three grandchildren, Anthony, Dominic, and Adam. "Bob" was a Navy Veteran who worked for Duquesne Light and then First Energy for 40 years after serving in the Navy. He most enjoyed his time at the Rivers Casino, taking fishing trips, and slow cooking his famous sausage for family gatherings during the Christmas season. Funeral arrangements by **BEINHAUER**, 2630 W. Liberty Avenue, Dormont, 15216, (412) 531-4000. Visitation will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020, 3-5 p.m. and Sunday, March 22, 2020, 6-8 p.m. Due to the recent COVID-19 restrictions, visitation is limited to 10 people AT ONE TIME inside. All others will be asked to wait outside until called. Private farewell will be conducted Monday, March 23, 2020, 11 a.m. Military Honors will be conducted during interment at Jefferson Memorial Park. Please view and add tributes at www.beinhauer.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

RUDOLPH E.M. JANOSKO, M.D.



Of Squirrel Hill, died peacefully on Sunday, March 8, 2020 at the age of 89. "Rudy" or "Doc" is survived by his wife of 64 years, Audrey Nemeth Janosko; his daughters, Beth Deely (David), Gwen Garrity (John), and Ellen Buchan (Gary); his sister, Lou Fuehr; and nine grandchildren. Rudy, a Captain in the USAF from 1959-61, was an admired and respected Psychiatrist who received his bachelor and medical degrees from the University of Pittsburgh and was board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology. A Distinguished Fellow in the American Psychiatric Association, Rudy was a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and an author, lecturer, and longtime President of the Pittsburgh Psychoanalytic Institute. He was Medical Director of Family Services Western PA, and consultant for the Social Security Administration and Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. Rudy was a well-known training and supervising psychoanalyst. He received the Meritorious Distinction Award from the Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind and Outstanding Teacher Award at the Western Psychiatric Institute. He was an avid runner, winning numerous races. His quiet manner, genuine kindness and wisdom will be missed by all who knew him. Friends will be received at **JOHN A. FREYVOGEL SONS, INC.**, 4900 Centre Avenue at Devonshire Street on Friday, March 20th from 4-7 p.m. Funeral Saturday, Mass of Christian Burial St. Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge St., Pgh., PA 15213 at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Country Meadows of South Hills Co-worker Foundation, 3570 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017. (freyvogel.com) Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

WILLIAM F. MATLACK



Age 91, of Cranberry Twp., passed away at his residence at Sherwood Oaks Retirement Community in Cranberry Twp. on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Born August 23, 1928, in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late David Johnson Matlack and Elizabeth Fawley Matlack. Bill earned his B.A. from Haverford College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a professor at the University of Pittsburgh for 38 years in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, where he authored two textbooks and numerous articles, and was a Senior Fulbright Fellow from 1982 to 1983 at Bogazici University in Turkey. He was a member of the Quaker Meeting at both Sherwood Oaks and in Shadyside, and served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. Bill leaves behind to cherish his memory his children, Margaret Katherine Matlack, Donald Sutherland Matlack (Linda) and Amelia Matlack Hamarman (Jorge); his six grandchildren, Rachel, Mica, Sonya, Boaz, Lily and Izzy; and his brother, David R. Matlack (Marge). In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Leslie Crawford Matlack, who passed away on March 9, 2020; his previous wife, Patricia A. Travis, who passed away in 2001; his daughter, Elizabeth Sutherland Matlack; and his sister, Ann Matlack Bucher. A memorial service will be conducted at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Camp Dark Waters, P.O. Box 263, Medford, NJ 08055 (www.campdarkwaters.org). Arrangements have been entrusted to **BOYLAN-GLENN-KILDODD FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SVCS., INC.**, 130 Wisconsin Ave./PO Box 2155, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066. Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family at www.boylanfuneralservices.com. Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES

ROBERT E. MCDONOUGH

On Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Loving son of the late Thomas M. McDonough and Irene Kortanek; beloved brother of Sandy McDonough, Thomas R. McDonough and Kimberly A. McDonough-Branch. Survived also by nieces and nephews. The family will receive visitors Saturday, 3-7 p.m. at O'BRIEN'S, 3724 California at Cooper Aves., N.S. where there will be a private Blessing Service at 7 p.m. In accordance with local, state and federal guidelines, O'Brien's Funeral Home will only allow 10 visitors at a time during the visitations. www.obriensfuneralhome.com
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

PATRICIA (FRAZIER) MILLER

Patricia (Frazier) Miller, age 80, formerly of Canonsburg, PA, peacefully went to be with her Lord on Saturday, March 14, 2020, in Stuart, Florida. A memorial service will be held at BEINHAUER in McMurray at a later date. Please add tributes at beinhauer.com
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

NORBERT COYNE "BERT" McDERMOTT III



When Bert's 23 and Me test came back as 99.9 % Irish we wondered if it could be true... When Bert passed peacefully at his Hampton Township home on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2020, at age 60, surrounded by his family and closest friends, we knew the test was accurate. Like a true Irishman, Bert did not marry until age 40, but when he and Terri Hardt did, it was a love story for the ages. And... as luck would have it, Norbert Coyne McDermott IV "Coyne" was conceived on their honeymoon in Ireland. Bert cherished his parents, Norbert C. McDermott, Jr. "Red" and Pat O'Hara McDermott and they loved him. Camping, baseball games, warm Sugar Cookies right from the roll, watching Wide World of Wrestling with his grandparents and sleep overs with his many cousins were the essence of Bert's youth. It is believed that Bert's severe dislike of dogs was not a character flaw but due to his first dog being a Terrier. Bert became a proud big brother to Anne McDermott and Michael McDermott at age 9. Although Bert lost his position as an only child... always one to see an opportunity... he quickly learned to combine babysitting and underage parties. Uncle to Emma and Gwen Byrne and brother-in-law to Robert Byrne, Bert could often be heard to say with pleasure... "They are just smart, smart, smart." Son-in-law to Paulina Hardt and the deceased Clifford Hardt, Bert brought joy to a family shattered by the loss of his would-be brother-in-law Brett Hardt. After Cliff's passing at 82, Bert proudly wore his extensive wardrobe prompting Terri and Coyne to call his outdated Tommy Bahama shirts, "The Bert Collection..." for 50-year olds who like to dress like they are 80." Bert combined talents with 3 of his friends to found and grow Crown Advisors into the largest real estate Executive Search firm in the nation. His emotional IQ was off the charts which allowed him to patiently mentor the best and brightest with patience and principle. Bert's clients were some of the richest and most successful people in the world but what impressed Bert was their integrity. Bert was a devoted Catholic and lector at St. Bonaventure parish. He could frequently be found at noon mass during the week. Often Bert was heard to say, "God is in all of the churches." A prouder, more patient and giving father there could never be. Donned in his Central Catholic jacket and hat, forever walking around hockey rinks "to get his 10,000 steps in" the crowd would always hear... "Good Save Coyne!" Bert made every man look bad when he surprised Terri with a renewal of vows on their 19th anniversary. For a subtle man, he knew how to make a grand gesture. Bert, Terri and Coyne traveled the world extensively. These travels created a son who grew in confidence and tolerance of all people with each adventure. Bert learned too. He was able to communicate the words... "no peppers, no basil, no cilantro and sauce on the side" in 8 different languages. Bert delighted in getting things free in honor of his father. He never paid for parking, hit the free breakfast buffets at hotels even when he was not a guest and kept his Panera cup for free refills until the sides crumbled. But Bert's generosity of time and money was the crown jewel of his qualities. He passed few homeless people on the street without putting a bill in their cup. He would purposely order too much food when dining out to give to someone on the street and could always be counted on to pitch in, lend an ear or hand out money to family, friends and strangers alike. Bert died knowing that Airplane was the best movie ever made, that the Eagles had the best concerts and if the movie had been Ford vs Ferrari vs Corvette... that, hands down... the Corvette would have won. Bert knew that Christmas was such a special time that it needed to be celebrated twice a year... once in December and once in July. The Guinness Company, Crown Royal Distillery and Prisoner Wine Growers are devastated by the loss of Bert. Since we are in extraordinary times, a private viewing and mass will be held at NEELY FUNERAL HOME in Glenshaw, PA on Saturday, March 21, 2020. This service will be live streamed for all who would like to be a virtual part. Immediately following will be a graveside service at 1:45 p.m. at Mt. Royal Cemetery. We ask for social distancing at the grave side to preserve the lives of our cherished elders. Feel free to stay in your vehicle if you are concerned or have a sniffle. We will conclude with a planned procession touring past some of Bert's childhood sites. Please decorate your vehicles with photos, Guinness cans, Christmas trees or any other garish items that may be seen from space. For more information please follow us on [Facebook.com/groups/bertmcdermottmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/groups/bertmcdermottmemorial). In lieu of flowers, make memorials to Society of St. Vincent DePaul Council of Pittsburgh 1501 Reedsdale Street Suite 3003 Pittsburgh, PA 15233. Dear, dear Bert... May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. It's time to say goodbye. Pray for us...
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

TERRENCE J. O'ROURKE



October 7, 1950 to March 6, 2020, of Sewickley Heights, PA, passed away peacefully at home in Palm Beach, FL of heart failure. Born in NYC (Stuyvesant Town), the only child of Charles and Catherine O'Rourke. Survived by his wife, Melinda Roberts and two sisters-in-law, Jean and Kyoki Roberts. Graduated from Xavier High School in 1968, City College of New York in 1972, and Fordham Law School in 1975. He began his legal career at Cahill Gordon & Reindel in NYC and later practiced in California and Pennsylvania. Terry met his wife, Melinda (Fordham Law '76) at a law school party the evening of March 21, 1975, 45 years ago. Private burial at St. James Roman Catholic Cemetery, Sewickley, PA. Due to the coronavirus emergency, a memorial gathering scheduled for this weekend at Gladmore Farm, the family home in Sewickley Heights, has been canceled. Remembrances may be sent to melindajaneroberts@outlook.com. Memorial contributions may be made to The Allegheny Land Trust, 416 Thorn Street, Sewickley, PA 15143. Arrangements by COPELAND'S, 412-741-7100.
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

RICHARD LAWRENCE O'CONNOR



Of North Hills passed away on March 16, 2020 in his home. He leaves behind his wife of 58 years, Barbara (Sentesi) O'Connor; his three sons, Richard (Donna), Michael (Jennifer), Daniel (Marnie); his six grandchildren that he loved with all of his heart, Megan Hugo (Ben), Matthew, Kevin, Jared, Patrick, and Jack O'Connor; his two brothers, Thomas O'Connor (MaryAnne) and John O'Connor (Donna) and his sister Kathleen O'Connor. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas and Margaret O'Connor; his sisters, Margaret Moran and Patricia Pillage. He also leaves behind nieces, nephews, and many friends and family that loved him dearly. Funeral arrangements and services will be made after the Pandemic is over. Please leave condolences at schellhaasfn.com.
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

THOMAS JOHN RUFFING

LTC US ARMY (RET.)



Age 77, a longtime resident of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on March 17, 2020 after an extended illness. Tom was born on May 23, 1942 in Pittsburgh, PA and is a graduate of Carrick High School and the University of Nebraska. He had a distinguished military career that spanned 25 years and two continents. He served as a combat infantry officer in Vietnam as well as posts in Saudi Arabia, Alaska, Nebraska, and Georgia. His military honors include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, multiple Purple Hearts, and numerous other meritorious awards. Tom served as Vice President and President of the Greater Birmingham Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and was recognized as the 2018 Veteran of the Year. Following his retirement from the army, Tom had a second career as a realtor with First Realty and Realty South at the Over the Mountain office. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying both deep-sea fishing and hunting, but found true joy spending time with his daughters and grandchildren. His dedication to veterans was a lifelong passion that he supported through the VA Hospital, UAB ROTC, MOAA, and National Veterans Day organization. His loyalty to country, family, and friends was unrivaled and his memory will be cherished by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thomas Charles Ruffing and Wilma Schmol Ruffing; sister, Edith "Edie" Ruffing Sangregorio, brother, Robert "Bobby" Ruffing, and wife, Jane "Johnnie" Smith Ruffing. He is survived by his loving wife, Sue Nealey Ruffing; two daughters: Allison Ruffing (Jim McCullough) of Baton Rouge, LA and Lee Ann Ruffing Benson (Beau) of Chandler, AZ; and two grandchildren: Lynlee Grace Benson and Thomas Reid Benson. A private graveside service with full military honors will be held Friday, March 20, 2020 at Hebron Cemetery in Clio, SC directed by COOPER FUNERAL HOME in Dillon, SC. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The MOAA Foundation in LTC Tom Ruffing's name (<https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa-moaa-foundation/the-moaa-foundation/>). You may designate the Greater Birmingham Chapter to receive your donation.
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

PATRICIA "PAT" AGNES SANDERSON



Passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Patricia is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Richard Sanderson; They were married on August 3, 1957. Patricia is lovingly remembered by her children, Cheryl (the late, Stephen) Pool, Diane Sanderson (Stephen), Nancy (Timothy) Miller, and Richard Sanderson; brothers, George (Ann) Wolfgang and Stephen Wolfgang; grandchildren, Jessica Sanderson, Timothy (Shawna) Miller, Stephanie Pool (Leo), Sean (Erin) Miller and Richard Miller (Val); great-grandchildren, Shane Ford, Luke Miller and Lakeson Davis. Patricia was born in New Bethlehem, PA on February 17, 1936. She graduated from Sto-Rox High School. She went on to earn a Degree from West Penn School of Nursing. Patricia was also a dedicated and caring nurse at West Penn Hospital for many years. Patricia was a long time member of Elfinwild Presbyterian Church. Patricia was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will always be remembered for her selfless nature and kindness to all. She will be deeply missed. Due to current CDC recommendations, all services and interments will be held privately at BOCK FUNERAL HOME, LTD., Glenshaw. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Please add or view tributes at www.bockltd.com. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to The Alzheimer's Association, (al.org) or Operation Smile (Operationsmile.org).
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

JOHN W. SMART



Age 69, of Munhall, passed away surrounded by his loving family, after his courageous battle with cancer, on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Husband of Carole A. (Dobo) Smart. Father of Matthew Smart (Marlena Flanagan) and Justin Smart (Amanda). Grandfather of Morgan, Virginia and Stella. Brother of the late Marion (Peter) Winters, Ruth (Frank) Hanchak and Nancy (David) Ritter. Also many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews. John retired from the Law Firm of Andrews and Price in December. He was a former Steel Valley High School teacher, served previously on the Steel Valley School Board, the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit Board and the Carnegie Library of Homestead Board of Directors. Former part-time online instructor in the Department of Secondary Education and Administrative Leadership for California University. Due to current CDC recommendations, all services and interment will be held privately, in lieu of flowers, family suggest contributions to St. Maximilian Kolbe Church, 363 W. 11th Avenue, Homestead, PA 15120. Arrangements entrusted to the LEO J. HENNEY FUNERAL HOME, Carnegie. www.leohenneyfuneralhome.com.
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

JAMES TREEMARCHI

Age 72, of Sheraden, passed away surrounded by his family on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Beloved husband of Kathleen (Marion) Treemarchi; son of the late Samuel and Ann (Compomizzi) Treemarchi; loving father of Beth Wachowiak (Robert) and Karen Gearhart (Dean); grandfather of Hailey and Emily Wachowiak, Luke, Leslie, and Lydia Gearhart; brother of Renie Minniti. Jim served in the Army during the Vietnam War and was activated in the 171st Air National Guard after 9/11. Private gathering Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the WILLIAM F. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, 2944 CHARTIERS AVE., SHERADEN, PITTSBURGH, 15204. Private funeral service and burial in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Cecil Twp. on Monday. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warriors Project, www.support.woundedwarriorproject.org. We ask those who are at risk or who are ill to avoid coming to the funeral home. You may express your condolences to the family through our online guest book at www.wfconroyfuneralhome.com.
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

BARBARA ANN TIM

Of Morningside on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, age 70. Beloved sister of Patrick J. Tim (Ruth) and the late Bill McKale (the late Marilyn); dear aunt of Patrick F. Tim (Dana); great-aunt of Patrick R. Tim; also survived by several nieces. Funeral and interment are regrettably private due to present circumstances. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to St. Raphael Church. Condolences may be left at www.mccabebrothers.com.
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

HARVEY H. "SKIP" TRESER



Age 89, of Penn Hills, on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Born January 15, 1931, in Turtle Creek, PA. Loved and adored his wife of 67 years, Margaret J. (Lynch) Treser; father of Sandra Lee (the late John) Rodgers; wonderful grandfather of Jennifer Lynn (Michael) Pietragallo, Janel Margaret (Barry) Kohlhoff and Michael (Jennifer) Rodgers; loved his great-grandchildren, Alexandra Lynn, Emily Grace, Michael William and Breanne Margaret. Skip was a veteran of the United States Air Force (1950-1953) Airman First Class. Part-Owner of Bell Industries where he worked as a roofer. Skip loved golfing, bowling, playing cards, hunting, camping, traveling, working in his beautiful yard, building and fixing everything. He was a strong force in our family that was loved and respected and will be dearly missed. As per his request, funeral will be private. Arrangements by SOXMAN FUNERAL HOMES, LTD., 7450 Saltsburg Road (at Universal Road), Penn Hills. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.soxmanfuneralhomes.com.
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

NORMA (KAZMIERSKI) WALAS

On Monday, March 16, 2020, of Pittsburgh. Cherished wife of almost 68 years of the late Thaddeus "Harpo" Walas; loving mother of Adrian (Edward) Banaszak, Normi (William) Gerrish and Jon (Ping Lu) Walas; grandmother of Alexis (Timothy) Madden, Gail (Nathan) DeCoster, Tytus Gerrish, Thaddeus Gerrish and Yibin Liao; great-grandmother of Brooks DeCoster and Blair Madden. Norma and Harpo loved to go polka dancing together. Mass of Christian Burial pending. Arrangements have been entrusted to PITTSBURGH CREMATION AND FUNERAL CARE, 3287 Washington Road, McMurray, PA 15317, (724) 260-5546. Please view and sign the family's online guestbook at pittsburghcremation.com.



Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

JOSEPH MICHAEL WYMARD



Joe Wymard, born August 27, 1935, age 84, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2020, in Ft. Pierce, Florida, after a short illness. He was married to Ellie Wymard (nee Buntag), his wife of 56 years who survives him. He is also survived by his son Josh T. of Dallas, TX and grandchildren Tom, Jake and Beau, and son Peter C. (Bonnie) of Gibsonia, PA and grandchildren Elizabeth, Jack, Gus and Mary. He was predeceased by his parents Francis W. and Marie P. (nee Cooney) and by his brothers William F., John P., and Francis X. He is survived by his brother James A. (Sara) of Squirrel Hill and many nieces and nephews. Joe was born and raised in Point Breeze and attended St. Bede School, where he was an altar boy, and Central Catholic High School, class of 1953. He was a philosophy honors major at the University of Pittsburgh, class of 1957. He served as class president of his 1960 graduation class at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Upon graduation from Pitt Law, his class was conscripted into the US Army and he completed basic training at Fort Rucker in Alabama. During the Berlin crisis, he was called up as a reservist and ordered to report to Fort Gordon, Georgia, where he was to serve as a radio repairman. Knowing little about radio except to turn the dial to KDKA, he was quickly reassigned to JAG, where he served until his honorable discharge in 1963. He began his private practice as counsel to the credit departments of the major Pittsburgh department stores, including the Joseph Horne Company, Kaufman's and Gimbels'. Within a few years, he turned to Family Law after successfully representing a wife in a high profile Pittsburgh divorce. This case marked the beginning of his becoming a specialist in complex divorce litigation, especially representing women in equitable distribution cases. He developed a multi-state Family Law practice that upheld women's rights in divorce and created Pennsylvania Common Law that remains today. After many years as a sole practitioner, he joined the law firm of Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. as a partner in 2008, where he remained until his "retirement" in 2018. He could still be found in his office one or two days a week until his passing. Joe was on the board of the Whale's Tale and a voice in the Pittsburgh arts community, serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Pittsburgh Public Theater when the decision was made to leave the Hazlett Theater on the North Side for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. For him, the highlight of his term was interviewing acclaimed architects to design the O'Reilly Theater and advocating for the eventual winning design of Michael Graves. Joe was equally devoted to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. On February 24, days before his death, he hosted for the 16th consecutive year, a PSO Chamber Concert in Vero Beach, Florida. Heartbreakingly, only days later PSO musicians Christopher Wu and Rhian Kenny, members of the sextet that performed in Vero, serenaded him in ICU before returning to Pittsburgh. Joe and his family were long time summer residents of Chatham, Massachusetts, where he named his house the "Topsy Seagull." He reluctantly sold it in the last few years to spend more time in the warmer confines of Vero Beach. Joe's enthusiasm for Pittsburgh sports teams equaled his fervor for the PPT and PSO. A Steelers ticket holder since 1972, he was in section 621, row N, seat 1 at the immaculate Reception. He cheered the Steelers at multiple Super Bowls with his young sons. As a part time season ticket holder for the Penguins from the team's early expansion days, he remained a diehard fan through the Stanley Cup years. There will be no public visitation or services at this time. Interment will be private in Homewood Cemetery. When the coronavirus wanes, a Mass to celebrate his life will be announced and scheduled. All will be invited. Gifts in Joe's memory may be made to the Pittsburgh Public Theater, the Pittsburgh Symphony, or to Wymard scholarships at Central Catholic High School. Arrangements by JOHN A. FREYVOGEL SONS, INC. (freyvogelfuneralhome.com)
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

In Memoriam

KATHLEEN L. CLAHERTY

12-19-1952 ~ 3-20-2010

It's been ten years since you've been gone, dearly missed by family and friends.

ONCE UPON A TIME – PITTSBURGH

Prints of Fritz Keck's oil paintings of distinctive Pittsburgh scenes are now available at PG Store



Smithfield Street Bridge 1894

Crossing the Monongahela River, the Smithfield Street Bridge is arguably Pittsburgh's most important historic bridge, still in use today.

24" x 36" archival satin paper print \$270
 12" x 18" archival satin paper print \$70



Burg Hotel 1907

The scene here captures Jacob Burg behind the bar at 2719 Carson Street, later known as Yarski's.
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Undercutting Machine Cart 1910

An electric trolley wire was used to move mule carts in mines.
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Carrie Blast Furnaces, Rankin 1946

Built in 1907 on the Monongahela River and operated until 1984. Iron made in the furnaces was transferred across the river to be made into steel at the Homestead Works.
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Shoe Shine 1930s

Wylie Avenue was the center of business in the Hill District.
 20" x 30" archival satin paper print \$205
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PG STORE

Today

70
27

A.M. RUSH
64
LUNCH
67
RUSH
65

Rather cloudy, a shower and t-storm around; warmer. Winds SW at 12-25 mph.

Tomorrow

43
24

Partly sunny and cooler. Winds N at 7-14 mph.

Sunday

50
39

Intervals of clouds and sunshine. Winds E at 6-12 mph.

Monday

48
33

Rain in the morning; otherwise, cloudy. Winds ESE at 7-14 mph.

Tuesday

56
43

Mostly cloudy and milder. Winds WSW at 4-8 mph.

Weather outlook

Mostly cloudy, windy and warmer today with a couple of showers and a thunderstorm. Chance of precipitation 65%. Partly cloudy tonight with winds gradually subsiding. Partly sunny tomorrow. Sunday: intervals of clouds and sunshine. Monday: rain in the morning; otherwise, cloudy. Chance of precipitation 85%.



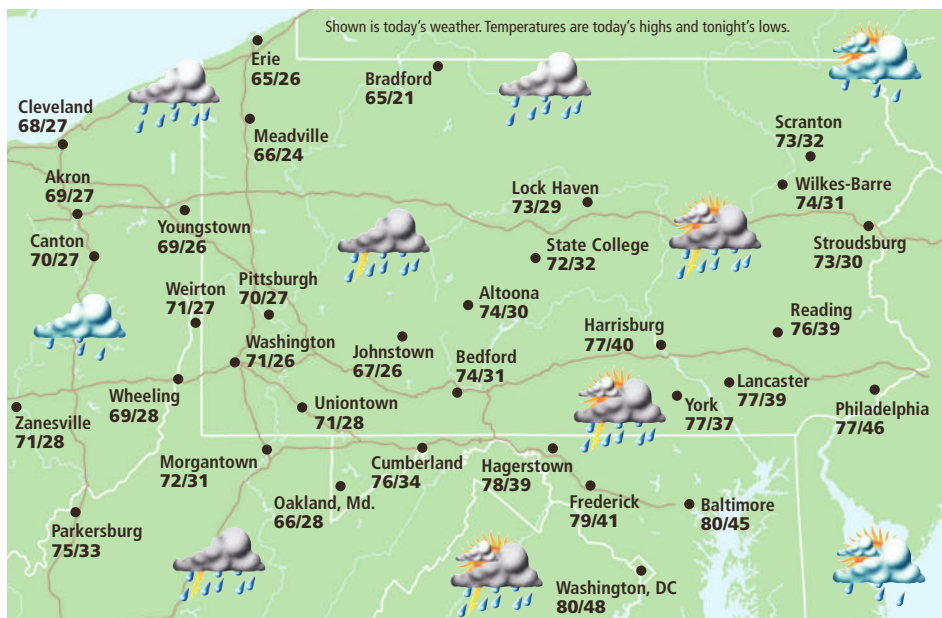
Nation Cities

City	Today		Tomorrow	
	HI/Lo	W	HI/Lo	W
Albany	72/30	r	46/20	s
Albuquerque	58/42	pc	63/39	pc
Allentown	77/38	t	52/27	s
Anchorage	38/28	pc	38/24	sn
Atlanta	79/60	t	73/52	c
Atlanta City	68/49	c	52/38	s
Baltimore	80/45	t	56/34	s
Birmingham	75/56	t	68/49	c
Boise	58/35	pc	59/35	s
Boston	65/39	sh	47/26	s
Buffalo	66/23	r	34/23	s
Charleston, S.C.	83/66	pc	84/61	sh
Charleston, W.Va.	74/39	r	48/31	pc
Charlotte	84/61	pc	77/49	sh
Chicago	43/25	pc	37/28	pc
Cincinnati	70/29	sh	44/27	s
Cleveland	68/27	r	35/24	pc
Columbus	69/28	r	42/25	pc
Dallas	60/41	c	60/52	pc
Dayton	68/28	sh	41/26	s
Denver	31/20	pc	44/27	pc
Des Moines	35/23	pc	43/30	s
Detroit	62/23	r	38/21	s
Erie	65/26	r	33/24	pc
Fairbanks	36/21	sf	34/14	sf
Grand Rapids	45/18	r	37/20	s
Greensboro	82/60	pc	67/45	c
Harford	69/36	sh	50/23	s
Harrisburg	77/40	t	52/28	s
Honolulu	82/68	c	82/71	c
Houston	76/60	t	69/64	t
Indianapolis	65/26	sh	42/27	s
Jackson, Miss.	77/57	t	67/56	c
Kansas City	40/25	pc	46/36	pc
Las Vegas	60/50	pc	64/50	pc
Los Angeles	63/52	pc	67/50	pc
Louisville	75/34	sh	49/33	s
Memphis	74/42	r	56/42	pc
Miami	84/73	pc	85/70	s
Milwaukee	39/24	c	34/27	pc
Minneapolis	32/19	pc	37/29	s
Myrtle Beach	77/65	pc	75/56	sh
Nashville	75/42	r	55/39	pc
New Orleans	85/68	t	79/68	t
New York City	75/43	c	51/32	s
Norfolk	83/57	pc	59/46	sh
Oklahoma City	47/28	pc	56/43	pc
Omaha	32/22	s	44/31	s
Orlando	89/65	s	88/66	s
Philadelphia	77/46	t	54/34	s
Phoenix	68/53	s	73/53	s
Portland, Maine	58/33	sh	45/20	s
Portland, Ore.	66/40	pc	62/39	pc
Providence	67/41	sh	51/26	s
Richmond	86/54	pc	56/40	sh
Sacramento	64/41	pc	68/43	pc
St. Louis	58/31	pc	46/34	s
Salt Lake City	52/37	sh	55/38	pc
San Diego	65/55	pc	66/54	pc
San Francisco	63/48	pc	66/50	pc
San Juan	83/73	pc	82/73	pc
Seattle	60/40	pc	57/40	s
Spokane	55/33	pc	57/34	pc
Syracuse	73/24	r	35/20	s
Tampa	86/68	s	84/68	s
Toledo	63/24	sh	38/23	s
Tucson	68/46	pc	72/45	s
Washington, D.C.	80/48	t	57/38	s
Wheeling	69/28	r	42/25	pc
Wilmington, Del.	77/44	t	54/32	s

Yesterday's Record

Readings from the Pittsburgh Int'l. Airport through 5 p.m. March 19, 2020

Category	Value
High	61
Normal high	50
Year ago	47
Record high	78 (1898)
Low	49
Normal low	31
Year ago	25
Record low	6 (1967)
DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL	
Yesterday	+14.4
Month to date	+6.2
Year to date	+5.0
HUMIDITY	
High	96 (at 2 a.m.)
Low	69 (at 5 p.m.)
PRECIPITATION (inches)	
24 hours ending 5 p.m. yest.	0.84
Month to date	2.08
Normal month to date	1.74
Departure from normal	+0.34
Year to date	9.07
Normal year to date	6.92
Departure from normal	+2.15
BAROMETER	
Yesterday's high	30.17
Yesterday's low	30.02

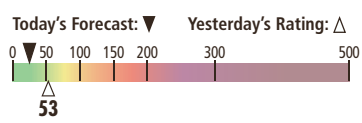


Skywatch today

Sunrise	7:24 a.m.
Sunset	7:33 p.m.
Moonrise	5:57 a.m.
Moonset	4:04 p.m.

Air Quality

Primary pollutant: Particulates
 0-50: Good, 51-100: Moderate, 101-150: Unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151-200: Unhealthy, 201-300: Very Unhealthy, 301-500: Hazardous
 Source: Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection



Shown are today's noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



U.S. EXTREMES
 (For the 48 contiguous states yesterday)
 High 101 at Zapata, Texas
 Low -2 at Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.

AccuWeather DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

River Stages

ALLEGHENY	
Franklin, Pa.	6.30 R
Parker, Pa.	6.00 R
Sharpsburg, Pa.	12.10 R
MONONGAHELA	
Gray's Landing, Pa.	12.60 R
CHEAT	
Parsons, W.Va.	6.70 R
WEST FORK	
Clarksburg, W.Va.	2.84 R
YOUGHIOGENY	
Sutersville, Pa.	6.30 R
BEAVER	
Beaver Falls, Pa.	8.00 R
OHIO	
Pittsburgh, Pa.	16.80 F
Dashields Dam	16.00 R
Montgomery Dam, Pa.	15.10 R
Pike Is. Lock and Dam, W.Va.	18.00 R

F-Falling; M-Missing; P-Pool; R-Rising; S-Stationary

Moon Phases



World Cities

City	Today		Tomorrow	
	HI/Lo	W	HI/Lo	W
Athens	66/49	s	68/52	s
Auckland	71/60	pc	72/63	pc
Baghdad	73/49	pc	69/49	pc
Beijing	76/43	pc	68/36	s
Berlin	49/35	r	44/26	c
Bermuda	70/64	pc	70/64	pc
Bogota	65/48	sh	66/45	c
Buenos Aires	78/65	s	78/66	s
Cairo	61/49	pc	65/50	pc
Copenhagen	48/32	c	44/30	s
Dublin	46/36	c	47/37	c
Frankfurt	63/39	c	46/30	sh
Hong Kong	76/70	c	76/71	c
Jerusalem	46/39	pc	49/41	sh
Johannesburg	79/59	pc	78/57	c
Kinshasa	88/73	t	90/75	t
London	49/40	sh	51/38	c
Madrid	62/43	c	54/44	r
Manila	92/76	pc	93/78	s
Mexico City	81/54	pc	78/53	pc
Montreal	56/19	r	31/14	pc
Moscow	43/25	pc	34/20	s
Nairobi	78/60	pc	79/58	pc
Nassau	81/69	pc	82/71	pc
New Delhi	87/65	pc	86/64	pc
Oslo	43/25	pc	42/25	s
Paris	63/43	c	52/38	c
Rio de Janeiro	87/76	t	79/74	t
Rome	63/43	pc	63/46	c
Seoul	57/42	s	64/40	s
Singapore	90/78	pc	89/78	pc
Sydney	93/66	s	73/64	pc
Tokyo	63/47	s	68/50	c
Toronto	63/18	c	35/20	pc
Vancouver	52/37	s	52/38	pc
Vienna	67/46	c	48/28	sh
Warsaw	49/36	c	42/24	c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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Pam Panchak/Post-Gazette

Pine-Richland High School senior Shelby Petonak sits with Amy Gadomski, of McCandless, after presenting her with an Axillapilla. Shelby raised more than \$7,000 to buy the heart-shaped pillows that help ease pain for breast cancer patients after her mother went through treatment.

Women touched by cancer reach out to help others

By Linda Wilson Fuoco
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When a person is diagnosed with cancer, the entire family is impacted. Two local women are volunteering to make a difference in the battle to raise awareness and money to help people with cancer — including their own relatives.

Shelby Petonak, 18, a senior at Pine-Richland High School, has raised more than \$7,000 to buy heart-shaped pillows for women recovering from breast cancer surgery. She does this because one of those special pillows helped her mother, Wendy, in 2017.

It's unusual for a 19-year-old to be diagnosed with stage 2 rectal cancer, but that's what happened to Denelle Suranski, of McKeesport. Now 37 and cancer-free, she works in the Allegheny County Parks Department and was one of 14 faces that appeared on a Times Square digital display as part of the national Fight Colorectal Cancer campaign.

Shelby Petonak

Summer 2017 was a tumultuous season for the Petonak



Danelle Suranski, of McKeesport, and other cancer survivors were featured in a digital display in New York's Times Square. The display is part of the Fight Colorectal Cancer campaign.

family. They had moved from the Harrisburg area due to father/husband Joe Petonak's job with Highmark. Leaving behind friends at Central Dauphin High School, Shelby faced the challenge of making new friends at Pine-Richland her sophomore year. During that summer, she tried out for cheerleading and



Courtesy of Fight Colorectal Cancer campaign

won a slot on the team with young women who quickly became supportive friends.

Six weeks after the move to Pine, her mother, Wendy Petonak, was diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer.

Talking about her challenges, Shelby said, "It was a lot."

Part of her coping technique

was raising more than \$7,000 for the Pillows for Patients program for Allegheny Health Network breast cancer patients.

Before her mastectomy surgery, Mrs. Petonak ordered a heart-shaped pillow that eases pain under arms and other

SEE **PILLOW**, PAGE LX-2

School board narrowly approves refinancing district's '14 bond issue

Financial pro predicts \$1.3 million in savings

By Sandy Trozzo

A split Mars Area School Board voted March 10 to refinance the district's 2014 bond issue if the district saves at least \$1.3 million.

Alisha Reesh Henry, of PNC Capital Markets, said the stock and bond markets are so "volatile" that the information she printed for board members earlier that day was already wrong. "We're at all-time lows," she said.

The issue was an "advance refunding." The district could save more if it waited until after March 1, 2022, Ms. Henry said.

The board voted 5-4 to refinance \$16.6 million in bonds with the "floor" savings of \$1.3 million.

Board members Rita Dorsch, J. Dayle Ferguson, Kevin Hagen, Gordon Marburger and President John Kennedy voted to refinance

Mars Area

the debt.

Members Anthony DePretis, Megan Lenz, Christine Valenta and Sallie Wick opposed the refinance. Mrs. Valenta wanted a higher number for the "floor," while Mrs. Lenz and Mrs. Wick wanted to wait until 2022, when the district could save at least \$2 million.

In other business, the board approved the 2020-21 budget for the Butler County Area Vocational Technical School and had a lengthy discussion with Kurt Speicher, executive director of the school, about how they could generate more interest in vo-tech from students.

The district will pay \$243,854 to the vo-tech next year, a decrease of \$16,000 because fewer Mars Area students are attending.

Mr. Speicher noted that Mars Area is the only district in Butler County where students have to "opt in" to tour the vo-tech. Other districts have all eighth graders visit the vo-tech unless

parents specifically say no.

"It's hard to make a decision on something that you never see," he said.

Resident Virgil Knox, president of Hampton Concrete Products in Middlesex, told board members that district teachers and guidance counselors are "abusing" students by pushing college because many will not graduate from college but will be saddled with debt.

"When you take your 98% of kids that are going to college, 70% will never graduate. You make 70% of the kids in Mars Area a failure. Of the 30% you have left, 50% were led astray and never use their degree."

Superintendent Wes Shipley said teachers and counselors do work with kids on considering vo-tech.

"It's having the parents to have the mindset that their kids can go to vo-tech," Mrs. Lenz said.

Sandy Trozzo, freelance writer: suburbanliving@post-gazette.com.

'Waste not, want not' mission of 412 Food Rescue

Volunteers make sure bread, vegetables used

By Margaret Smykla

On Saturday mornings for the past two years, Krishna Sathya Vagheeswar and his father, Sathya V. Venkatasubramanian, have delivered unsellable, yet fresh and healthy, viable produce to Tonya Bennett, who distributes it to her neighbors at Groveton Village in Coraopolis.

"For most people it makes ends meet. They have enough to pay their bills, but they're struggling to buy food. It is very appreciated," said Miss Bennett, resident council president of the public housing complex of the

Allegheny County Housing Authority.

Mr. Venkatasubramanian and Krishna, 13, of Upper St. Clair, receive the produce from Giant Eagle, Settlers Ridge, in Robinson.

"You rescue food that would be otherwise trashed or discarded, and rescue people who need the food," Mr. Venkatasubramanian said. "We get it for free, and it helps grocery stores with their social responsibility as they are helping communities."

The program, called 412 Food Rescue, works with local food businesses and retailers, such as grocery stores and farmers markets, to acquire fresh food that is nearing sell-by and expiration dates.

Volunteers transport surplus food directly to nonprofit and community organizations, such as shelters and housing authority sites. Staff and volunteers then distribute the food to those in need.

David Primm, chief program officer for 412 Food Rescue, said the nonprofit partners with housing authorities, Meals on Wheels, the Salvation Army and others.

The 412 Food Rescue is named for the 412 telephone area code region it served when it was

SEE **RESCUE**, PAGE LX-3

2 women touched by cancer help others

PILLOW, FROM LX-1

sensitive areas. She discovered the Axillapilla in a book called "Pretty Sick: The Beauty Guide for Women With Cancer."

The effectiveness of the pillows was noted by doctors at Allegheny Health Network's Cancer Institute, where Mrs. Petonak received treatment.

In June 2019, Shelby founded the Pillows for Patients program so that every breast cancer patient in the Allegheny Health Network could get a free pillow. She put out cash collection buckets at Pine-Richland sporting events. Friends, relatives and strangers also donated on her webpage.

"Shelby is definitely a force to be reckoned with," said Allie Quick, AHN chief philanthropy officer. "She has raised over \$7,000 for more than 250 women, and we are so appreciative."

The Pine-Richland cheer group was supportive of the fundraiser and the Petonak family, delivering home-cooked meals and providing rides for Shelby to cheerleading and other events.

"I don't know how we would have made it through without them," Mrs. Petonak said.

Shelby's not done. When she surpassed her \$3,000 fundraising goal, she reset it to \$30,000. Go to give.everydayhero.com/us/pillows-for-patients to donate.

Denelle Suranski

"I am a third-generation victim of colorectal cancer," Denelle Suranski says, matter of factly. "My grandfather passed from it, and my father and I were lucky enough to survive it."

She has volunteered for

a yearlong gig as an "awareness ambassador" for the national Fight Colorectal Cancer campaign. Colon and rectal cancers are the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.

"I am trying to share my story so that people are aware" that screening and early diagnosis save many lives, Ms. Suranski said.

Her discomfort and pain started when she was 17, but cancer wasn't diagnosed until she was 19.

"It was so rare for someone that age, but unfortunately colorectal cancer is on the rise in young adults," she said.

Although she has been cancer-free for more than 16 years, she says she has genetic markers that indicate she is at risk for other types of cancers.

Her photograph and those of 13 other survivors were on a digital billboard in New York City's Times Square on Feb. 26. Her story was featured on Fight CRC's Facebook page on March 6. March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

"I have a flame burning in me to show hope to others and to raise awareness" of screening, prevention and treatment, Ms. Suranski said.

Her mission includes traveling to Harrisburg to meet with Pennsylvania legislators to lobby for support and funding for research. Joining in the effort are her mother, Deborah Hadfield, of Thornburg, and her sister, Julie Major, of Plum. Her father, Ed Wirth, is also part of the story, she said.

Linda Wilson Fuoco: lfusco@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1953 or at PG Pets on Facebook.

Mt. Lebanon

School board continues to work

Members take part via teleconference

By Deana Carpenter

The Mt. Lebanon School Board held its regular meeting Monday, although eight of the nine members participated via telephone at the recommendation of district administration to practice social distancing because of COVID-19.

Board President Sarah Olbrich and district Superintendent Tim Steinhauer conducted the meeting while sitting a safe distance from each other.

"We have balanced the need for a public meeting with the unique concern around the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic by limiting the number of people present," Ms. Olbrich said.

She then made a motion to waive the board's policy that a majority of the board must be physically present at a meeting, which passed unanimously.

"This is a very fluid and changing situation," Ms. Olbrich said in her board president's report. She urged everyone to "please heed the suggestion of social distancing."

"We know this is hard, but if we all work together, we can truly help protect our community."

She added that Mr. Steinhauer will be posting daily updates and a "mindful moment" at 9 a.m. daily on the district's website, mtlsd.org.

"We continue to get information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education on almost a moment-by-moment basis, and we're trying to make correct and accurate decisions as we move forward with this," Mr. Steinhauer said.

He reminded residents that grab-and-go lunches for students in need will be handed out daily at the high school at entrance C-20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mr. Steinhauer also reminded parents, staff and students that the buildings

in the district are officially closed, with only essential personnel as identified by the superintendent reporting for work.

If a student or staff member requires admittance to a building, they must contact the building principal via email.

In business matters at the meeting, the board unanimously adopted a resolution calling for charter school funding reform.

The board also voted unanimously to purchase a school bus from Myers Equipment in the amount of \$92,849.

Deana Carpenter, freelance writer: suburbanliving@post-gazette.com.

Peters

School board meets despite threat of coronavirus

Members practice social distancing

By Deana Carpenter

The Peters Township School Board met for its regular meeting Monday with eight of its nine members present as well as district administrators. Board member Jennifer Grossman participated via phone.

The board sat a little farther apart than usual due to social distancing being advised because of COVID-19.

In her remarks at the meeting, Superintendent Jeannine French thanked the community for its support during this time.

"I think it's important for our community to know

"We're committed to accuracy over speed," when it comes to sharing pertinent information with families.

Jeannine French, superintendent

that our commitment is to keeping up with these rapidly changing guidelines, and for our part, we're making sure when we're analyzing these guidelines we're looking at the impact across all of our groups and all of our educational settings," Ms. French said regarding the virus, which has closed all schools in the state through at least March 27.

"We're committed to accuracy over speed," when it comes to sharing per-

tinent information with families, Ms. French said. "We want to make sure we're releasing thoughtful, accurate information."

"At this time we do not know everything, but the one thing we're committing to is to do it right and make good decisions to support our children."

She said the district will provide updated information to the community as soon as it's available and vetted by the district.

"If we stick together, we

will get through this," Ms. French said.

The board then conducted its regular business meeting and the following items were approved:

The purchase of one 72-passenger bus from Wolfington Body Co. at a total cost of \$87,070.

The purchase of a new Ford F350 4x4 truck from Wolz and Wind Ford at a cost of \$54,992. The vehicle will replace an existing truck.

A change order from the Fairfield Co. for \$3,993 for additional electrical and data outlets for the information technology department office at the new high school.

Deana Carpenter, freelance writer: suburbanliving@post-gazette.com.

rateSeeker.com
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Mortgage Guide

Institution	30 yr APR	30 yr Fixed	Product	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR	Phone Number / Website	NMLS # / License #
 Sky Financial Services Inc.	3.150%	Rate: 3.000	15 yr fixed	2.500	1.000	\$1148	20%	2.743	610-282-3000	NMLS# 141744
		Points: 1.250	10 yr fixed	2.500	0.875	\$1148	20%	2.829		
		Fees: \$1148	20 yr fixed	3.000	1.125	\$1148	20%	3.198		
		% Down: 20%	Consistent Rate Leader. Great Rates. Quality Service.							
 West View Savings Bank	3.577%	Rate: 3.500	15 yr fixed	2.875	0.000	\$395	20%	3.005	724-935-7400	NMLS# 662375
		Points: 0.000	20 yr fixed	3.250	0.000	\$395	20%	3.355		
		Fees: \$395	15 yr jumbo	3.000	0.000	\$395	20%	3.067		
		% Down: 20%	30 yr jumbo	3.500	0.000	\$395	20%	3.541		
 Westmoreland Federal Savings & Loan	3.384%	Rate: 3.375	15 yr fixed	2.875	0.000	\$191	20%	2.892	724-539-9755	NMLS# 518302
		Points: 0.000	10 yr fixed	2.875	0.000	\$191	20%	2.899		
		Fees: \$191	15 yr jumbo	2.750	0.000	\$191	25%	2.756		
		% Down: 20%	3% DOWN WITH PMI. WE DO NOT SELL OUR LOANS! 10YR JUMBO 2.758% APR							
 Advocate Mortgage Services	<p style="margin: 0;">We wont be beat! Pgh phone #, Pgh based!</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Local Pgh Co. over 20 yrs, Call for more rate options 412-921-1300</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Open Sat & Sun 9-12 and by appointment www.advocatemortgageservices.com</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Call Keith Eliou 412-921-1300 ext.13 or email keith@elioulaw.com</p>									
	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Rate Criteria: The rates and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 03/17/20. All rates, fees and other information are subject to change without notice. RateSeeker, LLC. does not guarantee the accuracy of the information appearing above or the availability of rates and fees in this table. The institutions appearing in this table pay a fee to appear in this table. Annual percentage rates (APRs) are based on fully indexed rates for adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs). The APR on your specific loan may differ from the sample used. All rates are quoted on a minimum FICO score of 740. Conventional loans are based on loan amounts of \$165,000. Jumbo loans are based on loan amounts of \$484,351. Lock Days: 30-60. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. FHA Mortgages include both UFMIP and MIP fees based on a loan amount of \$165,000 with 5% down payment. Points quoted include discount and/or origination. Fees reflect charges relative to the APR. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. VA Mortgages include funding fees based on a loan amount of \$165,000 with 5% down payment. If your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value, you will be subject to private mortgage insurance, or PMI. "Call for Rates" means actual rates were not available at press time. To access the NMLS Consumer Access website, please visit www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org. To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.</p>									

LocalXtra

‘Waste not, want not’ mission of 412 Food Rescue

RESCUE, FROM LX-1

founded in 2015. It has since expanded into surrounding counties.

The “rescue” refers to the rescue of food about to go to waste.

“It is a natural way to impact food waste and hunger at the same time,” Mr. Primm said. “It also helps the environment as it keeps it from the landfill.”

The 412 Food Rescue does not supply daily meals, but rather contributes to food banks, pantries and other organizations dedicated to alleviating hunger here.

“We complement what is there by adding supplemental produce and bread donations,” Mr. Primm said.

About 85% of the donations is fresh food, such as produce and bread.

Due to food safety requirements, all food donations must be produced in a commercial, ServSafe-certified kitchen and cannot have been set out, as in a buffet, or be unwrapped or uncovered.

Liability for donors, which once kept food businesses from donating items, is no longer a deterrent due to the federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act passed in 1996. It encourages food donations to nonprofits by excluding donor and recipient agency liability except for gross negligence or intentional misconduct.

The food rescue, headquartered in East Liberty, is funded by foundation grants, private donations and more.

“It is an individual organization that really functions on the kindness of people. It takes generosity from the donors that it can be distributed, and then volunteers taking time out



Skanda Sathya Vagheeswar, 10, left, and Krishna Sathya Vagheeswar, 13, of Upper St. Clair, pack bread into their parents’ car on March 8 to take it from Sanchioli Brothers Bakery in Bloomfield to a Wood Street Commons homeless shelter Downtown. The family said it volunteers with the 412 Food Rescue program every weekend.

Emily Matthews/Post-Gazette photos

of their day to deliver and distribute,” Mr. Primm said.

“But it doesn’t move without the volunteers,” he emphasized.

Miss Bennett said about 75% of the roughly 169 Groveton Village residents stop by the distribution site for food, which includes three deliveries from various Giant Eagle stores on Saturdays, brought in by volunteers.

Krishna, one of the volunteers, stands out for his dependability and longevity, she said.

“It takes a very special young man to take time to help others. He is



From left, Sridevi Lakshminarayanan joins sons Skanda and Krishna as they pick up the bread from Sanchioli Brothers Bakery in Bloomfield.

awesome.”

Krishna, who is also the son of Sridevi Lakshminarayanan, began his weekend rescues to meet the community service requirement in his school’s International Baccalaureate program.

The seventh grader at Fort Couch Middle School searched “community service” on Google and the 412 Food Rescue came up.

His father drove, and Krishna loaded and unloaded the produce, although his father helped with heavier hauls.

For his efforts, Krishna was awarded the Weekend

Rescue Warrior Award from 412 Food Rescue, which honors the volunteer who completed the highest number of weekend rescues in 2019.

He has completed more than 60 food rescues, Mr. Primm noted.

Last month, Krishna switched his rescue work to Sundays due to academic and athletic commitments.

His brother, Skanda, 10, who also has mandatory IB service, took over his Giant Eagle route on Saturdays.

“Skanda said, ‘Krishna won the award last year. I want to win it this year,’” Mr. Venkatasubramanian said.

Krishna now picks up bread on Sundays from Sanchioli Brothers Bakery in Bloomfield and delivers it to a Wood Street Commons homeless shelter, Downtown.

He said the most rewarding part of his service is knowing he is making a difference.

“At the homeless shelter a lady was waiting outside the kitchen door and asking for bread. It made me realize how much she needed this,” he said.

Krishna hopes his efforts on behalf of 412 Food Rescue is eye-opening for his fellow students.

“I want this to make people want to do more for the community, and I want this to show kids that no food should go to waste,” he said.

“When you throw food away, it could have gone to someone who needs it.”

To volunteer or donate, download the Food Rescue Hero app, call 412-277-3831 or visit the website, 412-foodrescue.org.

Margaret Smykla, freelance writer: suburbanliving@post-gazette.com.

North Hills

School superintendent announces webpage for COVID-19 updates

Board members use teleconferencing to conduct meeting

By Sandy Trozzo

The North Hills school Superintendent Patrick Mannarino last week announced that the district will have a webpage dedicated to COVID-19 for parents, students, teachers and administrators to receive updates.

“This is a very challenging time for all of us,” he said during the March 12 school board meeting, at which the members suspended a policy regarding teleconferencing so members could conduct

meetings via computer or phone during the COVID-19 threat.

The district livestreamed the brief meeting through social media.

North Hills already videotapes its meetings and has the video available through the district website but not in real time.

Mr. Mannarino also announced that all student and staff field trips through April 30 are canceled or suspended, including the band trip to Busch Gardens.

Activities such as the musical, elementary band

concert and the high school’s spring formal will be rescheduled, if possible.

The musical this year is “Catch Me If You Can” and had been scheduled for March 20-22 and 26-28.

In other business, the board awarded a \$648,500 contract to JM Young for replacement of selected sections of the middle school building roof.

The money will come out of the capital project fund.

Sandy Trozzo, freelance writer: suburbanliving@post-gazette.com.

ONCE UPON A TIME – PITTSBURGH

Prints of Fritz Keck’s oil paintings of distinctive Pittsburgh scenes are now available at PG Store



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Pitt wrestling

Lack of NCAA tournament doesn't diminish efforts



Pitt Athletics

Micky Phillippi, a graduate of Derry Area, took the No. 1 seed into the ACC tournament and successfully defended his title at 133 pounds.

By Craig Meyer
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When Micky Phillippi and Jake Wentzel walked off the mats of Petersen Events Center March 8, they were doing so for the last time that season.

Unbeknownst to the Pitt wrestlers in that moment, there would be no next time. There would be no NCAA championships they spoke excitedly about that night. Their dream wasn't necessarily denied, but, at the very least, it was delayed.

As they walked away from the arena's spotlight, however, they were able to do so as champions.

Though it won't come with a chance to compete for a national championship due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Phillippi, a Derry Area graduate, and Wentzel, a South Park graduate, earned

ACC championships in their respective weight classes earlier this month. In doing so, they ended their abbreviated seasons as triumphantly as they could have.

"I was told today I smiled more times than they've ever seen in my life, so I must have been doing something right," Wentzel said after the match.

Phillippi captured his title in the 133-pound weight class, successfully defending his championship from the previous season and living up to the No. 1 seed he carried going into the event. He won his two matches to claim the crown, defeating Louie Hayes of Virginia and Jaime Hernandez of North Carolina, in order.

With those victories, the sophomore moved to 25-1 on the season. It's a positive step from what was an excellent first full season at Pitt, one in which he went 21-4 after

transferring in from Virginia. That run included an ACC championship in his same weight class and an appearance in the NCAA championships, where he went 2-2.

It's the kind of success for which he was well-positioned. At Derry, he was a three-time state champion and, at one time, was ranked as high as No. 2 nationally in his weight class.

Given how his sophomore season transpired, the best for Phillippi is seemingly yet to come.

"I think I'm just confident and more mature in my wrestling," Phillippi said. "I think that's something that takes you a long way. There's a maturity thing that switches at some point in your career and I think I'm trying to get there now."

For Wentzel, his path to the

SEE **PITT**, PAGE LX-7

HISTORY LESSON



Edward A. "Doc" Rogers

In this 1918 photo made available by the Library of Congress, volunteer nurses from the American Red Cross tend to influenza patients in the Oakland Municipal Auditorium, used as a temporary hospital. The 1918 Spanish flu caused the WPIAL football championship to be canceled.

Virus put high school sports on hold once before ... in 1918

By Mike White
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When it comes to the cancellation of sports due to COVID-19, two words uttered often are "uncharted territory." But when it comes to the WPIAL and the postponement and cancellation of high school sports due to a virus, this isn't totally new.

You just have to be older than 100 to remember the last time it happened.

The year was 1918 and the U.S.

was still in World War I. But the world was also battling an influenza pandemic (Spanish flu) that killed an estimated 675,000 in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The death rate in Pittsburgh was reported to be higher than any other big city, as more than 1 in every 100 people died.

The flu also killed the 1918 WPIAL football championship.

Although the WPIAL was formed in 1906, its first champion

was crowned in football in 1914 (Wilkinsburg). The Pittsburgh chapter of the Syracuse Alumni Association established a Syracuse Cup that would be awarded to the WPIAL team judged to be the best. In 1915, the WPIAL had its first football championship game when Wilkinsburg beat Fifth Avenue, 12-7. There were no playoffs, but just one title game. Championship games were also played in 1916 and '17.

But the spread of the influenza got to be so bad that, in October

of 1918, schools in Western Pennsylvania were closed and high school football games were canceled. College football games also were canceled. For example, Pitt did not play a game until Nov. 9 against Washington & Jefferson. Pitt finished 4-1 that year and was named national champion by some outlets.

But with so many people dying, so many schools closed and so many football games called off, the WPIAL championship was canceled. Look on the list of

champions on the WPIAL web site and next to 1918 is one word: "NONE."

A headline in all capital letters in the Pittsburgh Daily Post on Nov. 20, 1918, read simply: "WON'T AWARD SYRACUSE GRID CUP THIS YEAR."

The first sentence of the story read, "The Syracuse trophy, which annually is awarded to the champion high school eleven of Western Pennsylvania by the

SEE **FLU**, PAGE LX-5

There's 'twinsanity' going on in girls basketball quarterfinals

By Brad Everett
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Having a twin has its perks, one of the biggest being able to switch places without anyone else knowing.

Chartiers Valley's Cowan twins did it once last year. Hallie went to Helene's math class, when at the same time Helene was sitting in

Hallie's English class. Hallie said neither teacher caught on.

Back in elementary school, Beaver's Weiland twins, unbeknownst to their teacher, would always switch desks on April Fool's Day.

These twins may be jokesters at times, but their games are no joke, and along with Trinity's Venick twins, have led to a twin takeover

in the PIAA girls basketball playoffs.

Ten teams from the WPIAL will continue to shoot for titles should the playoffs resume. They have been put on hold in the quarterfinal round due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of those 10 teams, Class 5A Chartiers Valley and Trinity and Class 3A Beaver all have twins who are key contributors.

- Hallie and Helene Cowan are among four sophomores who start for Chartiers Valley (27-0), which has won a WPIAL record 57 games in a row. Hallie averages 12.5 points per game and is shooting 42% from 3-point range. She has made 62 from behind the arc this season.

- Kaylin and Emily Venick are junior guards for Trinity (21-5).

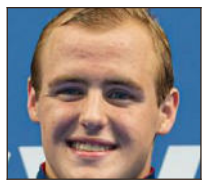
Kaylin is a starter and scored a team-high 13 points in a loss to Chartiers Valley in the WPIAL championship. Emily, who had ankle surgery last summer, has bounced back and is one of the first players off the bench.

- Maddi and Kenzie Weiland are juniors at Beaver (23-4). Both are

SEE **TWINS**, PAGE LX-5

VarsityXtra

Boys athlete of the week // The Post-Gazette's top male performer from the past seven days



Josh Matheny
Upper St. Clair swimming

The past week: Matheny won the PIAA Class 3A 100-yard breaststroke for the third consecutive year.

Check this out: Matheny, an Upper St. Clair junior, is considered one of the best high school swimmers in the country. He became the first WPIAL swimmer to win the PIAA 100 breaststroke three years in a row. He set a national high school record in the event last year. He has won the same race at the WPIAL championship three times also, and won a PIAA title in the 200 indi-

vidual medley as a sophomore. He won two gold medals and two silver medals at the FINA World Junior Championships last year in Hungary, and also two golds at the U.S. National Championships. He has qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials in June in the 100- and 200-meter breaststroke, and made a verbal commitment to the Indiana Hoosiers.

Were you bummed the PIAA canceled the final races because of COVID-19, and determined champions and places on times in trials? Most

swimmers usually leave a little in the tank after the morning (trials), so they can let it rip at night (in the finals). Personally, I did that as well. I still had more left. It was disappointing. But at the end of the day, the health of spectators and athletes is more important than an individual race.

With all the shutdowns because of the coronavirus, where are you training? It has been a day-to-day thing, where I might hear this pool or that pool is open.

Are you worried about the

Olympic Trials? Originally, I wasn't. But the way things are turning, I'm more and more worried about it being canceled. I would be disappointed. I've been training since September, just for the Olympic Trials. Everything else was in preparation for those. It's definitely a big worry, but not much I can do about it.

If the Trials were held, what would be successful for you? That's a hard question. I definitely want to swim my best times. From a place perspective, I'd really like to get top

eight. Then you get to swim in the 'A' final and be on TV. **What are some things you're doing with more free time?** Actually, I love to play pickleball. At Upper St. Clair, pickleball is huge. I've already played a few games the past few days. My house is about a minute away from a park that has pickleball courts. My friends just text each other and we play. **Favorite place swimming has taken you?** Definitely, it was Budapest (Hungary) last summer.

— By Mike White



Steph Chambers/Post-Gazette

Guards Hallie and Helene Cowan are sophomore starters for undefeated Chartiers Valley and among three sets of twins playing for WPIAL teams still in contention for PIAA titles.

Girls experiencing some 'twinsanity'

TWINS, FROM LX-4

starters — Maddi at guard and Kenzie at forward. The Bobcats reached the WPIAL Class 3A championship game.

For the coaches of these twins, putting them on the court and watching them flourish is the easy part. The challenge can sometimes be telling them apart. The Cowans and Weilands are identical twins (paternal), while the Venicks are fraternal.

Watching a Chartiers Valley game can become amusing when coach Tim McConnell tries to get Hallie or Helene's attention. No first names are used because he probably wouldn't get them right.

"I just call them 'twin.' I can't tell the difference," McConnell said. "The only way I can tell the difference in the game is by the numbers. I know No. 5 is my point guard and No. 23 is my shooter. If they didn't have their uniforms on, it would be a total guess."

There's a connection between McConnell and the other twins. McConnell's sister, Kathy McConnell-Miller, is Trinity's coach. The Weilands' dad, Dan, played for McConnell at Chartiers Valley. Dan Weiland is a 2000 graduate.

Beaver coach Greg Huston said he's usually able to distinguish one Weiland from the other. He did have a head start, though, having taught them social studies in seventh grade. He said Maddi is the quiet one and laughed when saying Kenzie can get "loud and feisty."

But others often get them confused. Case in point: Maddi made a couple of big 3-pointers against Penn Cambria, but some of the praise went to Kenzie instead.

"After the game, someone told her she's a nice shooter. She said, 'That wasn't me, but thank you,'" Maddi explained.

McConnell-Miller has mistaken the identities of the Venicks, but it has nothing to do with what they look like.

"Sometimes I do call them the wrong name, but I do that with my children sometimes, too," she said, laughing.

The trio of twins are all underclassmen, but are already making their marks. Hallie Cowan is arguably the best of the bunch. She made six 3-pointers and scored 29 points against Thomas Jefferson in the WPIAL

semifinals.

"They've been absolutely tremendous," McConnell said of the Cowans. "Everyone knows Aislin [Malcolm] is our scorer, Perri [Page] is our athlete, and Megan [McConnell] does her thing. Hallie had 29 points and made all those 3s. Helene isn't much of a scorer, but she rebounds, defends and hustles, all the things that don't get you in the newspaper."

McConnell-Miller described the Venicks as "two of the most social athletes I've ever been associated with. Everyone knows who they are." That includes opposing teams saddled with the task of trying to guard them.

"Kaylin is a team captain and has been incredible. I think she's had a great junior year. And Emily is high energy off the bench. She's a true point guard and has done a very good job," McConnell-Miller said.

The Venicks have actually been around football longer than they have basketball. Their father, Scott, is the longtime defensive coordinator at Waynesburg University.

The first two months of the season, Maddi was the only Weiland in Beaver's starting lineup. That changed when Kenzie joined her about a month ago.

"Since then, we've probably played some of our best basketball, and they've been a big part of it," said Huston. "They have long arms and are both tall. Defensively, they cause a lot of problems. They rebound so well and are just in every passing lane."

Having a sixth sense for knowing where their twin is on the court surely helps. To these sisters, "twin telepathy" is a real thing.

"When we're on the court together, we definitely click. She knows where I am and I know where she's at," Kaylin Venick said.

Hallie Cowan added: "I feel like we know each other's strengths and weaknesses. We connect well and give each other good passes. We know each other so well, it's like an advantage."

Your twin sister also being your closest pal doesn't hurt, either.

"I have a lot of fun playing with her," Kaylin Venick said of Emily. "I don't take those moments for granted. She's my best friend."

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PIAA girls basketball

Memorable season for Rottmanns

By Brad Everett
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Molly Rottmann has known for a couple of years that her North Catholic girls basketball team would be special this season.

"This kind of group doesn't come around very often," Rottmann said of a nine-member senior class that includes a pair of Division I recruits.

And in what came as a surprise to likely nobody, the Trojanettes became just the sixth team to win four consecutive WPIAL titles when they claimed their 20th overall last month.

As excited and proud as Rottmann was of that accomplishment, a title won by another team might have meant just as much. Her son, Hans, a senior on the North Catholic boys team, won his first WPIAL championship one night earlier.

"For him to win one, it was so important," said Molly, who has coached the girls for 22 seasons and is second all time with nine WPIAL titles.

"He's been around our girls for so long and we've won a lot of championships. For him to get one really meant a lot."

It has been an unforgettable season for the Rottmann family, who still have hopes of winning a couple of PIAA titles. Both the boys and girls teams have advanced to the quarterfinals. The boys are 26-2 and the girls 26-1. Due to the PIAA's postponement of the playoffs because of the coronavirus, it's still unclear if the season will continue.

"It's been awesome because I've been cheering on my mom's teams forever," said Hans, a 6-foot guard and one of the team's top reserves. "I used to be the waterboy. I hoped to play for the boys team and play for a championship. Winning a championship and watching my mom's team win a championship has been a dream come true."

Molly has seen just about every boys game this season. The boys and girls play their section games on different nights, there haven't been many overlaps other nights, and since the WPIAL quarterfinals, the two teams have played doubleheaders, a perk of being in different



Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

North Catholic coach Molly Rottmann guided the Trojanettes to their fourth consecutive WPIAL title last month, one day after her son, Hans, a senior on the North Catholic boys team, won his first.

classes — the girls compete in Class 4A and boys in Class 3A.

"We're so grateful and so blessed to have had double-headers all through the playoffs. To miss his games would make me really sad," Molly said. "To have them back to back has been pretty nerve-wracking, though. It's like, 'OK, we won. Now let's get out there and watch the boys play.'"

The Rottmanns have been a busy bunch. Molly and her husband, also named Hans, have four children, all boys. Hans is the oldest. Max is a freshman who played on the junior varsity team. Jude is in sixth grade and Thomas fourth.

Molly's husband has been to most games, too. Molly joked that he's come a long way considering, "He had never been to a high school basketball game before we started dating."

Needless to say, he has been to quite a few since. The two have been married for 23 years.

In addition to Molly coaching the girls team, Hans playing on the boys

team and Max on the junior varsity team, other family members have also been involved. Molly's dad, Bill, has been her longtime assistant. Also, a sister has a daughter on the team — senior Lucy Waskiewicz.

"I go to as many [girls games] as I can, especially the home games," Hans said. "The playoffs have been special because my cousin is on my mom's team and my grandfather is on the bench. I wouldn't miss their playoff games for the world."

Being that it's Hans' final season and Molly's final run with a group that includes the likes of Tess Myers (Duquesne) and Kylee Lewandowski (Richmond), there have been some emotional moments. One of the biggest came on senior night. The girls and boys played a doubleheader, with the girls beating Bethel Park and the boys edging Pine-Richland on a last-second shot.

"That was awesome," said Hans, one of six seniors on the team. "My whole family was there. My mom and dad walked me out on the

court. Mom and Coach [Dave DeGregorio] are friends and Coach D is the best. I feel like it's not just been four years for me. I feel like I've been a part of the North Catholic program for even longer. My mom was coaching there before I was born."

Molly added: "That night was really a gamut of emotions, and then the boys won on a buzzer-beater. My heart was pounding."

Like the rest of the teams still alive in the PIAA tournament, North Catholic is playing the waiting game, hoping to get a chance to finish what they started.

"I think it would be huge for all of us," Molly said. "They know there's one thing on the resume that still needs to be checked off. We lost [in the championship] last year and it would be hard to even get there this season. But if it never ends up being completed, there's certainly so much to be proud of."

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Virus put high school sports on hold once before

FLU, FROM LX-4

Syracuse alumni, will not be awarded this year."

The third sentence read, "The unusual conditions brought on by the war and the influenza ban is responsible."

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? At least the influenza part. Also in 1918, California postponed its state football championship and did not play it until March 8, 1919, when Fullerton beat Coronado.

Now back to 2020. Due to COVID-19, the PIAA last week postponed the rest of the boys and girls basketball tournaments, as well as the PIAA Class 2A boys and girls swimming and diving championships. The PIAA is waiting to make a decision whether to cancel the basketball and swimming championships. Also last week, Gov. Tom Wolf

ordered all Pennsylvania schools closed until at least March 30, so spring sports in the WPIAL and around the state have been put on hold. Teams are not permitted to practice.

This sounds almost strikingly similar to 1918. A Pittsburgh Press story in October of 1918 reported 1,400 saloons and 165 "motion picture houses" were closed in the city.

Postponement of WPIAL football games began in October. Teams had only played a few games until then and the health department mandated that teams not travel outside of Pittsburgh for fear of spreading the virus.

And even though it was 102 years ago, the suggestions to lessen the chances of contracting the virus are similar to now with COVID-19. A story in the Oct. 5, 1918 edition of the Pittsburgh

Gazette Times had information about a quarantine around the University of Pittsburgh, as well as 12 do's and don'ts from Gen. Charles Richard, acting surgeon general of the U.S. Army. Among the suggestions were:

- Avoid needless crowding, influenza is a crowd disease.
- Smother your coughs and sneezes.
- Wash your hands before eating.
- Remember the three C's — clean mouth, clean skin, clean clothes.
- Seek to make nature your ally, not your prisoner. When the air is pure, breathe all of it you can — breathe deeply.

Some high school teams did play a few games again in late October or early November of 1918, after getting clearance from the health department. It's interesting

to read the newspaper reporting of teams that were trying to play again.

One story in the Pittsburgh Daily Post reported on a player without giving his full name: "Fifth Avenue High may lose one of its best all-around athletes. He is Kinnee, the star end, who is reported fighting a losing battle with death from pneumonia. Kinnee played for Fifth in its first contest of the season, against South High at Expo park, before the flu ban set in."

Although the 1918 WPIAL football championship wasn't played, basketball season started in December. High school sports started back up. At least in that respect, WPIAL spring sports teams hope 2020 repeats 1918.

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VarsityXtra

Girls athlete of the week // The Post-Gazette's top female performer from the past seven days



Laura Goettler
Butler swimming

The past week: Goettler, a Duquesne recruit, finished her preliminary heat in the 100-yard breaststroke at the PIAA Class 3A championships in 1:02:66 — well off her personal best, but good enough to secure her second consecutive state title in the event after the evening session's championship finals were canceled due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19. **Check this out:** Goettler, a two-time PIAA champion in the 100 breaststroke and a three-time WPIAL champion in the 200-yard individual medley, will

compete in the 200 breaststroke at the 2020 Olympic Trials in June. **Even though you won your second state title based on your time in the preliminary heat, were you a bit disappointed that you didn't get to compete in the finals to try to lower your time?** Yeah, it completely took me by surprise. I had no idea until after I was done swimming, and then I was upset because I didn't try as hard as I would have in that final. I didn't prepare the same. It was kind of a letdown

overall. **How have you been preparing yourself for the Olympic Trials with everything going on lockdown?** Well, today was my last practice because all the pools got closed down, so I'm not too busy. **You don't have any friends or neighbors with a pool you can borrow for a couple months?** [Laughs] None that are indoor. It's too cold for outdoor [swimming]. **Do you have any superstitions as part of your routine before a big meet?** I always do the

same stretching routine before my races, and I usually do some pre-meditated thinking, like I visualize my race or I'll just listen to the same song every meet. But that's pretty much it. **What song would you be listening to on repeat if you had to pick one?** It's been a while since I've done that, but probably something by Kanye West. **His new stuff or his old stuff?** Old stuff. **What's one thing people would be surprised to know about you?** I'm really into art.

What's your favorite thing to draw? Probably animals. I like sketching animals. **Any animals in particular?** I tend to gravitate toward elephants. **Do you or did you ever play any other sports?** When I was younger, I did gymnastics for like four years before I started swimming, and I did a little bit of ballet. **Did you enjoy doing gymnastics?** Oh yeah, I loved it. I was a super energetic kid, so it was something I really enjoyed. — By Steve Rotstein

PIAA championships / Swimming & diving

Abrupt end catches many off guard

By Keith Barnes
Tri-State Sports & News Service

When Josh Matheny left Bucknell University's Kinney Natatorium after the second day of competition in the PIAA Class 3A finals, he had no idea he had won his third consecutive state 100-yard breaststroke title.

"I was sitting in my room with my roommate Jason Zhang and we were chillin' and getting ready. It was about noon when coach texted that finals were canceled," Matheny said. "I remember thinking that he had to be joking, but then I just had a sinking feeling. I was looking forward to racing all those guys at night again, but unfortunately it was canceled."

Prior to the PIAA postponement of the evening finals because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the competitors swam their preliminary rounds to determine seeding and lane assignments for the evening finals. But none of the swimmers had any idea until afterward that the state governing body had opted to use the times from the morning session as timed championship finals until well after the swimmers left the pool.

In fact, the Upper St. Clair junior did not receive his medal as the PIAA did not have an awards ceremony after any of the events.

"I think they're going to mail it," Matheny said. "The coronavirus is very serious and I feel I drew the short stick and unlucky, but they felt like



Michael M. Santiago/Post-Gazette

Upper St. Clair's Josh Matheny was surprised to learn he had won the PIAA championship in the 100-yard breaststroke.

that was what they had to do. It was unfortunate, but the health and safety of the athletes is more important than me getting to stand on top of the podium."

It's not like he hasn't been there before.

Matheny is the first WPIAL swimmer to win the state 100 breaststroke three consecutive years and it's the first in the state to do it in Class 3A since Brendan Hansen of Haverford from 1997-99.

"It's a great feeling winning three times in a row and it's always something you hear about, the legends winning four years in a row," Matheny said. "So now I have three and hopefully next year I can get the fourth."

If he does, Matheny will join Hershey legend David Nolan as the only boys swimmers in either classification since 1970 to sweep an event all four years and will become the first to do it in the highest

classification. Nolan won the 200 individual medley from 2008-11, but won the first three in Class 2A.

To be fair, though, Nolan's state championship times in Class 2A were better than the winning times at the Class 3A level every year.

More boys

Though Matheny was fortunate to finish first in the morning preliminaries and won the title, there were a couple of others who might have liked a chance to get back in the pool one more time.

North Allegheny senior Rick Mihm won the 500 freestyle each of the past two years and was looking to close out his career with a double-gold to go along with the state title he won in the 200 individual medley Wednesday. Instead, he had to settle for second in the 500 freestyle after a 4:30.15 swim that was 4.01 seconds behind Liam Smith of LaSalle

College. Mihm swam a 4:23.48 in the 2019 final heat.

Seneca Valley senior Owen Blazer came into the meet as the top seed in the 200 backstroke, but had to settle for third place 0.62 seconds behind winner Sean Faikish of North Penn.

"It was a little disappointing because I would have liked to have finished it out and I would have had a good shot at winning that one," Blazer said. "We had already been together for three sessions and, I think if people would have gotten the virus, they had already gotten it. It is what it is, but I don't know if I agree with what they did."

Girls diving

What makes Blazer's point a little more relevant is that the PIAA canceled the evening finals for swimming but still kept many of the swimmers, coaches and parents milling around during the Class 3A girls diving finals.

As it turned out, the PIAA told the swimmers they were cancelling the evening session and going with times finals from the preliminary rounds at around noon. The girls diving did not begin for another couple of hours and was not concluded until almost 6 p.m.

North Allegheny junior Maya Ennis, who finished second in the WPIAL this season and was 14th in the state finals last year, was the bronze medalist with 431.40 points, 75.75 behind champion Meghan Wenzel of North Penn.

Starting back up for one game could be difficult

By Keith Barnes
Tri-State Sports & News Service

Jordan Yoklic expected his phone to ring last Thursday afternoon.

But that didn't make hearing the news the PIHL playoffs were being suspended because of fears of the spread of the COVID-19 virus any easier.

"I think we understand the situation and, I know from a player-coach perspective, you're preparing to play a semifinal game, so you're excited and ready to play, but you understand, this virus is serious," the Pine-Richland coach said. "It's bigger than the game of hockey right now and we understand that's the

Hockey notebook

priority and that the players and their families are safe."

Pine-Richland was less than five hours from faceoff against rival North Allegheny at Robert Morris University Island Sports Center when word came down from PIHL commissioner John Mucha that the league was going to follow the PIAA guideline and postpone the Penguins Cup tournament for a minimum of two weeks in an effort to stem the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

They were the first game of the doubleheader at the Island Sports Center that night as Seneca Valley and Peters

Township were set to play the nightcap until the tournament was placed in limbo.

"It kind of really wasn't a shocker once you saw the NBA end their season and everything else seemed to follow suit, the NHL and the NCAA," Seneca Valley coach Anthony Raco said. "When you see at the professional level and the collegiate level, you just await that coming for high school kids."

Restrictions were placed on teams that they would not be allowed to hold an organized practice until the ban has been lifted. And, though the PIAA's original missive directed the suspension of play to begin at two weeks, it is entirely possible this will last

quite a bit longer.

There is also the prospect the teams, if in all likelihood they do play, may end up having to go into their semifinals without an opportunity to practice. Finding ice time for workouts is usually a challenge, but to do so in the offseason outside of the teams' normal weekly schedule, might prove difficult.

"I'm sure the league will take that into consideration and I know that they're in a tough scenario," Yoklic said. "But at the end of the day, it will be two teams, Pine-Richland and North Allegheny just stepping on the ice to play a hockey game and, they're also a hockey team that's in the same boat."

While Class 3A teams will have to play two more games before they get to the finals, there are six squads, two each in Class B, Class 1A and Class 2A, that have already made it into the finals and are sitting on the cusp of a championship.

And waiting. "It's very frustrating and, I understand the reasoning, but it doesn't make it any less frustrating," Thomas Jefferson coach Bill Crousey said. "Obviously with the time off — and hopefully we'll get to play — but it's just going to make the practices all that more important for one game."

Still, there is a very real chance the PIHL will be forced to cancel the remainder of the tournament and, for all intents and purposes, end the season on a never-to-be-resolved cliffhanger.

"I think the league is going to give us a buffer window in terms of when the games are going to be played, but that's all up in the air," Raco said. "They need to do what they need to do and we just want to finish at this point and that's better to me than not playing at all."

Recruiting notebook

Penn-Trafford's Rocco proves he's Army Strong

By Brad Everett
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Zach Rocco trusted the process.

And when it comes to getting into a college, you might not find a process longer or more rigorous.

There were interviews and essays, nominations by congressmen and senators, and lots of physical testing — 54 push-ups in two minutes, 18 pull-ups, 90 sit-ups and a two-mile run.

But nearly a year after submitting his initial application, Rocco found out he was granted admission.

He was Army Strong, for sure.

Rocco, a senior at Penn-Trafford, wants to be all he can be. For him, that's joining the Army. Last month, Rocco accepted an appointment to West Point. He will play basketball for the Black Knights, who compete in the Patriot League. Rocco is one of three WPIAL seniors who will play at Division I schools. Butler's Ethan Morton (Purdue) and Central Valley's Isiah Warfield (Liberty) are the others.

A 6-foot-2 point guard, Rocco has outstanding numbers on and off the court. He led WPIAL Class 6A in scoring this season with 23.4 points per game. In his four years as a starter, he scored 1,170 points. He also has a 4.3 GPA and ranks in the top 20 of his class. In addition, he and a classmate started an Active Minds group at Penn-Trafford. The organization supports mental health awareness and education for students.

"It's the perfect fit. He could not have scripted a better scenario in terms of matching who he is," said Jim Rocco, Zach's father and Penn-Trafford's coach. "We were just elated when they offered him an opportunity, and he then earned his way in."

"He's just a different kind of kid. It's his commitment to leading, commitment to service, commitment to the mission. He's really good at looking out for other people. He's been able to build his skill set athletically and academically to put him in a position to serve others. He's always been a kid who's had perspective."

Zach was also receiving interest from Ivy League and other Patriot League schools, but said Army has long been the only school he has wanted to attend. So, you can imagine the excitement — and relief — he

felt after finding out he gained admission. His dad, who is a forensic science teacher at Penn-Trafford, was the first to learn of the news. Jim had a few of his students go to the lunchroom and ask Zach to come to his classroom. Once he did, the class went wild, sort of like when Zach would knock down a big shot in front of the home crowd.

"It was a big weight off my shoulders. I basically put all my eggs in that basket," Zach said. "I knew it would be tough to get in. So as soon as I found out I did, it was huge."

Rocco doesn't come from a military family, but said he became enamored with Army when he watched one of its games his freshman year — "They just played so hard," he said. He would eventually take a few visits there, including one to attend an Army-Navy basketball game.

"The summer going into my junior year, I went there for a basketball camp, and I fell in love with it," he said.

Rocco gained direct admission, so he is not required to attend the Army's prep school. He's planning to leave for West Point on June 29 for BEAST week, which is basic training.

Jim Rocco credited a few other well-known basketball coaches for mentoring his son along the way, among them North Catholic's Dave DeGregorio, New Castle's Ralph Blundo and Naismith Hall of Famer Bob Hurley Sr.

Zach's success — on and off the court — has made his father proud.

"I've coached a lot of Power Five kids, guys that have gone on to play professionally," Jim said. "But he's by far the most decorated student-athlete that I've ever coached."

Basketball commitments

Moon's Aubree Evans (Davis & Elkins); Quaker Valley's K.C. Johns (Allegheny).

Baseball commitment

South Fayette's Nolan Lutz (Washington & Jefferson).

Football commitments

Knoch's Scott Fraser (Grove City); Penn-Trafford's Cole DeFillippo (Grove City).

Brad Everett: beverett@post-gazette.com and [@BREAL12](https://twitter.com/BREAL12).



Barry Reeger/ For the Post-Gazette

Senior point guard Zach Rocco, a four-year starter and 1,000-point scorer at Penn-Trafford, will play Division I basketball for Army.

Are you experiencing any of these symptoms?

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Robert W. Petruso, is a licensed board certified hearing instrument specialist and the owner of R.W. Petruso Hearing and Audiology Center. He has proudly cared for western Pennsylvania's hearing healthcare needs since 1973.

Robert W. Petruso, BC-HIS

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South Bids and Proposals

Borough Manager, Borough of Jefferson Hills, 925 Old Clairton Road, Jefferson Hills, PA 15025 on or before 10:00 A.M. prevailing time, April 6, 2020. Proposals shall be delivered in a sealed envelope and clearly marked on the outside with the words "2020 JEFFERSON HILLS PAVING PROGRAM".

South Bids and Proposals

Copies of Drawings, Specifications, Instructions to Bidders, General Conditions, Forms of Proposals and Agreement are on file and open to public inspection at the office of The Gateway Engineers, Inc., 100 McMorris Road Pittsburgh, PA 15025 where sets of said documents may be obtained upon payment of \$50.00 per set. No refund will be made for the return of any documents. An additional \$10.00 will be required for each set of plans if they are to be mailed.

East Bids and Proposals

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that separate and sealed proposals will be received by the Borough of Forest Hills, 4400 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221, at the Office of the Borough Manager, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Wednesday 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, until prevailing time, on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM**. Proposals must be clearly marked with the name of the project as it appears below.

2018 CITF-113 Pool Lodge AC – Re-bid

Copies of Information for Bidders, Contract, Form of Proposal and Bid Forms, Plans and Specifications may be examined or obtained for bidding purposes from GLENN ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES, LTD., 14920 Lincoln Highway (Route 30), North Huntingdon, PA 15642. Copies of the above documents may be obtained with a check, cash or money order deposit (non-refundable) made payable to Glenn Engineering & Associates, Ltd. in the amount of Eighty-five Dollars (\$85.00) for each project. Requests for mailing will be honored with an additional fee of Twelve Dollars (\$12.00).

No documents will be issued within 48 hours of the scheduled bid opening.

"Compliance is required with the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act of 1961, P.L. 987, No.442; Title VI and other applicable provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Department of Labor Equal Opportunity Clause (41 CFR 60 -1.4); Executive Order 11625 (Utilization of Minority Business Enterprise); Executive Order 12138 (Utilization of Female Business Enterprise); in compliance with Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Allegheny County MBE/WBE Program enacted July, 1981, which sets forth goals of 13 percent Minority and 2 percent Female Business Enterprise; and the Allegheny County Ordinance #6867-12, setting forth goals of 5 percent veteran owned Small Businesses."

All bidders must submit a bid bond in the form of a certified check, bank cashier's check, or other form of negotiable instrument which is guaranteed by a commercial bank. Bid bond must be drawn to the order of the Borough of Forest Hills in the sum of 10% of the total bid and must be submitted with the proposal. The borough reserves the right to accept or reject any form of a bid bond which, in the sole opinion of the borough, does not provide sufficient security for the bid. The borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or any portion of any bid, waiver informality or irregularity of any bid or in the bidding and/or negotiate with the receipt of bids. The township reserves the right to increase or decrease any or all quantities. No bid will be accepted after the time herein specified whether or not the bidder has a time other than the official borough time. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days once filed with the Borough of Forest Hills.

Steven J. Morus Borough Manager

The Municipality of Bethel Park reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, or any part thereof, for any reason, and also reserves the right to waive any informality therein.

By: Laurence Christian Municipal Manager

South Bids and Proposals

The Municipality of Bethel Park reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals, or any part thereof, for any reason, and also reserves the right to waive any informality therein.

East Bids and Proposals

Copies of Drawings, Specifications, Instructions to Bidders, General Conditions, Forms of Proposals and Agreement are on file and open to public inspection at the office of The Gateway Engineers, Inc., 100 McMorris Road Pittsburgh, PA 15025 where sets of said documents may be obtained upon payment of \$50.00 per set. No refund will be made for the return of any documents. An additional \$10.00 will be required for each set of plans if they are to be mailed.

South Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE MT. LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA

At a meeting held Tuesday, March 10, 2020, the Mt. Lebanon Commission enacted Ordinance (Bill No. 3-20) ratifying an amendment to the municipality's money purchase plan.

LEGAL AD MUNICIPALITY OF PENN HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

The Penn Hills Planning Commission will meet on March 26, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Penn Hills Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 102 Duff Road, to consider the following:

- SITE PLAN # 533** David Ricupero, owner of Ricupero Landscaping located at 518/522/524 Hulton Road has submitted an application to request site plan approval to construct a new 58' x 90' storage building for his landscaping business. The Zoning is R-1, Single Family Residential and the lot and block numbers are 0536-B-00381-0000-00 and 0536-A-00200-0000-00.
- DISCUSSION:** The purpose of the public hearing is to present the Municipality of Penn Hills' FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds

East Bids and Proposals

may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Municipality of Monroeville. MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE. MONTROUVILLE, PA. 15055. A. GIGLIOTTI, Mayor. MONTROUVILLE, PA. 15055. A. GIGLIOTTI, Mayor. MONTROUVILLE, PA. 15055. A. GIGLIOTTI, Mayor.

West Bids and Proposals

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER – The Municipal Authority of the Township of South Fayette fully complies with the provisions of this Act. All qualified bidders are invited to submit a proposal.

THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FAYETTE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AWARD OR TO REJECT ANY AND/OR ALL PORTIONS THEREOF PROPOSALS SUBMITTED, AND TO WAIVE INFORMALITIES IN THE BIDDING PROCESS IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE AUTHORITY.

Municipal Authority of the Township of South Fayette Jerry Brown, Managing Director

BID NOTICE

Robinson Township will be accepting bids for the Demolition of Buildings project. The project includes the demolition and disposal of existing structures in Robinson Township, including the removal and disposal of various asbestos containing materials in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements. Sealed bids are to be submitted online (www.PennBid.net) by Monday April 6, 2020 at 10:00am, at which time they will be opened and read aloud at the Robinson Township Municipal Building, 1000 Church Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205. All bid documents and solicitation details are available at no cost at: www.PennBid.net. For additional information, please contact Remington & Vernick Engineers at (412) 263-2200.

Bid Notice Montour School District

The Montour School District is requesting proposals for school food service management services. The Food Service Management Company will provide management services according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations and guidelines, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education policies and guidelines. To request a bid packet, please email: clarkek@montourschools.com. All sealed bids, must be received no later than April 29, 2020 by 10:00AM at the address below:

Woodland Hills School District Request for Proposal for Security Services

The Woodland Hills School District is requesting proposals from qualified security guard providers that can provide Security Services. Detailed specification may be obtained at the following hyperlink: <https://bit.ly/3f3p42w>, or by visiting www.wnsd.net listed under Administration, Business Office and click on the link Bids/RFP's. The Board of School Directors reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of these Bids/RFP's and to waive any informalities which, in its judgment, do not serve the best interest of the Board.

West Bids and Proposals

ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed bids will be received by Municipal Authority of the Township of South Fayette, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for the following:

Portman Run Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Contract No. 2020-01A - Sanitary Sewer Main Lining Contract

Contract No.2020-01B- Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining/Grouting Contract

BID OPENING – Sealed bids shall be submitted online via the PennBid Program until 10:00 AM local time Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at which time all bids will become publicly available. Equipment and Services to be provided shall be according to the specifications which are on file at the office of KLH ENGINEERS, INC., 5173 Campbells Run Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205, and at the Municipal Authority of the Township of South Fayette office, 900 Presto Sygan Road, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania 15017.

All plans and specifications are available online at no cost at www.PennBid.net.

No bid may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the time of the opening of the bids. Contractor shall submit an E-Verify Program Verification in compliance with the Public Works Employment Verification Act 127 of 2012. BIDDER'S SURETY A certified check payable to the MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FAYETTE or a bid bond on the bid form executed by the Bidder and a surety company approved by the OWNER, in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the total amount of bid, must be submitted with each bid or bids will be considered nonresponsive and immediately rejected. SUCCESSFUL BIDDING BIDDER awarded this contract shall provide a performance surety in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract amount.

North Legal Notices

(20-02) applications: **Eat'n Park Conditional Use (20-01)** – The applicant is proposing to redevelop the site of the existing Eat'n Park restaurant, located at 5143 Route 8 in an HC zoning district. The project would revise the location of the shared lot lines with the property to the northwest, also zoned HC, and would cover numerous site improvements, including the construction of a new restaurant building to replace the existing Eat'n Park, a revised parking layout, the installation of a drive-thru lane for take-out orders, and other required site improvements.

North Park Sports Complex Conditional Use (20-02) – The applicant, PCG Acquisitions LLC, is requesting to add a second approved use for "convention/rental space" to the previously approved "commercial recreation" use at the North Park Sports Complex, located at 2330 Wildwood Road in a Light Industrial (LI) zoning district, in order to hold periodic home/trade shows in a portion of the existing dome structure. Groups of two or more businesses on one site with shared parking may only be permitted if granted as a conditional use by Township Council. Additionally, although "convention/rental space" is not specifically listed as an allowable use in the LI zoning district, it may be granted as a conditional use if Council finds it to be similar to and compatible with adjacent (or surrounding) existing and permitted uses.

The proposed Conditional Use applications are available for review at the Township Municipal Building during regular office hours, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, should persons with a disability wish to attend this meeting and require auxiliary aid to participate, please contact the Township office at 412-486-0400 at least seven days prior to the meeting date. Anyone unable to attend the Public Hearings may deliver written testimony to the Township office on or before Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

W. Christopher Lochner, Municipal Manager

South Legal Notices

The Zoning Hearing Board of Bethel Park will consider the following matters: (1) use variance for a restaurant in the C-1 zoning district, Section 69.38.2 (2 way aisle width), 441 McMurray Road, Jason Campagna; (2) use variance to allow carryout and high turnover restaurants (with no seat maximum) in the Parkside Center neighborhood building (currently zoned C-1, neighborhood commercial), Section 69.29.1, 2401-2425 South Park Road, Parkside

INVITATION TO BID

Trash Removal Montour School District McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania

The Montour School District is soliciting bids for trash removal contractors for a three-year period commencing on July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023. Specifications may be obtained at the District Facilities Office at 5530 Alken Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136 or by calling 412-490-6500, Extension 6242 between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope with "Trash Removal" written on the outside of the envelope and received at the Facilities Office of the Montour School District, 5530 Alken Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136 no later than 2:00 PM on Monday, April 13th, 2020. Bids received after 2:00 p.m. or at a location other than the Facilities Office, will not be accepted. Bids will be opened on Monday, April 13th, 2020 at 2:15 pm. All bids are required to be honored for ninety days from opening. Bids are to be submitted on the Bid Form supplied.

South Legal Notices

Center LP; (3) side yard variance to enclose existing 4 ft x 10 ft side porch less than 10 ft from property line, Section 69.25.4, 3057 Greenwald Road, Mary Ratkiewicz. A hearing on these matters will be held on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building at 5100 West Library Avenue.

Official Municipality of Bethel Park PUBLIC NOTICE

Bethel Park Municipal Council approved the following ordinance at the regular meeting on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bethel Park Municipal Building, 5100 West Library Avenue, Bethel Park, PA 15102:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF BETHEL PARK, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPALITY TO INCUR LEASE RENTAL DEBT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00 BY ENTERING INTO A NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT OF LEASE AND A SIXTH SUPPLEMENTAL GUARANTY AGREEMENT FOR THE GUARANTEED SEWER REVENUE BONDS (FEDERALLY TAXABLE), REFUNDING SERIES A OF 2020, TO BE ISSUED BY THE BETHEL PARK MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ADVANCE REFUNDING OF THE OUTSTANDING GUARANTEED SEWER REVENUE BONDS, REFUNDING SERIES OF 2013 OF THE AUTHORITY AND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS REPRESENTING THE CAPITALIZED AMOUNT OF SAVINGS REALIZED BY THE REFUNDING PROGRAM; APPROVING OF AGREEMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; COVENANTING TO PAY, AND PLEDGING THE FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AND UNLIMITED TAXING POWER FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE GUARANTEED DEBT SERVICE; MAKING CERTAIN OTHER COVENANTS AND PROVISIONS IN RESPECT OF THE PAYMENT OF THE GUARANTEED DEBT SERVICE;

West Legal Notices

LEGAL AD MUNICIPALITY OF PENN HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

The Penn Hills Planning Commission will meet on March 26, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Penn Hills Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 102 Duff Road, to consider the following:

- SITE PLAN # 533** David Ricupero, owner of Ricupero Landscaping located at 518/522/524 Hulton Road has submitted an application to request site plan approval to construct a new 58' x 90' storage building for his landscaping business. The Zoning is R-1, Single Family Residential and the lot and block numbers are 0536-B-00381-0000-00 and 0536-A-00200-0000-00.
- DISCUSSION:** The purpose of the public hearing is to present the Municipality of Penn Hills' FY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan, FY 2020 Annual Action Plan, and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds and HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds

West Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF FINDLAY

The audit of Findlay Township has been completed for the year ended December 31, 2019. The summary of the Auditor's Report is below. The report is available for public inspection during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Findlay Township Municipal Building, 1271 Route 30, Clinton, PA 15026.

	General Fund	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Debt Service	Proprietary Funds	Fiduciary Funds	General Fixed Assets	General Long Term Debt	Total All Funds
REVENUES:									
Real Estate Taxes	\$1,336,295	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,336,295
Real Estate Transfer Taxes	519,060	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	519,060
Income and Local Service Taxes	2,583,416	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,583,416
Parking Tax	4,785,316	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,785,316
Miscellaneous Taxes	162,509	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	162,509
Total Tax Revenues	9,386,596	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,386,596
Licenses and Permits	115,199	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115,199
Fines and Forfeits	27,217	7,401	-	-	-	-	-	-	34,618
Interest, Gains, Rents and Royalties	233,913	7,606	9,134	-	-	2,920,480	-	-	3,171,133
Intergovernmental Revenues	561,510	271,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	832,510
Solid Waste Facility Host Fee	1,616,563	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,616,563
Charges for Services	632,558	12,940	-	-	-	-	-	-	645,498
Pension Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	1,261,824	-	-	1,261,824
Miscellaneous Revenues	10,669	97,203	964	-	-	-	-	-	108,836
Other Financing Sources	-	-	94,174	-	-	8,339	-	-	102,513
Total Revenues	\$12,584,225	\$396,150	\$104,272	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,190,643	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,275,290
EXPENDITURES:									
General Government	\$ 731,266	\$ 62,525	\$ 1,848,971	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,642,762
Public Safety	3,533,404	113,785	274,874	-	-	-	-	-	3,922,063
Health and Human Services	22,760	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,760
Sanitation	99,338	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99,338
Highways and Streets	1,012,357	231,088	754,793	-	-	-	-	-	1,998,238
Culture and Recreation	557,248	3,617	201,676	-	-	-	-	-	762,541
Fiduciary Fund Benefits and Fees Paid	-	-	-	-	-	874,351	-	-	874,351
Employer Paid Benefits and Withholding Items	2,892,802	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,892,802
Judgements and Losses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance, Casualty, and Surety	129,216	8,265	-	-	-	8,018	-	-	145,499
Debt Service	-	-	519,516	-	-	-	-	-	519,516
Other Financing Uses	18,741	5,404	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,145
Total Expenditures	\$ 8,997,132	\$ 424,684	\$ 3,599,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 882,369	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,904,015
Excess (Deficiency) Prior to Transfers	3,587,093	(28,534)	(3,495,558)	-	-	3,308,274	-	-	3,371,275
Fund Transfers In	22,397	30,663	2,623,217	-	-	-	-	-	2,676,277
Fund Transfer Out	(2,653,880)	(22,397)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,676,277)
Excess (Deficiency)	\$ 955,610	(\$ 20,268)	(\$ 72,341)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,308,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,371,275
BALANCE SHEET									
Cash and Investments	\$10,859,116	\$ 789,152	\$ 198,819	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,747,096
Receivables	120,180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,180
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,976,759	-	24,976,759
Total Assets	\$10,979,296	\$ 789,152	\$ 198,819	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$19,207,109	\$ 24,976,759	\$ 56,151,135
Liabilities	-	11,001	130,248	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,368	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,561,000
Investment in General Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,976,759	-	24,976,759
Equity	\$10,979,296	778,151	68,571	-	-	-	(19,205,741)	(4,561,000)	26,470,759
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$10,979,296	\$ 789,152	\$ 198,819	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$19,207,109	\$ 24,976,759	\$ 56,151,135
DEBT STATEMENT									
Created by Action of Council:		Year of Issue	Original Amount	Outstanding 2018	Incured 2019	Paid 2019	Outstanding 2019		
General Obligation Note	2015	2,544,000	1,753,000	-	292,000	1,481,000			
General Obligation Note	2018	3,150,000	3,150,000	-	70,000	3,080,000			
Capital Lease	2013	111,950	18,581	-	-	-			

South Legal Notices

AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS AND OTHER NECESSARY AND PROPER ACTION AND REPEALING INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS. A copy of the full text of this ordinance may be examined by any citizen weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Bethel Park Municipal Building, 5100 West Library Avenue. Laurence J. Christian, Municipal Manager

Official Notice C & D Towing & Recovery, Inc. Unclaimed Abandoned Vehicles

Sealed bids will be accepted until March 27, 2020 @ C & D Towing & Recovery, Inc. 109 McClure Street Dravosburg, PA 15034 for the following abandoned vehicle(s):

2016 Subaru VIN: 4S4BSBNC8G3301685
 ??? Serro VIN: 5913900
 2008 Springdale VIN: 4YDT3722583105541

If, after 30 days from the date of this notice, these vehicle(s), and their contents remain unclaimed, these items will be disposed of. Failure of the owner or lien holder to reclaim these vehicles and their contents shall be deemed consent by the owner and/or lien holder to the destruction, sale or other disposition of these vehicles and its contents, free and clear of all liens and claims. THIS IS YOUR ONLY NOTIFICATION.

East Legal Notices

LEGAL AD MUNICIPALITY OF PENN HILLS PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING