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## AS PIRATES' LOSSES MOUNT, BUSINESSES TAKE A HIT

### MONEYBALL REALITIES: City's revenue, vendors and even PNC Park itself feel impact of team's slump

By Mark Belko  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Pittsburgh Pirates are mired in a miserable season, something that can affect far more than the city's psyche. It also can impact the bottom line — and not just that of the team itself.

When the Pirates lose, attendance plummets, and city amusement and parking tax revenues tumble, according to a review of a decade of data by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

And it can even affect the amount of money available for capital improvements at the North Shore ballpark, the analysis found.

Likewise, vendors typically don't sell as many jerseys, caps and other souvenirs when the team is losing. Restaurants and bars around PNC Park don't serve as many guests.

The Pirates have heard it before. They counter that even in the bad years they pack an economic punch for the city and the region.

In a statement, the team said the fact that "more fans equal more economic impact is, quite frankly, old news. There is nothing magic to that theory."

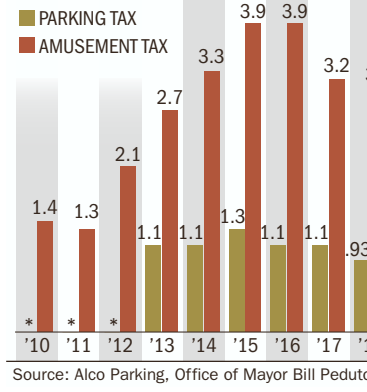
"The newsworthy item here really is that, even in our lowest overall attended season in

SEE **MONEYBALL**, PAGE A-4

### Wins and revenues, Pirates and taxes

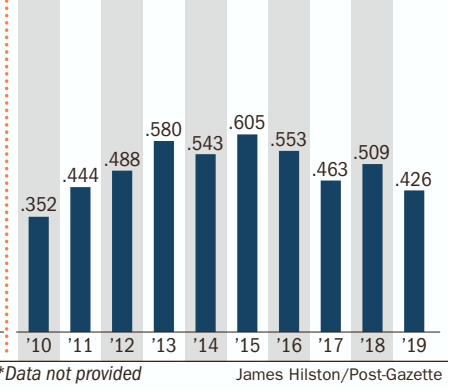
TAX REVENUES GENERATED BY THE PIRATES

In millions of dollars, 2010-19



PIRATES' WIN PERCENTAGE

2010-19



Source: Alco Parking, Office of Mayor Bill Peduto

\*Data not provided

James Hillston/Post-Gazette

## GOLD STANDARD



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Former Steelers safety Troy Polamalu gives his enshrinement speech during the 2020 Centennial Pro Football Hall of Fame Class induction Saturday at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio. See full coverage of the induction ceremony, **Sports, B-1**

## Infrastructure deal

# \$1T bill clears key bar in Senate

By Daniel Moore  
Post-Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate on Saturday cleared a final procedural vote to advance legislation that pledges to spend nearly \$1 trillion over five years to rebuild the nation's roads, bridges, waterways, airports and power grid while expanding affordable broadband and building electric vehicle charging stations.

The upper chamber of Congress voted 67-27 to proceed to a final vote — with 18 Republicans, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky — joining members of the Democratic caucus in moving it forward. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., voted to advance to a final vote, while Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., voted against it.

The vote count was enough to override the Senate's filibuster rule, which requires at least 60 votes to advance legislation. The movement of the sprawling 2,702-page bill, called the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, was a major bipartisan victory forged over weeks of talks by a core group of GOP senators, Democratic leaders and President Joe Biden.

Yet just as lawmakers overcame one Senate hurdle, they still face another.

### Inside

- Democrats feel pressure to pass path to citizenship as midterms loom, **A-3**
- Arizona's Sen. Kyrsten Sinema popular with everyone in D.C. but progressive Democrats, **A-14**

## Buried in student debt, grads grow impatient with Biden

By Daniel Moore  
Post-Gazette Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — In the nine years since Sarah Marshall earned her degree in media arts and animation from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, she has struggled to find work in her field that pays enough to keep up with her growing student debt.

The week before President Joe Biden visited the Pittsburgh area in March to unveil part of a spending plan pledging up to \$4 trillion in infrastructure and social programs

to help families and children, she wrote to him with the hope that, finally, the government would take action to address student debt.

After all, student debt forgiveness was a top issue during the Democratic primary election last year, and Mr. Biden has promised to rebuild the country stronger after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When he was running for office, that's the only reason he got my vote," Ms. Marshall said.

But student debt forgiveness has

SEE **DEBT**, PAGE A-10

## New ban on evictions brings relief, but not much certainty

By Lauren Rosenblatt  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In the two days after the federal ban on evictions expired and before a new federal moratorium was put in place, members of 57 households in Allegheny County were at risk of losing their homes.

On Monday, the day after the ban ended, there were 28 orders for possession filed, according to Anne Wright, a project scientist at Carnegie Mellon University's Create Lab, which analyzes data on eviction filings in the region.

### Inside

U.S. Rep. Cori Bush's sit-in on the Capitol steps inspired a revolt on evictions, **A-17**

The next day, 29 were filed.

That means in those cases, a judge had ruled in favor of landlords and the clock had started ticking for tenants to find new homes.

Some landlords, she said, weren't wasting any time.

SEE **EVICCTIONS**, PAGE A-11

### Weather

Daytime high, 86  
tonight's low, 68  
**Page B-12**

Almanac ..... **A-2**  
Books ..... **D-7**  
Bridge ..... **D-7**  
Business ..... **F-1**  
Crosswords ..... **D-7**

Editorials ..... **D-1**  
Goodness ..... **G-1**  
Horoscope ..... **E-5**  
In Focus ..... **A-8**  
Insight ..... **D-1**

Jobs ..... **F-4**  
Lottery ..... **A-14**  
Mortgages ..... **E-8**  
Obituaries ..... **C-3**  
Real Estate ..... **E-4**

Sports ..... **B-1**  
State & Region ..... **C-1**  
Sunday Magazine .. **E-1**  
Television ..... **E-3**  
Traffic Watch ..... **C-2**

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# Ask the Medicare Specialist

by: Aaron Zolbrod



## QUESTION:

From Christie: Hello, I've read your series, "New to Medicare" and saved it. But, as you know, it's still very confusing. I signed up for Medicare Part A last year and need to be 66 and 2 months for full Social Security benefits. I'm thinking of retiring in October or November. I have XYZ insurance through my employer and I would like to stay with that company for my Medicare plan. However, I have no idea what I need to do from now until then. Can you advise me please?

## ANSWER:

Before signing up for any Medicare plan, someone in your position, already on Part A and still working past age 65, must first sign up for Medicare Part B. Here is the process: You need a "Request for Employment Information" form, which consists of two pages. You can print one out online or we can provide it to you or anyone else for that matter, as well as walk you through the steps again if need be. The first page must be filled out and signed by your employer, verifying that you've had health insurance since turning 65. The second page needs to be completed by you and includes personal information. Those forms then need to be provided to your local Social Security office. I suggest making an appointment with Social Security to speak to a representative as soon as you know when you're going to retire because it takes about six to eight weeks from the time you make an appointment until you get your new Medicare card in the mail.

You can have a consultation, which are always no cost, with myself or another of our licensed agents before applying or while waiting for your new card to come in. And you can actually enroll in a plan as long as we know that your Medicare Part B has been or is going to be processed.

As far as making your selection in plans, there is one statement Christie made that concerns me. She has XYZ insurance (CMS regulations state I can't mention Medicare Advantage or Part D companies by name) and wants to stay with that provider when she goes on Part B and no longer has employer coverage.

Here's the problem I have with that logic of choosing a Medicare plan. What health insurance provider you have or had while working should have nothing to do with the choice you make for several reasons. First, it doesn't guarantee better benefits or pricing. As far as a Supplement, if Christie chooses letter plans N or G from the company she has now, she could pay as much as \$77 more per month for Plan N and \$33 for Plan G. And remember because all Medicare Supplement companies and plans are regulated to provide the exact same medical benefits and access to doctors and hospitals nationwide, Christie would get nothing for the extra \$400 to \$900 per year in premium.

If she chose an Advantage Plan with the same company she currently has, there's also a good chance of overpaying premiums and having larger co-pays. That company now has four different entities, and only one of the four provides what I consider to be competitive plans, while another doesn't provide access to both of the largest hospital systems in our area. The two most widely held plans cost from \$30 to \$75 more per month than the most popular among our clients. They also have a 5-day hospital co-pay that's almost \$1,000 higher and don't offer comprehensive dental or Over the Counter (OTC) benefits.

Another consequence of making one's Medicare choice based on what company he or she was with while employed is the possibility of not being given the option of choosing a Supplement. I can't even count how many people I've met who told me they just called that company and were given only the Advantage HMO and PPO options. Advantage Plans can work great for people who choose those that offer the best value in terms of low premiums and co-pays along with generous ancillary benefits such as dental, vision, hearing, OTC, etc. However, many people who have pre-existing conditions have only one chance in their life to enroll in a Supplement, six months to one year from when they first go on Medicare Part B. I practically insist these folks go the Supplement route because they can always go back to an Advantage Plan down the road because they are required by CMS to accept anyone who Medicare Parts A and B, regardless of current or previous health conditions. Supplement companies are not. They can discriminate as far as who they accept in their plans. Again, except for those going on Medicare Part B for the first time and a couple other somewhat rare events.

The wisest decision is to make an appointment with myself or another of our licensed and experienced agents. We are brokers, appointed to provide plans from every competitive Medicare Supplement and Advantage Plan on the market, ensuring unbiased advice.

If you have questions regarding this or any other Medicare related topic, please give us a call or email me personally at aaron@getyourbestplan.com.



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## ALMANAC

## On this day, Aug. 8

**1814** During the War of 1812, peace talks between the United States and Britain began in Ghent, Belgium.  
**1868** The cornerstone was laid for the new City Hall on Smithfield Street.  
**1928** Westinghouse staged what was said to be the world's first demonstration of "motion pictures broadcast by radio" — "television" — in its East Pittsburgh laboratories. The idea was worked out by Frank Conrad, assistant chief engineer at Westinghouse.  
**1974** President Richard Nixon, facing damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal, announced he would resign the following day.  
**1978** The Parkway East was "papered" with money for the second consecutive day, with an accident littering a mile-long stretch with canceled Series E government savings bonds. The day before, a collision with a messenger's car caused scores of welfare checks to be strewn on the road.

**2017** Singer Glen Campbell died in Nashville, Tenn., at the age of 81; he had announced in 2011 that he'd been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. *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:** Actor Nita Talbot, 91. Actor Dustin Hoffman, 84. Actor Connie Stevens, 83. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers), 82. Actor Larry Wilcox, 74. Actor Keith Carradine, 72. Movie director Martin Brest, 70. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers, 69. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, 68. Percussionist Anton Fig, 68. Actor Donny Most, 68. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs), 64. TV personality Deborah Norville, 63. Rock musician The Edge (U2), 60. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison), 60. Rapper Kool Moe Dee, 59. Middle distance runner Suzy

Favor Hamilton, 53. Rock singer Scott Stapp, 48. Country singer Mark Wills, 48. Actor Kohl Sudduth, 47. Rock musician Tom Linton (Jimmy Eat World), 46. Singer JC Chasez ('N Sync), 45. Actor Tawny Cypress, 45. R&B singer Drew Lachey (98 Degrees), 45. R&B singer Marsha Ambrosius, 44. Actor Lindsay Sloane, 44. Actor Countess Vaughn, 43. Actor Michael Urie, 41. Tennis player Roger Federer, 40. Actor Meagan Good, 40. Rock musician Eric Howk (Portugal. The Man), 40. Actor Jackie Cruz, 37. Britain's Princess Beatrice of York, 33. Actor Ken Baumann, 32. New York Yankees first baseman Anthony Rizzo, 32. Pop singer Shawn Mendes, 23. Actor Bebe Wood, 20.  
**Thought for today:** "Man adjusts to what he should not; he is unable to adjust to what he should."  
— Jean Toomer,  
Black author-poet (1894-1967)

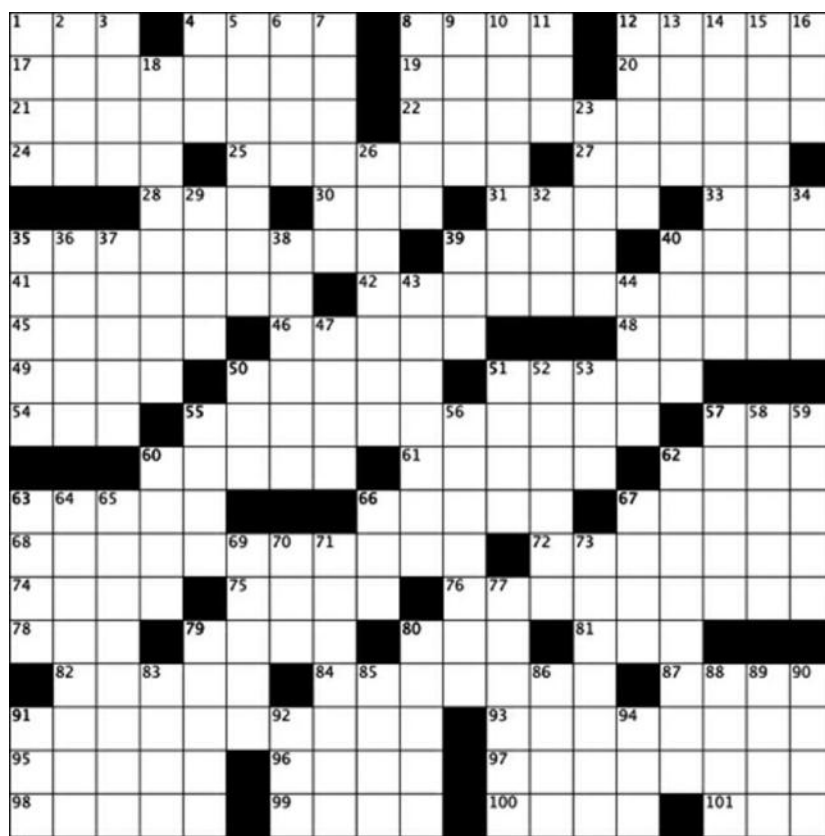
## Pittsburgh puzzler

RUTH ANN DAILEY

### ACROSS

1 Mischief-maker  
4 Gush forth  
8 Mount near Olympus  
12 Relief from the sun  
17 Strike a chord (with)  
19 Betting group  
20 Corkscrew shape  
21 It joined the Union on Aug. 10, 1821  
22 With 21-Across, federal legislation that allowed Maine and 21-Across to move forward with statehood  
24 Crafts' partner  
25 Volcanic glass used in gardening  
27 Sailor's "Stop!"  
28 1950s prez  
30 "Net" or "com" preceeder  
31 "Garfield" dog  
33 Bar bill  
35 He spearheaded 76/93-Across and 21-Across's capital (with "City") is named for him  
39 Yoko and Sean  
40 Actress Headey or singer Home  
41 Sun block?  
42 Landmark that commemorates 21-Across as the starting point for the Pony Express, Santa Fe Trail and Oregon Trail  
45 Messy winter forecast  
46 Second or sixth president  
48 Beginning  
49 Back talk  
50 Embellish  
51 Love, to Luigi  
54 Biblical verb ending  
55 Primary nickname of 22-Across  
57 Pas' partners  
60 Straighten  
61 Took badly?  
62 Like bucks and bulls  
63 Watchdog org.?  
66 City southeast of Tampa  
67 Majestic bird  
68 The only American president born in 21-Across  
72 Flattery, Irish-style  
74 Suit to \_\_  
75 Flashy promotion  
76 With 93-Across, this 1803 event included 21-Across  
78 Mooch  
79 Cambodian cash  
80 French salt  
81 Arthur of "Maude"  
82 Suitor's dozen  
84 TV exec Roone who created "20/20" and "Nightline"  
87 All hands on deck  
91 Besides 68-Across, perhaps the most famous native of 21-Across  
93 See 76-Across  
95 Part of a flight  
96 " \_\_ delighted!"  
97 Least likely to need irrigation  
98 Seinfeld or Lewis  
99 Bolshevik's foe  
100 Arab League member

### "A/K/A MOTHER OF THE WEST"



101 Desperate signal

### DOWN

1 Rombauer of cookbook fame  
2 Israel's Golda  
3 Attention-getting whisper  
4 \_\_-cone  
5 Penniless ones  
6 To be, in Bordeaux  
7 Odd duck  
8 Reference to a prior ref.  
9 Santa's laundry challenge  
10 Unspecified individual  
11 Mont Blanc, e.g.  
12 Powerful push  
13 Blood: prefix  
14 Most-coveted invitees  
15 From here to there, say  
16 PC file suffix  
18 Hardens to bone  
23 Mrs. Gorbachev  
26 The law's "limb"  
29 Didn't toss  
32 Business index, with "the"  
34 Thai money  
35 Wrestler-turned-governor Ventura  
36 Razzle-dazzle  
37 Edible part of a fruit  
38 Old salt  
39 Fifth qtrs.  
40 Bowler's assignment  
43 Jason Bourne's malady  
44 Days long past  
47 This answer's direction  
50 Yellowfin tuna  
51 One tiny bit

52 California beach city  
53 Suffix with Capri  
55 Dispatch, as a dragon  
56 Comic book legend  
57 \_\_ Carta  
58 Patriot Ethan  
59 "Later!"  
60 Land unit  
62 Mexican band member  
63 "Moby-Dick" captain  
64 Thoroughly soak  
65 Tooth next to a canine  
66 Mrs. in Marseilles  
67 Effortlessness  
69 \*NSYNC hit " \_\_ Promise You"  
70 Reuben bread  
71 High ground  
73 Country settled by freed American slaves  
77 Seasoned expert  
79 Towel off again  
80 More wily  
83 Brouhaha  
85 Country star McEntire  
86 U.S. territory east of Manila  
88 Actresses Charlotte and Issa  
89 Classic gas station brand  
90 Moistens  
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POLITICS PLAYBOOK

# Ahead of midterms, Dems feel pressure to pass citizenship path

By Suzanne Monyak  
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — Democrats have pinned their hopes on passing a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants through the budget reconciliation process, which would allow them to deliver long-promised revisions to the immigration system on a party-line vote.

If they succeed, analysts say it could provide the party with a critical victory to motivate voters ahead of next year's contentious midterm races, in which Republicans are poised to hammer Democratic candidates, particularly those in border districts, on the Biden administration's perceived failings at the border.

"There's some incredible opportunities for Democrats heading in the midterms if they can actually point to some successes and things that voters have been looking for a long time," said Sergio Gonzales, executive director of Immigration Hub and former policy adviser to then-Sen. Kamala Harris.

"If President Biden and Democrats can actually deliver on citizenship, I do think this is going to be incredibly galvanizing for the base and for the Latinos, and it's going to resonate with moderates," he added.

But it's a big if. And now, with control of both chambers of Congress and the White House, Democrats will likely bear the brunt of the political consequences with voters and advocates in 2022 if they fail to deliver on citizenship — all while continuing to take constant beatings from Republicans on rising migration levels at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Democrats have hedged their bets on being able to advance their vision for the immigration system through the budget reconcil-



Alex Brandon/AP  
Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, is one of the lawmakers who Republicans hope to defeat in the 2022 midterm elections over immigration issues.

iation process, which allows measures to pass with a filibuster-proof majority vote.

However, it remains to be seen whether those provisions will be permitted by Senate rules, which allow only measures that directly affect the federal budget to be passed through reconciliation.

The stakes of that ultimate determination are high. Top senators involved in the process, including Senate Judiciary Chairman Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., and Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., have acknowledged that without reconciliation, measures creating a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented population have slim chances of becoming law.

A potential failure on the part of Democrats to fulfill their immigration promises could deliver a particularly severe blow to House candidates in border districts already facing an onslaught of partisan attacks on the Biden administration's ability to keep a migrant influx under control.

## 'Absolute party killer'

One Republican strategist who works on House races said the party plans to hit Democrats hard on the border during the campaign, pointing to polls showing disapproval of the Biden administration's approach to migration at the U.S.-Mexico border.

A poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, published in April, found that just 24% of adults in the U.S. approved of the way the administration has handled migrant children arriving at the border without their parents.

Accordingly, more than a dozen Democrats in border states have been targeted for defeat next year by the National Republican Congressional Committee, including five in Texas, which has emerged as a key battleground state.

In June, former President Donald Trump capitalized on the issue at a Texas rally, slamming Mr. Biden's immi-

gration policies in front of an incomplete portion of the border wall.

"They have telegraphed that it's going to be a big issue on the political side from the Republicans against Democrats," said Rep. Henry Cuellar, a targeted Democrat whose Texas district includes Laredo.

Mr. Cuellar has warned the White House that high numbers of border crossings are hurting re-election for House Democrats.

Other Texas Democrats on the NRCC's list include Reps. Vicente Gonzalez and Filemon Vela, who in March announced he would retire from Congress. In 2020, Mr. Vela won re-election in his heavily Latino district by 14 percentage points; in 2018, he defeated the same Republican candidate by 20 percentage points.

Colin Strother, a Texas-based strategist who has represented Democratic House candidates, called the border issue an "absolute party killer for the Democrats."

If Democrats can't take

control of the immigration issue, they will lose the party's slim majority in Congress, he warned.

"That's why you see every Republican in the country — it doesn't matter if they're in Nebraska or Florida or Oregon or Oklahoma — they're talking about the border, and they're talking about what's happening, because it's so egregious, and it is the epitome of the stereotype Republicans want to push on Democrats," said Mr. Strother, who previously worked for Mr. Cuellar.

Complicating matters are the rising numbers of migrants headed to the U.S.-Mexico border, a policy liability for Democrats that puts them on the defensive. Nearly 189,000 migrants were encountered at the U.S.-Mexico border in June, which includes some who made multiple attempts at crossing.

A Homeland Security official told a federal court in August that, based on preliminary data, border agents encountered 210,000 individuals in July, the highest monthly encounters in more than two decades.

## Support for citizenship

Lorella Praeli, co-president of advocacy group Community Change Action, said legislation creating a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented population is "not really an option" but, rather, "a must."

Ms. Praeli's remarks reflect years of frustration on the part of advocates and undocumented immigrants themselves, who have watched Democrats promise — and fail — to pass such revisions to the immigration system for years.

In 2013, a bipartisan group of senators passed citizenship legislation in the upper chamber, only to watch the bill die without so much as a vote in the Republican-con-

trolled House.

Since then, codifying relief for undocumented immigrants, particularly those brought to the U.S. as children, often known as Dreamers, has become increasingly popular with voters.

According to a poll released July 27 by progressive polling firm Data for Progress, 70% of the more than 1,200 voters polled said they would somewhat or strongly support creating a path to citizenship, including just over half of Republicans polled.

"We know for sure that legalization is enormously popular with voters, and one thing that is definitely enormously popular with voters is action," said Clarissa Martinez de Castro, deputy vice president of UnidosUS.

If Democrats are able to take the offensive and pass a legalization measure, "that will play well for folks who are part of actually delivering a solution that voters have long wanted in the midterms," Ms. Martinez de Castro said.

Democrats also need to hone their messaging and clearly "articulate their vision" for the immigration system, she said. "Otherwise, there's a vacuum left behind that can be filled with the campaign disinformation that many Republicans are sowing."

Mr. Gonzales described a "twofold strategy" for Democrats when battling away Republican digs about the southwest border during the campaign.

"Democrats have to not only respond to these attacks, but they need to tell voters again what their vision is, what policies they stand for, that they also believe the system doesn't work, so here are the things they're going to do to actually fix it and make it better," he said.



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# BUSINESSES FEEL STRAIN OF PIRATES' LOSING STREAK

**MONEYBALL**, FROM A-1

2019 (1.5 million fans), we saw more fans attend Pirates games than Steelers and Penguins games combined in that same year (1.26 million fans)," it said.

"That really showcases just how great of an impact the Pirates have on bringing business to and driving revenue for our city."

One caveat: The Pirates play 81 regular-season games at 38,362-seat PNC Park, compared to 41 by the Penguins at 18,387-seat PPG Paints Arena and eight by the Steelers at 68,400-seat Heinz Field.

The Pirates' statement might be of little solace to vendors such as Jim Coen, owner of Yinzers in the Burgh souvenir stores in the Strip District. He estimates his Pirates' sales are off 20% to 30% since the team's big years of 2013 to 2015.

With no quick turnaround in sight for a team that might lose 100 games this season, he plans to preorder 20% to 40% less Pirates' merchandise for next year than he did this year.

"There's no excitement," he lamented. "The problem is, the fans aren't loyal to the team now because the team hasn't been loyal to them."

## By the numbers

Perhaps there's no better bellwether for how the Pirates' performance affects the economics off the field than the city's amusement tax. The 5% tax is levied on every ticket sold for a game at PNC Park.

In 2015, when the Pirates enjoyed their best regular season record (98-64) since 1991, they generated \$3.94 million in amusement tax revenue.

By the time they staggered to a 69-93 record in 2019 — the year before the pandemic — tax revenue had plunged to \$2.2 million. That's nearly \$900,000 less than it was in 2018 when the Pirates finished with an 82-79 record.

The same pattern existed earlier. In 2010, when the Pirates were 57-105, they paid \$1.4 million in amusement tax revenue. A year later, when the team posted a 72-90 record, it was even lower at \$1.3 million.

But as the Pirates improved, so did the tax revenue — to \$2.1 million in 2012 when they were 79-83; to \$2.7 million in 2013, when they finished with a winning record (94-68) for the first time in two decades; to \$3.3 million in 2014, when they ended 88-74.

It's the same with parking tax revenue collected by Alco Parking at lots and garages on the North Shore.

Tax revenue reached a high of nearly \$1.3 million in 2015 before plummeting to \$926,661 in 2018 and \$899,827 in 2019.

Revenue also can take a hit in other ways.

State Sen. Wayne Fontana, board chairman of the Sports & Exhibition Authority, which owns PNC Park, said the team's play can affect the amount it pays into a capital reserve fund for ballpark improvements.

The fund is financed through a 5% surcharge on each ticket sold for a Pirates game. The team gets to keep the first \$1.5 million generated by the surcharge. The SEA receives the next \$625,000, with at least \$375,000 of that required to go into the capital fund.

If fans stay away, it can matter. The SEA must deposit \$650,000 into the fund each year regardless of the amount of surcharge revenue the Pirates produce.

In three losing seasons — 2009 to 2011 — the surcharge didn't generate much more than the first \$1.5 million kept by the team.

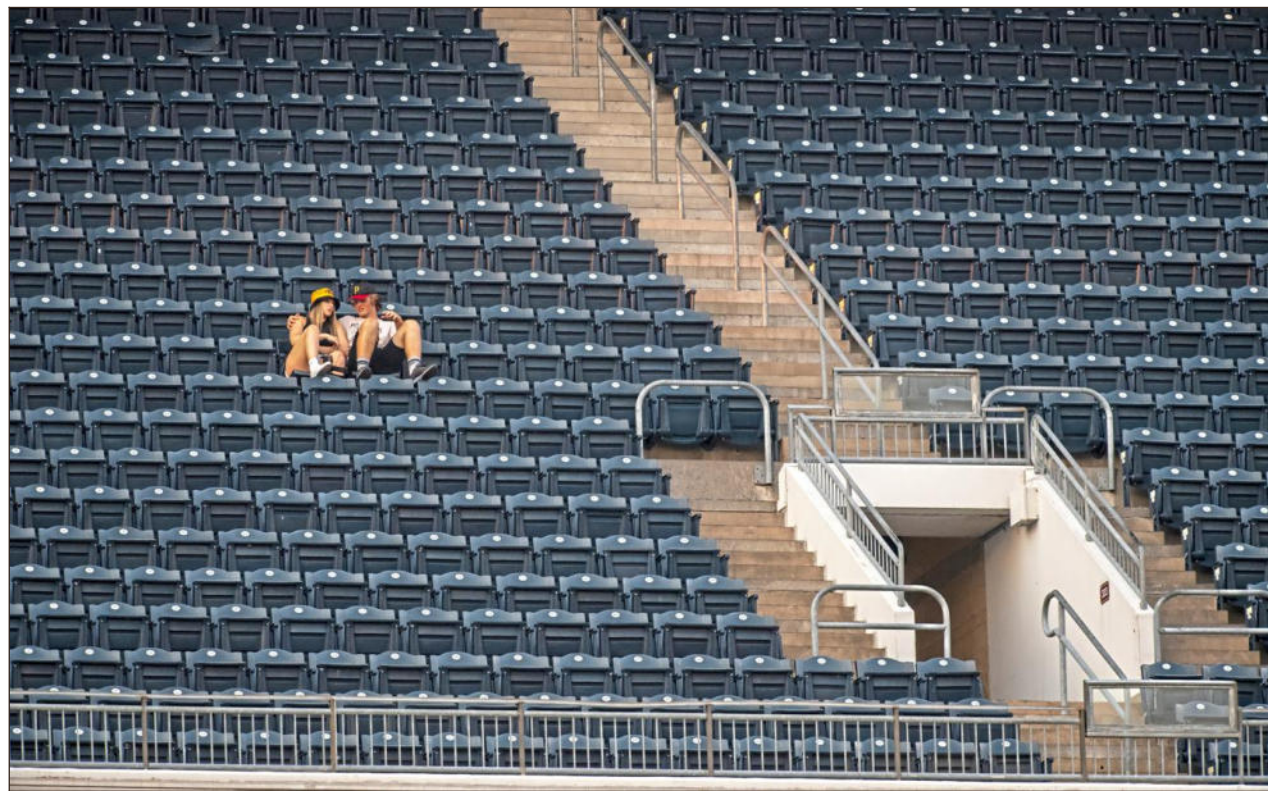
In all other seasons it has topped the \$650,000 threshold when coupled with the \$100,000 base rent the Pirates pay each year. The rent also goes into the capital fund.

Nonetheless, after reaching a decade-high of \$780,847 in 2018, surcharge revenue fell by \$152,217 to \$628,630 in 2019, the lowest point since 2012, when the Pirates finished close to .500 at 79-83.

When surcharges don't produce enough to help maintain the ballpark, the SEA has to find other sources, including taxpayer-funded grants, Mr. Fontana said.

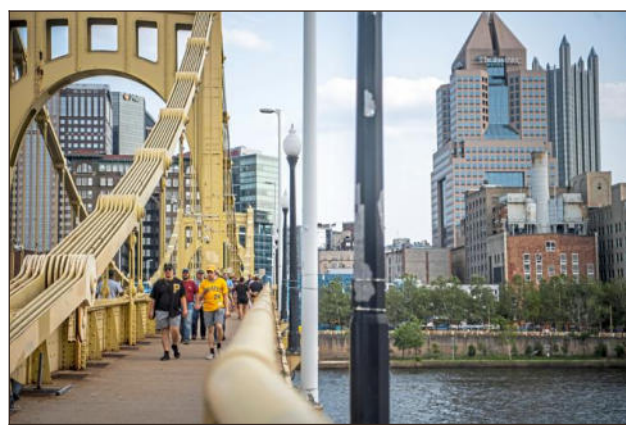
## Civic duty

Mr. Fontana, a Democrat



Ben Braun/Post-Gazette

Two fans sit alone in a sea of empty seats at PNC Park while the Pirates play the Milwaukee Brewers on July 28. The Pirates have a large influence on bringing business and revenue to Pittsburgh, but when they go on a losing streak, that influence can turn and negatively affect businesses' bottom lines.



Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

Fans cross the Roberto Clemente Bridge before a Pirates game. Low game attendance can hit the amount PNC Park generates for a capital reserve fund for ballpark improvements.



Ben Braun/Post-Gazette

An empty table sits at Taps and Tacos, a restaurant that is part of PNC Park. The eatery opened this season, taking up one of three spots along Federal Street in the ballpark.

from Brookline, said he hears from people who want to know whether he can force Pirates owner Bob Nutting to sell or require him to spend more money to field a competitive team.

The short answer is no. But given the public investment in PNC Park, Mr. Fontana feels the Pirates have a civic obligation to field a competitive team.

The Bucs' struggles over much of the past two decades not only are frustrating, they're not "good for the economy," he maintained.

Mr. Fontana understands that Mr. Nutting has hired a new management team to try to turn around the franchise with a strategy of acquiring top prospects and restocking a depleted minor league system.

He hopes it works. But it's a refractory of one of baseball's longest-existing teams."

Like Mr. Fontana, Mayor Bill Peduto believes the team has a civic duty to look at more than profit margin.

"There's no question there's a civic obligation that comes with the ownership of any major league sports team. And in the case with the Pirates, certainly with the way baseball has revenue share, there's a way to make a profit. But it's not a single bottom line, nor should it be looked at [as] how much money can be made. It's the pride in the history of one of baseball's longest-existing teams."

Mr. Peduto said he had discussions with the Pirates a couple of years ago when there was talk that Mr. Nutting should sell the team.

"I stood ready to put together a group, but it never got to that point because there was absolutely zero interest from Bob Nutting to sell the team," he noted.

"He was, as recently as this April, committed in believing that he does have the right people in place to build a winning organization, even without the salary caps that are necessary in baseball."

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Ben Braun/Post-Gazette

Brothers David and Danny Hess, of Blairsville, have plenty of room to tailgate in a parking lot near PNC Park. As attendance drops, so does parking tax revenue collected by lot and garage operators on the North Shore.

Robert Morris University.

"Winning drives attendance, rule No. 1," he said. "Part of it is that people want to see a winner, particularly if they are in a pennant race because they want to root their home team on."

But winning isn't the only factor, he said.

When the Pirates trade some of their best players — as they did with Adam Frazier recently and Andrew McCutchen in 2018 — it can impact the local economy.

"It's the end of July and, OK, it's the trading deadline. All of the sudden, your favorite players are starting to leave town. That, in turn, gets the fans discouraged," he said.

At North Shore Tavern on Federal Street across from PNC Park, the walls are adorned with Pirates memorabilia, from pennants to portraits of team greats Roberto Clemente, Willie Stargell, Honus Wagner and Pie Traynor.

But it's not so much the atmosphere as it is the team's performance that drives sales, owner Mike Sukitch said.

Mr. Sukitch bought North Shore Tavern right before the pandemic hit and the adjacent Mike's Beer Bar in 2017.

He said there was a significant difference in business during the years the Pirates were in the playoffs than at any other time.

"The business did drop off through the year before the pandemic," he said. "Again, those were years before I owned it, but business was on a steady decline."

These days, Mr. Sukitch is building his business model and profit structure for both restaurants "around the Pirates having a bad year."

That's not a dig at the team. The idea is to not be

dependent on the baseball season to turn a profit. That, he said, has been the downfall of a slew of bars and restaurants on Federal Street that have gone out of business since the Pirates moved to PNC Park in 2001.

To that end, he has added a kitchen, beefed up the menus at both places, started a loyalty program and brought in entertainment on weekends.

"The number of businesses that have come and gone down here is the cycle I'm trying to break. That comes back to if the Pirates are having an extraordinary year, I should have an extraordinary year. If they have a bad year, my objective is to have a good year," he said.

So far the strategy appears to be paying off. Even though his Pirates' business at Mike's Beer Bar was down in 2019, his overall take increased by 30% for the year.

Mr. Sukitch likes the rebuilding strategy the Pirates' new management has put in place. "I look forward to having six or seven extraordinary years where they're always in contention," he said. "But I can't count on that to meet the payroll."

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tent and news coverage drive millions and millions of impressions each season. Together they showcase the Best Ballpark in America and our beautiful city like nothing else can."

The team also believes it has helped to fuel the local comeback from the pandemic, which played havoc with its revenues last year when fans were not permitted in PNC Park. It also opened the ballpark at limited capacity this season before going to full capacity last month.

"As we opened up PNC Park to more and more fans this season, you can see the North Shore coming back to life. In a period of time during which the Pittsburgh cultural district and office buildings remain mostly dark, PNC Park has been a critical element in helping to drive business back to our city," it stated.

In 2018, the Pirates, Penguins and Steelers commissioned a study on their value to the region. It estimated the franchises generated \$6 billion in direct and indirect spending between 2012 and 2016. The teams calculated they paid more than \$50 million a year in city, county and state taxes and that another \$25 million was generated as a result of activities surrounding sporting events and concerts.

One North Shore establishment that has seen the Pirates help drive business this year despite their record is the SpringHill Suites By Marriott.

Sandi Roberts, assistant general manager, said the hotel gets a lot of bookings from out of town fans. The hotel, for example, sold out during the series with the Mets.

SpringHill Suites also draws Pirates fans from the Tri-State area as well as others who no longer live in Pittsburgh.

"We do have the best, most beautiful ballpark in the area and probably in the league. I'm just going by what people tell me. So we do get a lot of out-of-towners as well," she said.

Still, Ms. Roberts has seen a drop-off in business this year compared to 2018, when she started working at the hotel. She attributed part of that to the pandemic and part to the season the Pirates are having.

"We have a lot of disappointed fans out there. You know, frustration," she said. "I love my Pirates, but they make it challenging to be a fan sometimes. I have no doubt that if we had a winning team in this city that ballfield would be sold out every game."

At the Rally House sports apparel and souvenir store on West General Robinson Street, assistant manager John Turk said he had been surprised by the amount of Pirates gear he's sold despite the team's record.

"People just [buy] blindly, like zombies, because they're going to a Pirate game, they're going to come in to buy Pirate merchandise, not specifically like any player jersey or anything like that, just something with the logo on it," he said.

Some will gravitate to the clearance rack for T-shirts of departed Pirates like Mr. McCutchen, Gerrit Cole, Josh Harrison and Starling Marte for a third of the price of a regular T-shirt.

Mr. Coen remembers the years between 2013 and 2015 when the Pirates won big and made the playoffs. He said he couldn't get enough Pirates merchandise to sell.

"Everybody had a 20-game package. The city was excited to finally have a winning team again. The atmosphere reminded me almost of the '70s and '80s — '72 to '79 to a degree," he said. The Pirates won World Series in 1971 and 1979.

These days, not so much. He joked that he now puts his Pirates merchandise on sale at the beginning of the season.

"If I felt like there was light at the end of the tunnel, I wouldn't mind taking a chance on next year," he said in terms of ordering more Pirates merchandise. "But how can you feel good about next year with the team on the field? It's really difficult."

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# U.S. calls in airstrikes to defend Afghan allies

Post-Gazette wire services

WASHINGTON — U.S. military aircraft have been hitting ground targets in Afghanistan in an effort to protect allies, according to U.S. Central Command, as the Taliban makes rapid advances in the void left by withdrawing U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops.

“U.S. forces have conducted several airstrikes in defense of our Afghan partners in recent days,” U.S. Air Force Maj. Nicole Ferrara, a U.S. Central Command spokesperson, said by email.

She declined to provide specifics on the aircraft involved. President Joe Biden ordered B-52 bombers and AC-130 Spectre gunships to strike enemy fighters advancing toward Kandahar and other cities, the Daily Mail reported earlier on Saturday. A National Security Council spokesman referred questions to the Defense Department.

Taliban fighters entered the capital of northern Afghanistan’s Jawzjan province Saturday, a provincial lawmaker said, after sweeping through nine of 10 districts in the province.

The government did not deny lawmaker Mohammad Karim Jawzjani’s claim that Taliban fighters had entered Sheberghan, but said the city had not fallen. If the city falls, it will be the second provincial capital in as many days to succumb to the Taliban. Several other of the country’s 34 provincial capitals are threatened.

On Friday, the Taliban took control of the southwestern Nimroz provincial capital of Zaranj, where the government says it is still battling insurgents inside the capital.

Sheberghan is particularly strategic because it is the stronghold of U.S.-allied Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum, whose militias are among those resurrected to aid the Afghan National Security and Defense Forces.

Heavy airstrikes were reported by residents of Sheberghan who also said the Taliban had freed prisoners from the city jail. They requested to remain anonymous fearing retaliation from both sides.

Taliban fighters have swept through large swathes of Afghanistan at surprising speed, initially taking districts, many in remote areas. In recent weeks they have laid siege to several provincial capitals across the country as the last U.S. and NATO troops leave the country. The U.S. Central Command says the withdrawal is more than 95% complete and will be finished by Aug. 31.

The U.S. Air Force continues to aid the Afghan air force’s bombing of Taliban targets in southern Helmand and Kandahar provinces as Afghan security forces try to prevent a Taliban takeover.

On Saturday, the U.S. and British embassies in Kabul repeated a warning to its citizens still there to leave “immediately” as the security situation deteriorated.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul also issued a statement Saturday condemning the Taliban’s military onslaught saying it was contrary to the insurgent group’s claim to support a negotiated peace settlement.

The statement called for an immediate end to fighting and a start to “negotiations to end the suffering of the Afghan people and pave the way for an inclusive political settlement that benefits all Afghans and ensures that Afghanistan does not again serve as a safe haven for terrorists.”

On Friday, Taliban fighters assassinated Dawa Khan Menapal, the chief of the Afghan government’s press operations for local and foreign media. It came just days after a coordinated attempt was made to kill acting defense chief Bismillah Khan Mohammadi in a posh and deeply secure neighborhood



Asgnar Achakzai/AFP via Getty Images

An army soldier patrols as stranded people wait Saturday for the reopening of the border crossing point in Chaman, which was closed by the authorities after the Taliban took control of the Afghan border town in a rapid offensive across the country.

of the capital.

In a report to the U.N. Security Council on Friday the U.N. envoy for Afghanistan urged the council to demand the Taliban immediately stop attacking cities in their offensive to take more territory.

Deborah Lyons also called on the international community to urge both sides to stop fighting and negotiate to prevent a “catastrophe” in the war-torn country.

In Afghanistan’s Helmand and Kandahar provinces in the south of the country thousands of Afghans were displaced by the fighting and living in miserable conditions.

In Helmand’s provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, Afghanistan’s elite commando forces aided by regular troops were trying to dislodge the Taliban but with little success, said Nafeeza Faiez, a provincial council member. Taliban are in control of nine of the city’s 10 police districts.

Ms. Faiez said conditions for residents are desperate as they hunker down inside their homes, unable to get supplies or get to hospitals for treatment. Many of the public buildings have also been badly damaged in the fighting. “People have no access to any service,” she said.

More than half of Afghan-

extremely strategic, giving the Taliban control of lucrative border crossings with Iran, Tajikistan and Pakistan.

The insurgent force on Friday closed one of the country’s most lucrative borders with Pakistan at Spin Boldak in southeastern Afghanistan. The Taliban were protesting a demand from Pakistan that all Afghans crossing the border must have Afghan passports and Pakistani visas.

The group said Pakistan was implementing the demands of the Afghan government and demanded that previous procedures in which identities were rarely checked as people crossed the border be reinstated.

Thousands of Afghans and Pakistanis cross the border daily and a steady stream of trucks passes through, bringing goods to land-locked Af-

ghanistan from the Arabian Sea port city of Karachi in Pakistan.

Hundreds of people were waiting Saturday to pass through and more than 600 trucks, many loaded with perishable fresh foods, were backed up in both countries.

Islamabad’s relationship with Kabul has been troubled, with both sides accusing each other of harboring militants. Afghan Taliban leaders live in Pakistan and Kabul is bitterly critical of Pakistan for aiding them and treating their fighters in hospitals in Pakistan. Islamabad meanwhile charges that Kabul provides a safe haven to the Pakistani Taliban, a separate militant group that regularly stages attacks in Pakistan.

*The Associated Press and Bloomberg contributed.*

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## Nation/World briefs

### Cuomo could face misdemeanor

Compiled from news services

A criminal investigation into accusations that Gov. Andrew Cuomo groped a young woman working in his office is still in its early stages, Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple said Saturday.

Mr. Apple declined to disclose details about the probe into the Democratic governor, but said the alleged conduct is “sexual in nature” and could potentially lead to misdemeanor charges and an arrest.

The criminal investigation comes days after Attorney General Letitia James’ office released a damning report corroborating the accounts of 11 women, predominantly young staffers, who say Mr. Cuomo repeatedly subjected them to unwanted touching, kisses and inappropriate comments.

The unnamed woman, who filed a complaint Thursday with the Sheriff’s Office, is among those who spoke with the independent investigators working under Ms. James’ supervision.

Mr. Apple said the victim’s attorney contacted his office Thursday evening and the woman spoke with investigators for about an hour on Friday, kicking off a formal criminal probe.

### Refugees find more bodies in Tigray river

Six more bodies have been found floating down the river separating Ethiopia’s troubled Tigray region from Sudan, refugees and a physician said on Saturday. They urged Sudanese authorities and the U.N. to help in search efforts.

Around 50 bodies have been discovered over the last two weeks in the Setit River, which flows through some of the most troubled areas of the nine-month conflict in Ethiopia’s Tigray region, according to Tigray refugees.

Physician Tewodros Tefera said Friday he personally witnessed refugees pull several bodies from the river over the past week. Mr. Tefera is a surgeon from the nearby Tigray town of Humera who fled to Sudan at the start of the war.

Ethnic Tigrayans have accused Ethiopian and allied forces of atrocities while battling Tigray forces. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken asserted in March that “ethnic cleansing” has happened in parts of Tigray.

### Trump’s firm hold on GOP evident at rally

Look no further than the T-shirts greeting arrivals at one of Georgia’s biggest GOP gatherings for evidence of the former President Donald Trump’s enduring grip on the party. Shirts and signs proclaiming “Trump Won” were there for the taking.

Throughout the Floyd County GOP event, held Saturday under an airy pavilion at the fairgrounds, Mr. Trump’s presence was a constant. Candidates promised to “drain the swamp” and promote his false claims of widespread election fraud. Others promised to make him proud in state or federal office.

While most of the top candidates trekked to Rome, the event was also notable for the no-shows. Football great Herschel Walker, seen as a likely contender for U.S. Senate, skipped the event. So did Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and Labor Commissioner Mark Butler.

The warmest welcome went to U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who hinted at internal GOP warfare in next year’s Republican primary.

# Wildfires make way across Greece

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Three large wildfires churned across Greece on Saturday, with one threatening whole towns and cutting a line across Evia, the country’s second-largest island, isolating its northern part. Others engulfed forested mountainsides and skirted ancient sites, leaving behind a trail of destruction that one official described as “a biblical catastrophe.”

One volunteer firefighter died Friday and at least 20 people have been injured over the last week during Greece’s most intense heat wave in three decades. Temperatures soared up to 113 degrees Fahrenheit.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visited the fire department’s headquarters Saturday in Athens and expressed his “deep sadness” for the firefighter’s death. He later visited the airport, west of Athens, from which firefighting planes take off and thanked the pilots, Greek as well as French, who arrived to support the firefighting effort.

Securing aid for everyone affected will be “my first political priority,” he said, promising that all burnt areas would be reforested.

A flotilla of 10 ships — two Coast Guard patrols, two ferries, two passenger ships and four fishing boats — waited at the seaside resort of Pefki, near the northern



A hill is left destroyed Saturday after a forest fire burned through Thrakomakedones, near Mount Parnitha, north of Athens. Angelos Tzortzinis/AFP via Getty Images

tip of Evia, ready to evacuate more residents and tourists if needed, a Coast Guard spokeswoman told The Associated Press, on customary condition of anonymity.

Firefighters were fighting through the night to save Istiaia, a town of 7,000 in northern Evia, as well as several villages, using bulldozers to open up clear paths in the thick forest.

The fire on Evia forced the hasty Friday night evacuation of about 1,400 people from a seaside village and island beaches by a motley assortment of boats after the

approaching flames cut off other means of escape.

The other dangerous fires were one in Greece’s southern Peloponnese peninsula, near Ancient Olympia and one in Fokida, in the Central Greece Region, north of Athens. The fire in Ancient Olympia moved east, away from the ancient site, threatening villages in a sudden flare-up Saturday afternoon.

North of Athens, the fire on Mount Parnitha, a national park with substantial forests, was still burning with occasional flare-ups, but a Fire Service spokes-

man told the AP late Saturday that containment efforts were “going well.” Deputy Civil Protection Minister Nikos Hardalias told reporters Saturday night that firefighters hoped to contain the fire Sunday.

Smoke from that fire was still spreading across the Athens basin. Earlier, the blaze had sent choking smoke across the Greek capital, where authorities set up a hotline for residents with breathing problems.

Greek and European officials have blamed climate change for the large number

of fires burning through southern Europe, from southern Italy to the Balkans, Greece and Turkey.

Fires described as the worst in decades have swept through stretches of Turkey’s southern coast for the past 10 days, killing eight people. The top Turkish forestry official said 217 fires had been brought under control since July 28 in over half of the country’s provinces, but firefighters still worked Saturday to tame six fires in two provinces.

In Turkey’s seaside province of Mugla, a popular region for tourists, some fires appeared to be under control Saturday but the forestry minister said blazes were still burning in the Milas area. Environmental groups urged authorities to protect the forests of Sandras Mountain from nearby fires.

Further north, at least six neighborhoods were evacuated due to a wildfire in western Aydin province, where shifting winds were making containment efforts difficult, Turkish media reported.

Municipal officials in Antalya, on Turkey’s Mediterranean coast, said a wildfire was still burning around the Eynif plain, where wild horses live.

A local official in the Mani area of southern Peloponnese, south of Sparta, estimated the wildfire there had destroyed around 70% of her area.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom surveys Greenville homes destroyed by the Dixie Fire on Saturday in Plumas County, Calif. Accompanying him is Cal Fire Assistant Region Chief Curtis Brown. Noah Berger/Associated Press

## Californians hit hard by massive blazes

The Associated Press

GREENVILLE, Calif. — Following four years of homelessness, Kesia Studebaker thought she had finally landed on her feet after finding a job cooking in a diner and moving into a house in the small community of Greenville.

She had been renting for three months and was hoping stability would help her win back custody of her 14-year-old daughter. But in just one night, a raging wildfire tore through the mountain town and “took it all away,” she said.

Fueled by strong winds and bone-dry vegetation, the Dixie Fire grew to become the largest single wildfire in state history. People living in the scenic forests of Northern California are facing a weekend of fear as it threatens to reduce thousands of homes to ashes.

“We knew we didn’t get enough rainfall and fires could happen, but we didn’t expect a monster like this,” Ms. Studebaker said Saturday.

The fire incinerated much of Greenville on Wednesday and Thursday, destroying 268 homes and structures and threatening nearly 14,000 buildings in the northern Sierra Nevada. It had engulfed an area larger than the size of New York City.

The Dixie Fire, named for the road where it started, now spans an area of 698 square miles and was just 21% contained.

Four firefighters were taken to the hospital Friday after being struck by a fallen branch. More than 20 people were initially reported missing, but by Saturday afternoon authorities had contacted all but five of them.

The fire’s cause was under investigation. The Pacific Gas & Electric utility has said it may have been sparked when a tree fell on one of its power lines. A federal judge ordered PG&E on Friday to give details about the equipment and vegetation where the fire started by Aug. 16.

Cooler overnight temperatures and higher humidity slowed the spread of the fire and temperatures topped 90 degrees Fahrenheit instead of the triple-digit highs recorded earlier in the week.

But the blaze and its neighboring fires, within several hundred miles of each other, posed an ongoing threat.

Ms. Studebaker sought shelter at an evacuation center before setting up her tent in a friend’s front yard.

She is counting on returning to her job if the restaurant where she works stays open. Her boss

also evacuated when the town of Chester, northwest of Greenville, lost power and the smoke was so thick that it made it hard to breathe.

Heat waves and historic drought tied to climate change have made wildfires harder to fight in the American West. Scientists have said climate change has made the region much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make the weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive.

Near the Klamath National Forest, firefighters kept a close watch on small communities that were ordered evacuated in the path of the Antelope Fire, which earlier threw up flames 100 feet high as it blackened bone-dry grass, brush and timber. It was just 20% contained.

Farther northwest, about 500 homes scattered in and around Shasta-Trinity National Forest remained threatened by the Monument Fire and others by the McFarland Fire, both started by lightning storms last week, fire officials said.

About a two-hour drive south from the Dixie Fire, crews had surrounded nearly half of the River Fire that broke out Wednesday near the town of

Colfax and destroyed 68 homes and other buildings. Evacuation orders for thousands of people in Nevada and Placer counties were lifted Friday. Three people, including a firefighter, were injured, authorities said.

Smoke blanketed Northern California and western Nevada, causing air quality to deteriorate to unhealthy and hazardous levels.

Air quality advisories extended through the California’s San Joaquin Valley and as far as the San Francisco Bay Area to Denver, Salt Lake City and Las Vegas, where residents were urged to keep their windows and doors shut. Denver’s air quality ranked among the worst in the world Saturday afternoon.

California’s fire season is on track to surpass last year’s season, which was the worst fire season in recent recorded state history.

Since the start of the year, more than 6,000 blazes have destroyed more than 1,260 square miles of land — more than triple the losses for the same period in 2020, according to state fire figures.

California’s raging wildfires were among 107 large fires burning across 14 states where historic drought conditions have left lands parched and ripe for ignition.

## Hezbollah leader vows retaliation for future attacks

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The leader of the militant Hezbollah group said Saturday his group will retaliate against any future Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon, a day after his supporters fired a barrage of rockets toward Israel.

Hassan Nasrallah said it would be wrong to assume Hezbollah would be constrained by internal divisions in Lebanon, or the country’s harsh economic crisis.

Mr. Nasrallah’s comments came a day after his group fired rockets toward Israel, calling it retaliation for Israeli airstrikes on southern Lebanon a day earlier.

Thursday’s airstrikes were in response to mysterious rockets that were fired Wednesday from Lebanon toward Israel.

Friday’s rocket fire was the third day of attacks along the volatile border with Lebanon, a major Middle East flashpoint where tensions between Israel and Iran, which backs Hezbollah, occasionally play out.

“Any airstrike by Israel’s airforce on Lebanon will be retaliated in a suitable way,” Mr. Nasrallah said.

Israel and Hezbollah are archenemies and have fought several wars in the past, the last of which ended in August 2006. The 34-day conflict ended with a draw that left 1,200 dead in Lebanon — mostly civilians — and 160 dead Israelis, mostly soldiers.

He added that Hezbollah had fired 20 rockets toward open fields only, because the Israeli airstrikes on Thursday had themselves hit open fields.

Lebanon is passing through its worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history, which the World Bank describes as among the worst the world has witnessed since the mid-1800s.

Israel estimates Hezbollah possesses over 130,000 rockets and missiles capable of striking anywhere in the country.



# Summer of climate extremes hits wealthier places

The Associated Press

As the world staggers through another summer of extreme weather, experts are noticing something different: 2021's onslaught is hitting harder and in places that have been spared global warming's wrath in the past.

Wealthy countries such as the United States, Canada, Germany and Belgium are joining poorer and more vulnerable nations on a growing list of extreme weather events that scientists say have some connection to human-caused climate change.

"It is not only a poor country problem, it's now very obviously a rich country problem," said Debby Guha-Sapir, founder of the international disaster database at the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters at Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.

Killer floods hit China, but hundreds of people also drowned in parts of Germany and Belgium not used to being inundated. Canada and the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. had what climate scientist Zeke Hausfather called "scary" heat that soared well past triple digits, shattering records and accompanied by unusual wildfires. Now southern Europe is seeing unprecedented heat and fire.

And peak Atlantic hurricane and U.S. wildfire seasons are only just starting.

For fire season, the U.S. West is the driest it has been since 1580, based on soil mois-



Valentin Bianchi/Associated Press  
A resident shares a cup of water with another as they clean up July 19 after flooding in Liege, Belgium. This summer a lot of the places hit by weather disasters are not used to getting extremes, and many of them are wealthier, which is different from the normal climate change victims. That includes unprecedented deadly flooding in Germany and Belgium.

ture readings and tree ring records, setting the stage for worsening fires, said UCLA climate and fire scientist Park Williams.

What happens with U.S. hurricane and fire seasons drives the end-of-year statistics for total damage costs of weather disasters, said Ernst Rauch, chief climate and geo scientist for insurance giant Munich Re.

When poorer countries are hit, they are less prepared and their people can't use air conditioning or leave, so there's more harm, said Mr. Haus-

father, climate director of the Breakthrough Institute. While hundreds of people died in the Pacific Northwest heat wave, he said the number would have been much higher in poor areas.

Madagascar, an island nation off East Africa, is in the middle of back-to-back droughts that the United Nations warns are pushing 400,000 people to starvation.

Though it is too early to say the summer of 2021 will again break records for climate disasters, "We're certainly starting to see climate change push

extreme events into new territories where they haven't been seen before," Mr. Hausfather said.

The number of weather, water and climate disasters so far this year is only slightly higher than the average of recent years, said Ms. Guha-Sapir. Her group's database, which she said still is missing quite a few events, shows 208 such disasters worldwide through July — about 11% more than the last decade's average, but a bit less than last year.

Last year, the record-shat-

tering heat that came out of nowhere was in Siberia, where few people live, but this year it struck Portland, Ore., and British Columbia, which gets more Western media attention, Mr. Hausfather said.

What's happening is "partly an increase in the statistics of these extreme events, but also just that the steady drumbeat, the pile on year-on-year ... takes its cumulative toll on all of us who are reading these headlines," said Georgia Tech climate scientist Kim Cobb.

"This pattern of recent Northern Hemisphere summers has been really quite stark," said University of Exeter climate scientist Peter Stott.

While the overall temperature rise is "playing out exactly as we said 20 years ago ... what we are seeing in terms of the heat waves and the floods is more extreme than we predicted back then," Mr. Stott said.

Climate scientists say there is little doubt climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is driving extreme events.

A new study using satellite images of global flooding since 2000, shows that flooding worldwide hits 10 times as many people as previously thought. Wednesday's study in the journal Nature finds that from 2000 to 2018 between 255 and 290 million people were directly affected by floods — which lead author Beth Tellman, of the University of Arizona, says is based on 913 floods with thousands more not counted because of satellite image problems.

Previous estimates showed far fewer people hit by flooding because they were based on computer simulations, rather than observations. The new study finds population within flooded areas grew 34% since 2000, nearly twice as fast as those outside flooded areas.

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Mark Mitchell/New Zealand Herald via AP  
An emperor penguin stands on Peka Peka Beach of the Kapiti Coast in New Zealand in 2011.

## Melting ice imperils 80% of emperor penguin colonies in this century

By Catrin Einhorn  
The New York Times

Climate change is threatening emperor penguins with extinction in much of their range, federal wildlife officials said as they announced a proposal to protect them under the Endangered Species Act.

The penguins live much of the year on Antarctic sea ice, which is disappearing or breaking apart because of the heat-trapping gases released by humans' use of fossil fuels. The penguins need the ice to breed, raise their young and escape predators.

"The decisions made by policymakers today and during the next few decades will determine the fate of the emperor penguin," Martha Williams, principal deputy director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said.

If listed as threatened, the birds would join a couple of dozen species that the federal government considers threatened by climate change, including polar bears, two kinds of seals and 20 coral varieties.

Although the species is not found in the U.S., a listing under the Endangered Species Act would mean that federal agencies would have to minimize harm from U.S. activities in their habitat.

The proposal was informed by scientific research that was published independently in the journal Global Change Biology on Tuesday. That study found that if sea ice continues to disappear at the rate predicted by climate models given the world's current energy trends and policies, more than 80% of emperor penguin colonies would in

effect become extinct by 2100.

But, the scientists stress, it doesn't have to be that way. If the world takes swift and drastic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris climate agreement, enough sea ice will be left to support a reduced, but still viable, population of emperor penguins.

The tallest of all penguins, emperors stand almost 4 feet. After laying a single egg, females go off to hunt, and males nurture the egg by holding it on their feet and covering it in a feathered pouch. After it hatches, the parents take turns caring for their offspring. If the sea ice disappears before the young penguins exchange their fluffy baby feathers for sleek adult ones, they cannot swim in the frigid waters and will die.

Sea ice is essentially frozen ocean. The penguins often cannot climb ice shelves to find habitat on land, and harsh conditions there may deplete penguins' energy reserves.

Environmentalists say they hope that listing the penguins will increase pressure on the Fish and Wildlife Service to consider the impact of fossil fuels on threatened species when it offers input on whether federal permits should be granted.

"The hope is that, with these added protections, approvals of U.S. fossil fuel projects will have to weigh harms to penguins and their Antarctic habitat, ultimately reducing heat-trapping pollution worldwide," said Sarah Uhlemann, international program director at the Center for Biological Diversity.

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# F IN CUS

A LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES AT 'SUNFLOWER DAYS' AT RENSHAW FARMS



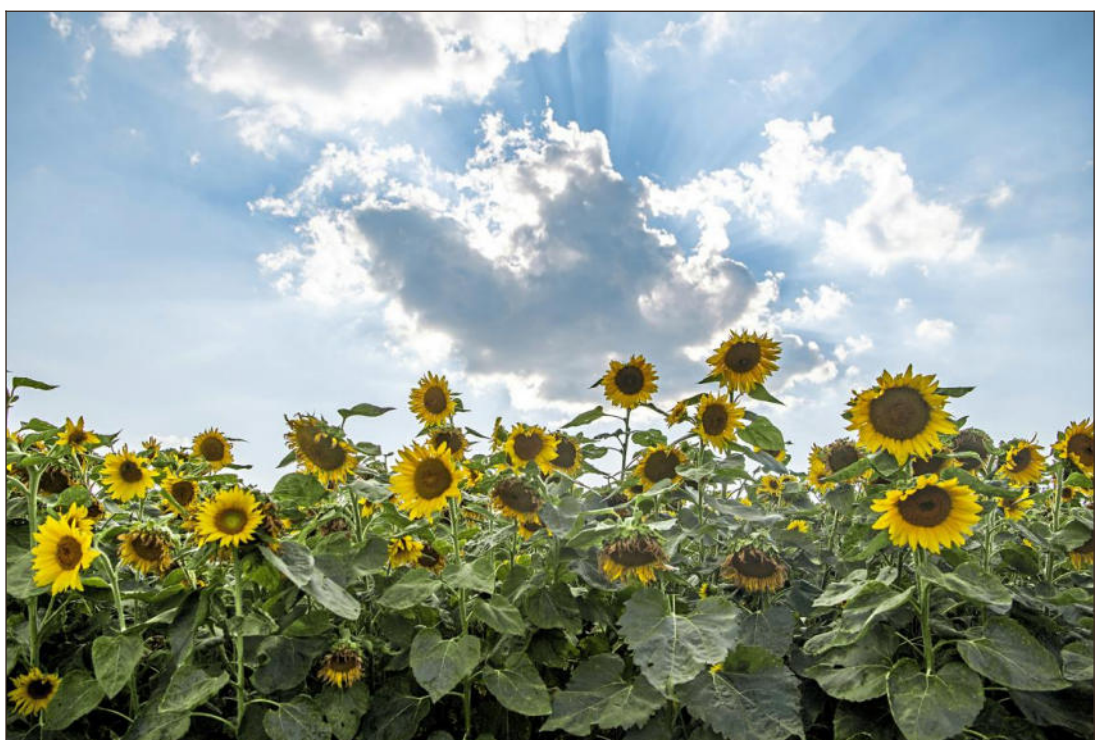
Sisters Mara, Lex and Maddy Preston, of Worthington, Armstrong County, frolic among the sunflowers as their friend, Jessica Montgomery, of Forever Whimsy Photography, snaps a picture from behind them at Renshaw Farms in South Buffalo Township.

Photos by Alexandra Wimley  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

About 150,000 blooming sunflowers brought visitors from around the region to Renshaw Farms in South Buffalo Township in late July for the family farm's "Sunflower Days" event.

Two fields of the colorful tall flowers were in bloom, allowing people to wander about, take photos and pick their own for \$1 a stem.

The fields now are closed to visitors, but Jason Renshaw, who runs the farm along with his wife, Jamie, says they will open their gates again in late August, when new fields are in full bloom.



Scudding clouds of white and gray form a perfect backdrop for a field of golden sunflowers.



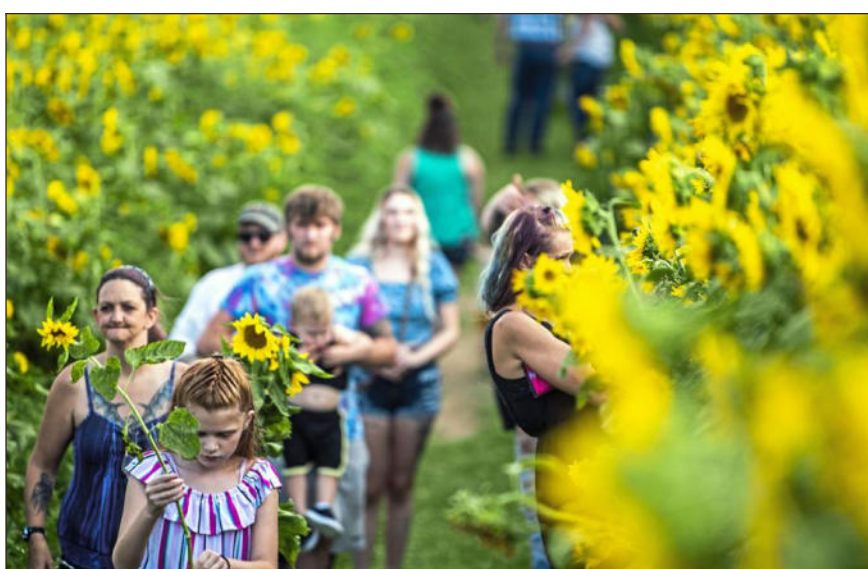
Sunflowers appear to be watching Anna Beatty, of Shaler, as she tickles her niece, Ava Hutchison, 2, prior to a photo shoot. Ava is on the lap of her mother, Nikki Hutchison, of Leechburg.



Jemma Hughes, 1, of Lower Burrell, wanders out of a sunflower field as her parents photograph the bucolic scene.



With sunflowers as a natural backdrop, Avery Ameris, 4, of New Kensington, climbs onto a chair in front of her mother's camera.



Between the sunflowers and the bright clothes of visitors, a field is alive with color at Renshaw Farms.



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# Grads struggling with student debt grow impatient with D.C.

**DEBT, FROM A-1**

been put aside on Capitol Hill. Congress, consumed with approving a bipartisan \$1 trillion infrastructure deal, is not working on the issue anytime soon.

A second, Democrats-only package — totaling as much as \$3.5 trillion — does not currently include any level of student debt forgiveness despite its focus on helping the middle-class afford education and health care.

Mr. Biden offered borrowers a reprieve last week, extending until Jan. 31 a moratorium on required monthly payments and interest accrual that has been in place since March 2020 as part of COVID-19 relief efforts. But the U.S. Education Department made it clear that this would be its final extension.

## Months of 'delay politics'

That has infuriated many student debt advocates who believe forgiveness is the main path to addressing a broken system.

"It's been months of delay politics," Debt Collective, an advocacy group, lamented in a July 26 fundraising email to supporters. The group said it plans "mass actions" in Washington and around the country in September.

"We've been patient, but now it's been months of silence, all while our stress increases and we get closer to the end of the student debt moratorium in September," the email said.

Debt Collective did not return a request for further comment last week.

Nationwide, nearly 45 million student borrowers owed more than \$1.71 trillion at the end of 2020, the Federal Reserve estimated. Total student debt has more than doubled in the past decade, surpassing in 2013 the total amount of Americans' credit card debt.

The cost of a college degree has soared, and even people who find well-paying jobs are saddled by decades of payments. High interest rates cause total repayment amounts to balloon.

More than a million students default each year on their federal student loans, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Ms. Marshall graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh in 2012 with \$75,000 in debt, but the balance has grown to \$95,000 with interest accrual.

She said admissions representatives had told her that nine in 10 graduates found jobs in their fields, but those figures turned out to be inflated.

While she was studying, admissions tactics at the Art Institutes — the Pittsburgh trade school chain that trained generations of people in the creative fields — came under scrutiny by the U.S. Justice Department and Congress.

In 2015, the chain's now-defunct owner, Education Management Corp., settled those claims by agreeing to pay \$100 million and make certain changes. EDMC admitted no wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

In 2019, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh abruptly shuttered after its nonprofit owners could not sustain operations.

With hiring managers ignoring her, Ms. Marshall said her skills grew rusty and she was forced to take retail and freelance jobs that paid little. She recently moved to the St. Louis area after her fiancé got a job there.

The school "left us high and dry," she said.

## A sword over their heads

Mr. Biden wants Congress to pass legislation that waives \$10,000 of student debt per borrower in a targeted way. Progressives want Mr. Biden to unilaterally forgive \$50,000 in debt per borrower.

In recent weeks, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who made student debt a campaign issue in her run for the White House last year, pressed Mr. Biden to act.

"These people live with a sword hanging over their heads," Ms. Warren said during a press conference on July 27 alongside Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who wore a face covering emblazoned with the text "#CancelStudentDebt."

"This is a matter of economic justice," Ms. Warren said. "It is a matter of racial justice. The president of the United States can remove this sword. The president can prevent this pain."

A day later, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., rebuffed them by saying Mr. Biden did not have the authority to waive debt and suggesting that some people would find student debt forgiveness unfair.

The U.S. Department of Education did not respond to questions about its thinking on student debt and whether it would act if Congress does not address the issue.

Two recent department hires could suggest some progress toward a debt-forgiveness deal.

Last month, Toby Merrill, an ally of Ms. Warren and founder of the Project of Predatory Student Lending at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, was hired as the Education Department's deputy general counsel.

A spokesperson for the project did not return a request for comment last week.

That followed the hire of another Warren ally, Richard Cordray, to be the head of the Federal Student Aid office. From 2012 to 2017, Mr. Cordray was the first director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, an agency conceived by Ms. Warren.

## Not on the agenda

But changes will be slow. And it is unclear whether all Democrats are on board with a specific level of debt forgiveness.

So far, Democrats have set aside debt forgiveness in favor of other party priorities in the infrastructure and families legislation.

"I know there's a lot of ideas out there, and we'll look at them once they come," U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Forest Hills, said in an interview July 29. "But that's not something we're working on, and not likely to be part of anything we're doing until we get this infrastructure bill and reconciliation bill," efforts that likely will extend into the fall.

In a follow-up statement last week, Mr. Doyle said he supports "some form of student loan forgiveness" enacted by Congress because the debt levels are a drag on the U.S. economy. "But the details of any student loan relief bill are going to be decided by the leadership and the committees of jurisdiction," he said.

U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., said he would press the Education Department to take "proactive measures to make college more affordable and to support struggling borrowers," but did not specify an amount of debt forgiveness he would support.

"I am open to canceling some student debt, but to help the students who need it the most, we must take additional steps, including doubling the Pell Grant and allowing borrowers to refinance their loans, just like you can a mortgage or a car loan," Mr. Casey said.

U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb, D-Mt. Lebanon, who last week launched his campaign for the U.S. Senate, has not returned requests for comment for several weeks.

In 2018, Mr. Lamb had \$50,001 to \$100,000 worth of federal student loans incurred in 2009, according to financial disclosure reports. He refinanced the loans through a private lender in 2019 and, by 2020, had paid them off, according to the reports.

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Eric Gay/Associated Press

Continuing their efforts against restrictive voting legislation, Texas Democrats refused to return to the State Capitol in Austin, Texas, for the third special session called by Gov. Greg Abbott to get the bills passed.

# Texas Dems continue holdout, don't show for new session

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Democrats still refused to return to the state Capitol on Saturday as Gov. Greg Abbott began a third attempt at passing new election laws, prolonging a monthlong standoff that ramped up in July when dozens of Democratic state lawmakers left the state and hunkered down in Washington, D.C.

"A quorum is not present," said Republican House Speaker Dade Phelan, who then adjourned the chamber until Monday.

More than 50 Democrats last month bolted to the nation's capital, but the precise whereabouts of each of them is unclear. In a joint statement Saturday, Democrats said 26 of them would remain "part of an active presence in Washington maintained for as long as Congress is working."

But there were also signs the stalemate may be thawing. Two of the Democrats who decamped last month returned to Austin on Saturday, and one of them said enough of his colleagues may also begin trickling back to secure a

quorum next week. And, notably, Republicans did not invoke a procedural move that would give Mr. Phelan the authority to sign arrest warrants for missing lawmakers, as they did when the Democrats left town.

Democratic state Rep. Eddie Lucio III said those who might return were feeling the pull of personal and professional demands.

"I was encouraged that the baton would be carried by my Washington colleagues at the federal level, that there would be sweeping reform nationwide," Lucio III said.

Republican state Rep. Jim Murphy, chairman of the House Republican Caucus, also believed that more Democrats would come back in the coming days.

"People are talking to their friends, and we think we're going to see quite a few more," he said.

It was not just Democrats who were absent Saturday. Six Republicans were also out, including one who recently tested positive for COVID-19.

Heading into the weekend, Democratic leaders had not committed to sitting out the entire 30-day

session, leaving open the possibility that enough could return at some point to end the standoff. Republicans want to advance an overhaul of elections in Texas under legislation that largely remains the same despite the months of walkouts and protests by Democratic lawmakers.

Texas would ban 24-hour polling locations, drive-thru voting and give partisan poll watchers more access under the bill that Republicans were on the brink of passing in May. That effort was foiled by Democrats abruptly leaving the Capitol in a late-night walkout.

Democrats made a bigger gambit — by decamping to Washington on chartered jets — to run out the clock on the GOP's second try. Democrats had hoped to exert pressure on President Joe Biden and Congress to pass federal voting rights legislation, but a Senate Republican filibuster continues to block such a measure.

Democrat Jasmine Crockett, one of the state representatives remaining in Washington, said she would be disappointed if enough of her colleagues returned to give Republicans

a quorum next week. She said their group is not "naïve" and knows they don't have the votes to permanently hold off passage of a bill in Texas, but are still hoping for movement in Congress.

"I'm not giving up on anything. I'm not going home until the fat lady sings," Ms. Crockett said.

Mr. Biden never met with the Texas Democrats in Washington. The group was quickly forced to change some plans after several of their members tested positive for COVID-19. Reports that two Democrats snuck away to Europe also led to bad headlines and invited mockery from Republicans back home.

There has been a recent sharp surge in COVID-19 infections in Texas, where the number of people hospitalized with the virus stands at more than 8,500 patients, the highest number since February. But Mr. Abbott is adamant that Texas will not bring back pandemic restrictions or mask mandates and has prohibited schools from requiring face coverings. Many of the state's 5 million students are scheduled to return to classrooms this month.

# Senate clears key hurdle for \$1T infrastructure deal

**DEAL, FROM A-1**

another one popped up Saturday.

The bill's final passage was delayed, likely until at least Monday, by Sen. Bill Hagerty, R-Tenn., who expressed concern about the bill's impact on the budget deficit and Democrats' intentions of passing a second, much larger spending package. In the Senate, where the minority voices are given power, just one senator can object to accelerating a process.

Supporters of the bill had hoped to pass the bill shortly after Saturday's vote, held during a rare weekend session ahead of a lengthy summer recess.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., vowed to press ahead.

"We can get this done the easy way or the hard way," Mr. Schumer said on the Senate floor prior to the vote. "In either case, the Senate will stay in session until we finish our work. It's up to my Republican colleagues how long it takes."

Mr. Hagerty joined a group of Republicans in railing against the bill in recent days after the Congressional Budget Office found it would add \$256 billion to the federal deficit over the next decade. Negotiators of the bill, led in part by Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, had promised it would be fully paid for.

"There's absolutely no

reason for rushing this process and attempting to eliminate scrutiny of this bill other than Democrats' completely artificial, self-imposed and politically driven timeline," Mr. Hagerty said in a floor speech. He told reporters afterward that he was "not inclined to expedite this process whatsoever."

Other lawmakers, like Mr. Toomey, raised concerns about a provision estimated to raise \$28 billion in revenue from new cryptocurrency tax-reporting requirements.

Mr. Toomey proposed an amendment to limit the potential scope of those requirements, and he pressed colleagues on the Senate floor on Friday for a vote on the proposed changes. Cryptocurrency supporters pushed the issue to the forefront of social media on Saturday, spurring the trending Twitter hashtag #DontKillCrypto.

But supporters of the infrastructure bill in both parties held firm.

They argued the bill would, in fact, eventually be paid for by broad economic growth. The infrastructure fixes are sorely needed, they said, and widely popular, with 80% to 90% of Americans saying they support federal funding to bring the country's physical assets into the 21st century.

"The United States Senate is not broken," Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., one

of the key negotiators of the deal, said in a floor speech.

"Not one senator got everything they wanted, but we all got what we needed," Mr. Manchin said. "This is how compromise works. This is what this body was made for."

In many spending categories, the level of funding is historic.

The bill allocates \$550 billion in new spending over five years. The rest of the plan — some \$400 billion over five years — would be baseline spending that Congress already authorized, but would require periodic congressional approval.

Lawmakers provided \$55 billion for clean drinking water, including a program that seeks to replace every lead pipe in the country. An additional \$65 billion would expand affordable broadband access to every American, provide \$25 billion to upgrade the nation's airports, and dole out \$66 billion to bolster rail service — including the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak 50 years ago.

In addition, the bill includes \$73 billion to modernize the nation's energy grid and \$21 billion to respond to environmental concerns, girding the country's electric grid against extreme weather events and lowering carbon emissions from power producers.

A \$7.5 billion initiative

establishes the first national network of electric vehicle charging stations.

Pennsylvania stands to receive tens of billions of dollars of investment.

On Wednesday, the White House estimated the state would receive an additional \$11.3 billion in federal highway funding, \$1.6 billion for bridge replacement, and \$2.8 billion for public transit over five years, based on funding formulas the government uses to allocate federal dollars to states.

In addition, Pennsylvania would receive at least \$100 million to expand broadband coverage across the state, an amount that would provide access to at least 394,000 Pennsylvanians who currently lack service. The state would also likely receive \$171 million to build electric vehicle chargers. There's still a long road ahead.

Late Saturday afternoon, the bill moved on to business unrelated to infrastructure while talks continued behind the scenes to set up a final vote.

If passed by the Senate, the bill would head to the House, which must also pass the bill. If the lower chamber amends it — as some House members have threatened — those changes then must be passed by the Senate.

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# U.S. surpasses 100K new daily virus cases

The Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The COVID-19 outbreak in the United States crossed 100,000 new confirmed daily infections Saturday, a milestone last exceeded during the winter surge and driven by the highly transmissible delta variant and low vaccination rates in the South.

Health officials fear that cases, hospitalizations and deaths will continue to soar if more Americans don't embrace the vaccine. Nationwide, 50% of residents are fully vaccinated and more than 70% of adults have received at least one dose.

"Our models show that if we don't (vaccinate people), we could be up to several hundred thousand cases a day, similar to our surge in early January," Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director, said on CNN last week.

It took the U.S. about nine months to cross 100,000 average daily cases in November before peaking at about 250,000 in early January. Cases bottomed out in June,

averaging about 11,000 per day, but six weeks later the number is 107,143.

Hospitalizations and deaths are also increasing, though all are still below peaks seen early this year before vaccines became widely available. More than 44,000 Americans are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, according to the CDC, up 30% in a week and nearly four times the number in June. More than 120,000 were hospitalized in January.

The seven-day average for deaths rose from about 270 deaths per day two weeks ago to nearly 500 a day as of Friday, according to Johns Hopkins University. Deaths peaked at 3,500 per day in January.

Deaths usually lag behind hospitalizations as the disease normally takes a few weeks to kill.

The situation is particularly dire in the South, which has some of the lowest vaccination rates in the U.S. and has seen smaller hospitals overrun with patients.

In the Southeast, the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients jumped 50% to a



Post-Gazette

Masks are becoming more evident as the delta variant of COVID-19 drives cases up nationwide. Here, a masked woman crosses Forbes Avenue on Tuesday in Oakland.

daily average of 17,600 over the last week from 11,600 the previous week, the CDC says. Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky represent 41% of the nation's new hospitalizations, the CDC says, twice their overall share of the population.

Alabama and Mississippi have the lowest vaccination rates in the country: less than 35% of residents are fully inoculated, according to the Mayo Clinic. Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas are all in the lowest 15 states.

Alabama saw more than 65,000 doses wasted because health providers couldn't

find people to take them before they expired, according to State Health Officer Scott Harris. That represents less than 1.5% of the more than 5 million coronavirus vaccines doses that Alabama has received.

"Sixty-five thousand doses have been wasted. That's extremely unfortunate when we have such a low vaccination rate and of course, there are so many people in the world that still don't have access to vaccine," Mr. Harris said.

Florida makes up more than 20% of the nation's new cases and hospitalizations, triple its share of the population. Many rural counties have vaccination rates below 40%, with the state at 49%.

The state again set a record Saturday, reporting 23,903 new cases.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, while encouraging vaccinations, has taken a hard line against mask rules and other restrictions. Running for reelection next year and eyeing a 2024 Republican presidential bid, he and President Joe Biden have verbally sparred in recent days. Mr.

DeSantis has accused the Democratic president of overreach, while Mr. Biden has said Mr. DeSantis should "get out of the way" of local officials if he doesn't want to fight the outbreak.

Some people have been scared off from the vaccine by bogus warnings on social media and from some non-medical media personalities.

Miami-area real estate agent Yoiris Duran, 56, said her family was swayed by the misinformation, although doctors and public health officials have almost universally encouraged people to get vaccinated.

After she, her husband and 25-year-old son got seriously ill with COVID-19 and were hospitalized, she's now encouraging friends and family to get vaccinated.

In some parts of the U.S., hospitals are scrambling to find beds for patients.

Dr. Leonardo Alonso, who works in several emergency rooms in Jacksonville, one of Florida's hardest-hit areas, said some hospitals are sending some COVID-19 patients home with oxygen and a monitor to free beds for sicker people.

## Housing advocates relieved with new evictions ban, but uncertainty remains

EVICITIONS, FROM A-1

Following the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's eviction moratorium, many landlords were thinking it didn't make sense to file an eviction notice while the ban was still in place, she said. They were thinking: "I got to wait until it ends and then when it ends, I can pounce on that opportunity."

"The fact that there was a gap in the moratorium coverage basically opened the barn door," Ms. Wright said.

After weeks of announcing plans to let the federal government's ban on evictions expire at the end of July — and actually letting it lapse on the target date — the Biden administration reversed course at the last minute and put a new moratorium in place Tuesday.

The new regulation is tied to the level of health risk in an area. A county that has high or substantial transmission rates for the COVID-19 virus or variants falls under the ban's protection. An area must dip below that threshold for 14 consecutive days before the ban would lift.

At the time of the announcement, the moratorium would have covered areas where 90% of the U.S. population lives, including Allegheny County, which the CDC marked as a substantial risk area Tuesday.

The latest moratorium is set to expire Oct. 3. A day after the announcement, a group of landlords from Alabama and Georgia challenged the policy in a court in Washington, arguing it exceeds the CDC's authority.

Many housing advocates in the Pittsburgh region welcomed the decision to reinstate the eviction moratorium. Between June 24 and July 5, 27% of rental households in Pennsylvania reported they didn't think they would be able to pay next month's bill on time, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau. In the same time period, 24% of renter households were not caught up on rent.

But the news also came with some uncertainty. Will the protection withstand court challenges? Is there enough rental assistance money for everyone who needs it? How do housing activists get the word out to those who need help?

If nothing else, many said, the new moratorium buys more time to bring awareness that rental relief funds are available to get tenants — and consequently landlords — caught up on rent, keeping people from losing their housing and the devastating long-term impact of having an eviction on their record.

### Getting relief funds into the right hands

To help those who had lost jobs or income during the pandemic, the federal gov-



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette

A pedestrian walks down Moore Avenue on Friday in Pittsburgh's Knoxville neighborhood. In the two days between when the initial pandemic evictions ban expired and a new one was instituted, 57 evictions were filed in Allegheny County.

ernment in March 2020 temporarily suspended evictions and foreclosures. To prepare for the inevitable end of the moratorium, federal officials also set aside money to get people caught up on mortgage or rent payments.

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which was the latest round of federal relief funding, has helped 3,644 households in Allegheny County since it launched about five months ago.

That amounts to more than \$19.8 million, according to data from the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. But that covered only 29% of the 12,686 households that applied for assistance.

"There are thousands and thousands of applications that are not fully processed yet," said Kyle Webster, general counsel with Action Housing Inc., a nonprofit that has managed the rental assistance program in the county. "Every single one of those people is at risk of eviction."

Rental assistance programs here and around the country have been criticized for delays in getting payments to renters. During the last round of funding, Pennsylvania missed the deadline to spend \$108 million in mortgage and rental assistance, and the Legislature had to redirect the funding, according to federal rules. Lawmakers in November voted to redirect the remaining money to the Department of Corrections.

Under the latest rent relief program, with \$80 million available in Allegheny County, Mr. Webster said the process is getting faster. Of the \$19 million distributed since March, about \$10 million was handed out in July alone, he said.

The process was slow to set up, Mr. Webster conceded, but that is partly due to the monumental task of distributing significantly more money in rental assistance

than county officials and housing advocates were used to. In a typical year, the county distributes about \$3 million in rental assistance.

"The federal government asked local governments and nonprofits to build out an infrastructure to get this money on the streets," he said. "In Allegheny County, I think we achieved that goal, but it took time."

Of the households that have applied for rental assistance, 71% reported a female head of household. Renters ages 25-34 old made up the largest category of applicants, followed by those ages 35-44.

Fifty-eight percent of the applications, or more than 7,000, were submitted by renters who are Black. About 4,000 applications came from renters who are white.

On average, households have received \$5,400 to cover nearly five months of rent.

### Problems with the system

With about \$60 million left to distribute in Allegheny County, the latest moratorium on evictions allows tenants more time to apply for assistance and the county more time to distribute the funds.

"If nothing else, it does buy some more time while the courts decide whether or not this narrowing [of the moratorium] will be upheld," Mr. Webster said. "As of right now, it is a protection ... and it does appear to be a bit of a lifeline to extend that moratorium."

But even with the money available and some extra time to distribute it, some say the program itself still has too many barriers preventing renters from accessing the funds.

The program puts most of the burden on the tenants, said Phyllis Chamberlain, executive director of the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. "Just because policy passes

in Washington, D.C., doesn't mean people know about it," she said.

Eileen Yacknin, a lawyer with Neighborhood Legal Services, which offers free legal advice and representation to low-income tenants, agreed. The process, at many stages, can be difficult, burdensome and hard to navigate without legal representation.

When applying for funds through the Emergency Rental Assistance program, many tenants don't have the required paperwork easily on hand, slowing down their applications. And after an eviction notice is filed, many tenants don't know that by simply submitting an application for funds, they can sometimes get eviction hearings postponed or the case dismissed.

If the court does rule against a tenant, that person can sometimes appeal and stay in their homes while it is pending, Ms. Yacknin said. In such cases, tenants must stay current on their rent, something that isn't always feasible for renters.

"The same problems are going to exist at the beginning of October," Ms. Yacknin said. "But we also recognize that the government isn't going to implement an indefinite moratorium. It's going to end sometime."

The length of the pandemic has introduced another problem that wasn't protected by the moratorium, Ms. Yacknin said: the end of a lease.

Under Pennsylvania law, a landlord can choose not to renew a lease when it expires, Ms. Yacknin said. More than a year after the first COVID-19 case popped up in Allegheny County, most renters have reached that deadline, leaving some with no protection when their leases end.

Ms. Yacknin would like to see that changed in the law, along with other provisions including the right to counsel

### Where to find rental assistance

For more information on the Allegheny County Emergency Rental Assistance Program, visit: [covidrentrelief.allegheycounty.us](https://www.allegheycounty.us/covidrentrelief).

You can also call Action Housing at **412-248-0021**.

If you need help figuring out which program is best for you, contact RentHelpPGH at [renthelppgh.org](https://renthelppgh.org). You can also call **412-534-6600** for English or **412-530-5244** for Español.

they believe?"

So far, it seems landlords believe they shouldn't be filing as often while a moratorium is in place. The number of judgments for plaintiffs dropped from 73 in the hours before the new moratorium was announced Tuesday evening, to 12 on Wednesday and 15 on Thursday. Orders for possession dropped from 29 on Tuesday to 10 on Wednesday and just one on Thursday.

### 'Ways to keep things moving'

In Allegheny County Common Pleas Court, President Judge Kim Berkeley Clark and advocacy groups such as the Pittsburgh Union of Regional Renters are calling for protections that extend beyond the federal eviction moratorium.

Judge Clark petitioned the state Supreme Court for permission to delay eviction proceedings in the county, taking a page from Philadelphia Municipal Court and Bucks County Common Pleas Court, both of which already requested and received such permission.

The CDC order provides more protections but doesn't give sufficient time for landlords and tenants to access rental assistance funds, the petition says.

Jane Downing, a senior program officer for economic and community development at the Pittsburgh Foundation, said most of the feedback she has heard since the latest moratorium was put in place boils down to one word: confusing.

Michael Yonas, the foundation's vice president of public health, research and learning, said that confusion adds to the instability that people already face when worried about losing their homes — in addition to the uncertainty that comes from navigating a public health crisis.

The foundation is looking at what happens next, when the funding runs out and the public health crisis abates. Possible solutions range from finding more money for rental assistance through such things as community development block grant funding or emergency shelter grant funding, to having a physician prescribe housing as a solution to health concerns.

"I feel like we're using some pretty great skills, but we're still duct-taping the bumper on the back of the car and trying to find ways to keep things moving," Mr. Yonas said. "People are finding new ways to work better, but it's not a solution."

"We take the risk of [saying], 'Great, we checked that box because the bumper's on,'" he said. "It could fall off in the rain."

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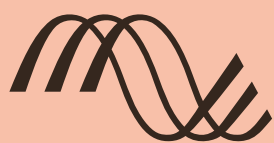
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## Penn State branch campuses vs. state universities

Some point toward expansion of Commonwealth options as cause of state system enrollment struggles

By Susan Snyder  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Penn State University shook the state's already crowded higher-education marketplace in the late 1990s when it added bachelor's degree programs to its branch campuses, effectively turning what were for many stops on the way to State College into four-year universities.

One higher-education official, in an interview with the Chronicle of Higher Education at the time, predicted "internecine warfare" between Penn State and other universities competing for students. Since then, programs on those Penn State branches, called Commonwealth campuses, have grown. They offer 108 bachelor's degrees — 31 added in the past five years.

Some say Penn State's growth may have come at the expense of the 14 universities in PASSHE — the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education — an assertion that Penn State flatly rejects and notes there are no studies to support.

Still, the state system's recent enrollment struggles that resulted in planned mergers of six universities has some speculating about the impact of that Penn State decision decades ago. In some cases, state system universities and Penn State campuses are in the same or neighboring counties. Penn State Brandywine in Media is about 11 miles from West Chester, the system's largest university, and less than 6 miles from its smallest, the historically Black Cheyney University. Penn State Berks is 16 miles from Kutztown. In Western Pennsylvania, California University is within about 20 miles of Penn State Fayette.

"They saw a market they could capture and it solidified their political dominance in the state," said Joni E. Finney, a recently retired director of the Institute for Re-



Darrell Sapp/Post-Gazette

Taylor Howser, of Smock, Fayette County, pays attention as Alison Sakayuchi teaches a Health Assessment class at the Penn State University Fayette Campus. The addition of four-year programs at the university's branch campuses is being considered as a reason for a decline in enrollment at schools in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

search on Higher Education at the University of Pennsylvania. "They didn't care about PASSHE, nor about serving the commonwealth. A partnership with PASSHE would have been the best thing in some kind of way."

Some say PASSHE's struggles point to a long-standing need for a bipartisan commission to better coordinate higher-education planning and ensure that schools work together in the best interest of students and the state.

"There's no sort of referee out there saying what are you doing and why," said Brian C. Mitchell, a higher-education consultant and former Bucknell University president. "The solution has to come from somewhere. It's not going to come from interested parties, like

PASSHE or the Penn State system."

Mr. Mitchell was president of Pennsylvania's Association of Independent Colleges and Universities when Penn State added the bachelor's degrees; he predicted the "warfare."

Penn State at the time said it was responding to a larger demand than it could handle at its University Park campus and wanted to offer students opportunities to get a degree at a campus closer to home.

Then-Pennsylvania Education Secretary Eugene W. Hickok allowed the expansion to proceed.

Penn State officials continue to defend the move. Provost Nicholas P. Jones said Penn State has added bachelor's programs to its Commonwealth campuses in areas where there was student demand

and labor needs, most recently in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, the so-called STEM fields, where there is little program overlap with PASSHE schools.

"We are not looking to compete with them," Mr. Jones said. "We are looking to complement them and make sure higher-education needs in the commonwealth are met."

### A crowded marketplace

Pennsylvania has one of the largest numbers of public and private four-year colleges in the nation. It's not unique in having both a flagship land-grant university and a separate state system. But Ms. Finney points out Pennsylvania is unusual because its land-grant university created other

four-year campuses. Something similar happened in Washington, she said.

"It really hurt the public regionals and it created the same kind of expensive competition," she said.

Founded in 1855 as one of the nation's first colleges of agricultural science, Penn State is Pennsylvania's only land-grant institution, with a sprawling campus in Centre County. In the 1930s, it began adding branch campuses, largely to serve students in their communities during the Depression. Penn State now has 24 campuses, including a law school, medical school and graduate campus, with more than 97,000 students, nearly half of them at its anchor in University Park. About one-third of students who start their degrees at the 19 Commonwealth campuses finish their degrees there.

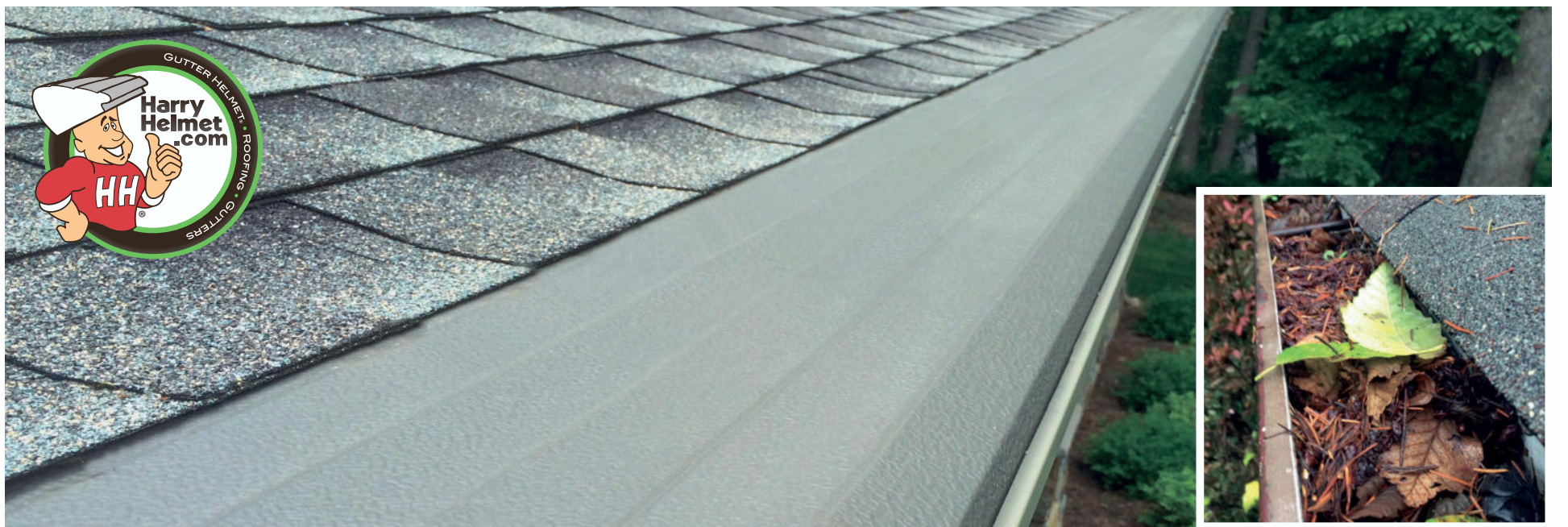
With nearly 700,000 alumni, Penn State has a loyal following, a distinctive brand and considerable political clout, counting 32 of the state's 253 legislators, including Senate President Jake Corman, R-Centre, and House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre, among its attendees.

By contrast, the state system has 14 universities, many in rural areas, enrolling 93,700 students, a 22% decline since 2010. The system was formed in 1983, but its universities are much older. They also are well-represented in the Legislature, with 40 senators and representatives having attended.

Many have struggled to hold on to enrollment, especially as the pool of high school graduates has declined and state funding waned, leading to tuition increases that eroded the cost gap between them and competitors.

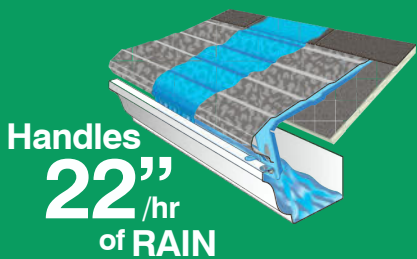
Penn State's Commonwealth campuses haven't been without challenges, either, and have lost enrollment over the past decade. At a Penn State board meeting in

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# Kyrsten Sinema vs. the left: An old rivalry's new turn

By Clay Risen  
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., may be Washington's favorite cranky centrist, but quietly, Kyrsten Sinema has become the darling of Pennsylvania Avenue establishment and the Democrat progressives love to hate.

The White House and the party leadership love Ms. Sinema, Arizona's senior senator, because she helped deliver a deal with Republicans on the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, keeping the negotiators on track with wine when they got distracted. Republicans love her because she works closely with them, even ducking into their cloakroom for a chat when the Senate is in session. And moderates from both parties love the way she manages to stick by her centrist convictions and still deliver results.

The left, on the other hand, can't stand her. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., attacked her over her handling of the infrastructure bill. "Good luck tanking your own party's investment on childcare, climate action, and infrastructure while presuming you'll survive a three-vote House margin," she tweeted, "especially after choosing to exclude members of color from negotiations and calling that a 'bipartisan accomplishment.'"

Just Democracy, a coalition of progressive groups representing people of color, recently announced a six-figure ad campaign against Ms. Sinema in Arizona, on top of a \$1.5 million ad buy in June. Last week, 39 activists, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, were arrested outside



J. Scott Applewhite/Associated Press

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., center, joined from left by, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La.; Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska; Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine; and Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, speaks to reporters last month after a vote to start work on a nearly \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package at the Capitol in Washington.

her office in Phoenix while protesting her refusal to ditch the filibuster. And several liberal groups have already suggested they would back a primary challenge against her — even though she isn't up for re-election until 2024.

What explains the haters? On one level, it's simple. In today's partisan environment, anyone who seems too close to the other party risks friendly fire — and it doesn't help that Ms. Sinema has won praise from some of the right's vociferous combatants, including Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA, who said she was "more of a Republican than John McCain ever was."

But Mr. Manchin often wins similar cross-partisan Brownie points, too. And Ms. Sinema's policy positions are not that different from his: They both support the filibuster, they are both uncommitted to the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion spending plan, and they have both expressed wariness about using the reconciliation process to pass it.

Of course, Mr. Manchin is hardly beloved by the left. But he often appears to get a pass — perhaps because he is an older white man representing one of the whitest, most conservative states in the country. Whether that makes him conservative by nature or by a pragmatic survival instinct, he's at least easy to comprehend.

Not Ms. Sinema. Arizona is a purple state, and in 2018, she became the first Democrat the state had elected to the U.S. Senate in 30 years.

left, especially in Arizona, was relatively marginal and ineffective, pushing a grab bag of causes in a political landscape where "liberal" was still considered a scarlet letter among Arizona voters.

Now, with younger voters driving the party to the left, progressives say that image, and her seemingly dismissive response to it, seems out of touch, tilting against an outmoded stereotype instead of engaging with the issues powering left-wing politics.

"I almost feel she is responding to her understanding of what the left is based on her engagement with leftist politics a decade and a half ago," said Emily Kirkland, the executive director of Progress Arizona, a liberal advocacy group.

Then there is her political style — for progressives, her brand of centrism comes across as aggressive, even trolling. Recall the moment in March when, during a vote on raising the minimum wage, she sauntered down to the well of the Senate and gave a flippant thumbs-down, a move that many on the left translated into a gesture involving a different finger, pointed in a different direction.

"It can feel like she is more interested in making progressives mad than in engaging with the substance of the topic at hand," Ms. Kirkland said.

But it's at least plausible that another sticking point for progressives is that so far, her centrism seems to work. She is regularly in contact with President Joe Biden, on the phone and at the White House. She helped broker a deal between Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Senate majority leader, and Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., on the COVID-19 relief bill. She's been working with Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, on a minimum wage bill.

All of which means that the next few weeks are critical for her stature in Washington, and in Arizona. If the infrastructure bill goes through — and it still faces obstacles, some of them out of Ms. Sinema's control — then she could cement her reputation as not just a maverick, but also as a savior of a bipartisan relationship that people had largely written off.

# Riding high on vaccines, Canada's Trudeau aims to restore ruling majority

Bloomberg

Early in the pandemic, Justin Trudeau looked like a man under siege. Atop a minority government, hiding behind a scruffy COVID-19 beard, Canada's prime minister called the military into infected retirement homes as hospitals filled and drug producers threw up their hands over vaccines.

So it's all the more remarkable these days to see the newly shaven, freshly coifed 49-year-old Mr. Trudeau crisscrossing his country with beaming aides, promoting child care and green energy, ending travel bans and basking in the unexpected fact that a bigger percentage of Canadians are vaccinated than Americans.

There is growing consensus on one thing: Mr. Trudeau will likely call a snap election for September — and win big. The pandemic has turned into an opportunity for him.

Canadian politics can seem like a tame sport, an arena for policy wonks in a nation that embraces common sense. In truth, there are sharp regional divisions all against the glaring backdrop of what's happening in the U.S. Canada's parliament is fragmented and Mr. Trudeau's goal is to win back a solid majority.

A few months ago, as Americans started returning to life, renewed pandemic lockdowns loomed in Canada, the nascent economic recovery was grinding to a halt and only 3% of the population was fully vaccinated. Canada looked lame.

But then President Joe Biden put forward a massive spending plan. It divided Congress while fueling a surge in demand for goods made north of the border, jump-starting Canada's recovery. Meanwhile, huge numbers of Americans rejected vaccines as government overreach.

When vaccines finally poured into Canada this summer, and citizens calmly and dutifully lined up, Mr. Trudeau seemed like a shepherd tending to his national flock by comparison to the madness south of the border.

All of which has led to what is seen as an open secret: Mr. Trudeau is preparing to trigger an election campaign.

Faced with an imminent catastrophe as the pandemic swept across the globe, Mr. Trudeau tossed out the prudent fiscal rule book that had governed Canada's public finances since a 1990s debt crisis. His government wracked up hundreds of billions in debt to roll out some

of the world's most generous COVID-19 aid programs, with net federal debt expected to balloon to 51.2% of gross domestic product in 2022.

It was a gamble that paid off, causing a political resuscitation few could have predicted. His Liberal Party nearly lost power in the 2019 election after a series of scandals tarnished Mr. Trudeau's carefully curated persona.

From an island getaway with the Aga Khan to a corporate bribery case that led him to fire his justice minister, an Indigenous woman, Mr. Trudeau's first term led the parliamentary ethics commission to reprimand him multiple times. Photos of Mr. Trudeau as a young man dressed in brown- and blackface also emerged.

Then came the pandemic. Canada's health care system was already strained as deaths mounted in the spring of 2020, elder-care homes were overwhelmed and it became clear there would be no domestic vaccine production.

The presence of Donald Trump in the White House made it easy for the prime minister to portray himself as the U.S. president's moral superior.

But the arrival of Mr. Biden has created a more complex dynamic. On one hand, relations at the top are improved and, while Canadians like to look down a bit on the U.S., they rely on it. On the other, Mr. Biden has provided more of a contrast to Mr. Trudeau than expected — from both left and right.

Under pressure from progressive Democrats, Mr. Biden has pursued social and environmental policies on Mr. Trudeau's left, which made him look more like a centrist.

At the same time, Mr. Biden has made it clear that his goal is to advance U.S. priorities, even if they hurt the Canadian economy.

There are risks in seeking an early election. In a political campaign that lasts several weeks, there's little time to recover from unexpected setbacks. Any surge by the left-leaning New Democratic Party could be a particular problem for the Liberals, peeling off younger, progressive voters.

Still, the housing market is buoyant, government spending has proven successful and those who might challenge the prime minister — especially conservatives — are having trouble connecting with voters.

It all adds up to an unexpectedly optimistic political moment for Mr. Trudeau.



Andrew Vaughan/The Canadian Press via AP

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau talks with children July 28 at the College of the North Atlantic in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. The province has struck a deal with Ottawa for a \$10-a-day child-care program.

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# Some point to Penn State branches as cause of state system struggles

**BRANCHES**, FROM A-13

July, trustee Ted Brown suggested the university add students to campuses as an alternative to higher tuition. "They are hidden gems," Mr. Brown said of the Commonwealth campuses, noting DuBois draws students from as far as Montana and Wyoming for its wildlife technology major. "What I would really like to see is for us to get them back where they were 10 years ago."

## Penn State vs. PASSHE?

Several counselors at area high schools said they haven't seen much competition between Penn State branches and PASSHE universities and that they tend to draw different students. "There are kids who feel Penn State is too big, too expensive, or it's too far, or they don't have the academics to get in, so they will look at PASSHE schools," said Lori Cohen, school counselor and coordinator of the department at Cheltenham High School in suburban Philadelphia.

Out of a class of about 350, 12 Cheltenham graduates from 2021 went to Penn State, two-thirds of them to University Park, and 25 went to PASSHE schools, the largest number, 10, to West Chester.

It came down to cost for Samantha Brayton, a recent graduate of Shippensburg, a state university, now in a master's program at Villanova. A Shippensburg resident, she, like most of her friends, wanted to go to Penn State until she realized she could get her education at much less cost by living at home and attending Shippensburg, where tuition ran \$7,716.

For Katlin Rooney, 22, Penn State's Altoona campus ended up being what she needed. Initially, Penn State wasn't even on her radar. She wanted to go to Syra-

cuse. But she came to realize she wasn't ready for a big college. The Altoona campus, she said, gave her the foundation she needed, and she transferred to State College for her final two years.

Christopher Fiorentino, president of West Chester, which has continued to grow and thrive despite market challenges, said Penn State Brandywine and Abington are just two among 80 competitors in the region. "Can they cut into our market? Sure," he said. "But so does St. Joe's. So does Temple. So does Drexel. We just need to take care of our business and be a high-value proposition and not look over our shoulders at the competition."

PASSHE administrators don't blame Penn State for the system's woes. Bashar Hanna, lead president for the Bloomsburg-Mansfield-Lock Haven merger, said competition from private colleges that have deeply discounted their costs has been a bigger challenge.

"The part that has hurt PASSHE is our affordability has eroded," he said.

Tuition, fees, and room and board range from \$19,243 at West Chester to \$25,714 at Indiana. Those costs top \$30,000 at University Park, while tuition costs at Commonwealth campuses are \$3,200 to \$5,000 less for lower-division, in-state students.

Sam Claster, a sociology professor and faculty union president at Edinboro University, said he's more worried about the loss of PASSHE's affordability advantage than the Penn State Behrend campus 26 miles down the road in Erie.

"Is there a draw from PASSHE to Penn State? I don't know," he said. "I don't have that data. Have we lost our competitive financial edge? Certainly, and that's an absolute problem for the system."

Before the pandemic, a newly created Higher Education Funding Commission composed of state lawmakers from both parties began meeting. But its work was stalled and its deadline for a report extended to May 2022. Calls to several commission members, including co-chair state Sen. Pat Browne, R-Lehigh Valley, were not returned.

Ron Cowell, a former state legislator, recalled sitting on a similar commission under then-Gov. Dick Thornburgh in the 1980s. They developed a proposal of prioritizing the funding of programs based on assigned value, but nothing happened, he said.

"State government, we, the policymakers, were unwilling to decide what we value more," said Mr. Cowell, executive director of the Education Policy and Leadership Center in Harrisburg. "I'm not optimistic about the willingness of policymakers to make the tough decisions now."

But Mr. Mitchell said it's critical. "If they don't do it, there will be more of the same defensive reactions," he said. "... and the result will be bad policy."

Ms. Finney favors a citizens task force without a political or institutional stake. Program mergers and partnerships of Penn State and PASSHE campuses should have been on the table two decades ago — and now, she said. It might take a change in law and lots of political capital, but it's worth considering, she said.

"We have so many four-year public institutions now, with a declining population and we have a whole private sector trying to compete," she said. "I don't think the problems of PASSHE can be solved within PASSHE. They are really statewide."

*The Inquirer's Angela Couloumbis contributed to this story.*

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# Lawyers disagree on jurors visiting massacre site

South Florida Sun-Sentinel  
 FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Knowing 17 people were murdered at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14, 2018, won't be enough. Seeing pictures of their bodies, hearing testi-

mony from the doctors who performed their autopsies, even seeing surveillance video of the final moments of the terrified teenagers and faculty members won't be enough.  
 To truly understand why Nikolas Cruz needs to be

convicted of murder and sentenced to death, prosecutors say, jurors need to follow his steps into the staircases and the hallways and the classrooms where the crimes were committed.

And that, defense lawyers are arguing, would overwhelm the jury with a flood of emotions that will make it impossible for them to return a fair and impartial verdict.

In what may be the one of their most significant pre-trial showdowns, lawyers on both sides of the case have drawn new battle lines at the crime scene. Prosecutors insist a walk-through is necessary to determine the scope of the event; defense lawyers say it would be unnecessary, excessive and inflammatory.

Evidence at trial, tentatively set for the fall, is al-



Saul Martinez/The New York Times

Lawyers for Nikolas Cruz, who is charged with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla., argue that allowing jurors to visit the school during the trial will make it impossible for them to give an impartial verdict.

ready sure to include hundreds or thousands of crime scene photos, post-mortem pictures of each deceased victim, firsthand testimony from surviving witnesses and attempted-murder victims, surveillance video and still photos taken with a 360-degree camera before investigators went into each room.

Max Schachter, father of victim Alex Schachter, said no video could capture the gravity of the crime. "The jury should have complete and unfettered access to the crime scene," he said. "Looking at pictures and/or video is not the same thing as walking the actual hallways and into the classrooms where the victims were murdered."

But the emotional impact of such a tour is something the trial should avoid, not

embrace, defense lawyers led by assistant public defender Melisa McNeill said in their motion.

"If the jurors are so traumatized by their view of the scene that their emotions affect how they review the evidence and deliberate in ways that are prejudicial to the defendant, the jury view is not proper," the defense team wrote.

Broward Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer has already ruled on the issue. In December, she granted the prosecutors' motion for a jury view, finding that it is a proper way of introducing evidence at trial.

Most murder trials do not include crime scene visits. Most recently in Broward County, juries were taken to the scene of the 2006 murder of Broward Sheriff's Deputy Brian Tephford and the 2002 murders of a waitress and cook at a Davie Waffle House. Jurors in the Waffle House case even walked into the freezer where the defendant allegedly kept the victims before he killed them.

Both were death penalty cases. The three defendants in the Tephford case were convicted and sentenced to life in prison. The defendant in the Waffle House murder, Gerhard Hojan, was sen-

tenced to die.

Family members of the Parkland victims said they want jurors to tour the 1200 building where the shooting took place, which has been unused since that day.

"I relive it every day anyway," said Debbi Hixon, whose husband, Chris Hixon, was among the victims. "It's not something we don't think about. People need to know the truth, they need to be in that situation that brings them to the truth of what happened that day."

Fred Guttenberg, who lost his 14-year-old daughter Jaime in the shooting, agreed. "The defense attorneys are doing everything they can to push this trial into the next century. It's just a delay tactic, that's it, to [keep] the families [from getting] the justice they deserve."

And Philip Schentrup, whose daughter Carmen was among those killed, said: "My wife and I support prosecutors' attempts to show jurors the carnage and pain inflicted by the defendant. We believe this is an important step in helping the jury understand the magnitude of the crimes committed."

Asked if a walk-through would cause his family suffering, he said: "Our family has suffered every day since Carmen's murder. This trial is an opportunity to bring justice to Carmen's murderer."

But defense lawyers are hoping the judge changes her mind. Filing a new motion asking Judge Scherer to reconsider the decision, the lawyers said Mr. Cruz's right to a fair trial should take precedence over the emotional impact of a crime scene tour. "Viewing the scene in its current condition will cause additional, unnecessary vicarious trauma to the jurors," they wrote.

A hearing date has not been set. Mr. Cruz is next due in court Tuesday.

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# With sit-in, Cori Bush galvanized revolt over evictions

By Nicholas Fandos  
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Rep. Cori Bush, of Missouri, was 20 the first time she was evicted, tossed out by a landlord after a violent fight with her boyfriend.

The next time, she was 29 and had quit a low-wage job to attend nursing school and could no longer afford her rent.

It happened a third time in 2015 as Ms. Bush threw herself into the protest movement in Ferguson, Mo., after a white police officer shot and killed Michael Brown, a Black teenager. The eviction notice was waiting on her door one night — prompted, she said, by neighbors who feared she would bring the unrest home with her.

So when it became clear the night of July 30 that neither Congress nor the White House was going to act to stop a pandemic-era federal eviction moratorium from expiring, leaving hundreds of thousands of low-income Americans at risk of losing their homes, Ms. Bush — now 45 and a first-term Democratic congresswoman from St. Louis — felt a familiar flood of anxiety and a flash of purpose.

As her colleagues boarded planes home for a seven-week summer recess, she took a page from her years as an activist and did the only thing she could think of: She got an orange sleeping bag, grabbed a lawn chair and began what turned into a round-the-clock sit-in on the steps of the U.S. Capitol that galvanized a full-on progressive revolt.

She stayed put — in rain, cold and brutal summer heat — until Tuesday, when President Joe Biden, under growing pressure from Ms. Bush's group and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, abruptly relented and announced a new 60-day federal eviction moratorium covering areas overrun with the delta variant of the coronavirus. Even as Mr. Biden reiterated his administration's fears that the ban would run afoul of the courts, it was a striking reversal for his team, designed to give state and local governments time to distribute billions of dollars in federal rental assistance that has yet to go out the door.

"My brain could not understand how we were supposed to just leave," Ms. Bush said in an interview Wednesday, recounting the months she spent 20 years ago living out of a 1996 Ford Explorer. "I felt like I did sitting in that car — like, 'Who speaks for me? Is this because I deserve it?'"

Furious that the White House had tried to punt the political mess to Congress, Ms. Pelosi had been forcefully waging a battle of her own, quietly working the levers of power available to influential political operators in Washington. She spoke to Mr. Biden directly and issued uncompromising statements urging him to use executive authority to extend the moratorium unilaterally, despite the risk of an adverse court ruling. Congress, she said, simply did not have the votes to solve the problem.

But it was Ms. Bush, using the tactics of a street organizer — alongside fellow progres-



Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., center in white T-shirt, speaks Tuesday outside the Capitol in Washington, celebrating President Joe Biden's new 60-day federal eviction moratorium.

sives like Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., and Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., who joined her encampment — who thrust the issue into the national consciousness and refused to let it go. They marshaled huge social media followings, the attention of a news media eager to cover intraparty conflict and direct confrontations with party leaders to all but shame them into finding a solution.

Their success has sent a bolt of energy through the progressive movement that Ms. Bush and others now hope will signal the start of a new, more assertive phase in Washington. It comes as liberals are reeling from the latest in a string of electoral defeats after Nina Turner, a progressive insurgent, lost a special-election primary in Cleveland on Tuesday to an establishment-backed candidate, Shontel Brown.

Although Democrats' spare majorities in the House and Senate give the bloc the power to make or break legislation, they have so far mostly hesitated to use it, watching instead with frustration as Mr. Biden's drive to strike a bipartisan infrastructure deal with moderates has pushed their priorities — from voting rights to climate change — to the back burner.

"I hope people see right now that I mean what I say," Ms. Bush said. "Hopefully, this has shown not only leadership, the caucus, but our progressive family that when we say we are not going to back down, we don't back down. And when we say our communities need this particular thing, we can stand together to work together to get it."

The victory could be fleeting; even Mr. Biden conceded that most constitutional scholars believed his administration's latest eviction freeze lacked a legal basis.

But for now, the episode has offered a welcome taste of vindication for Ms. Bush, who has faced doubts and criticisms from some in her party ever since she unexpectedly upset a moderate 10-term Democratic incumbent in a primary one year ago this week in a campaign promising to bring her zeal for activism to Congress.

Her opponent then, William Lacy Clay Jr., tried to

weaponize Ms. Bush's patchy work history and financial woes, reminding voters of her evictions and that she had struggled to hold down a job. His message was clear: She lacked the kind of experience needed to make a difference in Congress and could not be trusted with public office.

Her critics on the left and right similarly scoffed in recent days at her protest, calling it naive. Conservative Twitter delighted in making jokes about the unruly sleeper scene on the Capitol's marble steps. One commentator, Ben Shapiro, called it "unbelievably off-putting and stupid."

Even fellow liberals who shared her goal questioned Ms. Bush's hard-nosed tactics, which they privately groused were inappropriate and ineffective for a member of Congress. The liberal editorial board of her hometown newspaper, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, wrote Tuesday that Ms. Bush "clearly misunderstands the complicated process required to restore the moratorium."

But many of Ms. Bush's colleagues, including some high-profile Democrats, saw a political moment in the making.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., was there Monday, grinning with his arms around Ms. Bush and Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Rep. Joyce Beatty, D-Ohio and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, who has been critical of progressives like Ms. Bush challenging Black incumbents like Mr. Clay, flew back from Ohio to pay a visit after Ms. Bush called to invite her personally. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. and the majority leader, who is angling to fend off a progressive challenger as he seeks re-election next year, came by twice.

When an aide to Ms. Bush learned from Capitol Police that Vice President Kamala Harris would be in the Senate on Monday, Ms. Bush took off running from the House steps in pursuit.

"I wanted to look her in her eyes," Ms. Bush said. "I wanted her to look me in mine and see down to my soul everything that was happening on the inside of me — to see St. Louis, to see the pain of regular people."

Kayla Reed, a St. Louis organizer who met Ms. Bush around the demonstrations

in Ferguson, said she could draw a direct line from those early protests to the congresswoman's impatient, insurgent style of politics. Ms. Bush, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez and others are now using to test the mettle of their party.

"What she did was not al-

low the conversation to end at 'Congress wasn't able to extend it, and there was no other way forward,'" said Ms. Reed, who now leads a group, Action St. Louis, that has been working with renters facing evictions. "She applied pressure."

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# After months as success story, China tries to tame delta

By Sui-Lee Wee and Elsie Chen  
The New York Times

In the battle against the coronavirus, few places seemed as confident of victory as China.

The country of 1.4 billion people had eradicated the virus so quickly that it was one of the first in the world to open up in spring last year. People removed their masks and gathered for pool parties. In recent months, the government has contended with sporadic outbreaks in various provinces, but stamped them out swiftly by mobilizing thousands of people to test and trace infections, as well as locking down communities.

That model is now looking increasingly fragile. China is facing its biggest challenge since the virus

first erupted in the Chinese city of Wuhan last year: the highly transmissible delta variant that is rapidly spreading throughout the country. Chinese officials have acknowledged that curbing this outbreak will be much harder than the others, owing to the fast and asymptomatic spread of the variant.

While the number of cases are still relatively low compared to those in the United States and elsewhere, these new outbreaks — happening in cities such as Nanjing, Wuhan, Yangzhou and Zhangjiajie — are showcasing the limitations of China's zero-tolerance approach to COVID-19. They may also undermine the ruling Communist Party's argument that its authoritarian style has been an unquestionable success in the



Mark Schiefelbein/Associated Press

Visitors wear face masks to protect against COVID-19 as they walk at a tourist shopping street Tuesday in Beijing. Current outbreaks, while still in the hundreds of cases in total, have spread much more widely than previous ones, reaching multiple provinces and cities, including the capital, Beijing.

pandemic. Although the government had to stamp out a delta

flare-up in June in Guangdong province, authorities this time are dealing with a much larger spread. Since the current delta outbreak started on July 21, the number of cases has risen to 483, more than the sum total of infections from the first five months of the year. By Tuesday afternoon, the virus had spread to 15 of the 31 provinces and autonomous regions in China.

"Once it reaches so many provinces, it's very hard to mitigate," said Chen Xi, an associate professor of public health at Yale University. "I think this would be surprising and shocking to the rest of the world. Such a powerful government has been breached by delta. This will be a very important lesson — we cannot let our guard down."

Sun Chunlan, a vice premier of China, recently blamed "ideological laxity" for the delta outbreaks and urged officials to step up their prevention efforts. "We cannot relax for a moment," Ms. Sun said.

Some public health experts in the country say it is time for China to rethink its COVID strategy. In a recent essay, Zhang Wenhong, who advises the Chinese govern-

ment on dealing with COVID-19, floated the idea of following a model similar to that of Israel and Britain, in which vaccination rates are high and people are willing to live with infections.

For now, China has stuck to the same strict playbook. Across the country, the government has instructed people not to travel unless necessary. In the cities of Zhangjiajie and Zhuzhou, 5.4 million people have been barred from leaving their homes. Roughly 13 million residents in the city of Zhengzhou, the site of deadly floods in July, had to stand in line for virus testing starting during a recent weekend.

In Nanjing, where the recent delta cases first appeared, millions of residents have had to participate in four rounds of testing.

"It's just torturing the masses," said Jiang Ruoling, a resident in Nanjing, who has been tested four times in the last three weeks. Ms. Jiang, who works in real estate, said she understood the need for testing, but was still critical of officials for failing to control the latest outbreak. "The leaders are actually wasting resources and everyone's time," she said.

Yanzhong Huang, a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations, said China's "containment-based" strategy would not work in the long run, particularly as new variants continue to emerge. "It will become extremely costly to sustain such an approach," he said.

And yet China appears unwilling to take any chances. In Wuhan, authorities on Tuesday started testing all 12 million residents after only three cases of the delta variant were discovered. The cities of Sanmenxia and Zhuhai have also begun mass testing. In Beijing, where there are five infections, train service from 23 cities has been canceled.

Jennifer Huang Bouey, a

senior China policy expert and an epidemiologist at the RAND Corp., said that even with strict controls, it may not be realistic for officials in China to get these latest cases down to zero. "I think they may have to prepare people for a higher tolerance of COVID," Ms. Huang said.

Part of the challenge for Beijing is that the Chinese-made vaccines being used to immunize the country are not as effective against the delta variant as other shots. The government says it has already administered about 1.69 billion doses. Health officials are now considering giving booster shots to people with compromised immune systems as well as older citizens.

Zhong Nanshan, a top epidemiologist, said China's vaccines are 100% protective against severe disease caused by delta, and 63.2% effective against asymptomatic cases. He said he was confident that the latest outbreak would be controlled in about 10 to 14 days, during which officials hope to carry out extensive contact tracing in Nanjing and several other cities in Jiangsu province.

The current delta cases have been linked to a flight from Moscow that landed in Nanjing on July 10. Seven passengers on the flight were infected with the variant. On July 20, nine airport cleaners tested positive. Their infections spread quickly among people who entered the airport, a major transportation hub.

A mother and daughter and a 12-year-old girl who flew to Zhangjiajie after transiting for two hours in the Nanjing airport have all tested positive. Three other tourists who traveled to Zhangjiajie have been linked to an outbreak in the central city of Changde, after they all took a river cruise. About 27 infections in at least six places have been linked to the boat ride.

Cases have also spread in

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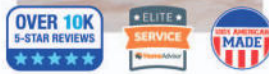
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# Tenn. won't incentivize COVID-19 shots but pays to vaccinate cattle

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee has sent nearly half a million dollars to farmers who have vaccinated their cattle against respiratory diseases and other maladies over the past two years.

But Republican Gov. Bill Lee, who grew up on his family's ranch and refers to himself as a cattle farmer in his Twitter profile, has been far less enthusiastic about incentivizing herd immunity among humans.

Even though Tennessee has among the lowest vaccination rates in the country, Mr. Lee has refused to offer enticements for people to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Mr. Lee hasn't always been against incentivizing vaccinations.

Tennessee's Herd Health program began in 2019 under Mr. Lee, whose family business, Triple L Ranch, breeds Polled Hereford cattle. The state currently reimburses participating farmers up to \$1,500 for vaccinating their herds, handing out \$492,561 over the past two fiscal years, according to documents from the Tennessee Agriculture Department.

Mr. Lee, who so far has avoided drawing a serious Republican primary challenge in his 2022 re-election bid, has been accused of complacency in the face of the deadly pandemic. The state's COVID hospitalizations have more than tripled over the past three weeks and infections have increased more than fivefold.

Speaking at the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association annual conference on July 30, Mr. Lee said he did not think incentives were very effective. "I don't think that's the role of government," he added. "The role of government is to make it available and then to encourage folks to get a vaccine."



Despite having some of the lowest COVID-19 vaccination rates in the country, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee isn't planning to offer any incentives for people to get the shot.

In an emailed reply to a question about the contrast to incentivizing vaccination for cattle, spokesperson Casey Black wrote, "Tennesseans have every incentive to get the COVID-19 vaccine — it's free and available in every corner of the state with virtually no wait. While a veterinarian can weigh in on safely raising cattle for consumption, the state will continue to provide human Tennesseans with COVID-19 vaccine information and access."

After Ohio's Republican Gov. Mike DeWine announced the state's Vax-a-Million lottery on May 12, with prizes that included \$1 million and full college scholarships, many other states around the country followed suit with their own incentives. They include custom outfitted trucks in West Virginia, annual passes to the state parks in New Jersey, and gift certificates for hunting and fishing licenses in Arkansas. President Joe Biden has joined the call for incentives, encouraging state and local governments to use federal funds to pay people \$100 to vaccinate.

But Mr. Lee has avoided employing any of those tactics and has maintained throughout the pandemic that the decision to vaccinate against COVID-19 is a personal choice.

"We want to encourage Tennesseans to talk to their doctor, to talk to their clergy, to talk to their family members, the trusted voices in their life, in order for them to make a personal decision about whether or not to pursue getting the vaccine," he told reporters recently, "but we encourage that because it is the tool that will most effectively allow us to manage this virus."

Mr. Lee was vaccinated against COVID-19 but didn't publicize it, as he did when he received his flu shot.

More recently, Mr. Lee's administration has been under fire after the state's vaccination chief was terminated in what she has called an attempt to appease GOP legislators who were outraged over COVID-19 vaccination outreach to minors. At a hearing in June, one Republican lawmaker called an ad promoting vaccination for teenagers "reprehensible" and some went so far as to suggest they might pull the Health Department's funding.

Dr. Michelle Fiscus has been vocal about what she thinks are the political motives for her firing, sharing her positive performance reviews with the press. Dr. Fiscus also called out the Health Department for halting outreach for all childhood vaccinations, not just COVID-19. The department has since restarted outreach, but says it is only targeting parents.

Ms. Black, Mr. Lee's spokesperson, would not say whether the governor's family farm received money from the Herd Health program, but records from the Agriculture Department do not show anyone with the last name Lee as a recipient.



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# To fight vaccine lies, officials recruit 'influencer army'

By Taylor Lorenz  
The New York Times

LOS ANGELES — Ellie Zeiler, 17, a TikTok creator with over 10 million followers, received an email in June from Village Marketing, an influencer marketing agency. It said it was reaching out on behalf of another party: the White House.

Would Ellie, a high school senior who usually posts short fashion and lifestyle videos, be willing, the agency wondered, to participate in a White House-backed campaign encouraging her audience to get vaccinated against the coronavirus?

"There is a massive need to grow awareness within the 12-18 age range," Village Marketing wrote to Ellie's business email. "We're moving fast and have only a few available slots to fill, so please let us know ASAP."

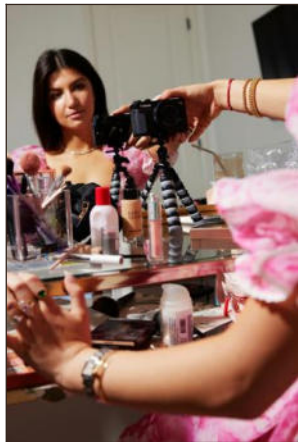
Ellie quickly agreed, joining a broad personality-driven campaign to confront an increasingly urgent challenge in the fight against the pandemic: vaccinating the youthful masses, who have the lowest inoculation rates of any eligible age group in the United States.

Fewer than half of all Americans ages 18-39 are fully vaccinated, compared with more than two-thirds of those older than 50, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And about 58% of those ages 12-17 have yet to receive a shot at all.

To reach these young people, the White House has enlisted an eclectic army of more than 50 Twitch streamers, YouTubers, TikTokers and 18-year-old pop star Olivia Rodrigo, all of them with enormous online audiences. State and local governments have begun similar campaigns, in some cases paying "local micro influencers" — those with 5,000 to 100,000 followers — up to \$1,000 a month to promote COVID-19 vaccines to fans.



Christina Najjar, 30, left, a TikTok star known as Tinx, films on July 29 in her home in West Hollywood, Calif. Ellie Zeiler, 17, right, also a TikTok creator, shoots a video on July 29 at her home in Escondido, Calif. Both were enlisted by the White House to promote COVID-19 vaccines to young people in their massive audiences.



The efforts are, in part, a counterattack against a rising tide of vaccine misinformation that has flooded the internet, where anti-vaccine activists can be so vociferous that some young creators say they remain silent on vaccines to avoid a politicized backlash.

"The anti-vaccine side of the internet is still set on all this vaccine news," said Samir Mezrahi, administrator of several "meme pages" such as Kale Salad, which has nearly 4 million followers on Instagram and posts viral videos and other content. "We're posting about J. Lo and Ben Affleck."

Renee DiResta, a researcher who studies misinformation at the Stanford Internet Observatory, said that although influencer campaigns can be useful, they may be no match for mass organic online movements. She noted the contrast between creators who spread pro-vaccine messaging versus vaccine skeptics, who have made it a personal mission to question the injections.

"That's the asymmetric passion," she said. "People who believe it's going to hurt you are out there talking about it every day. They're

driving hashtags and pushing content and doing everything they can do."

But even if the influencer campaigns amount to a sprinkler in a wildfire, some creators said, they felt compelled to join in.

"I didn't worry about the backlash," said Christina Najjar, 30, a TikTok star known online as Tinx. "Helping spread the word about the importance of getting vaccinated was the right thing to do."

Ms. Najjar said she was thrilled when the White House reached out to her through her manager in June. She soon posted a question-and-answer video about the vaccines with Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, on Instagram.

Their banter was light. Discussing what she called a "happy vaxx girl summer," Ms. Najjar peppered Dr. Fauci with questions: Was it safe to go out for a drink? Should we be concerned about getting pregnant after getting the vaccine? Do I look 26? "You have an ageless look to you," he replied. "I'll tell my Botox doctor that," she said.

Ms. Najjar called the ses-

sion "a great time," adding, "I think I flirted with Dr. Fauci, but in a respectful way." A White House official said Dr. Fauci was not available for comment.

Public health officials have used celebrities to reach people since Elvis Presley rolled up his sleeve on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1956 to get the polio vaccine. These days, young people are more likely to trust the advice of their favorite content creator than a mainstream celebrity, according to a 2018 study by the marketing agency MuseFind.

As a result, "we need to get an influencer army to push the pro-vaccine message out there," said Jason Harris, CEO of the advertising agency Mekanism, an authority on influencer marketing.

The White House began considering the power of online creators in January, repurposing the influencer marketing tactics that Mr. Biden had used on the campaign trail toward promoting vaccinations, said Rob Flaherty, the White House's director of digital strategy.

Mr. Flaherty said he and Clarke Humphrey, the White House's COVID-19 digital director, teamed up

with Village Marketing and Made to Save, a national campaign aimed at promoting access to coronavirus vaccines. In June, they hosted several off-the-record briefings over Zoom so that online creators could ask questions about the vaccines and how they worked.

Since then, the Biden administration has rolled out influencer discussions with Dr. Fauci and brought Ms. Rodrigo to the White House, where she urged people to "actually get to a vaccination site."

In March, the White House also orchestrated an Instagram Live chat between Dr. Fauci and Eugenio Derbez, a Mexican actor with over 16.6 million Instagram followers who had been openly doubtful of the vaccines. During their 37-minute discussion, Mr. Derbez was upfront about his concerns.

"What if I get the vaccine, but it doesn't protect me against the new variant?" he asked. Dr. Fauci acknowledged that the vaccines might not completely shield people from variants, but said, "It's very, very good at protecting you from getting seriously ill."

Mr. Flaherty said the whole point of the campaign was to be "a positive informing effort."

State and local governments have taken the same approach. In February, Colorado awarded a contract worth up to \$16.4 million to Denver-based Idea Marketing, which includes a program to pay creators in the state \$400 to \$1,000 a month to promote the vaccines.

Jessica Bralish, communications director at Colorado's public health department, said influencers were being paid because "all too often, diverse communities are asked to reach out to their communities for free. And to be equitable, we know we must compensate people for their work."

As part of the effort, influ-

encers have shown off where on their arms they were injected, using emojis and selfies to punctuate the achievement. "I joined the Pfizer club," Ashley Cummins, a fashion and style influencer in Boulder, Colo., recently announced in a smiling selfie while holding her vaccine card. She added a mask emoji and an applause emoji.

"Woohoo! This is so exciting!" one fan commented.

Posts by creators in the campaign carry a disclosure that reads "paid partnership with Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment."

Patricia Lepiani, president of Idea Marketing, said local micro-influencers are in demand because they can seem more authentic than national social media stars. "Vaccination campaigns will only be effective if you know your community," she said.

Colorado officials recently said the state has just two months left to use 350,000 doses of stockpiled COVID-19 vaccines before they expire.

Other places, including New Jersey, Oklahoma City County and Guilford County, North Carolina, as well as cities such as San Jose, Calif., have worked with the digital marketing agency XOMAD, which identifies local influencers who can help broadcast public health information about the vaccines.

Governments' interest in the campaigns has spiked sharply in the past week, said Rob Perry, CEO of XOMAD, as concerns have grown about the spread of the delta variant of the virus. He added that "when large numbers of influencers post in the same time period, vaccination rates go up."

TikTok star Ellie said in an interview that her work was not done. "I know I won't stop until all my followers are safe and vaccinated."

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## Sprinter's peril raises doubts about Games

Despite a global pandemic and its own staggering inadvisability, the Tokyo Olympics somehow managed to generate the standard emotional wallop of inspirational outcomes. But in the end, whether you hold 'em, you fold 'em, or you've just exhaustively retold 'em, the Games always seem to produce some horrifying event no one anticipated.

My favorite this time was the 5,000-mile women's Lit



**Gene Collier**

erally Run For Your Life race, won unwittingly by Belarusian sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, at least for the moment. Even if the 24-year-old sprinter's weeklong saga was the very outline of

SEE **COLLIER**, PAGE B-3



Associated Press

Sprinter Allyson Felix displays the gold medal Saturday that made her the most decorated Olympic track athlete in American history. A win in the women's 4x400 relay gave her an 11th career medal, breaking a tie with Carl Lewis

## Felix passes baton with historic gold

Surpasses Lewis with 11th medal

By Adam Kilgore  
The Washington Post

TOKYO — Allyson Felix closed her eyes, on top of an Olympic medal stand one last time, and let the final moments of her unsurpassed Olympic career wash over her. She felt at peace for so many reasons, and

three of them stood on the podium's top level beside her. Sydney McLaughlin, Dalilah Muhammad and Athing Mu had helped Felix secure a record-setting gold medal. They had shown her the sport she was leaving possessed extraordinary caretakers.

"My role on this team has changed so much," Felix said. "It was about doing my job and passing that baton."

SEE **FELIX**, PAGE B-2



### HALL OF FAME THE INDUCTIONS

Four more men with Western Pennsylvania ties entered the halls of pro football immortality Saturday night. And they won't be the last on this unprecedented weekend.

# A night shines black and gold



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette photos

Bill Cowher compares the chin on his bust with the real thing Saturday night after Steelers president Art Rooney II unveiled Cowher's Hall of Fame bust in ceremonies at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio. **ON THE WEB:** For more photos from Saturday night's ceremony, visit [post-gazette.com](http://post-gazette.com).



#### Day 2

**What:** Inductions for the Class of 2021, Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium.

**When:** 7 p.m. Sunday.

**TV:** ESPN & NFL Network.

**Of note:** Steelers Alan Faneca and Bill Nunn will be enshrined.

## Shell, Polamalu, Cowher speak from their hearts as Steelers fans wave Terrible Towels

By Ray Fittipaldo  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

CANTON, Ohio — It was a Steelers-centric night at the Pro Football Hall of Fame with three Steelers among the 20 members of the 2020 class. And they saved the best for last.

Troy Polamalu and Bill Cowher were two of the final three speeches on a night that delighted the many members of Steelers Nation that made the short drive from Pittsburgh to witness the ceremony in person.

Decked out in Steelers jerseys and waving their Terrible Towels the fans were treated to two memorable speeches

that weaved together what football meant to them and how they ultimately achieved the game's highest honor.

The biggest ovation of the night came when Polamalu took the stage, presented by his Hall of Fame defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau. When the weekend began there was some doubt Polamalu could be here, but he made it to Canton eight days after announcing he had COVID-19.

Polamalu gave a poignant speech that touched all the right notes. Before stepping to the microphone, he turned his bronze bust around and unveiled the

SEE **HALL**, PAGE B-4



Donnie Shell poses with daughter — and presenter — April before making his speech Saturday night in Canton.

**MORE SPORTS INSIDE**



#### Destination: Oakmont

Many of the world's best amateur golfers arrive seeking U.S. Amateur title. **Page B-9**

#### The T.J. Watt story

Keith Butler intimates that T.J. Watt not practicing because of contract. **Page B-5**

#### Reds continue mastery

Cincinnati roughs up Mitch Keller, beats Pirates again, 11-3. **Page B-7**

#### More at [post-gazette.com](http://post-gazette.com)

**STEELERS:** What to look for at training camp.

**OUTDOORS:** Sign up for John Hayes' The Wild Life newsletter.







## Olympics

## Women's basketball

## USA captures seventh gold in row

## Bird, Taurasi say farewell in style in 90-75 rout of Japan in finale

The Associated Press

SAITAMA, Japan — Sue Bird capped off her unblemished 17-year Olympics run with a record fifth gold medal.

All she and longtime U.S. teammate Diana Taurasi have done on the international stage is win and now stand alone with five gold medals—the first basketball players to accomplish that

feat — after a 90-75 win Saturday night against Japan.

The U.S. team now has won the past seven Olympic gold medals matching the country's men's program for the most in a row. The men did it from 1936-68.

With Bird orchestrating the flow of games and Taurasi's scoring, they have been a constant force for the U.S. team, providing stability for

the women's program since the 2004 Athens Games. They have won all 38 of the games at the Olympics they've competed in.

The walked off the court arm-in-arm, knowing their work was done.

The names have changed around the pair, including greats Lisa Leslie, Sheryl Swoopes, Tina Thompson, Tamika Catchings and Sylvia Fowles, but the results haven't.

The Americans are on a 55-game Olympic winning streak dating to the bronze-medal game of the 1992

Barcelona Games.

The U.S. team let Japan know that wasn't going to change Saturday night.

The Americans jumped to a 18-5 lead behind a dominant first quarter by Britney Griner. The team lead, 23-14, after one as Griner had 10 points, taking advantage of the undersized Japanese team. Japan was able to get within six in the second quarter before the Americans went up 11 at the half and never looked back.

As the final buzzer sounded, Bird and Taurasi embraced and then

proceeded to hug all of their teammates and the coaching staff.

Griner finished with 30 points, making 14 of 18 shots.

While Bird has said she is moving on and Taurasi has been noncommittal about her plans, the future is bright for the U.S. team behind Griner, Breanna Stewart and the six newcomers on this year's team. That included A'ja Wilson, who will be counted on to keep the streak going three years from now at the 2024 Paris Games. Wilson, who

celebrates her 25th birthday Sunday, made her presence felt in her Olympic debut, scoring 19 points in the gold-medal game.

But there were other milestones of note besides Bird's farewell.

The victory also made Dawn Staley, the first Black women's basketball coach for the U.S. team, the second woman to win a gold medal as a player, assistant and head coach, joining Anne Donovan.

The game also marked the end of Carol Callan's run as the national team director.

## Wrestling

## USA gets nine to podium

## Women account for four medals

The Associated Press

CHIBA, Japan — Kyle Snyder didn't get the consecutive Olympic golds he sought.

But United States wrestling still made a statement at these Games.

The Russian Olympic Committee's Abdurashid Sadulaev defeated Snyder, 6-3 Saturday in the men's freestyle 97-kilogram final.

Despite that, the United States finished with nine medals — more than any other nation and the most it has won since the 1984 Games that several nations, led by the Soviet Union, boycotted.

Three Americans won gold — Gable Steveson and David Taylor with dramatic last-second victories for the men and Tamyra Mensah-Stock for the women.

All five U.S. men's freestyle qualifiers won medals. In addition to Steveson, Taylor and Snyder earning medals, Kyle Duke and Thomas Gilman took home bronze.

"Guys are getting better and better," Snyder said. "Everybody is doing the right stuff. We have great coaches, support staff and training environments. I'm really happy for all my teammates who did a great job here, and all the coaches because they work so hard. I think we're going to dominate and keep getting better."

American Sarah Hildebrandt earned bronze Saturday, the fourth medal for the U.S. women at these Games. In addition to Mensah-Stock's gold, Adeline Gray took silver and Helen Maroulis followed up her gold from 2016 with a bronze.

"Team USA — what a special time to be a part of it," Hildebrandt said. "We are just growing up, we're supporting each other. You can just feel the energy intermixed between [men's and women's] teams."

"It's just really cool to be a part of, and I'm so grateful to have these teammates. I really feel like we are out there supporting each other and working to get better."

Cuba's Reineris Salas defeated Azerbaijan's Sharif Sharifov for bronze at men's freestyle 97kg class. Salas, 34, had never won a world title or an Olympic medal. Sharifov, 32, won Olympic gold in the 84kg category in 2012 and earned bronze at 86kg in 2016. In the other bronze medal match, Italy's Abraham Canyedo Ruano defeated Turkey's Suleyman Karadeniz 6-2.

Japan's Yui Susaki defeated China's Yanan Sun by technical superiority, 10-0, to win the women's freestyle 50kg final.

Susaki, 22, joined Mayu Mukaida and sisters Risako and Yukako Kawai as Japan's women's gold medalists.

Azerbaijan's Mariya Stadnik won her fourth Olympic medal. She won her match for bronze at 50kg by technical superiority, 10-0, over Mongolia's Namsuntsetseg Tsogt Ochir.



Naomi Baker/Getty Images

Abdurashid Sadulaev of the Russian Olympic Committee came off the mat to defeat American Kyle Snyder Saturday in the 97kg freestyle wrestling final in Tokyo. Snyder's silver medal was one of nine earned by the United States in these Olympics, more than it had earned in any games since 1984.

## Ordeals of athletes mar Olympics

COLLIER, FROM B-1

an international espionage thriller — instructed to go home by her own coaches after they tried unsuccessfully to put her in a race she hadn't trained for, nearly forced onto a plane back to Belarus and told to expect "some form of punishment," rescued by Japanese police using her Google translator at Haneda Airport, sheltered in the Polish embassy, flown to Austria and a connection to asylum in Warsaw — most all Olympic stories still come down to one thing, don't they?

The dope. It's always about the dope.

So that's how it started for Tsimanouskaya, who competed in the 100 meters and was scheduled to compete in the 200 meters Monday, but was asked to be part of the 1,600 relay by Belarusian officials — a race she had never run — after several teammates failed to take the required number of doping tests.

Funny how that happens. Tsimanouskaya complained on Instagram — probably not her best move — and soon had it explained again by her coaches that she would be best advised to fake an injury and go home. "The key phrase was," she told The Associated Press, "that, 'We didn't make the decision for you to go home, it was decided by other people and we were merely ordered to make it happen.'"

That's apparently when the "punishment" screw turned, according to the sprinter, who said, "there were also thinly disguised hints that more would await me."

Like what? Well, under Belarusian strongman Alexander Lukashenko, if not



Associated Press

Belarusian sprinter Krystsina Tsimanouskaya arrived in Tokyo with a hope for gold. She left with a decidedly different hope — to stay alive.

necessarily hopefully labeled "Europe's Last Dictator" by the international intelligentsia, a chilling array of potential consequences has long been in play.

Vitaly Shishov's body was found hanged in a park Tuesday in Ukraine, from where he led a group that assists Belarusian dissidents who have fled Lukashenko's autocracy. Police are treating it as a murder, so it's no wonder Tsimanouskaya estimated Thursday that she might be able to return to her homeland in "five to 10 years."

You heard her. The sports world could be getting its first 10-year cooling off period.

On Friday, the International Olympic Committee, having investigated Tsimanouskaya's account, expelled two Belarusian coaches from the Olympic Village, according to the BBC, and in a statement said it had removed their accreditations "as a provisional

politics quoted by The Associated Press. "Just a brief criticism by a sprinter of the Belarusian bureaucracy suddenly turned into an international scandal. It's another demonstration of power."

"Lukashenko feels very vulnerable at the moment because he knows he's very dependent on Russia, which seems to be the only protector of Belarus. He knows he remains very vulnerable against his own people and of course against the international community. ... One way or another, if not today, Lukashenko's regime is definitely coming to an end."

Tsimanouskaya has to know that Tokyo might have been her last Olympics, which might not be all that bad a thing for her or anyone else. As the unparalleled American gymnast Simone Biles demonstrated so gracefully this time, just as Michael Phelps and many of our greatest Olympians have already, the Games are a virtual petri dish for mental anguish and anxiety. There's something endemically unnerving and perhaps unhealthy, I've always felt, about training four years for a moment in which you can lose by a tenth of a second or a tenth of an inch.

Add to that emotional pathogen the massive investment, economic destabilization, human displacement, financial scandals, political scandals, doping scandals, and this time in Japan, close to 400 positive COVID-19 tests since July, mostly to workers, despite explicit warnings of that exact tragedy — and it seems no longer prudent to consider the Olympics too big to fail.

Maybe it's too big to exist.

Gene Collier: [gcollier@post-gazette.com](mailto:gcollier@post-gazette.com) and [Twitter: @genecollier](https://twitter.com/genecollier).

## Notebook

## Japan edges U.S. for gold

## Host earns top honor on diamond

The Associated Press

Japan's players sprinted onto the mound and the collection of All-Stars hoisted their manager up and down as if on a trampoline.

They beamed when hanging shiny gold medals around each other's necks, fulfilling a national mission with the first Olympic baseball title in their history.

American players didn't seem overly upset. The released veterans, prospects and career minor leaguers thought they had given their best.

"I really feel like we left it all out there," pitcher Nick Martinez said after Japan eeked out enough runs to win Saturday night's gold-medal game, 2-0.

Munetaka Murakami, at 21 the youngest player in Japan's starting lineup, hit an opposite-field homer over the 16-foot wall in left-center field on a 2-2 pitch from Martinez (1-1) in the third. Martinez winced as the ball landed in the fourth row of the empty blue seats.

Masato Morishita (2-0), a 23-year-old right-hander, gave up three hits over five innings, struck out five and walked none.

## Leap of faith

Sweden defeated Jessica Springsteen and the U.S. jumping team in a jump-off for the gold medal. Bruce Springsteen's daughter and teammates Laura Kraut and McLain Ward each moved cleanly through the shortened jump-off course and did so with a combined time of 124.2 seconds. Peder Fredricson, the final Swedish rider, needed to circle the track in 40.30 seconds or better without error and cruised to a time of 39.01 for the country's record fourth gold medal but first since 1924.

## Dominant dives

Cao Yuan outdueled his teammate to win the men's 10-meter platform title, giving China gold medals in seven of the eight diving events at the Tokyo Olympics. He became the first diver to win gold medals in three different Olympic events. The only event the Chinese didn't win was men's platform synchro, where they finished second. China swept the four women's events. China finished 1-2 in all four of the individual events.



Getty Images

Jessica Springsteen [Twitter: @jspringsteen](https://twitter.com/jspringsteen)



# Pro Football



## HALL OF FAME THE INDUCTIONS

**0**

Players to wear No. 43 in the Hall of Fame until this weekend with the enshrinement of Troy Polamalu and Cliff Harris.

**3**

Players among the 28 men being enshrined this weekend went undrafted (Donnie Shell, Cliff Harris & Drew Pearson).

**11.89**

Percent of all Hall of Famers (42 of 353) — as of Sunday night — represent the Steelers and/or Western Pennsylvania.

**16**

Players from the WPIAL, City League or old Pittsburgh Catholic League in the hall with the addition of Jimbo Covert and Bill Cowher.

**98**

Age of the oldest living Hall of Famer — Charley Trippi. A receiver with the Chicago Cardinals, he was inducted in 1968.

**OF NOTE:** By the end of this weekend, Canton's numbers will have swelled to 353

## Steelers and fans celebrate at Hall

HALL, FROM B-1

signature flowing locks to the crowd. Then, after acknowledging his Samoan heritage during his speech, he let down his real locks.

"I love football," Polamalu said. "It was my entire life for as long as I can remember. I fostered an obsession with the game early on that I modeled after the regimens of some of the greatest artists of the past — Dickens and Beethoven. These great men were known to have a beast-like work ethic coupled with an unwavering ability to create until perfection, beyond what most believe the human body will allow. To me, that's what it takes to go from ordinary to extraordinary."

Polamalu also took time during his speech to mention several members of the Steelers' organization, including Cowher, Mike Tomlin, Hines Ward, Joe Greene, Jerome Bettis and Mike Logan.

"It was my first padded practice when Hines Ward and I hit," Polamalu said. "It was my legs that buckled. He held me up. I look forward to sharing the stage with you one day."

Ward, who has been a semi-finalist for induction the past several years, will be the presenter for Alan Faneca when he is enshrined Sunday night.

Cowher, the Steelers head coach from 1992-2006, touched on his Crafton roots and gave special mentions to two of his biggest mentors — former Browns and Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer and the late Dan Rooney.

Schottenheimer, a native of McDonald who passed away earlier this year, coached Cowher and hired him to his coaching staff after his playing career ended.

"He taught me how to coach," Cowher said. "He gave man an opportunity to be a defensive coordinator when I had never done it before. He was a master motivator and a stickler to detail. One day you will be in the Hall of Fame."

Cowher concluded his speech by telling the story of how Rooney gave him rosary beads before the Steelers' historic playoff run of 2005 that culminated with a victory in Super Bowl XL.

"He gave me these rosary beads," Cowher said as he pulled them from his pocket. "I said, 'Dan, I'm not Catholic.' He said, 'Coach it doesn't matter. Every little bit helps.' Well, Dan, I still have them today."

Cowher and Polamalu represented the Steelers of the 1990s and 2000s. Donnie Shell represented the Steelers dynasty of the 1970s.

Five years ago, Shell took the stage at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium as the presenter for his friend and former teammate Tony Dungy. On Saturday night, it was finally Shell's turn to make an enshrinement speech of his own.

Shell had to wait longer than any of his teammates from the vaunted Steel Curtain defense, but better late than never. Thirty-three years after his final game with the Steelers, Shell joined Mel Blount, Jack Ham, Jack Lambert and Joe Greene from those defenses that helped the Steelers win four Super Bowls in a six-year span from 1974-79.

"It's been a long journey,



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Troy Polamalu hugs Bill Cowher after giving his enshrinement speech Saturday night at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio. Because of a positive COVID-19 test last week, there was a question whether Polamalu would be able to attend.

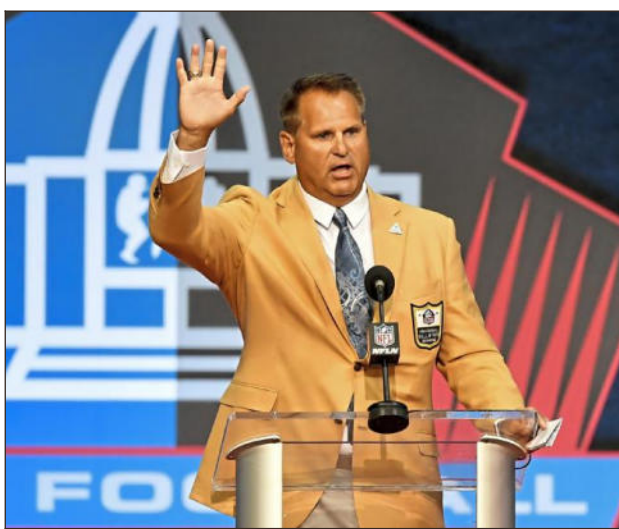
but a good one," Shell said during his enshrinement speech. "I arrived in Pittsburgh in 1974 as an undrafted free agent. And now I'm in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Only God can do that."

Fighting for respect is nothing new for Shell having entered the league as an undrafted free agent out of South Carolina State. He made the Steelers roster as a special-teams demon, which is how he got his nickname "The Torpedo." Later, he fit right in among the greatest rookie class in NFL history as he developed into one of the top strong safeties in the league.

In 1974, the Steelers drafted Lambert, Mike Webster, Lynn Swann and John Stallworth, all of whom previously were elected to the Hall of Fame. Shell is the 10th Steelers player from the 1970s Steelers dynasty to be enshrined.

During his speech, Shell relayed a story from his rookie season when a reporter asked to interview him and informed him of his odds of making the team.

"He began the interview with the statement: 'Don't you know you're a long shot to



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Pitt and Freedom High School standout Jimbo Covert speaks to a decidedly Western Pennsylvania crowd Saturday night.

make the team because you're an undrafted free agent?" Shell said. "Obviously, he's not familiar with coach Willie Jeffries from South Carolina State University and the South Carolina State bulldog mentality. However, factually, he was correct. When the facts get in the way of your goal you must go against the grain to achieve your goal. I

looked him square in the eye and I said, 'I'm from South Carolina State. Coach Willie Jeffries said I can do whatever I want to do when I get to training camp, and I had a good chance to make the team.'"

Shell also mentioned Noll for giving him a chance and to scout Bill Nunn, who will be enshrined posthumously Sunday night.

"Praise God for Bill Nunn, who advocated for players and to foresee to see my ability to go from linebacker to strong safety," he said.

One other Hall of Famer with Western Pennsylvania ties was enshrined on Saturday night.

Former Chicago Bears great Jimbo Covert, a 1978 graduate of Freedom High School, like Cowher and Shell is part of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's centennial class. He played four years at Pitt and earned All-American honors as a senior before he was the No. 6 overall pick in the 1983 draft, which was 21 picks before Dan Marino, his college teammate at Pitt and a member of the 2005 Pro Football Hall of Fame class.

"I grew up Conway, Pa. It's still home," Covert said. "Right down Route 65 is Freedom High School. Go Bulldogs."

Covert also mentioned many of his Pitt teammates and specifically former Pitt coach Jackie Sherrill, who was in attendance, and the late Joe Moore, the legendary offensive line coach who tutored him.

## Parade of great stars take stage in Canton

Tagliabue among new enshrinees

The Associated Press

How 'bout them Cowboys!

Jimmy Johnson, who in 1989 replaced Tom Landry, the only man to coach Dallas from the franchise's inception in 1960, generally is credited with coining that phrase. He could take pride in it considering the Cowboys won two consecutive Super Bowls under his guidance, and took a third with the roster he put together even though Johnson had left the team in a dispute with owner Jerry Jones.

Johnson has been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of the centennial class. He quickly rebuilt the Cowboys when Jones bought the team in '89, using the draft and perhaps the most lopsided trade in pro sports history — Herschel Walker to Minnesota for a slew of draft picks who formed much of the core of those title teams — to revitalize America's Team. He made 51 deals in his five seasons with the Cowboys.

"We made history not only for the Dallas Cowboys, but for the NFL," Johnson said of himself, Jones and the team, which was 1-15 in his first season and soon enough was winning Super Bowls. "From the bottom of my heart, thank you, Jerry." Johnson also coached the Dolphins from 1996-99.

When you are a wide receiver contemporary of Jerry Rice, measuring up can be difficult. Almost impossible.

Isaac Bruce was the closest thing to Rice, considered the greatest pass catcher in NFL history. Bruce was so good he has been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame after a 16-year career, 14 with the Rams and two with the 49ers.

One of 15 children, Bruce starred at Memphis, was a second-round draft choice by the Rams in 1994, and broke through the next season with 119 catches for 1,781 yards. Bruce had eight 1,000-yard receiving seasons and 91 touchdowns. His most famous score came on the winning touchdown in the 2000 Super Bowl, a 73-yarder from Kurt Warner.

"Coming from the heart tonight," Bruce said before saluting his 14 siblings.

Judging the value of blockers is a tricky proposition. Not when it comes to Steve Hutchinson.

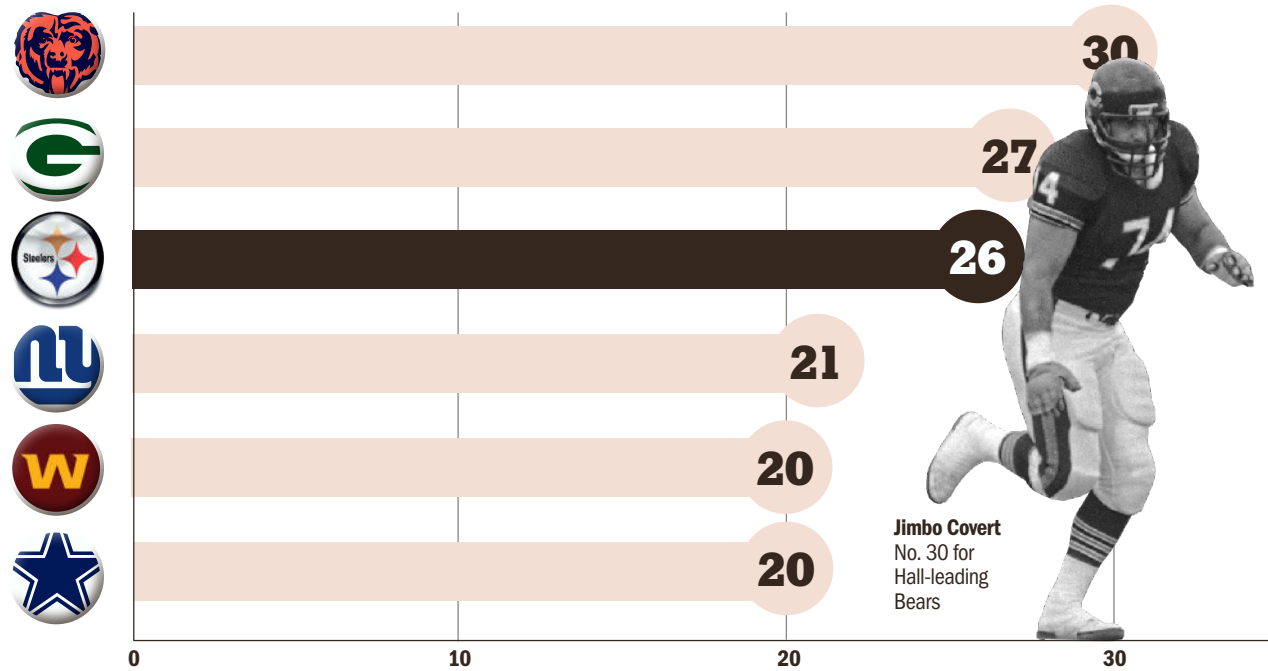
The outstanding guard for 12 NFL seasons — five with Seattle, six with Minnesota and one with Tennessee — was the prime reason running backs on his teams were practically unstoppable with him leading the way.

Hutchinson was a five-time All-Pro and member of the NFL 2000s All-Decade Team. Along with strong work as a pass protector, he opened holes for rushers who averaged just under 1,400 yards and 14 touchdowns a season.

"If you told me after I graduated from the University of Michigan that I'd be excited standing in Ohio in the middle of August," he joked, "...to me, there's no

## Representing: Franchise leaders

Franchises with the most members in the Hall of Fame who spent the primary/most important portions of their career with that franchise (source: Pro Football Hall of Fame).





## Pro Football

STEELERS 2021 TRAINING CAMP

## Watt limited in camp because of contract

By Brian Batko  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Call it a tacit holdout, a cautious start to camp, or just call it a business decision. But there now seems to be some clarity as to why Steelers star edge rusher T.J. Watt has been limited so far in practice, and it has everything to do with his lack of a contract extension.

"Hey, that's none of my business. I hope he signs a contract. Let's get it done, and when he gets that done, we'll talk about that," said Keith Butler, the Steelers defensive coordinator and Watt's position coach, after practice Saturday.

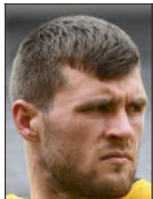
It was almost as if Butler had just sipped on truth serum. Everyone from team president Art Rooney II to general manager Kevin Colbert to head coach Mike

Tomlin to Watt himself has been leery of tipping their hand when it comes to matters of money. And when you're talking Watt, you're talking a lot.

Going into his fifth season, and his last under contract, Watt is set to play in 2021 on the fifth-year option of his rookie deal. That equates to just over \$10 million, fully guaranteed, but similarly accomplished pass-rushers Joey Bosa and Myles Garrett are making between \$25 million and \$27 million annually. But it's Watt who led the league in sacks last year with 15, his third consecutive campaign of 13 or more.

Butler was asked if those negotiations are why Watt isn't participating in live drills, or 11-on-11 periods, and was again surprisingly honest.

"Ah, I don't blame him for



"You don't want to get hurt when you're trying to get your contract done. Then, you kind of lose some flexibility ..."

— Keith Butler, on T.J. Watt, pictured

that," Butler said. "Because you don't want to get hurt when you're trying to get your contract done. Then, you kind of lose some flexibility in terms of what kind of [deal] you can sign. So I don't blame him for that. I hope they get it done."

A standout linebacker himself in the NFL from 1978-87, Butler explained that he used to be a team representative in the player union, and he has "always been for the players." He even was part of two player strikes, in 1982 and 1987.

"I want them to make as much money as they can in

this league," Butler said. "I think they deserve it."

Butler added that he doesn't think Watt's situation is a distraction to the defense, because "everybody knows he's a good teammate."

"He wants to be out there," Butler said. "Some things you've got to just do. This is a business. We all love to think it's a game, but when it's all said and done, it's a business."

Tomlin had the chance to address that a few minutes later at Heinz Field, and he was measured in his response to Watt holding himself out of practice. The obvious

question is if they're in a contractual holding pattern, if a deal never does get done between Watt and the Steelers, then what happens?

Perhaps you could send him out there Week 1 against the Buffalo Bills without taking a single snap with his teammates beforehand, but if there is a timeline for Watt to ramp up his participation, it's an nebulous one.

"I'm not speculating in that regard. I just focus on today and who's working and getting better that way," Tomlin said. "I'm sure that's going to naturally run its course. I know he's working hard with our trainers, so we'll see where it all leads us."

To Tomlin's point, Watt doesn't just sit and watch his friends play. Of course he doesn't, he's T.J. Watt. He spends much of practice running sprints, training with a

resistance band, and doing hand-eye coordination drills with Steelers staffers.

And he keeps an eye on what's unfolding between the lines, naturally. Last time Watt said his own piece on his status with the Steelers, he shrugged off anything injury-related and spiked all the contract stuff like an outside hitter in volleyball more than an outside linebacker.

Maybe this is just one of those August NFL stories that is much ado about nothing come September. That's essentially the deadline date for Watt and the Steelers to agree on an extension, before kickoff at 1 p.m. Sept. 12 against the Bills. Until then, Watt watch continues.

Brian Batko:  
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## Steelers notebook

## Coaches: Not aware of WR trade request

## Tomlin, Canada say Washington has a key role

By Brian Batko  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In the Steelers wide receiver group, four were high draft picks, three have been highly productive and two will be free agents after this season. That's a recipe for a soufflé of can you keep everyone happy?

The Steelers already are having issues in that regard. Or they aren't, depending on whom you believe. Friday, ESPN NFL reporter Adam Schefter said that fourth-string wideout James Washington requested a trade because of a lack of playing time last season.

Saturday, Washington was not made available to reporters, but he was at practice and made a leaping catch over cornerback Justin Layne for a touchdown from Mason Rudolph in an early goal-line drill. Head coach Mike Tomlin and offensive coordinator Matt Canada shot down distractions on his behalf.

"He has not," Tomlin said after practice when asked if Washington has expressed any dissatisfaction or requested a trade. "Those unnamed sources, we don't react to or respond to. James has been great here, working, and having a good camp."

Canada, the play-caller with a bevy of pass-catchers and only one ball, didn't specifically address the specu-

lation but answered as if he was aware of it's swirling.

"James Washington's awesome. He comes to work every day, he's a good guy to be around. Hasn't said a word to me," Canada said. "Just plays hard every day and practices hard every day. I'm a huge fan of James. I really am."

Washington has "a good role" in the offense, according to Canada, who added that the Steelers are "really talented" at his position.

"Certain games, there are different matchups," Canada said. "Certain things happen, but James is a big part of what we do. He'll continue to have a role."

Those are fairly firm denials from Tomlin and Canada, but let's keep in mind there are plenty of avenues for a player or his agent to explore a trade. There are members of the Steelers front office who don't give interviews after each practice, and even then, they certainly aren't obligated to admit that they have a disgruntled member of the team.

## Tuitt's absence

Much like T.J. Watt has been slow to join his defensive teammates in live action, so has star defensive end Stephon Tuitt. While Watt's participation, is tied to his contract status, Tuitt's seems to be something else.

There was no sign of him at practice Saturday, and afterward, defensive coordinator Keith Butler indicated that Tuitt is home in Georgia with his family. One of Tuitt's younger brothers was struck by a car and killed in early June, and



Najee Harris beats his 'defender' to catch a pass Saturday in practice at Heinz Field.

Emily Matthews/Post-Gazette

Tuitt was excused by Tomlin for the team's mandatory minicamp later that month. Richard Bartlett, who was 23, was with his girlfriend and mother at the time of the hit-and-run.

"You know what happened to him, with his mom and all that stuff," Butler said of Tuitt. "Think if your mom saw her son get killed in front of her eyes. What kind of mess is that? I don't know how you deal with that. He's trying to deal with that, and he wants to make sure his mom's OK. And you know what? My mom's before everyone else, too. I don't blame him. I don't blame him at all."

## Speaking of him ...

It's not an unusual sight to see Minkah Fitzpatrick come down with an interception, but apparently, there's still more to his game. At least that's what he's telling Butler, who might not be running the defense for long if Fitzpatrick gets his way.

"I expect a lot of him. He's a coach on the daggum field," Butler said of the safety. "He knows a lot about

football. The only thing he daggum pisses me off a little bit about is, 'Let me call the plays! Let me call the plays! I don't blame him. I want him to, too.'"

Butler chuckled, knowing that's a good problem to have: A defensive leader who's so locked in that he wants to be player-coach.

## Injury report

Tight ends Eric Ebron and Pat Freiermuth were back at practice Saturday, with Ebron returning from an elbow issue and Freiermuth from a hit to his left shoulder that knocked him out of the previous practice Tuesday. Freiermuth didn't play in the Hall of Fame Game.

The Steelers also got live action from both of their starting tackles for the first time, with Chukwuma Okorafor slotting in at left tackle and Zach Banner at right tackle in 11-on-11 drills.

## Ravens' Jackson returns from bout with COVID

The Associated Press

## NFL notebook

Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson, who returned to practice Saturday for the first time since contracting the coronavirus before the start of training camp, "got hit pretty hard with the symptoms," coach John Harbaugh said.

Jackson, absent from the first eight practices, made his debut in Owings Mills and "looked really good," Harbaugh said. Jackson was limited in his conditioning while in isolation because of his symptoms.

As part of NFL protocols for unvaccinated players, Jackson quarantined for 10 days.

"COVID is tough," Harbaugh said. "And he had symptoms. He had a lot of symptoms. I think it speaks to how well he took care of himself and came out and practiced well."

## Cardinals

Arizona signed running back Ito Smith. Smith played his first three seasons with the Atlanta Falcons. The 25-year-old has run for 689 yards and six touchdowns in his career. Smith could be an option for the Cardinals behind the team's top backs, Chase Edmonds and former Steelers running back James Conner.

## NFL stars come out for night in Canton

CLASS, FROM B-4

place better than Canton, Ohio."

Hutchinson then told his son not to "fear failure but fear to haven't given my all."

When Paul Tagliabue succeeded Pete Rozelle as NFL commissioner, the challenge already was monumental. Rozelle generally is considered the most successful league leader in sports history.

Then Tagliabue was faced with so many more obstacles, from the outbreak of the Gulf War to 9/11 to Hurricane Katrina during his stewardship from 1989-2006. His skills at overcoming those tests, keeping labor peace, guiding the NFL through expansion, sig-

nificantly increasing revenues and helping pass the Rooney Rule have led to his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of the centennial class.

"This is like a dream come true," he said. "The centennial class spans pro football history."

Tagliabue noted that he took Rozelle's advice to "think league first."

Steve Atwater was considered by his peers — including other safeties — the most punishing tackler in the NFL. Such work, along with leadership traits and a knack for big plays, has led to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Atwater, a mainstay in Denver for 10 seasons, including two Super Bowl

victories, and a final year with the Jets, was at his best in big games. In the Broncos' Super Bowl victory against Green Bay, he had six tackles, a sack and two pass breakups.

"I am humbled and honored to wear this gold jacket," Atwater said before looking around at the other Hall of Famers on the stage.

When the Colts selected running back Edgerrin James with the fourth overall draft pick in 1999, many observers shook their heads that Indianapolis passed on Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams.

The head-shaking soon stopped as James established himself as one of the NFL's best rushers, and they surely have ceased now.





MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: EAST DIVISION, W, L, Pct, GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Tampa Bay, Boston, New York, Toronto, Baltimore.

Table with columns: CENTRAL DIVISION, W, L, Pct, GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Minnesota.

Table with columns: WEST DIVISION, W, L, Pct, GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Houston, Oakland, Seattle, Los Angeles, Texas.

Saturday's results
N.Y. Yankees 5, Seattle 4
Toronto 1, Boston 0, 7 innings, 1st game
Chicago White Sox 4, Chicago Cubs 0

Oakland 4, Texas 1, 11 innings
L.A. Angels 4, L.A. Dodgers 3, 10 innings
Sunday's games
Seattle (Kikuchi 7-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 1-0), 1:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: EAST DIVISION, W, L, Pct, GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Philadelphia, New York, Atlanta, Washington, Miami.

Table with columns: CENTRAL DIVISION, W, L, Pct, GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include Milwaukee, Cincinnati, St. Louis, San Francisco, Pittsburgh.

Table with columns: WEST DIVISION, W, L, Pct, GB, WCGB, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows include San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Colorado, Arizona.

Saturday's results
Chicago White Sox 4, Chicago Cubs 0
Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Mets 3
Washington 3, Atlanta 2

L.A. Angels 4, L.A. Dodgers 3, 10 innings
Sunday's games
N.Y. Mets (Walker 7-6) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 9-6), 1:05 p.m.

SATURDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT 2, CLEVELAND 1

Table with columns: Detroit, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Baddoo, Schoop, Grossman, Cabrera, Candelario, Haase, H. Castro, Short, V. Reyes, etc.

BOSTON 2, TORONTO 1

Table with columns: Boston, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include K.Hernandez, Verdugo, Bogaerts, Devers, Renfro, Gonzalez, Vazquez, Cordero, Arauz, etc.

Pineda, L, 4-7
Gant, 1 1 0 0 2 5 86 2.90
Thielbar, 1 2 2 2 2 0 20 4.07

TAMPA BAY 12, BALTIMORE 3

Table with columns: Tampa Bay, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Lowe, Cruz, Lupo, W.Franco, Meadows, Diaz, Wendle, Margot, Kiermaier, etc.

Goldschmidt 1b 3 1 0 0 1 0 .269
Shreve p 3 1 1 0 1 1 .262
O'Neill lf 4 0 0 0 0 3 .282

PHILADELPHIA 11, PITTSBURGH 3

Table with columns: Pittsburgh, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Park, Hayes, Reynolds, Moran, Polanco, C.Nogowski, Castro, Alford, Perez, M.Keller, etc.

SATURDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT 3, CLEVELAND 1

Table with columns: Detroit, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include E.Cisnero, Baddoo, Rosario, Ramirez, F.Reyes, F.Ramirez, Mercado, Ramos, Miller, Clement, etc.

BOSTON 2, TORONTO 1

Table with columns: Boston, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include K.Hernandez, Verdugo, Bogaerts, Devers, Renfro, Gonzalez, Vazquez, Cordero, Arauz, etc.

Baltimore
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Mullins cf 4 1 2 0 0 3 .320
Hays lf 4 0 2 0 0 1 .240

PHILADELPHIA 5, N.Y. METS 3

Table with columns: New York, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Nimmo, Alonso, Davis, Baez, Drury, A.Conforto, Villar, McCann, Pillar, Megill, Castro, etc.

Philadelphia
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

SATURDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT 3, CLEVELAND 1

Table with columns: Detroit, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include E.Cisnero, Baddoo, Rosario, Ramirez, F.Reyes, F.Ramirez, Mercado, Ramos, Miller, Clement, etc.

BOSTON 2, TORONTO 1

Table with columns: Boston, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include K.Hernandez, Verdugo, Bogaerts, Devers, Renfro, Gonzalez, Vazquez, Cordero, Arauz, etc.

Oakland 12, Texas 3
Kiner-Falefa ss 3 0 0 0 0 1 .256
Hernandez 3b 2 0 2 0 0 1 .333

PHILADELPHIA 5, N.Y. METS 3

Table with columns: New York, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Nimmo, Alonso, Davis, Baez, Drury, A.Conforto, Villar, McCann, Pillar, Megill, Castro, etc.

Philadelphia
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

SATURDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

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Table with columns: Detroit, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include E.Cisnero, Baddoo, Rosario, Ramirez, F.Reyes, F.Ramirez, Mercado, Ramos, Miller, Clement, etc.

BOSTON 2, TORONTO 1

Table with columns: Boston, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include K.Hernandez, Verdugo, Bogaerts, Devers, Renfro, Gonzalez, Vazquez, Cordero, Arauz, etc.

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PHILADELPHIA 5, N.Y. METS 3

Table with columns: New York, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Nimmo, Alonso, Davis, Baez, Drury, A.Conforto, Villar, McCann, Pillar, Megill, Castro, etc.

Philadelphia
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

SATURDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT 3, CLEVELAND 1

Table with columns: Detroit, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include E.Cisnero, Baddoo, Rosario, Ramirez, F.Reyes, F.Ramirez, Mercado, Ramos, Miller, Clement, etc.

BOSTON 2, TORONTO 1

Table with columns: Boston, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include K.Hernandez, Verdugo, Bogaerts, Devers, Renfro, Gonzalez, Vazquez, Cordero, Arauz, etc.

Oakland 12, Texas 3
Kiner-Falefa ss 3 0 0 0 0 1 .256
Hernandez 3b 2 0 2 0 0 1 .333

PHILADELPHIA 5, N.Y. METS 3

Table with columns: New York, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Nimmo, Alonso, Davis, Baez, Drury, A.Conforto, Villar, McCann, Pillar, Megill, Castro, etc.

Philadelphia
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

SATURDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT 3, CLEVELAND 1

Table with columns: Detroit, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include E.Cisnero, Baddoo, Rosario, Ramirez, F.Reyes, F.Ramirez, Mercado, Ramos, Miller, Clement, etc.

BOSTON 2, TORONTO 1

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Oakland 12, Texas 3
Kiner-Falefa ss 3 0 0 0 0 1 .256
Hernandez 3b 2 0 2 0 0 1 .333

PHILADELPHIA 5, N.Y. METS 3

Table with columns: New York, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Nimmo, Alonso, Davis, Baez, Drury, A.Conforto, Villar, McCann, Pillar, Megill, Castro, etc.

Philadelphia
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

SATURDAY

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT 3, CLEVELAND 1

Table with columns: Detroit, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include E.Cisnero, Baddoo, Rosario, Ramirez, F.Reyes, F.Ramirez, Mercado, Ramos, Miller, Clement, etc.

BOSTON 2, TORONTO 1

Table with columns: Boston, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include K.Hernandez, Verdugo, Bogaerts, Devers, Renfro, Gonzalez, Vazquez, Cordero, Arauz, etc.

Oakland 12, Texas 3
Kiner-Falefa ss 3 0 0 0 0 1 .256
Hernandez 3b 2 0 2 0 0 1 .333

PHILADELPHIA 5, N.Y. METS 3

Table with columns: New York, AB, R, H, BI, BB, SO, Avg. Rows include Nimmo, Alonso, Davis, Baez, Drury, A.Conforto, Villar, McCann, Pillar, Megill, Castro, etc.

Philadelphia
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

Jackson p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---
W.Smith p 0 0 0 0 0 0 ---
f-Heredia ph 1 0 0 0 0 0 .236

Totals 32 2 5 1 3 15
Washington 000 003 3 7 1
Atlanta 101 000 2 5 0

a-walked for Gray in the 6th. b-grounded out for Matzek in the 7th. c-doubled for Harper in the 8th. d-doubled for Parra in the 9th. e-popped out for Machado in the 9th. f-grounded out for W.Smith in the 9th.

E—Stevenson (2), LOB—Washington 7, Atlanta 7. 2B—Bell (15), Robles (17), Zimmerman (9), Swanson (28). HR—Adams (1), off W.Smith; Soler (3), off Gray. RBIs—Garcia (5), Adams 2 (2), Soler (6), S—Morton.

Runners left in scoring position—Washington 4 (Garcia, Bell 2, Hernandez); Atlanta 2 (Riley, Morton). RISP—Washington 2 for 12; Atlanta 1 for 6.

Runners moved up—Kieboom, Stevenson, Garcia, Pederson. GIDP—Hernandez. DP—Atlanta 1 (Albies, Swanson, Riley). Washington IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA

Gray 5 4 2 1 2 10 82 1.80
Thompson 1 0 0 0 0 2 13 0.00
Harper 1 0 0 0 1 22 0.86

Cincinnati
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Park ss 4 0 1 0 0 1 .381
Hayes 3b 3 2 1 0 0 1 .249

Totals 34 3 9 3 2 9
Cincinnati AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
India 2b 3 2 2 1 1 1 .287
Winker lf 5 2 3 6 0 0 .307

Totals 33 11 14 11 5 8
a-doubled for Gutierrez in the 6th. b-flied out for Shreve in the 8th. c-walked for Garrett in the 8th. d-flied out for Polanco in the 9th. e-lined out for Mears in the 9th.

Philadelphia
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

Totals 34 3 6 3 5 13
Philadelphia AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

Totals 33 1 7 1 1 14
Cleveland AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Straw cf 5 0 3 2 0 0 .296
Rosario ss 4 1 2 0 0 0 .269

Totals 36 6 15 6 1 5
Cleveland 000 200 001 1 7 0

Philadelphia
AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Herrera lf 4 1 2 3 0 0 .248
Segura 2b 3 0 1 0 0 0 .308

Totals 41 2 9 2 1 9
New York AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Crawford ss 4 0 1 1 1 0 .272
Haniger rf 5 1 1 0 0 1 .262

Totals 41 2 9 2 1 9
New York AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Crawford ss 4 0 1 1 1 0 .272
Haniger rf 5 1 1 0 0 1 .262

Totals 41 2 9 2 1 9
New York AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Crawford ss 4 0 1 1 1 0 .272
Haniger rf 5 1 1 0 0 1 .262

Totals 41 2 9 2 1 9
New York AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Crawford ss 4 0 1 1 1 0 .272
Haniger rf 5 1 1 0 0 1 .262

Totals 41 2 9 2 1 9
New York AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Crawford ss 4 0 1 1 1 0 .272
Haniger rf 5 1 1 0 0 1 .262

10th. 2-ran for LeMahieu in the 10th. LOB—Seattle 9, New York 12. 2B—Raleigh (3), Torres (16). RBIs—Torro (6), Crawford (35), Judge (51), Stanton (54), Gardner (18).

Seattle IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA
Gonzales 6 1/3 3 0 0 2 5 108 4.72
Smith, H, 1 0 0 0 0 0 4 0.00

Runners left in scoring position—Seattle 4 (Kelenic, Moore, Haniger, Bauers); New York 5 (Higashioka 2, Stanton 2, Gardner, Gallo). RISP—Seattle 2 for 8; New York 2 for 15. GIDP—Stanton. DP—Seattle 1 (Crawford, Torro, France). New York 1 (Higashioka, LeMahieu, Higashioka).

Toronto 12, Boston 4
Boston AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
K.Hernandez cf 5 0 1 0 0 1 .252
Verdugo lf 4 1 2 0 0 1 .276

Totals 33 4 8 4 6 10
Toronto AB R H BI BB SO Avg.
Springer dh 5 0 2 3 0 1 .291
Guerrero Jr. 1b 4 1 0 0 1 0 .319

Totals 40 12 17 12 2 6
Boston 000 112 000 4 8 0
Toronto 000 091 11x 12 17 0

a-struck out for Cordero in the 6th. LOB—Boston 9, Toronto 8. 2B—Verdugo (24), Semien 2 (29), Kirk (4), Grichuk (18), Valera (2), T.Hernandez (19), Springer (11), Gurriel Jr. (20). 3B—Springer (1), HR—Renfro (18), off Borucki; Gurriel Jr. (12), off Eovaldi. RBIs—Bogaerts (56), K.Hernandez (42), Renfro (2 (60)), Grichuk (68), Valera (2).

Totals 33 11 14 11 5 8
a-doubled for Gutierrez in the 6th. b-flied out for Shreve in the 8th. c-walked for Garrett in the 8th. d-flied out for Polanco in the 9th. e-lined out for Mears in the 9th.

Totals 40 12 17 12 2 6
Boston 000 112 000 4 8 0
Toronto 000 091 11x 12 17 0

Totals 33 11 14 11 5 8
a-doubled for Gutierrez in the 6th. b-flied out for Shreve in the 8th. c-walked for Garrett in the 8th. d-flied out for Polanco in the 9th. e-lined out for Mears in the 9th.

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Boston 000 112 000 4 8 0
Toronto 000 091 11x 12 17 0

Totals 33 11 14 11 5 8
a-doubled for Gutierrez in the 6th. b-fli



# Baseball

REDS 11  
PIRATES 3

## Keller drops to 3-9

Reynolds sparkles with homer, triple

By Jason Mackey  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

CINCINNATI — Mitch Keller thought his start Saturday represented a step forward.

Meanwhile, what Bryan Reynolds has done this season, keeping with this metaphor, might best be described as a 60-yard dash ... with the National League MVP race very much in sight.

The paths of Keller and Reynolds, different as they might be, were two of the top storylines in the Pirates' 11-3 loss to the Reds Saturday night at Great American Ball Park, their sixth consecutive defeat here this season.

In those games, the Reds have hit 17 home runs and scored 57 times.

"They have a good lineup and a deep offense," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "When you're facing a deep offense and you don't execute pitches, you're going to pay for it. We have in this series so far."

Evaluating Keller's start was tricky. Sure, four runs over five innings isn't going to make anyone feel warm and fuzzy inside, but he did show some signs of improvement. No, seriously. He did.

In his previous start, Keller's breaking stuff was flat, and he left it over the plate far too frequently when ahead in counts. It's one of the reasons Keller was sent to Class AAA Indianapolis in the first place, to get more consistent with locating his slider and curveball.

To Keller's credit, he stayed out of the middle of the plate with his spin pitches, which had more defined action than the previous time out. Even the ones that got hit, like a double he allowed to Reds left fielder Jesse Winker in the third, were put in decent spots.



Reds first baseman Joey Votto tags out Anthony Alford Saturday night after Alford got picked off base in the second inning in Cincinnati, Ohio.

(Winker had 22 home runs prior to Saturday. None came on balls down and in, which is the spot that Keller nailed with a biting curve.)

At the same time, Keller walked four, threw just 57 of his 100 pitches for strikes and fired first-pitch strikes to 11 of 24. Keller also went 2-0 or 2-1 on 10 of those hitters. The Pirates need more there.

Establishing the fastball has been a focal point for Keller, and he threw plenty of them — 62 total, including 34 (54.8%) for strikes. The Pirates likely want that number to be a little higher, and it lacked because Keller did command the top of the zone well enough.

"He didn't get ahead as much as we would have liked," Shelton said.

Keller did improve his fastball command as the game went on. Over the final two innings, Keller threw 27 fastballs, landing 15 of them in the strike zone.

"I felt great out there," Keller said. "Again, same as last time, I felt really confident, really good about what I was doing. Just a few balls didn't go my way."

Keller cited a single from Nick Castellanos that beat a shift and gave Cincinnati a 2-0 lead, which was fair. Wasn't hit hard. Had the Pirates

been at normal depth, it likely would have been an out.

He also needs to make a better pitch than the fastball he threw to Castellanos in the fifth, which the Reds right fielder put over the fence. And don't forget the three double plays that bailed Keller out of some trouble.

It would be presumptuous or dumb to describe what Keller did as some sort of moral victory — he lost while giving up nearly a run per inning — but it's also true there were signs of progress.

"Obviously, you don't want to give up four runs, but there were a lot of positives," Keller said. "When we were throwing my slider and curveball, making sure they were getting off the edge and down in the zone, I think I executed a lot of them."

As for the offense, Burt ... er, Bryan Reynolds — now sporting a sweep mustache — was outstanding, his sensational season getting better by the game. The Pirates center fielder went 3 for 4 with a home run, triple, three RBIs and a run scored.

Reynolds entered Saturday's game ranked 13th among position players in Wins Above Replacement (WAR) according to FanGraphs, fifth in the

National League.

Also beforehand, Reynolds was sixth in the NL in batting (.304), fifth in hits (119), eighth in on-base (.387) and ninth in OPS (.902) while playing some Gold Glove-caliber defense.

Reynolds' triple came on a slider he went down and got and whacked down the right-field line. He drove another slider into the grass beyond center for his 19th home run.

Reynolds now has as many homers as Ke'Bryan Hayes, Colin Moran and Gregory Polanco.

"I figured he'd throw me something offspeed, and yeah, it was a good pitch to hit," Reynolds said of his homer off Brad Brach.

As for offensive (and defensive) production, which has been on par with baseball's best, yeah, Reynolds didn't have much interest in tackling that one.

"I just try to come in every day, and I'll do what I can do," he said.

## Pirates report

Sunday



Game: Pirates vs. Cincinnati Reds, 1:10 p.m., Great American Ball Park, Cincinnati.

TV, Radio: AT&T SportsNet; KDKA-FM (93.7).

Probable starters: RHP Bryce Wilson (2-4, 5.35 ERA) for Pirates; RHP Tyler Mahle (8-3, 3.86) for Reds.

Key matchup: Pirates 1B Colin Moran had 10 home runs and 30 RBIs in 48 games against the Reds before Saturday, the most of either against any team in his career.

Hidden stat: Bryan Reynolds ranked first in the majors among all switch-hitters in hits (119) and OPS (.909) entering play Saturday.

On deck



Tue. vs. Cardinals, 7:05  
Steven Brault (0-0) vs. J.A. Happ (5-6)  
AT&T/KDKA-FM (93.7)



Wed. vs. Cardinals, 7:05  
Wil Crowe (3-6) vs. Wade LeBlanc (0-2)  
AT&T/KDKA-FM (93.7)



Thu. vs. Cardinals, 12:35  
JT Brubaker (4-11) vs. Adam Wainwright (10-6)  
AT&T/KDKA-AM (1020)

## Statistics

(Before Saturday's game)															
BATTERS	AVG	OB	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB	CS	E	
Park	.412	.474	17	2	7	4	0	0	3	2	3	0	1	0	
A.Frazier	.324	.388	386	58	125	28	4	4	32	35	46	5	4	5	
Reynolds	.304	.387	392	63	119	25	2	18	62	48	91	3	2	2	
Moran	.278	.343	158	11	44	9	0	4	23	14	46	1	0	3	
Nogowski	.277	.345	101	12	28	7	0	1	13	11	17	0	1	0	
Gamel	.275	.351	204	26	56	13	1	6	18	25	58	0	3	0	
Difo	.261	.321	142	15	37	7	2	3	15	13	40	0	0	5	
Hayes	.248	.316	206	23	51	12	1	4	22	20	49	2	1	3	
Stallings	.238	.328	269	28	64	16	1	8	42	34	65	0	0	4	
Gonzalez	.232	.258	220	17	51	7	1	2	21	8	40	2	2	5	
Castro	.220	.291	50	8	11	1	0	5	8	4	12	0	0	2	
Newman	.219	.258	366	34	80	11	2	3	24	19	30	3	0	2	
Craig	.217	.277	60	5	13	2	0	1	3	5	22	0	0	1	
Polanco	.208	.291	279	32	58	8	2	11	32	34	92	13	0	3	
Evans	.208	.314	207	22	43	5	0	5	16	27	53	1	0	7	
Oliva	.175	.233	40	4	7	2	0	0	2	3	10	2	0	0	
Fowler	.171	.239	41	3	7	1	0	0	2	3	20	1	0	0	
Perez	.168	.245	137	14	23	6	1	7	16	12	41	0	0	2	
Tom	.152	.308	92	9	14	2	1	2	11	17	30	1	0	0	
Tucker	.143	.182	21	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	5	0	1	1	
Stokes Jr.	.111	.200	18	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	5	1	0	0	
T.Frazier	.086	.200	35	3	3	1	0	0	4	3	6	0	0	0	
Alford	.083	.241	24	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	16	1	1	1	
PITCHERS	W	L	ERA	G	GS	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO		
Spitzbarth	0	0	0.00	2	0	0	2.1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Banda	0	0	0.00	1	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Wilson	0	1	1.80	1	1	0	5.0	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	
Brault	0	0	2.25	1	1	0	4.0	3	1	1	0	1	2	1	
Feliz	0	0	2.35	7	0	0	7.2	8	3	2	0	1	8		
Shreve	0	0	2.56	35	0	0	31.2	24	9	9	4	18	21		
Bednar	3	1	2.72	46	0	0	43.0	31	13	13	5	15	52		
Rodriguez	4	2	2.82	37	0	14	38.1	27	12	12	2	5	33		
Stratton	4	0	3.05	44	0	1	56.0	52	21	19	6	25	55		
Yajure	0	1	3.86	2	2	0	9.1	5	4	4	2	3	8		
Anderson	5	8	4.35	18	18	0	103.1	99	52	50	16	25	86		
Kuhl	3	6	4.43	14	14	0	67.0	56	39	33	9	35	58		
Crick	1	1	4.44	27	0	0	24.1	14	14	12	0	19	21		
Underwood Jr.	2	3	4.85	35	0	0	59.1	67	36	32	7	21	54		
Holmes	3	2	4.93	44	0	0	42.0	35	24	23	3	25	44		
Brubaker	4	11	4.95	20	20	0	107.1	102	60	59	23	29	108		
Mears	0	0	5.14	7	0	0	7.0	7	4	4	2	2	11		
Crowe	3	6	5.47	17	16	0	75.2	81	50	46	18	37	71		
Davis	0	1	5.59	10	0	0	9.2	6	7	6	2	5	11		
Howard	2	2	5.76	38	0	0	29.2	19	19	19	4	22	41		
De Jong	1	4	5.77	9	9	0	43.2	49	28	28	11	19	39		
Cañhll	1	5	6.57	9	8	0	37.0	42	29	27	4	14	32		
M.Keller	3	8	7.05	13	13	0	52.1	64	41	41	7	29	53		
Kranick	1	2	7.20	5	5	0	20.0	26	16	16	2	8	18		
K.Keller	0	1	7.20	16	0	0	15.0	13	14	12	5	12	18		
Ponce	0	2	7.71	6	2	0	18.2	31	16	16	2	5	20		
Hartlieb	0	0	7.71	4	0	0	4.2	3	4	4	0	5	4		
Poppen	0	0	7.71	3	0	0	4.2	11	7	4	1	2	4		
Oviedo	1	2	10.80	15	1	0	21.2	28	29	26	4	19	24		

## Alford looks at bigger picture, gets promoted again after giant surge

By Jason Mackey  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

CINCINNATI — For Anthony Alford, the focus was never solely about getting back to the big leagues.

Designated for assignment in April when he struggled mightily out of the gate, Alford shifted his mindset while playing for Class AAA Indianapolis. Instead of mentally charting a path back to the Pirates, Alford thought of himself only as an Indianapolis Indian. He also took stock of the bigger picture, realizing that even if he couldn't return to Pittsburgh, perhaps a scout or executive from another team might see him and give him an opportunity.

Because of that line of thinking, and the monster run that Alford has been on since June 1, his path did eventually lead back to the Pirates, as they selected his contract Saturday and started him in left field for a game against the Reds at Great American Ball Park.

"When I was down there, I told myself, 'I'm playing for the Indians, and I'm gonna do what I can to help this team win. And once I do become a Pirate again, I'll do what I can to help them win.' It's kind of just living in the moment."

On the physical side of things, Alford enjoyed working with hitting coach Jon Nunnally, the two making mechanical and approach-based adjustments that allowed the 27-year-old outfielder to discover even more power.

Just one small example: Nunnally was able to clean up some of the wasted motion in Alford's swing, allowing him to drive with power pitches he used to barely touch.

## Pirates notebook

"This is probably the best I've hit in my career," Alford said. "I was able to elevate fastballs to the pull side better than I have ever done. A lot of it was because I was putting myself in a certain position. I wasn't putting myself in that position in the past."

Alford was hitting .307 with 12 doubles, 14 home runs, 41 RBIs, a .420 on-base percentage, a .593 slugging percentage and a 1.013 OPS in 56 games with Class AAA Indianapolis. The OPS and slugging were second in the Class AAA East, while the on-base percentage was third, the batting average seventh.

In 38 games since June 1, Alford hit .356 with 11 doubles, 12 home runs, 31 RBIs, a .456 on-base percentage, a .704 slugging percentage and 1.160 OPS.

With Ben Gamel on the 10-day injured list because of a right hamstring strain, Alford should get a chance to play every day, as the Pirates evaluate what they have in the talented outfielder.

Alford, of course, won the starting center field job out of spring training but was sent out when he hit just .083 through 11 games, striking out 16 times in 29 plate appearances.

"When you send guys out and you give them challenges and they perform, you end up getting an opportunity to come back," manager Derek Shelton said. "He deserves that with the adjustments he's made. We're looking for him to continue those."

Alford laughed when prodded about what those are, arguing that he didn't want to tip anyone off. But the biggest thing that changed isn't

exactly proprietary.

It's more a mindset shift, starting with a simple thought.

That helped Alford get his body in position to do some damage, as opposed to simply reacting. Nunnally obviously played a big part.

"He talked to me in ways that nobody else has ever talked to me my whole career," Alford said. "He simplified a lot of stuff and made it fun to work with him."

## Roster surprises

To make room for Alford on the active roster, the Pirates optioned Phillip Evans to Class AAA Indianapolis. No surprise there considering Evans had hit just .167 over his past 24 games, with a .521 OPS and one extra-base hit.

"He needs to get more consistent at-bats," Shelton said of Evans. "The biggest thing is I think he's gotten a little tentative. We'd like him to be a little bit more aggressive in his swings."

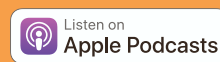
Because the Pirates also needed to clear a 40-man roster spot, they also brought Erik Gonzalez back from his rehab assignment with Class AAA Indianapolis and designated him for assignment.

As Shelton explained, those reps are likely to go to younger players such as Hoy Park and Rodolfo Castro, and Gonzalez was caught up in a roster crunch. The versatile infielder was hitting .232 with a .558 OPS this season, the worst of his three-year career with the Pirates.

"That was a challenging one, especially with the kind of person Erik is," Shelton said.

## PITTSBURGH SPORTS TALK, UNFILTERED FROM THE SOURCE. NEW EPISODES WEEKLY

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Baseball

# OFF THE BAT

Notes, observations and numbers from the week focusing on the Pittsburgh Pirates.

JASON MACKKEY

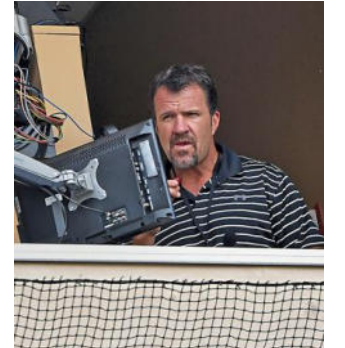
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THREE UP & THREE DOWN



**1** Really liked what I saw out of Bryse Wilson. I think sometimes we make pitching too hard and over-emphasize strikeouts. Sure, it helps to have good stuff. It also helps to throw strikes, work fast, trust your defense and hit your spots. Was a big fan of Wilson's changeup. I think his spin stuff can be refined, too.

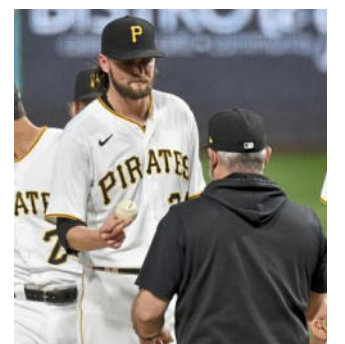


**2** I watch a lot of baseball, and Pirates fans should appreciate what they have in John Wehner, pictured above. He's outstanding as a color man. I think it's easy to forget sometimes because he's one of us, but few are better when it comes to explaining baseball nuance in a way that fans can understand.

**3** It's been encouraging to see manager Derek Shelton give Hoy Park and Rodolfo Castro regular playing time. I hope it continues, as long as they produce. If there's someone at Class AAA pushing for time — Anthony Alford and Cole Tucker spring to mind — the rest of the season should be about finding out what they can do.



**1** Hard to imagine the bullpen was once a strength. Since June 28, the Pirates have the third-highest ERA (6.18) in the sport and the second-worst mark of walks per nine innings (5.21). Tracing back more, they have the third-worst ERA (and worst in the NL) since June 6 at 5.53 and also the worst walks per nine (5.20). Not many signs of improvement, either.



**2** I hate the skittishness throughout baseball involving the third time through an order. I've also been curious where the Pirates stack up. Seems Derek Shelton's hesitancy here isn't unfounded. Entering Saturday, the Pirates had allowed their starting pitchers 401 plate appearances against the third time through this season. That's the fourth-fewest in the NL behind the Padres (358), Mets (362) and Marlins (394).

**3** Good chance that's because they've struggled going through a third time. Only three teams have a worse batting average against in this situation than the Pirates (.278), while two have permitted a higher OPS than their .864. If you're curious, the Reds (562) have allowed the most PAs and the Dodgers (.651) have the lowest OPS against.



Associated Press photos

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

'WE HAVE THE HORSES. NOW, IT'S TIME TO BUILD THE BARN.'

— JOHN BAKER —

The Pirates draft helped people understand, appreciate or believe their long-term plan. Now, the focus should shift to development. After Pittsburgh added five of the top 100 available players, it's fair for fans to wonder what will be different this time around.

That question took me recently to John Baker, the Pirates director of coaching and player development. To call it an enjoyable conversation would be a huge understatement. I like Baker a lot, and I think the way he sees the game is extremely important for what the Pirates are trying to do.

"I think there are some ideas out there that we haven't tapped into," Baker was telling me by phone recently. "It's important for us to push the envelope. After this draft, we're knocking on the door of having the best and most talented farm system in professional baseball.

"But what's the point in investing millions of dollars in players, then not supporting them at the same level? That's the way I've been thinking about it. I think that's the way Ben [Cherington] and everybody else in the organization thinks about it, as well. Let's not only put the best people in there, but let's have the best practices and the best facilities. Let's be on the cutting edge of developing and training."

There's a lot to unpack there — and I agree with everything Baker said.

While the Pirates are routinely criticized for how much they spend on major league players, they do not skimp on the other stuff, which includes the draft (approximately \$16.5 million spent in 2021, most of anyone), international player acquisition, scouting and technology.

Did you know that the Pirates have added 19 scouts since the start

Building a system requires more than just the acquisition of high-end talent. It requires facilities and a thought process to match it.



of 2019? That's more than three times as many as anyone else.

Sure, they should spend more on major league players. Absolutely. But I'm also OK with them taking a step back, allowing Cherington and Co. to take more of a homegrown approach and figuring out the right people to pay.

Which brings us back to Baker and development.

One of the first things this new group wanted was a pitching lab. It's essentially a way to monitor spin rate and biomechanics, to drill deeper into the science of pitching. It's like the Pirates' own Driveline, the Seattle-based facility that has become famous for its data-driven approach.

They also have been willing to admit mistakes and address shortcomings, a philosophy that involves different development paths with guys such as Cole Tucker, Brennan Malone and Mitch Keller.

There even has been a change involving how players are coached, with greater emphasis placed on individual drill work and improving baseball- or position-specific skills.

The last thing involves the treatment of minor league players and how Baker wants the Pirates to get even better with it.

While the Pirates are starting from a good place — they're one of only 11 teams who paid players in extended spring training, for example — they're not done.

Baker wants to make Pirate City like one of several baseball ranches that exist in Florida or Texas, where players immerse themselves in the process of getting better. They basically live in the attached dorms. They can get all of their meals on-site and benefit from the coaching and technology that the Pirates have to offer.

"Anybody we can feed and house

and give an opportunity for world-class training, that's an investment in our future that we're really trying to push for and take advantage of," Baker said.

As someone who spent about 65% of his pro career playing minor league ball (708 of 1,078 games), Baker knows the challenges those players face. He also thinks the experience can be instructive, if done right.

"You basically grow up together — cook food, go shopping, all those things," Baker said. "Bonds get tighter, and I think that's really important when it comes to developing a winning culture."

The Pirates already do see some semblance of this at Class AA Altoona, where players live in a housing complex about 15 minutes from PNC Field. Mason Martin, for example, shares a house with Ji-Hwan Bae, Arden Pabst and Cal Mitchell.

They play video games and talk trash. They learn life skills. The housing comes at a discount, with rent automatically deducted from their paycheck.

"I think it's why we get along so well," Martin said. "We're always hanging out together, and we just genuinely like one another."

For Baker, how the Pirates — and other clubs — treat minor leaguers remains an untapped frontier when it comes to development. It's another area where the Pirates are eyeing improvement.

"This goes beyond hiring the best coaches or getting the best players," Baker said. "It's about maximizing time with your players and doing things intentionally. It's also teaching them about recovery strategies and nutrition, a completeness of life that's required of major league players."

"I don't like comparing these guys to racehorses, but we have the horses. Now, it's time to build the barn."

ON DECK



MY GOODNESS:

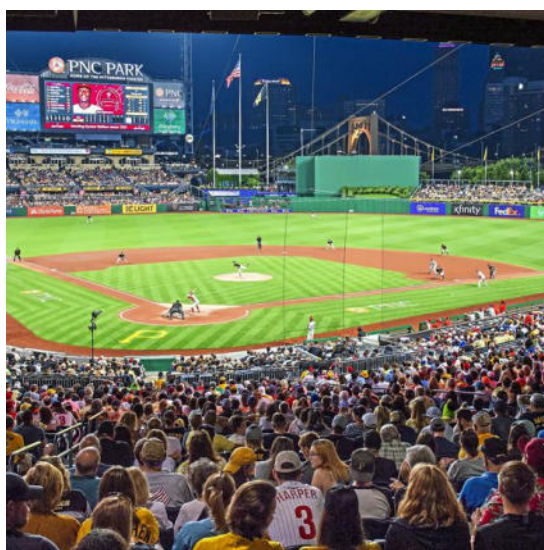
Since manager Mike Shildt took over in 2018, the Cardinals — who the Pirates play next — have the NL's best winning percentage in August at .654 (53-28).



**LEFT TURN:** J.A. Happ became the Cardinals' 10th left-handed pitcher to take the mound when he started Wednesday, tying the 1993 club for the most in a single season. Last time St. Louis had four or more lefties start multiple games in a season was 1999. The Pirates are 7-21 against lefties this season, tied with Arizona for worst such record in MLB.

**WALK THIS WAY:** Five of the top nine walk totals belong to NL Central clubs, including the Cardinals and Reds going 1-2 at 458 and 453, respectively. Only five MLB teams have handed out more free passes than the Pirates (407).

**BURNED WOOD:** The Pirates have lucked out against Milwaukee — relatively speaking, of course, given they've dropped 11 of the past 13 in the series — by missing stellar starting pitchers Corbin Burnes and Brandon Woodruff. However, those two started Friday and Saturday, respectively, meaning they should line up for starts at PNC Park next weekend.



Ben Braun/Post-Gazette

LIKE OLD TIMES

A glimpse of the 32,071 fans who turned out July 31 at PNC Park — the Pirates largest crowd of a pandemic-affected season.



NUMEROLOGY

.168

Batting average for the Pirates with the bases loaded this season.

Their average with three men on is the worst in a full season since the 2012 Astros (.130) and the fifth-lowest in a full season all-time.



## Baseball / Golf



CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK PREVIEW

## MLB roundup

## Phillies roll past sinking New York

Philadelphia wins 7th game in a row

The Associated Press

Brad Miller homered twice and the first-place Philadelphia Phillies withstood a ninth-inning rally Saturday night for their seventh consecutive victory, 5-3, against the sinking New York Mets.

Odubel Herrera hit a three-run homer and doubled for the host Phillies, who increased their NL East Division lead on New York to 1½ games. It is Philadelphia's longest winning streak since September 2012.

The Mets have lost 6 of 7 and 8 of 10. They had just two hits before Michael Conforto, Jonathan Villar and James McCann started the ninth with three consecutive homers to match a club record.

Two more batters reached base before new closer Ian Kennedy struck out slumping Pete Alonso and J.D. Davis for his 18th save and second with the Phillies.

Phillies manager Joe Girardi had Kennedy ready to start the ninth, but he chose to bring in 25-year-old rookie lefty Mauricio Llovera after Miller's solo homer in the eighth made it 5-0.

## Other games

**Cardinals 5, Royals 2:** Nolan Arenado homered and pinch-hitter Matt Carpenter delivered a tiebreaking double as host St. Louis beat Kansas City.

**Nationals 3, Braves 2:** Riley Adams' two-run homer in the ninth gave visiting Washington the lead and the Nationals rallied with three runs off Atlanta closer Will Smith for the win.

**White Sox 4, Cubs 0:** Carlos Rodón struck out 11 in five stellar innings and Cesar Hernandez and José Abreu hit back-to-back home runs as the visiting White Sox blanked the Cubs. It was the White Sox's second consecutive win in the crosstown series at Wrigley Field.

**Blue Jays 1, Red Sox 0:** Marcus Semien hit a walk-off home run to begin the seventh and host Toronto beat skidding Boston in the opening game of a doubleheader.

**Yankees 5, Mariners 4:** Aaron Judge and Rougned Odor homered and host New York capitalized on a three-base error by right fielder Mitch Haniger to beat Seattle and win for the 10th time in 12 games.

**Athletics 12, Rangers 3:** Matt Olson matched his career high with four hits, including a two-run double as part of Oakland's seven-run third inning, and the Athletics beat visiting Texas, handing the Rangers their 13th consecutive road loss.

**Rays 12, Orioles 3:** Brandon Lowe hit a grand slam and Nelson Cruz homered for the second game in a row as visiting Tampa Bay maintained its dominance of Baltimore.

**Astros 4, Twins 0:** Yordan Alvarez hit the 50th home run of his career and rookie Luis Garcia pitched six scoreless innings to help host Houston beat Minnesota.

## Notes

The New York Yankees placed closer Aroldis Chapman on the 10-day injured list because of inflammation in his left elbow. Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Chapman experienced a little inflammation last weekend in Miami but an MRI came back clean.

• Infielder Jonathan Schoop and the Detroit Tigers agreed to a \$15 million, two-year contract covering 2022 and 2023. Schoop is hitting .289 and has a team-best 64 RBIs.



USGA

Murrysville's Palmer Jackson is the top Western Pennsylvania amateur in the field for this week's U.S. Amateur at Oakmont.

## U.S. Amateur win is not always big step to success

By Gerry Dulac  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Bobby Jones, one of golf's most influential figures, is the most well-known player to win the U.S. Amateur at Oakmont Country Club. He did it in 1925 when the championship was considered one of golf's majors.

The other is Steve Melnyk, whose wire-to-wire victory in 1969 when the tournament used a stroke-play format was the beginning of a career that became more prominent as a television broadcaster.

Time, though, will determine if the winner of the 121st U.S. Amateur that starts Monday with 36-hole stroke-play qualifying at Oakmont and the Longue Vue Club will carry the same success. Sometimes the player who doesn't win the tournament goes on to even greater heights than the player who does.

For example, after Melnyk won at Oakmont and two years later won the British Amateur, he was not able to parlay that success to the PGA Tour. He never won a tournament in 335 career starts on the PGA Tour and his best finish in 18 major appearances (two as an amateur) was a tie for 12th at the 1972 Masters.

Meanwhile, four of the players he beat at Oakmont in 1969 — Tom Watson, Andy North, Lanny Wadkins and Tom Kite — went on to win a combined 12 major titles.

"That's one of the things that makes Oakmont so special," Melnyk said. "Their contribution to the game of golf, their place in the history of the game, is unheard of."

When Australian Nick Flanagan won the most recent U.S. Amateur at Oakmont in 2003, he was never able to win on the PGA Tour, though he did post

## Oakmont, Longue Vue play host to 121st championship this week



Associated Press

Pierceson Coody is the No. 2 amateur in the world.

## The week ahead

Tournament schedule for the week. Oakmont C.C. and Long Vue Club will be used Monday and Tuesday. Beginning Wednesday, all match play will be at Oakmont.

Day	Event
Monday	First round, stroke play (18 holes)
Tuesday	Second round, stroke play (18 holes)
Wednesday	Round of 64, match play
Thursday	Rounds of 32 and 16, match play
Friday	Quarterfinal round, match play
Saturday	Semifinal round, match play
Sunday	Championship match (36 holes)

four victories on the Nationwide (Korn Ferry) Tour. But, of the 64 players who made it to match play that year, six went on to win on the PGA Tour, including multiple winners and past FedEx Cup champions Brandt Snedeker and Bill Haas.

Also, five players in the field who did not qualify for match play went on to become PGA Tour winners, including two former area players — Brendon Todd of McMurray and Jason Kokrak of Youngstown, Ohio, a two-time winner in 2021.

The world's No. 1-ranked

nehanna Country Club in Johnstown — Palmer Jackson, Sean Knapp, Mark Goetz, Jimmy Meyers and Grant Martens. Meyers is a member at Oakmont. It will be Knapp's 18th appearance in the U.S. Amateur. Jackson will be making his fourth appearance.

The field won't be the only obstacle to overcome. So will Oakmont. When Melnyk won 52 years ago, he posted two of the only four sub-par rounds in four days. Alan Miller, who shot 69, was the only player to break 70. In 2003, the two semifinal matches produced just three birdies. In 2003, the two semifinal matches produced only three birdies.

"I loved everything about Oakmont," Melnyk said recently from his home in Jacksonville, Fla. "Every hole was hard, par was meaningful. I'm just very, very fortunate to have won at Oakmont."

Melnyk's professional playing career basically began to end in 1982 when he slipped and broke his right elbow at the Phoenix Open. But, while recuperating from the injury, he went to work as an on-course reporter for CBS Sports, a role he assumed full time when he retired from playing in 1984. For 22 years, Melnyk became one of the most recognized voices on golf broadcasts, first with CBS and later with ABC and ESPN.

But, at Oakmont, he is best known for what he did in 1969. And some of the players he beat who went on to future success.

"I couldn't play any better, actually, and it culminated with the win at Oakmont," Melnyk said. "My game was perfect for that course. It all fell into place."

It could for others this year, too, even if they don't win.

## Golf notebook

## English ties mark after solid 54 holes

DeChambeau's 63 closes gap to two

The Associated Press

Bryson DeChambeau let his clubs do most of the talking Saturday at TPC Southwind in Memphis, Tenn.

DeChambeau shot a 7-under 63 to pull within two strokes of leader Harris English in the World Golf Championships-FedEx St. Jude Invitational, then declined to comment to most of the media after the round.

DeChambeau was apparently upset with several stories written about his refusal to take the COVID-19 vaccine after he missed the Tokyo Olympics last week because of a positive test. He did agree to interviews with rights-holders CBS Sports, Sky Sports and SiriusXM PGA Tour Radio.

"It was beautiful to be able to score really well," DeChambeau said. "I didn't feel like my ball-striking was perfect, but I got it around really well and I was very pleased with it."

English has led after each of the first three rounds in this WGC event, opening with a 62 and shooting two 65s to get to 18-under 192. He's in position for his fifth PGA Tour victory and third of the season. He tied Tiger Woods for the lowest 54-hole mark in tournament history.

"I love playing with pressure," English said. "I think it helps me focus. It's a privilege to be in this spot. You have to take [challenges] on."

Cameron Smith had a 65 to join DeChambeau at 16 under.

Long-hitting DeChambeau birdied four of the first five holes on the back nine. The third came at the par-4 13th after nearly holing out his approach.

English created separation atop the leader board by birdieing two of the final three holes.

## 'Wildcats' final

Kentucky junior Jensen Castle rallied to advance to the U.S. Women's Amateur final in Harrison, N.Y., beating NCAA champion Rachel Heck of Stanford with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 19th hole. Castle, from West Columbia, S.C., will face Arizona junior Hou Yu-chiang of Taiwan in the 36-hole final. Hou beat Michigan State sophomore Valentina Rossi of Argentina, 2 up.

## Schenk scores

Adam Schenk birdied the par-4 18th in smoky conditions from wildfires for an 11-point round and four-point lead in the Barracuda Championship in Truckee, Calif., the only PGA Tour event that uses the modified Stableford scoring system.

## Hometown winner?

Grant Forrest produced a brilliant 10-under 62 to take a share of the third-round lead with fellow Scot Calum Hill at the Hero Open in St. Andrews, Scotland. There has not been a home winner in Scotland on the European Tour since Paul Lawrie won the 2012 Johnnie Walker Championship at Gleneagles, but Forrest and Hill have improved the prospects after climbing to 18 under at Fairmont St Andrews.

## FIVE PLAYERS TO WATCH AT OAKMONT

## Pierceson Coody

The No. 2 ranked amateur in the world and an upcoming senior at the University of Texas. He is the grandson of 1971 Masters champion Charles Coody. But his family lineage goes beyond that. His dad played on the Texas golf team, as does his twin brother, Parker, who is 74th in the world amateur rankings. Coody got a sneak peek at Oakmont and the Longue Vue Club, the other stroke-play qualifying site, when he was invited by the USGA to attend last month's media day.

## Keita Nakajima

Nakajima, 20, is just the third Japanese amateur to be ranked No. 1 in the world, joining Hideki Matsuyama and Takumi Kanaya — both former winners of the Asia-Pacific Amateur championship. Nakajima ascended to the top spot when he finished eighth in the Japan Tour's Dunlop Phoenix Open in November. He is a junior at Nippon Sport Science University in Tokyo.

## Palmer Jackson

A Murrysville resident and junior at Notre Dame, he is the top amateur in Western Pennsylvania and has enjoyed success in past U.S. Amateur championships. Jackson reached the quarterfinal round of match play in 2019 at Pinehurst No. 2, losing to eventual finalist John Augenstein, 3 and 2.

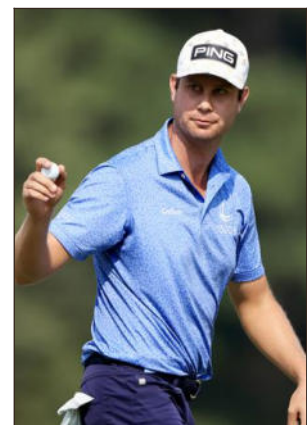
## Sean Knapp

The 2017 U.S. Senior Amateur champion has won a record eight West Penn Amateur titles. He will be making his 18th appearance in the U.S. Amateur and 53rd in a USGA championship. At 59, he is the oldest qualifier and second-oldest player in the field of 312.

## Matt Vogt

Vogt, 30, is a dentist in Indianapolis who picked a good time to be playing in his first USGA national championship. He is a Cranberry native and Seneca Valley High School graduate who caddied for six years at Oakmont during his high school and college days. He qualified for the championship in Chesterton, Ind. Vogt shouldn't need a lot of help reading the greens.

— Gerry Dulac



Getty Images

Harris English takes a two-shot lead into final round in Memphis, Tenn.



## College Football

## West Virginia camp

## Mountaineers get help from transfer talent

By Carolina Pineda  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — West Virginia's first full-team practice of training camp Saturday featured fans in the bleachers and plenty of enthusiasm on the field.

"They're eager," offensive coordinator Gerad Parker said. "Soreness will begin to set in and all that fun, but as of now, they're eager, they played fast, made plenty of mistakes but yet did them fast, and had great attitudes and played with great effort."

The Mountaineers opened camp Friday with a split-squad practice.

Head coach Neal Brown elected to integrate split-squad practices into camp after growing to appreciate them when they were used as an

added safety measure for COVID-19 last year. After Friday's practice, he emphasized the benefits of involving more players.

"Those guys are out there for a shorter amount of time, but we get more total reps and our young guys, it really helps them because they get one-on-one coaching," Brown said, adding that the team will continue to have such workouts.

Developing depth is always a focus of fall camp, but two of the Mountaineers' position groups with additional scrutiny are receivers and defensive backs, which stirs competition during drills.

"The level of play goes up on both sides of the ball, so therefore everybody either rises up with it or you kind of get left behind," Parker said. Parker added that he would

ideally like to have six receivers ready to see the field, especially during September games with hotter temperatures. As of right now, it appears those game-ready receivers will include a good balance of veterans such as red-shirt junior Bryce Ford-Wheaton and younger players like freshman Kaden Prather.

## On the line

One of the biggest questions of camp surrounds the offensive line. The answer could start with Doug Nester, who transferred from Virginia Tech and is settling in at guard.

"He's an extremely humble guy, and he wanted to make sure that he earned his spot," Brown said Friday of Nester. "We bounced him around a lot at different positions, and I

thought he was more confident today."

At 6 feet 7 and 321 pounds, Nester brings experience to the unit. In recent years, West Virginia has been plagued with rushing woes, especially late in games. The 2020 season marked a substantial improvement from 2019, as the Mountaineers averaged 3.8 yards per carry, up from 2.6 yards per carry two years ago.

Brown has stressed the importance of that trend continuing in 2021.

In Leddie Brown, the Mountaineers have a talented running back but have struggled to create opportunities for him at times. A stronger offensive line likely will help change that.

## Transfer help

Nester isn't the only talent

from the transfer portal to hit the ground running. On the other side of the ball, offseason additions include linebackers Lance Dixon (Penn State) and Deshaun Stevens (Maine), and defensive lineman Darel Middleton (Tennessee).

"A lot of times, there's no greater attribute than experience, and sometimes it doesn't matter the level," defensive coordinator Jordan Lesley said.

He added that he hopes and thinks the defensive transfers will all contribute this season. The transfer class also got depth in the secondary with Charles Woods, an Illinois State transfer, and Caleb Coleman from Hutchinson Community College in Kansas.

## Other notes

• Last year, in Brown's

second season at the helm, the Mountaineers were 6-4 (4-4 Big 12 Conference). In Brown's first campaign, they finished 5-7 (3-6).

• As expected, Garrett Greene seems to have a strong hold on the backup quarterback role. "Garrett's just picking up from spring where he left off," Parker said. "Now he's got a stronger knowledge of all that we're doing."

• After sustaining a serious knee injury last season, kicker Evan Staley was able to participate in the opening practice.

• According to Brown, freshman running back Jaylen Anderson hasn't arrived due to "clearinghouse things."

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## Pitt camp

## Panthers working to improve in red zone

## Settling for FGs results in losses

By Johnny McGonigal  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Consistency, for starters.

Mark Whipple stated the obvious when asked where his offense has to improve. Then, the coordinator exhaled and let out what felt like a tired plea, a point you could tell he has made time and time again over the past eight months.

"We gotta finish drives in the end zone," Whipple said Friday after Pitt's first practice of training camp. "... We just gotta finish."

It's certainly a point that bears repeating. Pitt has been woeful at capitalizing on its red-zone opportunities, both from a statistical and situational perspective, the past two seasons. Whipple knows it. Kenny Pickett knows it. The entire offense knows it. It needs to be corrected if the Panthers are going to break out of mediocrity this fall.

There are solutions, and the Panthers are placing a premium on working out the inefficiencies in camp. But before delving into that effort, we have to look at how Pitt got to this point.

In 2019, Whipple's first season, the Panthers ranked 118th nationally in red-zone touchdown conversion rate (47.37%). It was a poor first impression, but it wasn't surprising given the Panthers' myriad of issues. They couldn't run the ball (118th in rushing yards per game), weren't explosive (109th in plays of 30-plus yards) and, by association, weren't in the red zone enough to find a groove. Pitt's 38 trips were the second-fewest nationally among teams that played 13 games.

That wasn't the issue in Whipple's second season. Pitt's 47 red-zone trips in 11 games was tied for 20th in the country last year. That ranking is skewed a bit by other teams not playing as many games. But more than four red-zone opportunities per game? Whipple will take that.

"We're explosive enough that we're getting down there," Whipple said. "It was hard enough getting down there the first year. Now, we're getting down there. But we just have to do a better job."

Pitt's red-zone touchdown conversion rate in 2020 was 57.45%, or 90th nationally. And that figure is boosted significantly by the Panthers' 55-0 drubbing of Division I-AA foe Austin Peay. Pitt had six of its 27 red-zone touchdowns in that running-clock blowout.

In conference play, the Panthers' touchdown conversion rate dropped to 51.22% — slightly better than 2019, but nothing to get excited about.



Matt Freed/Post-Gazette

Pitt offensive coordinator Mark Whipple must feel as if he's been talking about the Panthers' red zone issues since he arrived on campus in 2019.



Pam Panchak/Post-Gazette

Entering his fourth full season as a starter, quarterback Kenny Pickett will be a focal point in helping the Panthers find the end zone more often.

Pitt scored touchdowns on 21 of 41 red-zone opportunities in ACC play, basically a 50-50 proposition. And it helped lead to losses on two occasions.

Pitt had three red-zone failures in its 30-29 loss to N.C. State, a defeat that blocked what would have been the Panthers' first 40 start since 2000. Those who watched probably remember the four consecutive stuffed runs at the 1 — a microcosm of Pitt's struggles. But the Panthers also settled for field goals from the 11 and 9.

The same problems persisted two weeks later at Miami. Joey Yellen was quarterbacking in place of an injured Pickett, so a pass could be given. But field goals from the 6, 12, 15 and 17 — a year after the Panthers settled for four red-zone field goals in a home loss to Miami — felt like a case of *deja vu*.

The answer to Pitt's frustrations? Pickett offered two.

"We want to exploit mismatches more. With these receivers and Lucas [Krull] at tight end, I think we'll have that opportunity," he said. "And then obviously having a run game. If we can run the ball through the 5, it takes a lot of

pressure off the passing game. It opens up the play action, and it opens up a lot more things we can do down there."

Running the ball with greater success — the single-biggest problem since Whipple arrived — is an obvious focus. On its six red-zone drives that ended in field goals against N.C. State and Miami, Pitt dialed up tailback runs on only 2 of 18 plays. There was no reason for Whipple to trust the ground game in tight, but it was given only a half-hearted shot.

That being said, Pitt had nine rushing scores in its late-season wins over Florida State, Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech. Maybe there's something to build on. And even if the running game falls completely on its face, Pickett's bolstered pass-catching options alone could make the red-zone offense respectable.

The most talked about piece of that puzzle is Krull, a 6-foot-6 Thor look-alike. Krull transferred to Pitt ahead of the 2020 season from Florida, where he lost out on snaps to eventual NFL first-rounder Kyle Pitts. No shame in that. But Krull's first year with the Panthers hardly went the way he wanted, playing in one

game before a knee injury ended his year.

Whipple said the tight end was "part of the plan" when Pitt repped its red-zone plays this time last year. That hasn't changed.

"Touchdowns," Krull said, when asked what he hopes to provide in the red zone. "At the end of the day, that's my job. When Kenny throws it up to me, I gotta come down with it and score. That's where I gotta thrive, and that's where I will thrive. That's what you're going to see all fall. That's the main reason why I came here."

Krull's confidence is shared by Pickett, as well as the fourth-year starter's other targets. Freshman All-American receiver Jordan Addison will get more looks, moving around the offense after sticking in the slot last fall. Jump-ball specialist Taysir Mack is healthy after enduring hernia and ankle surgeries in 2020. And 6-3, 210-pound wideout Jared Wayne is itching to make his mark.

Wayne came on as a freshman in 2019, starting Pitt's final four games and snagging his first touchdown in the Quick Lane Bowl. But in 2020, Wayne missed three games and 38 days of in-season work after being placed in COVID-19 contact tracing quarantine twice and contracting the virus in November.

Wayne is someone Pickett could throw to "with a blindfold on," the quarterback said earlier this summer. The wideout is hoping that relationship — and the offense's collective offseason efforts — bears fruit in the red zone.

"It's been a big focus for us this summer," Wayne said with a wide smile.

"We left a lot of meat on the bone last year," Whipple added. "We see a confident group, a hungry group and one that's a little more together. ... We just have to be better with a plan and scheme..."

## Penn State camp

## Nittany Lions look to move past 2020

## QB Clifford, new offense key to rebounding

By Adam Bittner  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Mike Yurcich  
First season running the offense

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — For eight months, Penn State has had to soak in the disappointment of an ugly 2020 that saw the Nittany Lions lose their first five games and finish with a losing record for the first time since 2004.

Saturday brought the opportunity to look ahead, with media day at Beaver Stadium serving as an unofficial page-turning to 2021.

With two practices of their fall camp now in the books, here are some of the noteworthy takeaways players and coaches had.

• The COVID-19 pandemic is not over here. The announcement that Penn State intends to open Beaver Stadium to full capacity in the fall has been greeted as a return to normalcy in some quarters. But it's clear coach James Franklin and Co. are not taking that plan for granted.

Franklin's news conference was changed from in-person to a Zoom setting at the last minute. Writers were masked in the press box. Player interviews were conducted from a distance on the Beaver Stadium field.

That hybrid approach might apply to parts of the game-day experience, too, depending upon how well the delta variant can be contained.

"I just think the more people that can say, look, 'whether I completely agree with it or not, I'm going to get the vaccination. I'm going to wear mask when appropriate,' it gives us the best opportunity to be in that stadium, and as close back to what we describe as 'normal' as possible," Franklin said.

• Jesse Luketa will be one of the more intriguing players to watch on this defense during camp.

The most significant piece of actual news revealed Saturday came from Franklin, who confirmed that junior defensive end Adisa Isaac will miss most — if not all — of the season with an offseason injury that was not football related.

That puts Luketa under a brighter spotlight as he works primarily with that position group during camp after spending most of his tenure in Happy Valley as a linebacker.

Defensive coordinator Brent Pry said the move was made, in part, because of the injury and the resulting loss of depth. But how much Luketa

will actually play there remains to be seen. He was, after all, still grouped with the linebackers while meeting the media.

• It certainly sounds as if first-year offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich has a preference for the number of guys who will get most of the time in the running back rotation.

"Most likely three," he said. "Maybe four."

That means there will probably be two men out of a group that includes five names with legitimate experience, here and elsewhere. Cazia Holmes, Keyvone Lee and Devyn Ford each got meaningful carries in 2020. Noah Cain is looking to bounce back from missing almost all of last year with injury. And transfer John Lovett brings experience from Baylor.

• Installation of Yurcich's offense is going better than the effort to transition to Kirk Ciarrocca's did a year ago because... well how could it not? Penn State was able to get a full spring practice schedule in earlier this year. Something it lost to the pandemic in 2020. And it's had a more normal camp environment after having to split practices as a precaution last year.

Franklin didn't think it was even fair to compare the two efforts, simply because of the logistics involved.

The more apt comparison may be to the 2016 Big Ten Conference championship team, which needed a few weeks to get going under Joe Moorhead, even under non-pandemic conditions.

• Without getting into too many specifics, quarterback Sean Clifford is sounding unbothered by the Xs and Os for many of the same reasons.

"It's all spread offense," he said of having to learn another coach's playbook after appearing to struggle at times with the transition to Ciarrocca from Ricky Rahne. So much so that he was benched for Will Levis at one point last year.

"Last season was last season. I'm not going to sit here and act like it didn't happen," he said. "But I'm also not going to sit here and act like we're not 0-0 right now going into Wisconsin. We have a chance to win the Big Ten championship this year. I'm not going to worry about what happened last year. We've got a great team."

Adam Bittner: abittner@post-gazette.com.







**Today**

**HIGH: 86**  
**LOW: 68**



Humid with some sun; a t-storm around in the p.m. Winds W at 4-8 mph.

**Tomorrow**

**91**  
**69**



Hot and humid with partial sunshine. Winds SSW at 4-8 mph.

**Tuesday**

**86**  
**71**



Some sun, warm and humid; a p.m. t-storm. Winds SW at 6-12 mph.

**Wednesday**

**84**  
**69**



Watch for a strong afternoon thunderstorm. Winds SW at 7-14 mph.

**Thursday**

**85**  
**69**



Cloudy, a couple of thunderstorms; humid. Winds SW at 7-14 mph.

**Weather outlook**

Humid today with partial sunshine; a thunderstorm in spots during the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40%. Patchy clouds tonight. Hot and humid tomorrow with partial sunshine. Tuesday: humid with partial sunshine; an afternoon thunderstorm. Chance of precipitation 55%. Wednesday: a thunderstorm in spots in the morning; watch for a strong thunderstorm in the afternoon.

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**Nation Cities**

City	Today		Tomorrow	
	Hi/Lo	W	Hi/Lo	W
Albany	82/62	t	83/66	sh
Albuquerque	94/69	s	95/71	s
Allentown	85/66	pc	88/69	pc
Anchorage	57/53	sh	62/52	pc
Atlanta	90/73	pc	90/73	t
Atlantic City	76/68	pc	79/72	pc
Baltimore	90/70	pc	90/72	pc
Birmingham	90/74	pc	90/73	t
Boise	84/53	s	82/59	s
Boston	79/66	t	74/68	pc
Buffalo	85/73	t	91/74	pc
Charleston, S.C.	88/73	pc	88/73	t
Charleston, W.Va.	88/66	s	91/69	s
Charlotte	91/69	s	92/72	pc
Chicago	91/72	t	83/74	t
Cincinnati	90/71	s	85/70	t
Cleveland	88/72	t	91/71	pc
Columbus	89/70	pc	90/71	s
Dallas	96/78	s	97/79	s
Dayton	89/72	pc	87/72	t
Denver	94/65	pc	97/62	pc
Des Moines	84/71	t	92/76	c
Detroit	88/72	t	88/71	t
Erie	84/74	t	89/74	pc
Fairbanks	67/51	sh	66/49	r
Grand Rapids	89/73	c	81/70	t
Greensboro	88/69	s	90/71	pc
Hartford	82/66	t	86/76	sh
Harrisburg	89/70	pc	90/72	pc
Honolulu	87/75	pc	86/76	pc
Houston	94/79	t	95/79	t
Indianapolis	89/71	pc	84/71	t
Jackson, Miss.	93/75	s	93/75	t
Kansas City	89/74	t	96/77	s
Las Vegas	107/83	s	105/83	s
Los Angeles	81/63	pc	82/65	pc
Louisville	92/74	s	90/73	t
Memphis	91/77	pc	93/79	t
Miami	90/80	t	90/81	t
Milwaukee	88/71	t	81/72	t
Minneapolis	84/70	r	90/73	c
Myrtle Beach	84/74	pc	85/75	t
Nashville	92/73	s	92/75	t
New Orleans	93/79	t	92/78	t
New York City	79/69	pc	81/71	pc
Norfolk	83/71	pc	87/73	s
Oklahoma City	92/75	t	95/76	pc
Omaha	90/71	s	97/77	s
Orlando	90/76	t	91/75	t
Philadelphia	81/69	pc	87/71	pc
Phoenix	106/86	s	102/83	pc
Portland, Maine	79/63	t	75/63	c
Portland, Ore.	78/56	pc	87/60	s
Providence	80/67	t	78/67	r
Richmond	86/69	pc	89/72	s
Sacramento	90/58	s	94/58	s
St. Louis	94/75	pc	91/77	t
Salt Lake City	99/67	s	89/66	s
San Diego	74/65	pc	75/67	pc
San Francisco	70/57	pc	72/56	pc
San Juan	87/79	t	89/79	t
Seattle	74/56	c	79/58	s
Spokane	67/52	pc	80/59	pc
Syracuse	86/69	t	87/70	pc
Tampa	91/79	t	90/78	t
Toledo	91/72	t	87/73	t
Tucson	100/77	t	95/75	t
Washington, D.C.	90/72	pc	89/74	pc
Wheeling	86/69	t	90/71	pc
Wilmington, Del.	83/67	pc	87/70	pc

**Yesterday's Record**

Readings from the Pittsburgh Int'l. Airport through 5 p.m. Aug 7, 2021

**TEMPERATURE**

High	84
Normal high	82
Year ago	83
Record high	101 (1918)
Low	66
Normal low	62
Year ago	63
Record low	47 (1997)

**DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL**

Yesterday	+2.3
Month to date	-2.1
Year to date	+0.1

**HUMIDITY**

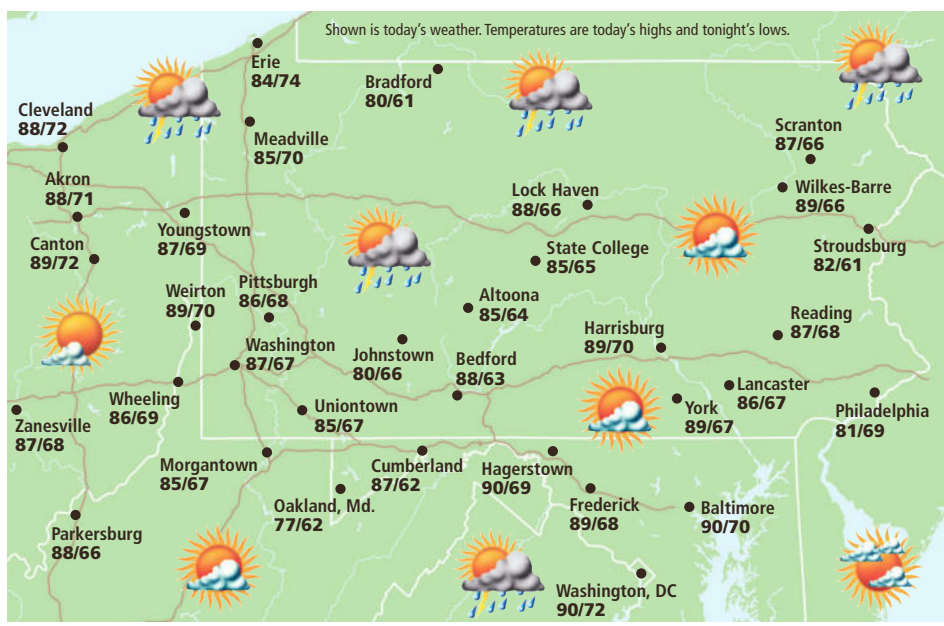
High	90 (at 7 a.m.)
Low	47 (at 4 p.m.)

**PRECIPITATION (inches)**

24 hours ending 5 p.m. yest.	0.00
Month to date	0.13
Normal month to date	0.86
Departure from normal	-0.73
Year to date	22.15
Normal year to date	25.12
Departure from normal	-2.97

**BAROMETER**

Yesterday's high	30.10
Yesterday's low	30.01

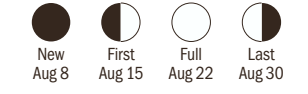


**River Stages**

<b>ALLEGHENY</b>	
Franklin, Pa.	3.60 S
Parker, Pa.	2.70 S
Sharpsburg, Pa.	10.40 S
<b>MONONGAHELA</b>	
Gray's Landing, Pa.	9.60 S
<b>CHEAT</b>	
Parsons, W.Va.	2.20 F
<b>WEST FORK</b>	
Clarksburg, W.Va.	1.63 R
<b>YOUGHIOGHENY</b>	
Sutersville, Pa.	3.10 R
<b>BEAVER</b>	
Beaver Falls, Pa.	5.00 F
<b>OHIO</b>	
Pittsburgh, Pa.	16.30 R
Dashields Dam	13.90 S
Montgomery Dam, Pa.	12.70 R
Pike Is. Lock and Dam, W.Va.	12.80 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	94/78	pc	96/79	pc
Auckland	59/44	sh	52/43	pc
Baghdad	114/86	s	115/85	pc
Beijing	92/72	pc	89/71	pc
Berlin	75/55	t	76/57	c
Bermuda	86/79	s	86/79	s
Bogota	66/51	c	66/51	r
Buenos Aires	56/47	r	49/42	r
Cairo	100/78	s	98/79	s
Copenhagen	69/60	t	69/59	t
Dublin	66/54	c	64/50	sh
Frankfurt	69/53	t	73/55	pc
Hong Kong	88/81	t	88/81	t
Jerusalem	85/71	s	85/71	s
Johannesburg	70/49	s	75/47	s
Kinshasa	82/68	pc	84/70	pc
London	67/57	sh	69/56	t
Madrid	90/65	s	95/67	pc
Manila	91/81	t	90/79	t
Mexico City	72/56	t	74/57	t
Montreal	81/67	t	85/70	t
Moscow	79/65	c	82/65	c
Nairobi	73/57	c	73/58	pc
Nassau	90/80	sh	91/80	pc
New Delhi	91/81	t	90/81	t
Oslo	69/55	t	65/56	t
Paris	71/58	t	74/59	pc
Rio de Janeiro	77/65	s	78/66	s
Rome	87/73	pc	87/73	pc
Seoul	91/73	t	91/73	s
Singapore	88/78	t	89/78	t
Sydney	62/52	sh	65/51	pc
Tokyo	86/81	r	88/80	t
Toronto	83/69	t	89/71	pc
Vancouver	71/58	pc	73/59	pc
Vienna	76/58	t	79/61	pc
Warsaw	75/59	pc	74/56	pc

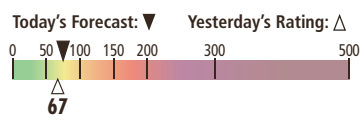
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

**Skywatch today**

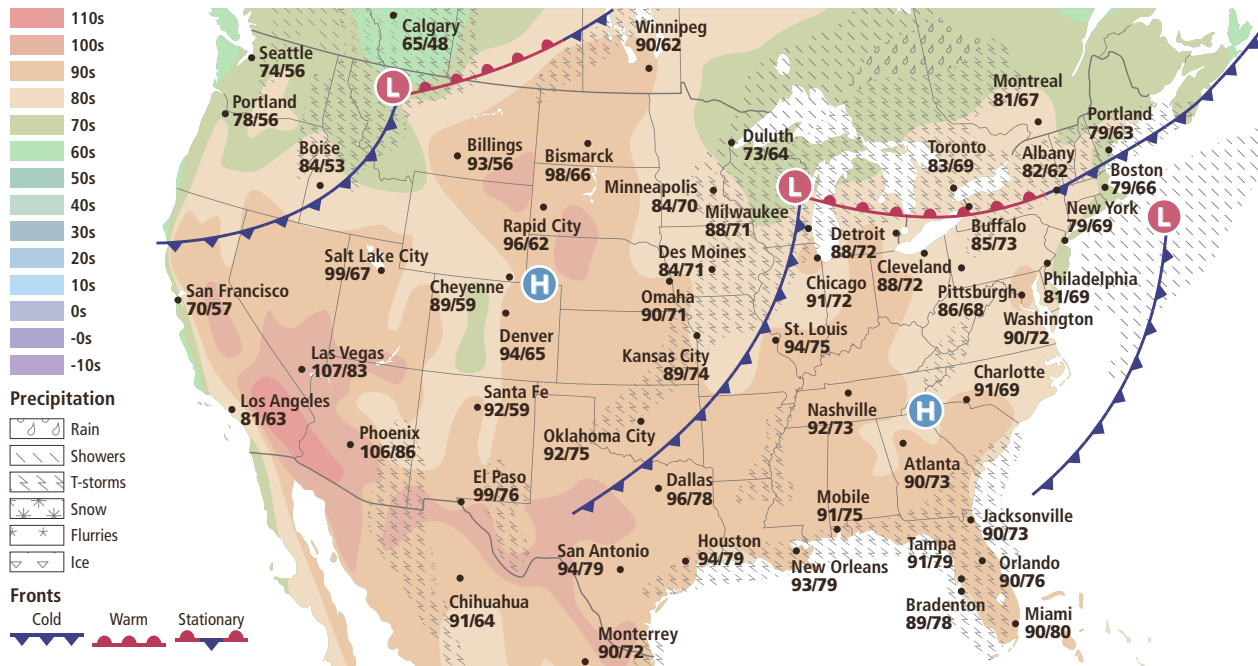
Sunrise	6:25 a.m.
Sunset	8:27 p.m.
Moonrise	6:09 a.m.
Moonset	9:01 p.m.

**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.



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**FOOTBALL SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!**

High School Football Previews coming soon



The Post-Gazette's award-winning sports team will provide an in-depth look at another exciting high school football season in two special tabloid sections published on Sundays in August. Get insight on the favorites and sleepers to win WPIAL and City League championships!

**Sunday, August 22**  
Classes 6A, 5A and City League

**Sunday, August 29**  
Classes 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A

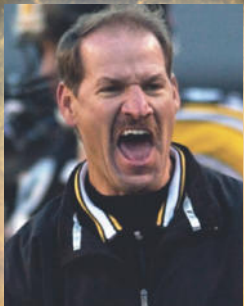
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette®

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

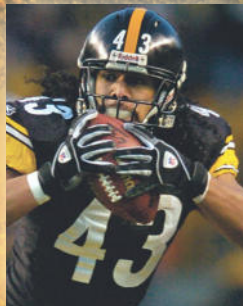
We salute Pittsburgh's 2020 and 2021 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductees.



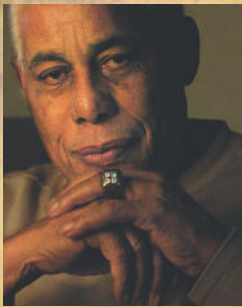
**DONNIE SHELL**  
2020 Inductee



**BILL COWHER**  
2020 Inductee



**TROY POLAMALU**  
2020 Inductee



**BILL NUNN, JR.**  
2021 Inductee



**ALAN FANECA**  
2021 Inductee





## Pa. transit funding at risk amid tax debate

Differing priorities yield complex dilemma

By Ed Blazina  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Recommendations from Pennsylvania's Transportation Revenue Options Commission might never pass the proposal stage in the attempt to eliminate the state's gasoline tax and replace it with a package of other taxes and fees.

That's because the ideas released 10 days ago by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's commission call for changing the funding method for transportation at the same time the state is trying to generate more money for road and bridge projects, experts say.

Adding to that double whammy is the fact that Republicans in control of the state Legislature already are lining up against the package, which includes charging drivers for miles driven, increasing vehicle registration fees and adding surcharges to package deliveries and rides with services such as Lyft and Uber.

"Clearly, change is very difficult," said Bill Fox, professor of economics at the University of Tennessee, where he concentrates on tax policy and transportation as director of the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research.

"It's a political situation that's just hard to handle — trying to change the system at the same time you're increasing revenue makes it that much more difficult."

Mr. Fox said almost every state faces the prospect of moving away from the gasoline tax because of its stagnant growth as vehicles become more efficient and more motorists switch to electric vehicles. In many cases, he said, it's an issue that will unfold over the next 10 to 15 years as manufacturers push out more electric vehicles and price comes down.

Pennsylvania has the second highest gasoline tax in the country at 58.6 cents a gallon and gets about 75% of its transportation funds from that source.

Individual states — and perhaps the federal government — want to switch to charging a fee for miles driven, but none has made the change yet. Oregon ran a two-year trial program to charge for miles driven for some motorists, but when the trial ended and the program became voluntary, most motorists decided to stay with the gasoline tax, Mr. Fox said.

But Pennsylvania is facing an

SEE **FUNDING**, PAGE C-3



Alexandra Wimley/Post-Gazette

Todd DePastino, executive director of the Veterans Breakfast Club, listens as former Air National Guard fighter pilot Heather Penney speaks during an event sponsored by the Military Community Support Project and the Veterans Breakfast Club at the Senator John Heinz History Center on Saturday. Ms. Penney flew on a mission on Sept. 11, 2001, to stop United Airlines Flight 93 by any means necessary.

### Fighter pilot recounts her 9/11 experience

## ORDINARY HEROISM

By Zoe Stratos  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



On a bright September morning in 2001, Heather "Lucky" Penney was sent on a suicide mission.

Two airliners had crashed into the World Trade Center; another had buried itself deep into the Pentagon; a fourth was missing somewhere over Pennsylvania.

Ms. Penney, at the time a jet fighter pilot in the Washington, D.C. Air National Guard, watched along with fellow Guard members as the chaos unfolded.

As confusion spread, her commanding officer, Col. Marc "Sass" Sasseville, locked eyes with her and said, "Lucky, you're with me."

They scrambled to the pre-flight area, zipping up their flight suits. There was no time to arm their F-16 fighter jets to track down United Airlines Flight 93. She realized what could be her fate:

"Sass looks at me and says, 'I'll ram the cockpit.' I knew that I would take the tail," she said.

\*\*\*

Ms. Penney told her story Saturday to a rapt audience at the Senator John Heinz History Center as part of the Military Community Support Project and Veterans Breakfast Club.

Sept. 11, 2001, started off like any normal day for Ms. Penney as she drove to work at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, a few miles southeast of Washington.

"I could tell it'd be a gorgeous flying day, but I wasn't going to be flying that morning." Instead, Ms. Penney had a day of meetings and paperwork to deal with.

Ms. Penney grew up in a military family — her father, John Penney, was an Air Force colonel who served from 1970 to 1979 and then was a pilot for United Airlines.

Throughout her childhood, she would listen to her father's stories when squadron buddies visited for dinner. She was struck by how "cool" fighter jets and their pilots were. But there was a problem: At the time, women could not be fighter pilots.

She studied English at Purdue University and planned to move on to graduate school to become a professor. But in 1993, Congress opened combat aviation to women, and Ms. Penney joined the Air Force in 1996.

As one of the first in a wave of women to become fighter pilots, she was given the nickname "Lucky," and was assigned to the 121st Fighter Squadron of the District of Columbia Air National Guard.

\*\*\*

On that Sept. 11 morning, Ms. Penney and other Guard members

were discussing daily and weekly operations for the fighter squadron when there was a knock on the door and the announcement, "An aircraft flew into the World Trade Center."

She said they looked at each other and thought that maybe an errant pilot in a small plane had hit the tower. Then the door flew open — there was no knock: "A second aircraft flew into the second World Trade Center. It was on purpose," they were told.

Ms. Penney and the rest of the crew found a TV to watch what the rest of the world was seeing: an attack on the nation. They stood silently, watching replays of the strikes and the explosions, not knowing whether the madness was over.

"We know we have to get airborne. We know we have to protect. I was so eager, so impatient, and yet so frustrated and angry, because we couldn't. As I said, we're with the D.C. Guard. We're not part of our nation's alert squadron."

Without an order from President George W. Bush, who was visiting a school in Florida, the Guard pilots could not take action. And there was another problem, she said: Their planes were not armed.

But after the Pentagon was hit, Vice President Dick Cheney gave the Air National Guard at Andrews Air Force Base the go-ahead to search for Flight 93. The Boeing 757 was headed to San Francisco from Newark, N.J., when it reversed course over Ohio and

SEE **PILOT**, PAGE C-3

## Lamb: Traveling needed to secure Senate seat

By Julian Routh  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

ERIE, Pa. — Hobnobbing with many of the Democrats who helped turn Erie County blue in the 2020 presidential election, U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb kicked off the second day of his U.S. Senate campaign by saying it will take "going everywhere" across Pennsylvania for him to win the seat.

The travel talk underscores what many Democrats say is the key to winning statewide campaigns: Trying to resonate with center-right voters who may have supported Donald Trump in one or both of the last presidential elections but could be swayed by a moderate.

"This is going to be the most important Senate race in the nation in 2022, and I think we have to have a candidate who is ready to take on the unexpected and ready to talk to voters regardless of where they sit on the political spectrum," state Rep. Ryan Bizzarro, D-Erie, said Saturday, adding that he believes the best-suited candidates can "pull in votes from across the aisle."

It's a message that is made for general elections, but one that will have to inspire Democrats in a primary election next year that includes Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, Montgomery County Commission Chair Val Arkoosh and state Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta — each of

SEE **LAMB**, PAGE C-3



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette

Rep. Conor Lamb announces on the South Side on Friday that he will run for the Senate seat left vacant by GOP Sen. Pat Toomey. Saturday he moved on to Erie, the first stop on his campaign trail.

## Repayment for officials lacks oversight

Dearth of transparency makes system ripe for abuse

By Angela Coulombis, Sam Janesch, Mike Wereschagin, and Brad Bumsted  
Spotlight PA and The Caucus

HARRISBURG — Theft charges against a Philadelphia-area Democrat highlight Pennsylvania's lax rules for reimbursing lawmakers with taxpayer and donor money, two state-run systems with little transparency and even less oversight.

Former state Rep. Margo Davidson was charged in July with stealing from taxpayers and misusing campaign funds, helping her pad a legislative salary that's already among the most generous in the

country. She has since accepted responsibility and resigned her office.

Despite warnings from good-government advocates and even some inside the Capitol building that the state's reimbursement systems are ripe for abuse, Republican leadership has failed to move reforms.

Unlike most private and public sector employers, state lawmakers often aren't required to provide any proof when seeking reimbursement from taxpayer-funded accounts. On the campaign side, the public can't see thousands of dollars of election expenses lumped together under vague cate-

### SPOTLIGHT PA

gories and charged to credit cards.

Those expense rules, highlighted in a series of stories by The Caucus and Spotlight PA over the past two years, have created "a culture of zero accountability," Khalif Ali, executive director of Common Cause Pennsylvania, said during a recent Spotlight PA live event.

They were written by the very lawmakers they are meant to govern, but too often, Mr. Ali said, there is a practice of "professed change," where lawmakers talk about reform when confronted with problems but don't follow

SEE **THEFT**, PAGE C-2



Ben Braun/Post-Gazette

**ROCK'N OUT** Chip Dominick of Chip & The Charge Ups plays during the Millvale Music Festival on Saturday. The band was among more than 200 performers over the two-day festival, which featured live music at many venues in the borough.

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# Pa. per diem system ripe for abuse

**THEFT**, FROM C-1

through.

What little documentation the Legislature does require from its members and staff doesn't do much good for the body's internal gatekeepers. The criminal complaint against Davidson stated that personnel from the House comptroller's office have "no ability to check whether an expense was actually paid for by the representative or some other entity."

State Rep. Seth Grove, R-York, said he intends to give the systems a hard look.

Mr. Grove, who chairs the House State Government Committee, said in late July that he would call a series of hearings to review rules and procedures for how legislators file expenses, as well as state ethics laws and other laws that govern when elected officials must forfeit their pensions.

Rep. Paul Schemel, R-Franklin, who will head one of the subcommittees as part of the review, said in an interview that the charges against Ms. Davidson were "the straw that broke the camel's back."

"We've got a system that is open to people committing wrongful acts," he said.

Reporting by The Caucus and Spotlight PA suggests he's looking at a target-rich environment.

Per diems allow legislators to collect flat-rate payments intended for food and

lodging without turning over any receipts. The money is on top of their annual \$90,000 base salary, one of the highest in the nation.

Lawmakers can request per diems any time they travel 50 miles or more outside their home district, including when they come to the Capitol for voting sessions. Though the payment is flat, it is generous: During the last two years, for instance, it has ranged between \$178 and \$200 for overnight stays.

But without the need for receipts, it is impossible to know whether lawmakers are indeed spending the entire amount they are allotted — or if they are even spending it at all.

In Ms. Davidson's case, law enforcement officials said she was personally reimbursed by taxpayers for expenses that had already been paid for by her campaign — and per diems were front and center in the alleged scheme.

Ms. Davidson and her lawyer did not respond to requests for comment.

The complaint against her stated that nearly a third of her per diem reimbursements for hotel stays in Harrisburg from 2017 through 2019 were fraudulent. The Office of Attorney General alleged that she either had not stayed overnight in Harrisburg, as she had claimed, or she had already been reimbursed for the stay through her campaign ac-

count, effectively engaging in double-dipping.

Democrats and Republicans have introduced bills to eliminate the flat-rate payments. At least two such bills this session would require expense documentation when seeking reimbursement.

"Modern technology makes the requirement of submitting receipts a minuscule burden — a burden worth the cost of restoring the public's trust in the General Assembly's handling of its financial affairs," Rep. Brett Miller, R-Lancaster, the sponsor of one of the bills, wrote in a memo to his colleagues.

Mr. Grove said his ethics inquiry will also cover a system that allows lawmakers to lease state-paid vehicles, another perk that has captured taxpayers' attention over the years.

Ms. Davidson's own leases, in particular, raised flags when she crashed her state-paid vehicle twice in 12 days while her license was suspended. The incidents were not part of her recent charges and resignation.

A group of House Republicans targeted the practice again earlier this year, pushing a ban on taxpayer-funded vehicle leases for legislators. The lawmakers argued it's far cheaper for their colleagues to use their own vehicles and collect reimbursement for gas. Leases have typically ranged from \$419 to \$711 per month in re-

cent years, not including state-paid vehicle maintenance, oil changes, car washes and gas, records show.

In reality, mileage reimbursements can be more expensive depending on how far a lawmaker lives from Harrisburg, The Caucus and Spotlight PA found.

Rep. Brad Roae, a Crawford County Republican who sponsored the ban and lives 240 miles from the Capitol, collected \$30,253 for mileage from 2017 through 2020 — essentially the same amount it cost other legislators to lease vehicles in that time period.

Ms. Davidson was charged with failing to report campaign expenses as required to the Department of State and for not spending money through an official campaign treasurer.

It's unclear whether the unreported campaign expenses were for her election efforts — like typical fundraising event costs or yard signs — or for her personally. The complaint, for instance, mentions unreported expenses for out-of-state hotels and \$400 toward her Nordstrom credit card bill, but it does not specify what the purpose of those expenses was.

But even if they were for personal use, it wouldn't necessarily be a crime in Pennsylvania. It is among a minority of states without an explicit ban on spending campaign money for personal use, The Caucus and



Alejandro A. Alvarez/Philadelphia Inquirer  
Former state Rep. Margo Davidson was charged in July with stealing from taxpayers and misusing campaign funds, allegedly helping her to pad a legislative salary that's already among the most generous in the country.

Spotlight PA found in a 2019 investigation.

Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa, D-Allegheny, has repeatedly introduced a campaign finance reform plan, and he updated it last session to include issues highlighted by The Caucus and Spotlight PA. The reforms, which have never received a committee hearing, include defining and banning the "personal use" of campaign funds, and requiring candidates to submit credit card statements.

More frequent and complete disclosure of both legislative expense and campaign records could have allowed the public to identify some — but certainly not all — of Ms. Davidson's allegedly inappropriate spending habits.

Mr. Grove and other lawmakers have discussed making both kinds of spending more readily available for

public viewing.

House and Senate leaders said they would support more disclosure online. One lawmaker, Sen. Lindsey Williams, D-Allegheny, has said she will introduce a bill that would require the chief clerk to post all lawmakers' expenses.

Less clear is whether the political will exists to make substantive changes.

The reason legislators make the information difficult to find is "self-serving," Tim Potts, a former top-level House staffer, previously told The Caucus and Spotlight PA — to "protect themselves."

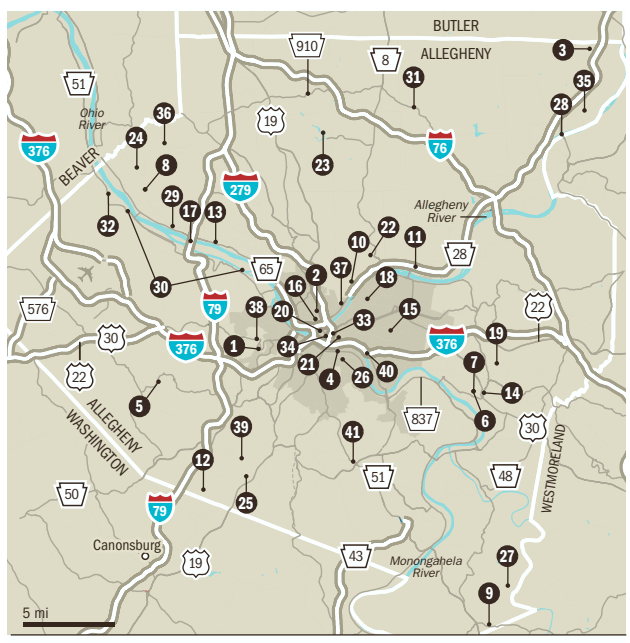
*Spotlight PA is an independent, nonpartisan newsroom powered by The Philadelphia Inquirer in partnership with PennLive/The Patriot-News, TribLIVE/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, and WTF Public Media.*

- Henderson Street/North Side:** Alternating traffic during wall construction. Fountain Street closed between Shokoe Way and Henderson.
- Saxonburg Road/Fawn, Harrison:** Closed indefinitely between Route 908 and Freepoint Road.
- East Carson Street/Pittsburgh:** Single-lane restrictions in both directions at various locations between the Smithfield Street Bridge and 33rd Street through December. Also, the city is continuing the adjustments to traffic patterns in the South Side business corridor on weekend evenings. The city is strictly enforcing no-parking measures from 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and traffic will be limited to one-way eastbound between South 11th and South 17th streets during those hours. Detours posted for westbound motorists.
- Nobletown Road/Oakdale, Pittsburgh:** Closed between Hill and Gregg Station roads until further notice.
- Dooker's Hollow Bridge/North Braddock, East Pittsburgh:** Closed until December for replacement.
- O'Connell Boulevard/North Braddock:** Closed beneath the Dooker's Hollow Bridge.
- Way Hollow Road/Edgeworth, Sewickley Heights:** Closed indefinitely between Woodland and Backbone roads.
- Route 136/Elizabeth:** Long-term closure between Route 51 in Forward and Long Hollow Road.
- Evergreen Road/Millvale:** Closed through mid-October between Klopfer and East Ohio

## Traffic watch

Highlights from major construction projects around Pittsburgh and surrounding areas this week

- streets.
- Route 28/various locations:** Work on the Route 28 Highland Park Bridge Interchange project means traffic disruptions in the entire area of the bridge through at least late August.
  - Mayview Road/South Fayette:** Bridge over a branch of Chartiers Creek being replaced. Part of Mayview between Boyce and Georgetown roads closed to through traffic.
  - Allegheny Circle/Pittsburgh:** Phase 2 of the Allegheny Circle Two-Way Conversion Project will last through the end of the year. Construction mostly Monday through Friday during daylight hours. Upcoming work includes closing a section of Sandusky Street and Stockton Avenue, as well as North Federal Street, starting Wednesday. The closures will be in place until late August or early September.
  - Neville Island Bridge/Neville:** Long-term closure of the ramp from Grand Avenue to northbound I-79 through mid-November. Right acceleration lane from the ramp to northbound I-79 on the bridge also closed.
  - Various locations/Pittsburgh:** Seasonal milling and paving work. Full schedule available at <https://pittsburghpa.gov/domi/paving-schedule>.
  - Larimer Avenue/Wilkins:** Northbound lane between



Source: Esri Post-Gazette

- Thompson Street and McMasters Avenue closed through June 2022 for replacement of Thompson Run East Branch Bridge No. 2. The existing one-lane bridge, which carries Jones Avenue, is open.
- Fort Duquesne Boulevard/Pittsburgh:** Partial closure so the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership can host events and activities to boost business in the Central Business District. In effect through Oct. 7.
  - Fifth and Forbes corridor/Pittsburgh:** Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority working on the Forbes and Fifth Water Main Replacement Project. Work to continue until spring 2022. Traffic disruptions throughout the area.
  - Crescent Street, Mount**

- Royal Boulevard/Etna, Shaler:** Single-lane traffic 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily through mid-August, Crescent Street between Kitting Street and Grant Avenue; Grant Avenue between Crescent Street and Mount Royal Boulevard; Mount Royal Boulevard between Grant Avenue and Kenneth Drive.
- Pearce Mill Road/McCandless:** Traffic restrictions between Babcock Boulevard and Tennis Court Road in McCandless through December for widening of the road, installation of bicycle and pedestrian lanes within North Park, slope and drainage improvements, as well as milling and paving.
- Little Sewickley Creek Road/Edgeworth, Leet:** Closed through December for slide remediation between Sevin and Beaver roads.
- Washington Road/Upper St. Clair, Bethel Park, Mt. Lebanon:** Resurfacing between McMurray Road/McLaughlin Run Road and Connor Road/Gilkinson Road means single-lane restrictions in various locations around the clock through May 2022.
- Oporto Street/Pittsburgh:** Closed indefinitely between Shamokin and Huron streets in the South Side Slopes neighborhood for landslide remediation.
- Douglass Run Road/Elizabeth Township:** Overnight short-term traffic stoppages at the intersection of Nichols Hill Road through Sept. 15 so heavy-hauling vehicles can make turns into a work site, 6 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Tarentum Bridge/Tarentum:** Single-lane restrictions in each direction as needed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays through late September for lighting, signage, electrical and minor concrete work.
- Ohio River Boulevard/Sewickley, Glen Osborne, Haysville, Glenfield:** Single-lane restrictions in both directions of Route 65 between the Neville Island Bridge and Walnut Street in Sewickley from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Friday nights through June 2022 for improvement work. Additionally, daylight work may occur from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.
- Route 51/Kennedy, Stowe, Robinson, Moon:** Improvement work in the following locations: Fleming Avenue in Stowe to I-79 in Robinson (southern section), Thorn Run Road to Flaugherty Run Road in Moon (northern section) weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the southern section and weeknights from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. in the northern section; work in the northern section will begin in August. Lane restrictions.
- Route 910/West Deer:** Bridge rehab work between Middle Road and Oak Road. Traffic to be maintained in single lanes except for trucks.
- Spring Run Road/Crescent:** Closed in the 200 block to replace Spring Run Bridge No. 2. Work ends in November.
- Webster Avenue/Pittsburgh:** Right lane eastbound between Chatham Street and Washington Place will close as needed from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday through Aug. 20. Contractor will pave new roadway associated with the CAP Project.
- Fifth Avenue/Downtown Pittsburgh:** Fully closed to traffic between Ross Street and Sixth Avenue and closed to vehicles and pedestrians between between Grant and

- Argonne Drive/Harrison:** Periodic single-lane closures between Elm Street and Broadview Boulevard, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays until September.
- Camp Meeting Road/Bell Acres:** Work to replace a culvert between Beech Ridge Drive and Fern Hollow Road will last until October. The culvert is known locally as Little Sewickley Creek Bridge No. 7.
- Rialto Street/Pittsburgh:** Closed from Lowrie Street to Route 28 from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through Aug. 20. Southbound open after work hours. Detours posted as workers continue rebuilding Rialto Street steps.
- East and West Steuben Street/Crafton:** Lane restrictions from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily through late November for gas line replacement between Noble Avenue and Walsh Road. Work may occur on weekends.
- Lesnett Road/Upper St. Clair:** Single-lane restrictions around the clock at the intersection of McLaughlin Run Road through late August as crews construct a culvert on Lesnett Road and perform sidewalk and guide rail drainage improvements through the intersection.
- Second Avenue/Pittsburgh:** Culvert work begins Monday, resulting in single-lane alternating traffic around the clock through Dec. 1. Work is between Blair and Irvine streets.
- Route 51/Baldwin Borough:** Single-lane restriction southbound between Streets Run Road and Grace Street, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays through late November for water line work.
- Route 65/Emsworth, Kilbuck:** Southbound lane restriction between Toms Run Road and Hazelwood Avenue, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through early September for sanitary pump station work.
- Braddock Avenue, East Pittsburgh:** Continuous lane restrictions beginning at 7 a.m. Monday between Cable Avenue and East Pittsburgh-McKeesport Boulevard. Work by Union Rail Road crews will last through Friday.
- Wilkins Avenue/Pittsburgh:** Gas-line work begins Monday between South Negley Avenue and Woodland Road, meaning lane restrictions from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily through early September.
- Route 60/Crafton:** Single-lane alternating traffic, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through mid-October for storm sewer work. Work will occur between Noble Avenue and Clearview Avenue Extension.

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# Fighter pilot recounts 9/11 experience

PILOT, FROM C-1

headed toward Washington.

Ms. Penney and Mr. Sas-  
seville ran to their F-16s.

According to their training,  
the pilots were supposed to go  
through pre-flight checks. But  
there was no time for any-  
thing but ground crew checks  
of the exterior of their planes.

Her crew chief cleared her  
for launch, telling her “God-  
speed.” Mr. Sas-  
seville was al-  
ready in the air.

Flying northwest, she  
could see smoke coming from  
the Pentagon. They continued  
to search, but she and Mr. Sas-  
seville never found Flight 93.  
They learned later that it had  
been hijacked by four al

-Qaeda terrorists before it  
crashed into a field in Somers-  
et County, Pa.

The two pilots spent much  
of the rest of the day patrolling  
the skies to make sure no  
other hijacked planes were  
headed toward Washington.  
Later, they calculated the  
timelines and determined that  
they never could have inter-  
cepted Flight 93.

“The passengers on Flight  
93 are the true heroes. In the  
years since that bright, blue  
morning, I’ve come to realize  
that heroism isn’t something  
unique or possessed by only a  
chosen few,” she said.

She pointed out the irony  
that she had taken the mili-  
tary oath to protect and defend

the country, but the ordinary,  
everyday people on Flight 93  
were the ones who thwarted  
the attack on the nation’s capi-  
tal.

“I still get really frus-  
trated with the failures of the  
command and control and  
all of that” on 9/11, she said,  
“but what I now see that  
gives me tremendous hope is  
that they were willing to do  
what was unimaginable, and  
what they had not had time  
to think of. When you take  
that oath of office, when you  
choose and enter the mili-  
tary, you use that time to  
sort of meditate on what that  
might require. And they had  
to make that decision.”

Now, 20 years later, Ms.

Penney, 46, said she touts  
the ideals of bravery, ser-  
vice and belonging to every  
individual — including her  
two daughters. She used  
those three words — brav-  
ery, service and belonging  
— many times Saturday,  
saying they perfectly de-  
scribe the actions of the  
Flight 93 passengers.

She served two combat  
tours in Iraq and left the mili-  
tary last year. Today she is a  
defense policy analyst and a  
senior fellow at the Mitchell  
Institute for Aerospace  
Studies, a D.C. think tank.

But she still flies.

Zoe Stratos:  
zstratos@post-gazette.com

# Appealing to the center may be key to Lamb candidacy

LAMB, FROM C-1

whom attracts different  
wings of the party and  
some of whom can be con-  
sidered more progressive  
than Mr. Lamb.

As such, “electability” is  
shaping up to be an buzz-  
word in the Democratic  
race, as party members  
recognize the stakes of  
winning the seat that Re-  
publican Sen. Pat Toomey  
will give up next year.

Pennsylvania has the  
only Senate seat up for  
election that was held by a  
Republican in a state that  
Joe Biden won last year,  
making it a prime target  
for Democrats aiming to  
add to their simple major-  
ity in the chamber.

But perceived moderacy  
might not be the only thing  
that can win statewide. Mr.  
Fetterman, for example,  
launched his campaign by  
saying that legalizing mar-  
ijuana, dismantling the war  
on drugs, fighting for the  
“union way of life” and  
standing beside the  
LGBTQIA community and  
immigrants are “funda-  
mental truths” that  
shouldn’t be placed on a po-  
litical spectrum.

Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Ken-  
yatta and Ms. Arkoosh have  
all come to Erie to cam-  
paign as well and “know  
they can’t take Erie for  
granted,” Mr. Bizzarro said.

“Their views are very  
similar, but it’s about  
achieving those views,”  
Mr. Bizzarro said of the pri-  
mary field, “and that’s  
where the difference is in:  
philosophy. I like a candi-  
date who is familiar with  
the beast in Washington  
and knows how to navi-  
gate.”

Mr. Lamb, speaking  
Saturday at Calamari’s

Squid Row on State Street,  
repeated his opening pitch  
from Friday that democ-  
racy is on the line — this  
time noting that two or  
three years ago, he  
wouldn’t have said that,  
even though Mr. Trump  
was president. He said the  
Jan. 6 Capitol riots simpli-  
fied politics in America,  
making it clear that  
“you’re either for self-gov-  
ernment” and the Consti-  
tution or against them.

In a question-and-an-  
swer session, the Mt. Leba-  
non resident touted his  
contribution to the passing  
of the American Rescue  
Act. Local officials did, too,  
noting that the Erie  
County Council had just  
released a spending plan  
for \$26 million of the funds.

Mr. Lamb, greeting the  
county council chair who  
was instrumental in pro-  
ducing the plan, said, “You  
guys are fighting the good  
fight” — similar to his  
praise of the Democrats  
who helped flip the county  
for Mr. Biden.

Mr. Bizzarro said the  
electorate is gravitating to  
the center or to the center-  
right, and it’s “important  
we have a candidate who is  
familiar with dealing with  
that.” Introducing Mr.  
Lamb, he told the crowd  
the congressman had won  
three times in territory  
that is difficult for Western  
Pennsylvania Democrats.

“Primaries are great for  
our democratic process,  
but at the end of the day,  
it’s not about checking  
boxes,” Mr. Bizzarro said.  
“It’s about qualification  
and who has been tested  
and proven in a general  
election.”

Julian Routh:  
jrouth@post-gazette.com

# Transportation funding plan runs into roadblock

FUNDING, FROM C-1

additional problem. Along  
with wanting to replace the  
gasoline tax, the state is on the  
brink of a transportation  
funding crisis.

The state Department of  
Transportation is spending  
about \$6.9 billion a year when  
it should be investing about  
\$15 billion annually. This also  
is the last year that the Pen-  
nsylvania Turnpike must pay  
PennDOT \$400 million for  
public transit, so the state  
must replace that money.

Trying to accomplish both  
is a difficult task, said Ronald  
Fisher, an economics profes-  
sor at Michigan State Univer-  
sity who concentrates on  
transportation issues.

“What I advise officials is to  
separate those things,” Mr.  
Fisher said. “This problem of  
not funding infrastructure  
has been going on for 20 years.  
People don’t want to pay for  
things.”

And, of course, there’s the  
political situation.

Mr. Wolf, who appointed  
the commission, hasn’t had  
much to say about the recom-  
mendations. The commission  
said the governor, for the next

six months, should work to  
build support for the propos-  
als, including appointing tech-  
nical teams to further analyze  
them, then begin the big push  
with his budget presentation  
in February.

“The governor is reviewing  
the recommendations and ap-  
preciates Transportation Re-  
venue Options Commission’s  
hard work in developing long-  
term, viable funding options  
to phase out Pennsylvania’s  
gas tax,” Lyndsay Kensinger,  
the governor’s press secre-  
tary, said in a statement last  
week.

Sen. Wayne Langerholc, R-  
Johnstown, chairman of the  
Senate Transportation Com-  
mittee, participated in the  
commission as an ad hoc  
member. He criticized the  
commission and PennDOT  
for only looking at ways to  
produce more revenue, not  
ways to cut costs and improve  
efficiency.

“The answer isn’t just rais-  
ing more money,” Mr.  
Langerholc said. “I’m an opti-  
mistic person, so I’m not will-  
ing to say, like some of my col-  
leagues, that this is dead on ar-  
rival.”

“I just haven’t gotten any-

thing from PennDOT that  
they are willing to look inside.  
That would go a long way.  
There’s got to be room for  
compromise.”

Mr. Langerholc said he un-  
derstands the need to replace  
the gasoline tax — he included  
a miles-traveled provision for  
electric vehicles as part of his  
own package of recommenda-  
tions. The 8.1 cents per mile  
that the commission recom-  
mended for all vehicles is  
probably too high, he said.

“The time is ripe now for  
[replacing the gasoline tax],”  
he said. “We need to work to-  
gether to find a solution.  
There needs to be more to this  
instead of just taxing and  
spending.”

Other Republicans showed  
little interest in the commis-  
sion’s recommendations.

Rep. Jason Ortity, R-Brid-  
geville, criticized Mr. Wolf for  
appointing a commission to  
look at such major changes  
when he only has 18 months  
left in office. Any major look at  
tax reform also should take  
into consideration spending  
and best practices across the  
country, he said.

“There’s no talk of doing  
things better — only the need

to raise taxes and fees,” Mr.  
Ortity said. “... we should be  
looking for cost savings in-  
stead of jumping directly to-  
ward increasing billions of  
dollars in taxes and fees.”

House Majority Leader  
Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre  
County, called the proposals  
“ill-timed and short-sighted.”

“The timing and scope of  
these recommended multiple  
tax increases is even more  
frustrating given Pennsylva-  
nia’s continued struggle to re-  
cover economically from the  
COVID-19 pandemic,” he said.

“Before we go imposing  
multiple tax increases on  
Pennsylvanians who are al-  
ready paying too much and  
receiving too little in return...  
we should first see what  
comes out of ongoing federal  
discussions and how our con-  
tinued economic recovery  
progresses.”

Rep. Doyle Heffley, R-Car-  
bon County, described the  
proposals as “government  
over-reach” and predicted  
there will be little support in  
the Legislature.

Ed Blazina: eblazina@post-  
gazette.com, 412-263-1470 or on  
Twitter @EdBlazina.

## News Obituaries

REV. CANON JAMES D. VON DREELE | Nov. 20, 1946 - July 23, 2021

# Courageous priest who fought for the steelworkers

By Janice Crompton  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

“Courage” isn’t the first  
word usually associated with  
priests and preachers, but the  
Rev. James D. Von Dreele  
was an exception.

The man had guts.  
Despite threats to his liveli-  
hood, his flock — and even  
his life — the longtime rector  
at St. Matthew’s Episcopal  
Church in Homestead put ev-  
erything on the line to protest  
the devastating closure of  
steel mills in the 1980s.

He took on an activist role  
as head of the Denomina-  
tional Ministry Strategy, or  
DMS — a nonprofit coalition  
that was launched in 1982 by  
labor union leaders and local  
clergy, representing five de-  
nominations — to help un-  
employed steelworkers who  
were losing their jobs as mills  
throughout the region began  
closing. In 1987, the name of  
the organization was  
changed to the Denomina-  
tional Ministry Strategy Ex-  
tended, or DMX, as a way of  
mocking U.S. Steel and its  
name change to USX.

DMS members took their  
fight to local politicians and  
lenders, disrupting business  
and costing at least one bank  
more than \$30 million in de-  
posits.

Their activities didn’t al-  
ways sit well with congrega-  
tions and church leaders.

“There’s no doubt, Father  
Jim was courageous,” said  
Jan Kusserow, a friend and  
senior warden — the most se-  
nior-ranking lay leader — at  
St. Matthew’s. “It created  
some tension. The congrega-  
tion was very split, but he felt  
that was our ministry — that  
was what we were called to  
do. He took his ministry to  
another level.”

Rev. Von Dreele, who later  
went on to lead the Seamen’s  
Church Institute, where he  
advocated for seafarers’  
rights at the Port of Philadel-  
phia, died July 23 of end-stage  
renal failure near his home

in Wilmington, Del. He was  
74.

He grew up in the artist  
colony of Arden, Del., where  
he attended a two-room  
school in the independent  
community in New Castle  
County.

“It is kind of a magical, se-  
cret place,” said his daughter,  
Sarah Von Dreele, of Man-  
hattan, N.Y. “His dad was an  
accountant for DuPont and  
they were always creating  
things and getting into mis-  
chief. The boys were free to  
explore nature and do experi-  
ments.”

His grandparents were  
among the founders of a local  
Episcopal church, piquing  
Rev. Von Dreele’s interest in  
religion.

“He grew up in the church,  
so I think it was a natural pro-  
gression,” his daughter said.

As a student in the 1960s,  
he found a passion for civil  
rights, especially in the  
South, where he joined pro-  
tests.

“My grandmother had no  
idea he had gone to the South  
until she saw him on TV at a  
protest,” Ms. Von Dreele said.

Rev. Von Dreele learned  
much, she said, during his in-  
volvement in those early pro-  
tests.

“The civil rights move-  
ment served as an inspira-  
tion for how [DMS members]  
wanted to organize and get  
their message across,” she  
said.

In 1968, Rev. Von Dreele  
earned a degree in religion  
from Drew University in  
New Jersey, where he met  
fellow student Elizabeth  
“Betsey” Allyn, who was ma-  
joring in English. The couple  
married during their senior  
year, in January 1968.

Rev. Von Dreele received a  
graduate degree at Berkeley  
Divinity School at Yale  
University and was ordained  
in 1971.

He came to Homestead  
with his young family in  
about 1976, and found himself  
embroiled in the local up-

heaval several years later,  
when mills around the region  
began closing.

“My most vivid memories  
during that time connect to  
his advocacy work,” his  
daughter said. “I remember  
sitting in the church base-  
ment with union leaders  
from US Steel, where every-  
one was organizing for peace-  
ful demonstrations. They  
were organizing to help peo-  
ple in their community.”

In several news reports  
from that period, Rev. Von  
Dreele was quoted as saying  
the conduct of local lenders,  
especially Mellon Bank, was  
“evil” and led to the loss of  
jobs.

He contended that the in-  
stitution’s foreclosure on  
loans to local steel plants —  
while at the same time in-  
vesting in foreign competi-  
tors — contributed to the col-  
lapse of the industry.

“There are people who are  
making the decisions to  
throw these people out on the  
street,” Rev. Von Dreele ex-  
plained in a Washington Post  
article in May 1984. “That’s  
the ‘evil.’”

Rev. Von Dreele and the  
grassroots DMS persuaded  
business owners and com-  
munities to withdraw tens of  
millions of dollars from Mel-  
lon and other lenders as a  
form of protest.

“People are suffering and  
dying and losing their homes  
and their jobs,” he said in the  
1984 Post story. “We are actu-  
ally fighting for a group of  
people who are extremely  
powerless.”

The times were desperate  
for many.

“I have memories of him  
taking a phone call for some-  
one who was on the High  
Level Bridge ready to jump,  
and my dad would go out,”  
Ms. Von Dreele said.

“What it did to the area  
was absolutely devastating,”  
Ms. Kusserow recalled.  
“People had lifelong jobs that  
went down the drain. People  
just never thought it would

happen — steel workers in-  
vested their lives there. Jim  
would be the one who got out  
there and tried to talk people  
through hard times.”

The events were the sub-  
ject of a book and several doc-  
umentaries, including one  
that was filmed over two  
years by producers from BBC  
who sometimes lived with  
the Von Dreele family.

In more recent years, Rev.  
Von Dreele used his position  
at the Seamen’s Church Insti-  
tute to assist crew members  
of ships docking in the Phila-  
delphia Port with everything  
from obtaining back pay,  
health and hospitality ser-  
vices, to burials at sea when  
necessary.

Ms. Kusserow said she  
would always remember  
Rev. Von Dreele for the sacri-  
fices he made when the fi-  
nances at St. Matthew’s be-  
gan suffering as a result of the  
collapse of the local economy.

“He would do things that  
no other rector or priest or  
anyone would do — he  
mopped floors, cleaned, and  
he cut his salary — anything  
to save us money so we could  
keep functioning,” she said.  
“There were times he gave  
people money out of his pock-  
ets. If they were hungry, he  
fed them his famous vegeta-  
ble soup. He was a very hum-  
ble man.”

Along with his wife and  
daughter, Rev. Von Dreele is  
survived by a son, Joshua, of  
Franklin, Tenn.; brothers  
Peter of Windsor, Colo., and  
Robert, of Dune Acres, Ind.;  
and four grandchildren.

His funeral will be held at  
10:30 a.m., Oct. 16 at St.  
David’s Episcopal Church.

Memorial donations may  
be made to: St. David’s Epis-  
copal Church, 2320 Grubb  
Road, Wilmington, Del.,  
19810, or Seamen’s Church  
Institute of Philadelphia, 1113  
Admiral Peary Way, Phila-  
delphia, Pa. 19112.

Janice Crompton: jcromp-  
ton@post-gazette.com.

## LATEST DEATHS

The Post-Gazette’s compre-  
hensive report of recent deaths in-  
cludes 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 fu-  
neral 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

**ABATTA**, Shirley Ford, Charles  
Town, W.Va., formerly Laurel,  
Md.  
**ABERNETHY**, Lillian M.  
**BEZILA**, Raymond L. Jr., West  
Deer  
**BEZJIAN**, Marianne Kole  
**CHROMEY**, John D., Greenfield  
**CIAMACCO**, Charles T., Stowe  
**COHEN**, Zelda Paymer  
**CORRY**, Lindsay  
**CRATES**, Audrey M.  
**DALY**, Paul Charles, Murrysville  
**DAMIAN**, Diane  
**DICKSTEIN**, Leonard A., Squir-  
rel Hill, formerly Oakland  
**DOMINYTUS**, Nancy Quail,  
Shaler  
**FERCHAK**, Michael J., Greens-  
burg  
**FIDOTEN**, Marsha A., Pitts-  
burgh  
**FINNEY**, Terry Roy Sr. “Pops,”  
Garfield  
**GASCH**, William L., Evans City  
**GERTZ POLUSNY**, Donna,  
Daniel Island, S.C., formerly  
Pittsburgh  
**GOEHRING**, Eleanor M.  
“Sissy,” Apollo, formerly North  
Side  
**GUNN**, Anna M., Liverpool,  
N.Y., formerly Castle Shannon  
**HAMEL**, William Jarvis, Monon-  
gahela, formerly Baldwin Bor-  
ough  
**HANNON**, Marguerite Sullivan  
“Mugs,” Fox Chapel, formerly  
Churchill  
**HARRIS**, Barbara Mae Olsen,  
Mt. Lebanon, formerly New  
Bem, N.C.  
**HENDERSON**, Robert James II,  
Bethel Park  
**HOFFMAN**, Jack “The Barber”  
**INDRIHOVIC**, James G.,  
Sheraden  
**JOHNSON**, the Rev. David R.,  
formerly Mount Oliver  
**JONES**, Thomas Lewis Jr., Pitts-  
burgh  
**KELLEY**, Michael E., formerly  
Greenfield

**KISSLING**, Kenneth Paul, Lees-  
burg, Fla., formerly Pittsburgh  
**KLUTCH**, Mary L. Bauman  
“Sis,” Carnegie  
**KOSS**, Rhoda, Oakland  
**KRASIK**, Elaine Belle  
**KRAYNICK**, Alicia S., Oakmont  
**LANKES**, Richard J., West View  
**MASTEN**, Edwin C. III, Forest  
Hills  
**MASTROPAOLO**, Frances G.,  
Bridgeville, formerly Wilkins-  
burg and Tyrone, Blair County  
**MCLAUGHLIN**, Shirley Marie,  
Coraopolis  
**MENZER**, Harriet Louise, Sara-  
sota, Fla.  
**MOLECK**, Fred J.  
**MORICZ**, Eleanora Christ “El-  
lie,” Fort Wayne, Ind., formerly  
Orlando, Fla., and Pittsburgh  
**MORROW**, Grace E., Allison  
Park  
**MUEHLBAUER**, Michael W. Jr.,  
Pittsburgh  
**NEIGER**, Doris M., Ross  
**NICHOLS**, David Gilbert, for-  
merly West Deer  
**NOLDER**, Patricia, formerly  
Pittsburgh  
**NOTHWANG**, Helen T.  
**O’ROURKE**, Jacqueline Ann Fra-  
zier “Jackie,” Cecil  
**PALOMBA**, William N., Impe-  
rial  
**PEGHER**, Hilda Richard  
**PELLEGRINI**, Casimir J. Jr.  
“Bud,” Churchill  
**PETRISKO**, John Jay, Beaufort,  
S.C., formerly Buena Vista  
**PIET**, Eileen C. Lazewski, Scott  
**PIPKO**, Donald Joseph  
**RHOADS**, Louise Stauffer, Up-  
per St. Clair  
**RIPLEY**, Madeline H., Pitts-  
burgh  
**ROSS**, Lt. Col. James D., Mt.  
Lebanon  
**SCHMIDT**, Patricia L. Cagney,  
Beechview  
**SCHNEIDER**, Janet  
**SCHOLZ**, James E. “Jimmy,”  
formerly Elliott  
**SHOBE**, Allen J. “Oop,” Jeffer-  
son Hills  
**SILVER**, Phyllis  
**TASSONE**, Bruce, Mount Wash-  
ington  
**TOOMEY**, Mary Elizabeth “Mary  
Beth,” formerly Hazelwood and  
Whitehall  
**TURNBULL**, Barbara A., Lake-  
wood Ranch, Fla., formerly  
Plum  
**UHLEMANN**, Dorothy J., Pitts-  
burgh  
**VIOLI**, Ronald L., Fox Chapel  
**WELSH**, Gary Lee James Sr.,  
South Side Slopes  
**YAWKEY**, Thomas D., State  
College  
**YINGLING**, Mary Catherine  
Hardt, Mercer  
**YURCO**, Robert A., Penn Hills



**SHIRLEY FORD ABATTA**

January 11, 1936 - July 14, 2021



Shirley Abatta, 85, of Charles Town, WV (formerly Laurel, Maryland), passed away on July 14, 2021, at her niece and nephew's residence, under the care of Hospice of the Panhandle. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Abatta; her father and mother, Edward Henry Ford and Susan (Dupont) Ford; her seven sisters, Marion Israel, Catherine Geier and husband Louis, Mercedes Naughton

and husband James, Ruth McVeagh, Patricia Zane and husband Frank, Mary Lois Matovitch and husband Robert, and Joan Edwards and husband James; her four brothers, Edward Ford, Francis Ford and wife Helen, William Ford and wife Elizabeth, and Victor Ford. Born January 11, 1936, in McKees Rocks, PA, she professed her faith in Jesus Christ at an early age and was a devoted member of the Catholic Church. She graduated from St. Benedict Academy and went on to earn a Master's of Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She worked as a teacher providing specialized reading services in Prince George's County Public Schools for 45 years. Aunt Shirley enjoyed serving as an officer and active member in her local AARP and Red Hat Society, volunteering her time and talents to the community. She was passionate about politics, sewing, and gardening. Butterflies, especially blue, and angels brought her great joy. She was an avid bowler and loved shuffleboarding. She dedicated her life to her family and was a loving aunt, great-aunt, and second mother/grandmother to all of her nieces and nephews.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

**LILLIAN M. ABERNETHY**

On August 5, 2021, Lillian M. Abernethy passed away peacefully. She was born in Pittsburgh to the late Charles W. Abernethy and Dorothy M. (Bechtel) Abernethy. Lillian will be missed by her loving sisters, Nellie A. Luther (Richard) of Cranberry Twp., PA and Linda M. DeFrank (Domenic) of Valencia, PA. She will be remembered and missed by her nephews, Brian P. Luther (Jody) of Levittown, PA, Stephen A.

Luther (Jeana) of Irwin, PA and great-nieces and nephews. Lillian graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and received her MBA. She spent most of her career at Mellon Bank retiring as the Senior Vice President. Lillian, a true animal lover was kind, giving and compassionate. After her retirement she stayed active and involved with Animal Friends. She lived life with grace and courage. Friends are invited to **H.P. BRANDT FUNERAL HOME**, 1032 Perry Hwy., Pittsburgh, PA 15237 on Monday, August 9, 2021, from 2 to 4PM and 6 to 8PM. A Funeral service will take place on August 10, 2021, at 11AM at the funeral home. Entombment will follow at Allegheny County Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Animal Friends in Lillian's memory. Animal Friends, 562 Camp Horne Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237 <https://www.spcai.org/take-action/adopt-an-animal>.



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**RAYMOND L. BEZILA, JR.**

Raymond L. Bezila, Jr., 73, of West Deer Township, died Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at his home with his family by his side. Ray bravely fought a long battle with cancer. He was born October 14, 1947, in Pittsburgh to the late Raymond L. and Anna E. (Winter) Bezila, Sr. Ray was a 1965 graduate of Avonworth High School, and was a 1969 graduate of St. Francis College, Loretto, where he graduated with a Bachelor of

Science Degree, while in his final year of college he attended and graduated from Montefiore School of Medical Technology. Ray worked as an Administrative Director of the Pathology Lab for UPMC for over 36 years working at UPMC-Presbyterian, UPMC-Shadyside and UPMC-Passavant. He was an active member of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, West Deer helping with all of the church organizations and functions, and was also a Eucharistic Minister and usher. Ray enjoyed golf, fishing, cooking though loved spending time with his family and especially loved spending time with his children, and grandchildren. Ray loved spending time with his children, and was a devoted "Pap Pap" to the LOVES of his life, his five grandchildren. He was very involved with ALL of their school events, and especially ALL of their sports. He was their most dedicated, proudest and loudest fan. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Donna L. (Sullivan) Bezila, his children, Erin L. (Michael) Laurent and Steven S. (Nicole) Bezila both of Richland, grandchildren, Abbey, Sydney, Tyler, Anthony and Charlotte and his brothers, Richard P. (Gerri) Bezila of San Diego, CA, Norbert C. (Becky) Bezila of NC, James G. (Laurie) Bezila of GA and Martin Bezila of Pittsburgh. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Denise Bezila. All are invited to a mass of Christian Burial on August 21, 2021, at 12:30 in Our Lady of the Lakes Parish, St. Victor Church, 531, Baird Road, West Deer Township, with the Rev. James P. Holland, officiating. He will be privately laid to rest in Transfiguration Church Cemetery, West Deer. Arrangements have been entrusted to the **SIWICKI-YANICKO FUNERAL HOME**, 23 McKrell Road, Russellton, West Deer Township. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent in his name to Our Lady of the Lakes Parish Social Ministry Fund, PO Box 149, Baird Road, PA 15006 or the Little Sisters of the Poor, 1028 Benton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Bezila Brunch's Team for Light the Night fundraising page at <https://pages.ils.org/tn/wpa/pittsburgh21/bezilabunch>. View the obituary and leave condolences at [www.siwicki-yanickofh.com](http://www.siwicki-yanickofh.com).

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**MARIANNE KOLE BEZJIAN**

Marianne Kole Bezjian passed away in the early morning on Tuesday, July 27th in her home at the too young age of 73. "Big Mare" led an exciting and flamboyant life and will be sorely missed by all that loved her. She was born in a town called Braddock, just outside Pittsburgh, PA as the oldest of her four sisters and brother. She attended the Shadyside Hospital School of Nursing for her RN degree,

and continued her studies at Montefiore Hospital, associated with the University of Pittsburgh (Class of 1972). She graduated at the top of her class to obtain her CRNA. She subsequently moved to Florida as a nurse anesthetist to work at Broward General Hospital, where she met her husband, Dr. Alex Bezjian. They married in 1975 and she transitioned to a full-time mom in 1986 to focus on raising a happy family in Miami Lakes. Dr. and Mrs. Bezjian moved to Fort Lauderdale in 2000. Marianne was an extremely thoughtful and attentive mother and frequently said that raising her two kids was the best thing she did in life. Her hobbies included working in her garden, reading novels, creating ornate shawls, and frequently winning money at the slots in the casino. She managed several health issues during her last few years and passed peacefully from a cardiovascular event. Marianne is survived by her two loving children, Alex (Britta) and Marisa, and her two-year-old precocious grandson, Alex III. Arrangements entrusted to **FRED HUNTER'S FUNERAL HOME**, 718 S. Federal Highway, Fort Lauderdale 33316, 954-527-1550.

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**JOHN D. CHROMEY**

Peacefully on Sunday, August 1, 2021, John, age 77, of Greenfield passed away. He was preceded in death by his beloved parents, John and Helen; and his loving sister, Patricia. John proudly dedicated his life as a firefighter for the City of Pittsburgh. He was a long time resident of the "Run" growing up and living in the same home for his entire life. He will be missed. Family and friends are welcomed at

the **JOHN N. ELACHKO FUNERAL HOME**, 3447 Dawson St., Pgh., PA 15213, August 13, 2021, from 2 until 4 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, August 14, 2021, at 10 a.m. at St. Paul Cathedral Parish, St. Rosalia Worship Site, Greenfield. Interment at Calvary Cemetery immediately following. Please visit John's memorial page at:

ELACHKO.com  
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

**CHARLES T. CIAMACCO**

Age 79, of Stowe Twp., passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at his residence with his family by his side. Family and Friends are welcome for visitation on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Kennedy Township location of the **ANTHONY M. MUSMANNO FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 941 McCoy Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136. A blessing service will be conducted in the Musmanno Chapel on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. Please view [www.musmannofh.com](http://www.musmannofh.com) for full obituary.

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**ZELDA PAYMER COHEN**

Age 92, died peacefully in her home on July 31, 2021. She was preceded in death by her husband the Hon. Jerome S. Cohen in 2014 after 62 years of marriage. She is survived by three children, Jeffrey Cohen, MD (Ellen Stewart, MD), Lisa Cooper (Lyndon DDS, PHD), and Bryan Cohen. She was a devoted grandmother to Paige, Elizabeth DMD, MD, Benjamin and Henry Cohen, Austin and Alex Cooper, and Jonathan and Jack Cohen. Services and burial were held on August 2, 2021. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Tree of Life Synagogue, PO Box 5273, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, or a charity of your choice. A service of **RALPH SCHUGAR CHAPEL, INC.**, family owned and operated.

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**LINDSAY CORRY**

Lindsay passed away at age of 30, on August 5th, surrounded by her family and loved ones in Vero Beach, Florida, after a year and half battle with cancer. Lindsay was active in the Juvenile Diabetes Community in philanthropy and counseling, educating the youth and enthusiastically supporting research for the cure. Lindsay graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with both her Bachelor's degree and

Master's degree with University Honors. Lindsay led a successful business career in private equity in New York City. Lindsay's great passion for travel and photography inspired her to travel the world. Lindsay enjoyed golfing, hiking, surfing, and sports. Lindsay was a loving and devoted daughter, sister, and granddaughter. A private service and burial in Sewickley will follow. Lindsay is survived by her parents, Bill and Darcy Corry along with siblings, family and friends. Her family has asked that donations be made in her memory to Florida Diabetes Camp in lieu of gifts or flowers. Donations can be made at [floridiadiabetescamp.org](http://floridiadiabetescamp.org). Arrangements entrusted to **COPELAND'S** - Irvine Chapel, Sewickley.

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**AUDREY M. CRATES**

Audrey M. Crates, age 88, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Friday, July 23, 2021. Born on November 5, 1932, she was the daughter of the late Lourene and Andrew McClain. Beloved wife of the late Charles A. Crates. Loving mother of Dave (Denise) Crates of Clifton Park, NY, Doug Crates of Bentleyville, PA, Paul Crates of Baltimore, MD, and Amy (Greg) Treu of Rocky Top, TN. Cherished

gammie of Emily, Zachary, Tyler, Andrei, and Vera. Loving sister to the late Harry (Janie) McClain of Buffalo, NY, the late Richard McClain of Pittsburgh, PA, the late Harold (Jo Ann) McClain of Philadelphia, PA, and Delores (late Guy) Proie of Pittsburgh, PA. Audrey was an active member and choir participant in the Spencer United Methodist Church. She was an avid Pittsburgh sports fan and enjoyed her calling as a teacher's aide working with special education students. Always upbeat, outgoing, and welcoming, Audrey was a friend to all. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and she will be dearly missed. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held at a later date. 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](http://pittsburghcremation.com)



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**DIANE DAMIAN**

Age 75, passed away in her home surrounded by her children, on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Beloved wife of the late James R. Damian, Jr. Loving mother of Diane Carroll Damian, Kristin Damian van de Geer, and Lisa Michelle Damian (Greg Ahart). Cherished grandmother of Sophia and Damian van de Geer. Beloved daughter of the late Thomas J., Jr. and Helene Carroll Tobin. Loving sister of Ann (Clark) Ritchie and

Richard L. Tobin (Maggi Villane). Also survived by treasured nieces, nephews and cousins. Diane was immensely proud of her family. She loved traveling, especially to ocean beaches and visiting her children and grandchildren in nearby states. She was happiest baking special treats with her grandkids and enjoyed gardening, feeding the squirrels and birds and most especially spoiling her cat. Returning to school and graduating with honors from Chatham College was a highlight in her life. She and her mother worked tirelessly as a team in real estate for over 20 years finding clients their perfect home. Diane always sacrificed her needs for the good of others. She was selfless, altruistic and an inspiration to many through her kind words and actions. Whether she knew someone or not, she was always there to lend a helping hand. She had the patience of a saint. Her joy for life, family and friends kept her going until the end. Most of all, Diane was a kind soul and forever and always graceful. Family and friends welcome Sunday 2 - 6 p.m. and Monday 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. **WILLIAM SLATER II FUNERAL SERVICE**, 1650 Greentree Rd., Scott Twp, 15220. Mass of Christian Burial Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in St. Bernard Church of St. Michael the Archangel Parish. Burial to follow Queen of Heaven Cemetery. If desired, memorial donations to the AIM at Melanoma Foundation or Jubilee Association, Inc. Soup Kitchen in Pittsburgh, PA. [www.slaterfuneral.com](http://www.slaterfuneral.com)

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

**PAUL CHARLES DALY**

After a long life characterized by purpose and the full enjoyment of his family, career and outdoor activities, Paul Charles Daly, 99, of Murrysville, died Thursday morning, Aug. 5, 2021, peacefully and in the comfort of his home. Son of the late James Bateson Daly and Emma Rachel Paxson Daly, he was born July 27, 1922, in New York City. He was preceded in death by his brother, James B. Daly, Jr., and

his niece, Carole Louise Ruzicka. Surviving are his wife of 73 years, Jeanne Helen Lynch Daly; three daughters, Lynne Preisser (Chuck Watson) of Sewickley Heights, Patricia Fengler (Peter) of Hopewell Township, N.J., and Jill Daly (Jeffery Fraser) of Penn Hills; five grandchildren, Eric (Kristen Pieper) and Elise Fengler, Julia and Emma Fraser, and Alex Preisser; two great-grandchildren, Paxson and Weston Fengler; and a great-nephew and great-niece and their families. He was a graduate of George Washington High School and the City College of New York, both in Manhattan. As a youth, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, and the city boy learned a full array of outdoor skills, including camping and the study of nature. His college career was interrupted by war in Europe. Not able to serve in the military, he joined the Merchant Marine and from 1945-47 sailed oceans hunted by German U-boats to deliver soldiers and supplies to the European Theater. The war also took him to Australia and China as an assistant engineer on ships supplying Allied forces fighting in the Pacific. He resumed his college career at CCNY after the war and was a proud member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He graduated in 1947 with a Bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. A love affair that lasted a lifetime began when he met his wife-to-be on a ski trip. They were married Dec. 20, 1947, in NYC, just as an historic snowstorm descended on the city, lasting into the new year. Briefly moving for a job in Baltimore, Paul and Jeanne came to Pittsburgh in 1948 after he was hired by Westinghouse Electric. In 1955, he joined the company's effort to build the reactor for the world's first nuclear submarine, USS Nautilus. Paul worked at Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory, West Mifflin, until August 1987. He was devoted to his work as a fellow engineer, working on various reactor projects at Bettis. After starting a family in Penn Hills, Paul and Jeanne moved to Murrysville in 1958. Paul was involved in church and community organizations, including the Murrysville Swim Club and various sportsman's organizations and was an active advocate for conservation and environmental protection. Paul took his family on annual camping adventures to national parks and seashores in the summer, their travels taking them from Maine and Yellowstone to Ocracoke, N.C., and Chibougamau, Quebec. Later, there were many days of sailing in Pennsylvania lakes and Eastern Shore waters, landing in a favorite spot on Glendale Lake, Cambria County. He was an avid swimmer and tennis player, teaching children and grandchildren the joys of the activities, into his 80s. He continued his love of hunting and training dogs after his retirement. He was an early member of the Penns Woods Pointing Dog Trainers. Paul and Jeanne traveled extensively through the years, including trips to Europe and Elderhostel vacations abroad and in the U.S. Paul brought lively conversation, encouragement and a sense of gratitude to his place at the head of the family table. Often, a celebration involved multiple tables with extended family and many of his grandchildren's friends. He will be missed terribly, but his family wants to thank his devoted caregivers, particularly Mary Hayes, who tended to his needs near the end of life. Family will receive visitors Wednesday, Aug. 11, from 4-6 p.m. at **HART FUNERAL HOME**, 3103 Lillian Ave., Murrysville, PA 15668. Memorial contributions may be made to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy at [waterlandlife.org](http://waterlandlife.org). [www.hartfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.hartfuneralhomeinc.com)

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

**LEONARD A. DICKSTEIN**

Age 86, of Squirrel Hill, and formerly of Oakland, passed away on Sunday morning, August 1, 2021. Services and interment were private. Professional arrangements entrusted to the New Location-**ELMER L. HERMAN FUNERAL HOME**, family owned and locally operated. [www.elmerhermanfuneralhome.com](http://www.elmerhermanfuneralhome.com)

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**NANCY QUAIL DOMINYTUS**

Age 88, of Shaler Twp., passed away on Thursday, August 5, 2021. Devoted wife of the late Richard S. Dominytus. Beloved mother of Karen (Warren) Maloney, Jan Dominytus, Pattie (Michael) Geyer, and the late Rick Dominytus. Loving grandmother (Gogo) of Lauren (James), Ashleigh (Ramon), Kristen, Dominic (Tiffany), Valerie (John Paul), Rachel, Dalton (Andrea), Dillon (Kelly), Blake (Heather), Alexa (Sam), Michael Jr., Nicholas, and Ryan (Kam). Proud great-grandmother of Evan, Isabel, Elena, Bentley, Melina, Carson, Amadeus, Avianna, and Roman. Nancy loved reading, spending time with family, and cheering for the Pittsburgh sports teams. Visitation will be held privately by the family. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Matthew Parish, St. Bonaventure Church, Glenshaw, on Tuesday at 10 a.m. Arrangements made by the **BOCK FUNERAL HOME, LTD.**, Glenshaw.

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**MARSHA A. FIDOTEN**

Age 93, of Pittsburgh passed away on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Born in Greenwich Village in downtown New York City, she was a lifelong artist and 25 year esteemed art educator at Taylor Alderdice High School and Media Supervisor for Pittsburgh Public Schools. She held her Masters degree from University of Pittsburgh, her Bachelor's degree from Carnegie Mellon, her Certificate in Interior Design

from Pratt Institute and also attended NYU, Pratt, Harvard, the New School and Boston Museum School. She exhibited with and served on committees of many arts organizations including Three Rivers Arts Festival, Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media, Carnegie Museum and the National Society of Arts and Letters. Surviving are her beloved husband of 73 years, Dr. Robert E. Fidoten; two sons and their spouses, Douglas and Beth Fidoten, Eric and Sharyl Fidoten; five cherished grandchildren, Aaron, Hannah, Annie, Jacob and Daniel. She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Irwin and Gerri Abrams. She was preceded in death by parents, Mary and Joseph Abrams. Marsha was a creative dynamo who will be missed greatly by all her life touched. Contributions may be made to Pittsburgh Center for Arts and Media (<https://pghartsmedia.org/>). Arrangements entrusted to **RALPH SCHUGAR CHAPEL INC.**, family owned and operated. [www.schugar.com](http://www.schugar.com).

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**TERRY ROY FINNEY, SR. (POPS)**

Age 66, of Garfield, PA. Beloved son to the late Herbert and Frances Finney. Survived by a loving son Terry R. Finney Jr.; siblings Carole, Nancy, Marjorie, Betty Lou, Herbie, Louis Jay, and Wayne; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends. Terry was well loved by everyone who knew him. He was charming, handsome, generous, and funny. He was a central fixture in his large and loving family. He was

always ready to lend a hand to family and friends. Terry will be forever missed by many. Services will be held at a later date. Professional services entrusted to **COSTON FUNERAL HOMES, INC.**, [www.costonfuneralhome.com](http://www.costonfuneralhome.com)

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## CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES

### MICHAEL J. FERCHAK



Of Greensburg, went to his eternal home on July 31, 2021, after a long, courageous battle with Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), a rare degenerative neurological disease. Born July 10, 1949 in McKeesport, PA, son of the late Michael and Ann (Kubes) Ferchak, Michael is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Helene (Mlinarich); son, Michael Ferchak III of (Squirrel Hill) Pittsburgh; daughter, Rachel (Ryan) Geckle of Orlando, FL; brother, Damian (Patricia) Ferchak; sister, Carol Ann (the late Michael) Ferchak-Anater; nieces and nephews. Michael received a Bachelor of Arts Degree cum laude from Duquesne University in 1971 and a Master of Arts Degree in History from the University of Pittsburgh in 1972. He had wanted to be a history professor. Instead, he worked for more than 35 years for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of Disability Determination in Greensburg, where he met his wonderful wife Helene, who would become his nurse and full-time caregiver. He liked to reference the New Testament book of Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for the best for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose." Besides reading history, Michael enjoyed world travel, classic movies, collecting books and maps, and spending time with his family. With Helene's patient encouragement and invaluable assistance, they completed his memoir as a legacy for their children. He wanted to give heartfelt thanks to a group of special friends, who visited regularly and offered their help to Helene in many ways. He also wanted to thank Donna, Lexi, Cassie, Stacy, Helene's brother, Ray and Heartland Hospice (Charlotte, Lisa, Shari) for their loving and caring assistance. In memory of Mike, and in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The MSA Coalition at [www.multiplesystematrophy.org/donate/](http://www.multiplesystematrophy.org/donate/) or to 7918 Jones Branch Drive, Suite 300, McClean, VA 22102. A Celebration of Life will be on Saturday, August 14 at 11:00 a.m. at New Stanton Assembly of God, 135 Assembly of God Lane, New Stanton PA 15672. Professional services by **THOMAS M. SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, LTD.**, Blawnox. [www.thomasmsmithfh.com](http://www.thomasmsmithfh.com)

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### ELEANOR M. "SISSY" GOEHRING



Age 83, of Apollo (formerly of the North Side) passed away at her niece's home on Friday, August 6, 2021. Daughter of the late Herman and Georgia (Patrick) Goehring. Sister of George (Fran) Goehring and the late Louis (surviving spouse, Beverly) Goehring and the late Mary (the late Joseph) Dzniak. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins. Eleanor enjoyed bingo, bowling, sewing, and her family. Friends and relatives will be received on Monday, August 9, 2021 from 2-8 p.m. at the **BURKET-TRUBY FUNERAL HOME CREMATION & ALTERNATIVE SERVICES, INC.**, 421 Allegheny Ave., Oakmont. Funeral Service on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 10:30 a.m. in the funeral home. Interment will follow in Allegheny Cemetery, Lawrenceville.

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### ROBERT JAMES HENDERSON II

April 11, 1954 - July 31, 2021



Robert James Henderson, II, of Bethel Park, PA, passed away on Saturday, July 31, 2021, in his family's home at the age of 67. He was surrounded by his loving family in his final moments. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Jeri Henderson; and his three children, Robert (Autumn), Scott (Katharina) and Kimberly. He is also survived by his sister, Sheryl Henderson; his brother, John Henderson; and his 13 grandchildren. Robert graduated from University of Pittsburgh School of Law and was a retired attorney. He will be missed dearly by his family. There are no funeral services planned at this time. Expressions of sympathy and comfort are welcome via the online register at [www.gallopfuneralservices.com](http://www.gallopfuneralservices.com). **GALLOP FUNERAL SERVICES, INC.** was entrusted with arrangements.

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### JAMES G. INDRIHOVIC

Age 63, of Sheraden, passed away at his home on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, where his wife Rhoda and son Justin were with him. Jimmy is the son of the late Jim and Josie Indrihovic and the son-in-law of the late Don and Elaine Terney. Also the brother of the late Mary Jo (Dodie) Gielarowski. He is survived by his sisters-in-law Denise Dunn and Renee Terney and brother-in-law James Terney and their families. Jimmy worked for Conrail/Norfolk Southern Railroad for 35 years and retired in December of 2017. Services will be private. Arrangements by the **WILLIAM F. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, Sheraden. You may express your condolences through our online tribute wall at: [www.wfconroyfuneralhome.com](http://www.wfconroyfuneralhome.com)

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### WILLIAM JARVIS HAMEL

76, of Monongahela, formerly of Baldwin Borough, passed away at his home on Saturday, July 10, 2021. He was the son of the late William F. and Margaret J. Jarvis Hamel, and brother of the late Beth L. Hamel Steiner. Bill is survived by his nieces, Jennifer Steiner Poling (Greg Poling) and Emily Steiner Banks, and a great-niece, Christina, and three great-nephews, Zachary (Kayla), Jacob and Bradley and his cats. A memorial will be held at the VFW Post 1940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, on Sunday, August 8 at 4pm. Arrangements by **BALL FUNERAL CHAPEL, INC.**

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### REVEREND DAVID R. JOHNSON



Age 66, after a brief struggle with Covid-19 on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, formerly of Mt. Oliver. Son of the late William and Dolores Johnson. Brother of William A. (Cynthia) Johnson. Uncle of Ryan Johnson and Tara (Greg) Guerland. David graduated from St. Joseph's Mt. Oliver, Duquesne University. He was a retired priest with the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Laid to rest at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. Arrangements handled by the **JOHN F. FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 412-881-4100, 4201 Brownsville Road, Brentwood 15227.

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### WILLIAM L. GASCH



William L. Gasch passed away at his Evans City home on the evening of August 5, 2021. He was born in Nahuizalco, El Salvador on February 28, 1990 and joined his adoptive parents, Rodney Gasch and Laurie Kirsch, later that year. He was a gifted dancer, performing with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) as the young Nutcracker Prince while still in grade school. He appeared in many other ballet performances while continuing to study with PBT. A gifted singer as well, William graduated from Schenley High School in Pittsburgh, where he had the lead roles in award-winning performances of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "All Shook Up." He graduated from the University of Cincinnati—College Conservatory of Music with a BFA in dance performance and performed professionally with the Cincinnati Ballet, the Nashville Ballet, the Milwaukee Ballet and Denver's Ballet Ariel. He was a kind and generous soul, quick to help his family and friends. He had a dry sense of humor and an artist's sentimentality. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. William is survived by his parents, and his brother and sister-in-law, Noah and Breana Gasch, of Goleta, CA. Friends and family will be received on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. at the **BOYLAN FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 324 E. Grandview Ave., Zelienople, PA 16063. He will be laid to rest following a private funeral ceremony on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at Evans City Cemetery, where William once played flute with the Seneca Valley Middle School band. Memorials may be given in William Gasch's name to the Strand Theater Initiative, where he last performed, 119 N. Main St., Zelienople, PA 16063, or to Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, 2900 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15201. Expressions of sympathy may be shared with the family at [www.boylanfuneralservices.com](http://www.boylanfuneralservices.com).

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### MARGUERITE SULLIVAN "MUGS" HANNON



Marguerite Sullivan Hannon, "Mugs," passed away quietly in her sleep Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Mugs was a loving wife to the late John W. Hannon, Jr., mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She was born October 2, 1929, in McKeesport, PA and was a longtime resident of Fox Chapel. She graduated from The Pennsylvania College for Women, now Chatham University in Pittsburgh, PA. Her father, John L. Sullivan and mother, Caroline Sumpter Sullivan raised her to love music, reading and flowers, particularly roses. She loved flower arranging, playing the piano, and cooking. Several of her recipes were featured in Gourmet Magazine and The Gourmet Cookbook. She treasured her membership and work with The Fox Chapel Garden Club, where she was a distinguished member in the 50-Year Club. All who knew Mugs will cherish memories of delicious meals and laughter shared with her. She brought joy and beauty to everything she did. Mugs met her husband, John W. Hannon, Jr. on a blind date in 1951. They married in 1955 and lived in Churchill before moving to Fox Chapel in 1968. She is survived by her son, Michael (Judy) Hannon of Fox Chapel; daughter, Patricia (Paul) Bonney of Wynnwood, PA, Kerry (Cliff) Hackel Hannon of Washington, DC. She was predeceased by her son, Jack (Charmaine) Hannon. She has eight grandchildren, Brendan, Sean, Conor and Brian Hannon, Christine Goon, Michael, Caitlin and Shannon Bonney; and five great-grandchildren. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at Christ the King Parish, St. Scholastica Church, 309 Brilliant Avenue, Aspinwall, PA. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Marguerite Sullivan Hannon may be made to Chatham University's Undergraduate Scholarships Fund. Donations may be made online at [www.chatham.edu/give](http://www.chatham.edu/give), or mailed to the following address: Chatham University, Office of University Advancement, Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Arrangements by **JOHN A. FREYVOGEL SONS, INC.** ([freyvogelfuneralhome.com](http://freyvogelfuneralhome.com))

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### THOMAS LEWIS JONES, JR.



Age 77, of Pittsburgh, PA, died on Friday, March 20, 2020, at the Southwest Veterans Center. Thom was buried in March with no ceremony due to Covid-19 restrictions. Now that restrictions have been lifted, Thom's family invites friends and family to honor his military service and celebrate his life on Monday, August 16, 2021, at The Whitehall House, 4201 Brownsville Road, Brentwood 15227 at 12:00 p.m. followed by a ceremony with full military honors in the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies at 3:00 p.m. Please RSVP to [HonoringThom@gmail.com](mailto:HonoringThom@gmail.com). Arrangements handled by the **JOHN F. SLATER FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 412-881-4100.

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### DONNA GERTZ POLUSNY

August 5, 1950 - August 3, 2021



Donna Gertz Polusny, 70, of Daniel Island, SC, formerly of Pittsburgh, PA, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 after a courageous battle against cancer. Adored wife of Gene Polusny; beloved sister of Linda Gertz Rawlins (Ray); beautiful aunt to Danielle and Jeffrey Rawlins, Jackie, Greg (Angela), Derek and Gary Peters; as well as great-aunt to Uli Rawlins and Owen, Mila and Asher Peters. Also survived by her sisters and brothers-in-law, Eileen and Pat Witte and Kathy and Gary Peters. Donna enjoyed life to the max, embracing southern living in her perfect retirement spot. She and Gene loved biking, walking, yoga, frequent trips to the ocean and all the fine dining of the Charleston area, but she most loved showing off the 'lowcountry' to their visitors. Donna was born in Pittsburgh, PA on August 5, 1950 and grew up in Upper St. Clair, PA. She earned degrees from Penn State and UNC. Her career spanned both the Special Education field and IT Support for consulting firms such as Arthur Andersen, Deloitte & Touche, as well as Mellon, all in Pittsburgh. She was also a passionate lover of her pets, both dogs and cats. She was full of energy, enthusiasm, and a joy to be around. She will be greatly missed, but will be remembered with much love and a big smile. A memorial message may be sent to the family by visiting our website at [www.jhenrystuhr.com](http://www.jhenrystuhr.com).

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### BARBARA MAE (OLSEN) HARRIS



Age 89, of Mt. Lebanon, PA, formerly of Newbern, NC, surrounded by loved ones, on Monday, August 2, 2021. Beloved wife for 24 years of John H. Harris; devoted mother of Patti (Mike) Konrad, David (Kathy) Torrence, and Dianne (Matt) Helinski; loving grandmother of Paul (Jill), Katie (Oskar Karst), 2ndLt. David, and Walter Konrad; Alison (Tim) Greiving; Caleb (Caitlin) and "Awesome" Abram Torrence; Matthew and Mia Helinski; Hendrix, Foster, and Page Harris; great-grandmother of Christian, Lily, and Claire Konrad; and Henry Torrence; sister of the late Grace Wehe; stepmother of John (Tasha), Jimmy (Robin), and Lewis (Mushin) Harris. She was one of the few people in this country to have had a verified UFO sighting in New York City. She was proud of her Norwegian heritage and loved her parents and family dearly. Simple pleasures like family time, camping, arts and crafts, reading, whistling, tending pets - even wild ones, like a racoon, a squirrel, and finding unique presents for loved ones filled her days. She loved the beach life of catching fish and collecting shells. Babies gave her much joy, and she was happiest when she was sure her family was okay. Her wacky sense of humor will be greatly missed. The family wanted to gratefully acknowledge the staff of Family Hospice and Palliative Care at Canterbury Place. Service and interment were private.

**LAUGHLIN CREMATION AND FUNERAL TRIBUTES**

[www.laughlinfuneralhome.com](http://www.laughlinfuneralhome.com)

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### MARY L. "SIS" (BAUMAN) KLUTCH



Mary L. "Sis" (Bauman) Klutch, age 87, of Carnegie, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Wife of the late John F. "Jack" Klutch, Sr. Mother of J. Michael (Barbara) Klutch, J. Christopher Klutch, Kathleen (Michael) Charlem, Thomas Klutch, Suzanne (late William W., III) McVay and the late Timothy Klutch. Also several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Daughter of the late James P. Mary A. Bauman. Sister of James J. (Carol) Bauman. No Visitation. A Funeral Mass will be held at a later date at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Carnegie with inurnment at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Arrangements entrusted to the **LEO J. HENNEY FUNERAL HOME, Carnegie**. In lieu of flowers, family suggest contributions to Animal Friends, Inc. 562 Camp Horne Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. [www.leohenneyfuneralhome.com](http://www.leohenneyfuneralhome.com)

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### RHODA KOSS



Suddenly on August 4, 2021, Rhoda, age 88 of Oakland, was called to her heavenly home. She was the daughter of the late Charles and Elizabeth. Beloved sister of Sophia and Margaret of Pittsburgh. She was preceded in death by siblings, Lawrence of California, Martin, John and Theresa, all of Pittsburgh. Loving aunt of Catherine of Pittsburgh. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews of California. Private Visitation and Mass of Christian Burial. Arrangements entrusted to the **JOHN N. ELACHKO FUNERAL HOME**, 3447 Dawson St., Pgh. PA 15213. Please visit Rhoda's memorial page at [elachko.com](http://elachko.com).

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### ANNA M. GUNN



Anna M. Gunn of Liverpool, NY, formerly of Castle Shannon, PA, passed away December 12, 2020, from complications of the COVID virus. She is the daughter of the late Anthony and Joanne (Cortes) Grandinetti. She is also predeceased by her beloved husband, Fred Gunn and son, David. She is survived by her children, Roger Lection, and Linda Dombrosky, her grandchildren Brian, Kevin, Andrew, Jennine, and a great granddaughter. She is survived by her sisters, Betty (Dom) Toretti and Lois (Richard) Shank, and brothers, Anthony (Ceil) Grandi and Patrick (Marjule) Grandinetti. Friends are welcome to her funeral service. It will be at 9:30 am, August 14, 2021, at St Paul of the Cross Parish/ St. Winifred's Church, 550 Sleepy Hollow Road, Castle Shannon, PA. Interment will follow at Forest Lawn Gardens, 3739 Washington Rd, Canonsburg, PA. Due to Covid restrictions, there will not be a reception.

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### JACK "THE BARBER" HOFFMAN



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jack "The Barber" Hoffman, aged 78, in the early morning of July 22nd. He is survived by his wife, Dee Hoffman, two sons, J.R. (wife, Joi) and Ron (wife, Lynda), six grandchildren, Hannah, Hayley, Jacob, Harley, Jessica, and Hunter, his siblings, and the extended Hoffman family. Jack loved to spend his time in the mountains of Clarion, PA hunting, fishing, and boating with his family and friends, before moving to the relaxing beachside of Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. There, alongside his wife, they enjoyed retirement - a great reward after four decades of service behind the first barber chair at Barbershop at Great Southern, then known as Great Southern Barbershop. We will remember his quick wit, hearty laugh, and the way he loved his family. Jack's life was celebrated in a private service by his family in Florida. Rest in Peace, Pops.

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### ELAINE BELLE KRASIK

(1944 - 2020)



A memorial service to remember and celebrate the life of Elaine Belle Krasik will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom, 5915 Beacon Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 15, 2021. All are welcome, but those attending must be fully vaccinated. A reception at Congregation Beth Shalom will follow the memorial service. May her memory be a blessing. A service of **RALPH SCHUGAR CHAPEL, INC.**, family owned and operated.

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## CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES

### MICHAEL E. KELLEY



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Age 47, formerly from Greenfield. Passed peacefully on July 27, 2021. Son of Bernard and Catherine (Costello) Kelley; brother of David Kelley (Rhonna Gable); and uncle of Esme Kelley. Also survived by aunts, uncles and cousins. No visitation.

### KENNETH PAUL KISSLING

May 7, 1942 - August 2, 2021



Kenneth Paul Kissling, 79, of Leesburg, Florida, formerly of Pittsburgh, PA, passed away peacefully on Monday, August 2, 2021 in Leesburg hospital from complications of surgery. Ken is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Marilyn (Mitchell) Kissling; their daughter, Kimberly (Chuck) Johnson of Elizabeth City, NC; his brother, Nick (Lynn) Kissling of Espyville, PA; sister, Mary Lou Johnson (Glenn) of St. Augustine, FL; and sister-in-law, Judy Kissling Spiegel of Bridgeville, PA. Ken was a loving Pap to his five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was loved by many nieces, nephews and friends. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Mary Kissling of Pittsburgh, PA; his brother, Michael (Mick) of Pittsburgh, PA; and step-son, Bryan Mitchell of Westover, MD. Ken lived his life to the fullest. He was a lover of classic cars. He enjoyed traveling around the United States with their camper, playing shuffleboard, watching Pittsburgh Steeler games, and drinking Miller High Life. He served in the United States Army. He was member of Local 249 Teamsters Union, the American Legion, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Ken will be remembered for his practical jokes and outgoing personality and loved talking with everyone! Interment and Service with full Military Honors will be held at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies in Bridgeville, PA on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 1:00 PM (please arrive at 12:45 for line up and direction) at the Cemetery Chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, www.stjude.org in Ken's name.

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person and in that spirit, so her memory will live on, do something nice for a perfect stranger. May her spirit be as free as the butterfly until we meet again on the other side. Services and interment will be private for the family. Arrangements entrusted to **BURKET-TRUBY FUNERAL HOME CREMATION & ALTERNATIVE SERVICES, INC.**, Oakmont.

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### ALICIA S. KRAYNICK



Alicia S. Kraynick, 77, of Oakmont, passed away on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Born on February 29, 1944, in Galveston, Texas, she was preceded in death by her mother, Ruth Harris and her husband, John, and her brothers, Larry and John Brooksher. Alicia is survived by the love of her life, her husband, Jerry Kraynick, many nieces and nephews, and her cat, Isabella. Alicia was a kind and generous

person and in that spirit, so her memory will live on, do something nice for a perfect stranger. May her spirit be as free as the butterfly until we meet again on the other side. Services and interment will be private for the family. Arrangements entrusted to **BURKET-TRUBY FUNERAL HOME CREMATION & ALTERNATIVE SERVICES, INC.**, Oakmont.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

### RICHARD J. LANKES

Age 81, of West View, passed away on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Beloved husband of Marianne (Owens) Lankes; loving father of Michael (Donna), Timothy (Marcy), and Sean (Laura); grandfather of Erin, Emily (fiancé Josh Raynak), Richard, and Nicolas Lankes, Jarad (Veronica) Thomas, Rhiann (Jeremy) Schlemmer, Maria, and Colin Thomas; great-grandfather of Derek, Ried, and Eve Schlemmer. Richard was proud member of Sheetmetal Worker Local Union 12 and a veteran of the Air Force. Arrangements are private and entrusted to the **REX T. SMITH FUNERAL HOME**, 2860 Perrysville Avenue, Northside.

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### FRED J. MOLECK



Born October 10, 1939 in Keisterville, PA, died June 4, 2021, at Marian Hall Home after many years of convalescence. He was preceded in death by his parents, Stephen F. and Elizabeth F. (Uram) Moleck; and his siblings, Stephen T. Moleck and Elizabeth P. (Moleck) Poundstone. After graduating from Uniontown High School, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA and completed his formal education with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in musicology from the University of Pittsburgh. Fred was nationally known for his contributions to liturgical music through a lifetime of work spanning five decades. His efforts helped advance the liturgical renewal in the Roman Catholic Church in the United States following the Second Vatican Council. He was Director of Music for churches in Latrobe, Rector and New Kensington, PA, South Bend, IN and Richmond, VA. He taught liturgical music at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, Seton Hill University, Greensburg, PA and Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA. Throughout his life, he conducted numerous workshops, seminars and presentations across the country on liturgy, music, and sound pastoral liturgical practices. He was known for his scholarship, practical knowledge, wit and creativity. Besides the numerous articles he wrote for Catholic and Lutheran publications, Fred was the founding editor of the GIA Quarterly, text editor of Worship, Third Edition, scribe for the history of GIA in the GIA Diamond Jubilee Collection, and author of three books on liturgical music. In 2001, he became director of the Office of Worship in the Diocese of Greensburg, retiring from that position in 2005. Fred was recognized by the University of Notre Dame's Center for Liturgy with the 2004 Michael Mathis Award in Pastoral Liturgy, and in 2006, he was honored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians as Pastoral Musician of the Year. Fred is survived by one nephew, Arnold Poundstone, and his wife, Pamela, of Savannah, GA; hundreds of friends, loved ones; and a very dear, special, warm hearted friend who was by his side for 50-plus years: Marirose Radelet and her husband John Radelet of Pittsburgh, PA. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Fred J. Moleck on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at Mount Saint Peter Church, 100 Freeport Road, New Kensington, PA 15068. Arrangements have been entrusted to the **GIUNTA-BERTUCCI FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 1509 Fifth Ave., Arnold, PA 15068, JohnPaul Bertucci Owner/Supervisor. To leave online condolences visit:

www.giunta-bertucci.com  
Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

### EDWIN C. MASTEN, III



Of Forest Hills, age 78, died on Sunday, July 18, 2021, at Charles Morris Center in Squirrel Hill. Ed was the beloved husband of the late Mary Anne (Singleton) Masten for 27 years. Devoted and loving father of John "Ned" (wife, Kristin) Masten of MD and Paul (wife, Sally) Masten of NC. Proud and pleased grandfather of Fletcher and Stuart Masten. Dear brother of the late Paul Bradley (surviving spouse, Kay) Masten and the late Sandra "Sandi" (surviving spouse, Rege) Cloonan. Loving uncle to the many Masten nephews and nieces. Ed was a 1961 graduate of Edgewood High School and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. He later earned his PhD from American University in Washington, D.C. Ed became employed with Southern Railway in Washington where he met his future wife, Mary Anne. He later went to work for Union Camp Corp. in Virginia which was bought by International Paper and caused Ed to move to Memphis with the new company. After retiring in Memphis, Ed moved back to Pittsburgh to be close to his family. In his leisure time, Ed was active no matter where he lived. He loved to sail the waters of Tennessee and was passionate about volunteering, mostly through his churches he attended where he was always an active member. Ed especially was known for helping and advising at-risk children. He also was an avid reader and enjoyed swimming and being active outdoors. Friends are welcome on Friday, August 13 from 4-8 pm at **PATRICK T. LANIGAN FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY, INC.**, Turtle Creek / Monroeville Chapel, 1111 Monroeville Ave., at James St., Turtle Creek 412-823-9350. Ed's Funeral Service will be in the Edgewood Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 14 at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 2835 East Carson St., Suite 200, Pgh., PA 15203 or www.alz.org. Ed will be laid to rest privately with his late wife, Mary Anne in Fairfax, VA.

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### FRANCES G. MASTROPAOLO



Of Bridgeville, formerly of Wilkensburg and Tyrone, PA, peacefully on Saturday, July 31, 2021. She was born on November 26, 1924, in Osceola Mills, PA, the youngest of four children born to Charles and Mary Mastropaolo, and was the survivor of her generation. She had extensive experience in the trucking industry as an IBM and Administration Manager, and had many lifelong friends in the field. Personally and professionally, she was known for her winning smile, her willingness to offer support and a helping hand, and her ability to diffuse difficult situations. Contributions in her memory may be made to Catholic Charities, or a charity of your choice. Committal Prayers will be offered at All Saints Braddock Catholic Cemetery Chapel, 1560 Brinton Road, 15221 on Saturday, August 14th at 12 noon. Condolences may be left at www.mccabebrothers.com

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### HARRIET LOUISE MENZER



Harriet Louise Menzer passed away on August 2, 2021, in Sarasota, Florida at age 98. She was born in Rankin, PA on March 29, 1923, to Herman and Bertha Berliner, and lived in Pittsburgh until 2016, when she moved to Aviva Senior Living in Sarasota. Harriett graduated from Rankin High School in 1941, and married Robert B. Levine, who died in 1959. They were active members of the Horseless

Carriage Club and the Antique Automobile Club of America, participating in car rallies in the Northeastern US and Canada in their 1911 Buick and their 1926 Model T Ford. After Bob died, Harriet enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education, while acting as a single parent to her two teen-age children. Upon graduation, she taught at Wilkensburg High School and later at Peabody High School in Pittsburgh for 20 years. In 1963, she met her second husband, Milton Menzer, at a duplicate bridge game in Pittsburgh. They found that they were compatible at the bridge table and in life, and were happily married for 24 years until Milt's passing in 1987. They loved traveling, often combining their enjoyment of bridge tournaments with their love of the theater, the symphony, and opera. Harriet was an accomplished bridge player, who achieved the rank of Diamond Life Master. She and Milt won numerous tournaments throughout the US, and in Canada and Bermuda. She also played duplicate bridge online with partners from around the world, including Poland, China and Australia. Harriet was preceded in death by her sister, Mildred Linzer. She is survived by her daughter, Suzan Lordi (Tom) of Sarasota; her son, James Levine (Joyce) of Hudson OH and Sarasota; grandchildren, Julia Puliese, Andrew Lordi, and Shana Levine, and four great-grandchildren. She was also loved and will be greatly missed by her extended family of cousins, nephews and nieces, as well as her many friends. The family requests that any donations in Harriet's memory be made to Aviva Senior Living, 1955 N. Honore Ave, Suite B1, Sarasota, FL 34235.

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### ELEANORA "ELLIE" CHRIST MORICZ



Age 95, of Fort Wayne, formerly of Orlando, FL, and Pittsburgh, PA, passed away on Saturday, July 31, 2021. Born September 21, 1925; she was a daughter of the late Spiro and Todorka Dimitrova Christ. A graduate of South Side High School, Eleanora matriculated from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN with a BA and MA in Business Education. During World War II she worked with the Army /

Air Force Motion Picture Unit and after college was a valued executive secretary at Lincoln Bank in Fort Wayne, Marine Bank in Milwaukee, WI, and Pittsburgh - Des Moines Steel Company in Pittsburgh, PA before spending the majority of her career as a business teacher with Moon Area Schools near Pittsburgh, PA. Eleanora met her future husband, Joseph M. Moricz, at Indiana University and they married on August 8, 1954, enjoying over 55 years of marriage. In retirement, she volunteered with the Orlando Convention & Visitors Bureau and Sand Lake Hospital. Ellie truly excelled at hospitality and enjoyed hosting luncheons, dinner parties and gatherings with relatives and friends. She traveled to all 50 states and numerous countries, but especially enjoyed visiting Walt Disney World. She had a lifetime love of music, carousel horses, and her Bulgarian - Macedonian Heritage. Eleanora is survived by her son, Michael C. Moricz; daughters, Janet (Stephen) S. Zegar, and Julia A. Moricz; sister, Laverne Tsiguloff; granddaughter, Alexandra Zegar; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Joseph M. Moricz; sister, Virginia Tsuleff, and brothers-in-law, Nicholas Tsuleff and Alexander Tsiguloff. Funeral service is 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 9, 2021, at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 3535 Crescent Ave., Fort Wayne, with visitation two hours prior. V. Rev. Andrew Jarmus and Rev. Michael Myers officiating. Entombment to follow at Greenlawn Memorial Park. Preferred memorials may be directed to St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, or Parkview Hospital - Randallia Supportive Care Unit. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy for the Moricz family, may be shared at: www.advantagemungovan.com

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### GRACE E. MORROW

Age 71, of Allison Park, on Aug. 4, 2021. Born in Pittsburgh, PA on April 25, 1949, daughter of the late Emerson and Dorothy Schor Morrow. Beloved sister of Eileen (Peter) Polovchik, Duane (Terri) Morrow, Dorothy (Gus) Blume, Dwight Morrow, and Derik (Lynn) Morrow. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Grace was a Graphic Designer, a longtime Art Instructor with the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, and was responsible for the original logo design for the Civic Arena. Graveside services were held Saturday in Lakewood Memorial Gardens. Arrangements by **SHELLHAAS FUNERAL HOME**, Bakerstown. www.shellhaasfh.com.

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### MICHAEL W. MUEHLBAUER, JR.



Age 79, on Friday, August 6, 2021, of Pittsburgh. Beloved husband of Carol (Stenglein) Muehlbauer. Loving father of Michelle (Dan) Butler and Michael (Beth) Muehlbauer. Proud pup to Taylor, Courtney and Ryan Butler, Reagan, Rachel, Paige and Eliza Muehlbauer. Brother of the late Walter Muehlbauer. Visitation Monday 2-4 and 6-8 PM at the **BORON FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 1719 Brownsville Road. Funeral Prayers on Tuesday, at 10 AM. Mass of Christian Burial in Blessed Trinity Parish, St. Basil Church at 10:30 AM.

www.BoronFuneralHome.com  
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### SHIRLEY MARIE McLAUGHLIN

Age 90, of Coraopolis, passed on Thursday, July 15, 2021, in Sebastian, FL. Daughter of the late Joseph and Daisy Thomas; beloved wife of the late Frank C. McLaughlin, Jr.; loving mother of Linda Lee (Lawrence) Ferguson. Also survived by three grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Friends received on Tuesday 2 - 4 and 6 - 8 pm at **COPELAND'S**, 867 Fifth Avenue, Coraopolis, where a Funeral Prayer will be held at 9:30 am followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Joseph Church, Coraopolis at 10 am. Burial will be in Sewickley Cemetery. Contributions may be made to VNA Hospice at 772-978-5580 or www.vnatc.org.

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### DORIS M. NEIGER



Doris M. Neiger, age 96, of Ross Township, died peacefully on Monday, July 19th, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Warren E. Neiger. Loving mother of Alison (Robert) Ward, Clifford (Ginny) Neiger, Jeff (Trisha) Neiger, Steven (Sharon) Neiger and Sarah E. Perry. Cherished grandmother of Christopher (Laura) Neiger, Kelsey (Richard) Cattley, Amelia Neiger, Austin Neiger, Anna (Andy) Guzman, Lincoln

Neiger, Sam Neiger, Robin Perry, Shelby Perry and Josh Perry. Also survived by four great-grandchildren, Lillian, Clara, Jack and Harper. Doris was very proud of her family and loved to hear about their varied lives and accomplishments, and was always ready with words of encouragement. She and her late husband both had many stories about their ancestors and the history of their families, and Doris kept an impressive photograph collection that she loved to share. She enjoyed talking about memories of her childhood and her courtship with Warren. She was a dedicated and a devoted member of her church, where she taught Sunday school to teens and children for many years. Independent and hard-working, Doris's children and grandchildren remember her love of the beach, having family get-togethers, and traveling to visit family, especially for important events like graduations and weddings. She loved watching her "soaps", and she could always be counted on to have a great picture of Jesus handy and a couple of cookies stashed in the cupboard. She led a long life surrounded by family and will be missed by many. Rest in peace, Doris. We love you. A memorial service will be held Saturday, August 14th at 11am at The Church of Our Savior, 2405 Clearview Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116. Donations may be made to The Church of Our Savior, 2405 Clearview Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116.

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### DAVID GILBERT NICHOLS



Age 68, formerly of West Deer Twp. on Friday, August 6, 2021, at Concordia at Fox Chapel. He was born December 3, 1952, to the late George Gilbert and Betty Logan Nichols. David was a Civil Engineer for Nichols & Slagle Engineering, a Consulting Engineer Firm and an active member of East Union Presbyterian Church, West Deer Twp. He is survived by his two daughters, Marcie (William)

Buck of O'Hara Twp., Jamie (John) Juran of West Deer Twp. and his three grandchildren, Andrew Buck, Colin and Declan Murphy. David was preceded in death by his two sisters, Betty Thompson and Joyce Mendoza. His family will receive friends Tuesday, August 10, 2021, from 11 am till 1 PM at the **SIWICKI-YANICKO FUNERAL HOME**, 23 McKrell Road, Russellton, West Deer Township. A funeral service will be held at 1:30 pm in East Union Presbyterian Church, 292 East Union Road, Cheswick, PA. 15024. Private Burial. View obituary and leave condolences at www.siwicki-yanickofh.com

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### PATRICIA NOLDER

1944 - 2021



Age 77, formerly of Pittsburgh, PA, passed away peacefully on August 3, 2021. She was the daughter of the late John and Mercedes (Mack) White. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by William J. White and Mercedes White Maher. Survivors include daughter, Karen Nolder (Mike Beder), cherished grandmother of Tyler Kelly; sister-in-law, MaryAnn White and many loved nieces,

nephews, and friends. She will be remembered with smiles, as her generous humor gave delight in all who knew her. A Memorial Service will be held on October 2nd in Pittsburgh with a Graveside Service following at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Pittsburgh, PA. Condolences may be made to www.withersandwhisenantfuneral.com. **WITHERS & WHISENANT FUNERAL HOME** of Gastonia, NC is serving the family.

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## CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES

### HELEN T. NOTHWANG



Age 105, on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Wife of the late John (Jack) W. Nothwang, Sr.; beloved mother of John W. (Carol) Nothwang, Marie Jo (the late Jim) Marks, Joseph (Joyce) Nothwang and Joann (Rufus), (the late Ray) Gardner; also survived by 11 grand, 20 great and one great-great-grandchild. Friends received Monday, 2-8 p.m. at the **WINTER FUNERAL HOME, PC**, 4730 Friendship Ave., Funeral on Tuesday at St. Maria Goretti Parish, St. Joseph Church at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Vincentian De Marillac Nursing Home, 5300 Stanton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

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### JACQUELINE "JACKIE" ANN (FRAZIER) O'ROURKE



Jacqueline "Jackie" Ann (Frazier) O'Rourke, of Cecil, PA, 90, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on November 18, 1930, in Milwaukee, WI. A daughter of the late William and Amelia Schmek Frazier. On October 23, 1954, she married Alex O'Rourke, who died on January 31, 2014. Jackie was an extraordinary woman who loved cooking, gardening, and most of all her family and friends. She was caring, compassionate, funny, and the best "Gram" ever. We are all who we are because of her influence. She is survived by her daughter, Beth (Chris) Dempster, son, David (Denise) O'Rourke, and daughter, Dr. Janet O'Rourke, grandchildren, Matthew, Christina (Max), Jessica (Shane), Ian, Kyleigh and great-grandchildren, Ryan, Maggie, Tyler (Sean), Emily, Bailee, Alex, Grant, Dean and Ike, a brother, James (Sherry) Frazier, and sisters, Lucy Hawk and Sally Vangeysel. She was preceded in death along with her husband, by her son, Gary O'Rourke, three sisters, Margaret McKinley, Patricia McCaffrey, and Betty Jean Reeder, and a brother William Frazier. There is no visitation based on Jackie's request. A private celebration of life service will be held at Venice Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Gary Chorpennig officiating. Interment to follow at Venice Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made in her name to Venice Presbyterian Church or the South Fayette Public Library. Arrangements by **WARCHOL FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 3060 Washington Pike Bridgeville (412-221-3333). View and add condolences at: [www.warcholfuneralhome.com](http://www.warcholfuneralhome.com)

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### WILLIAM N. PALOMBIA

Age 43, of Imperial, PA, on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Beloved husband of Janna (Capello) Palombia. Loving father of Nicholas, Emma, and Avery Palombia. Preceded in death by his mother, Cecilia (Rutkowski) Palombia and his brother, Philip Palombia. Also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Family and friends welcome Sunday 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. **WILLIAM SLATER II FUNERAL SERVICE**, 1650 Greentree Rd., Scott Twp., 15220, where a funeral service will be Monday at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to: Go Fund Me: Help the Palombia Family: [GOFUND.ME/14099FEB](http://GOFUND.ME/14099FEB). [www.slaterfuneral.com](http://www.slaterfuneral.com)

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### CASIMIR J. "BUD" PELLEGRINI, JR.



Of Churchill, age 93, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Beloved husband of Jane (Polichio) Pellegrini for 64 years. Loving father of Jean Pasternak (Mike), Casimir J. Pellegrini, III (Beth), John Pellegrini, Jane Mikisevich (Michael Mesoras), and Esther Ungarean (Tim). Proud grandfather of 15, including a 2021 Olympian. Brother of Betsy Kronick and the late Zelma Denardo. Also survived by many in-laws, nieces, and nephews. 'Bud' was born January 27, 1928, in Pittsburgh, to the late Casimir J., Sr. & Marie (O'Donnell) Pellegrini. He lived in Squirrel Hill and Point Breeze before later moving to the beautiful family home he designed and built in Churchill. A graduate of Central Catholic High School '47, and Carnegie Tech '51, he earned a B.A. in Architecture, as did his late father and his son. Bud served his country with the Army Corps of Engineers, Korean War 1953-55. He went on to work for Rust Engineering before joining his father as partner at Casimir J. Pellegrini Associates, Architects, AIA. His architectural works include residential projects, major renovations for Pittsburgh Public Schools, and many projects for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, including St. Fidelis Chapel, Herman Calvary Cemetery Oratory, Greenfield; St. Anthony Home for Exceptional Children, Oakmont; the churches and schools at both Our Lady of Loretto, Brookline and North American Martyrs, Monroeville; St. James Church, Sewickley; the Chapel at Mount Assisi Convent, Bellevue; and major renovations to St. Mary Mercy Church, downtown Pittsburgh, and Most Holy Name, Troy Hill. He received the 1950 Rust Architecture Award and won the 1977 James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation's national competition for best design of welded structures for his unique use of Cor-Ten steel in the bridges he designed for Churchill Valley Country Club. Bud was a passionate and accomplished golfer and longtime member of the former CVCC. He shot his age multiple times, won a car for a hole-in-one, and won Club Championship and Senior Club Championship at CVCC in the same year. He was a faithful member of St. John Fisher Church and served his community by donating his architectural services in betterment of his fellow citizens in Churchill and the City of Pittsburgh. Bud will always be remembered for his gentlemanly nature, keen intelligence, adorable sense of humor, and his love of family and country. He was a beautiful example of America's Greatest Generation. He will be deeply missed. Friends received at **WOLFE MEMORIAL, LLC.**, Forest Hills Chapel, 3604 Greensburg Pike, on Sunday, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8pm. Funeral Mass at St. John Fisher Church of St. Joseph the Worker Parish on Monday at 10 a.m. Burial in Calvary Catholic Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Casimir J. Jr. and Jane Pellegrini Memorial Fund, c/o Central Catholic High School, 4720 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15213; or Little Sisters of the Poor, 1028 Benton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, [www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org/donate/](http://www.littlesistersofthepoorpittsburgh.org/donate/).

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### JOHN JAY PETRISKO

January 8, 1965 - August 5, 2021

John Jay Petrisko, 56, of Beaufort, SC, formerly of Buena Vista, PA, died August 5, 2021 after a 2.5 year battle with cancer. He was born January 8, 1965 to the late John S. and Dolores F. (Sotak) Petrisko. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Cynthia "Cindy" Petrisko, and their two dogs, Pepe and Paco; his sister, Lynn M. Beck of Elizabeth Township, PA; nephew, Donald J. Beck (Amanda) of West Mifflin, PA; nieces, Christine M. Ruhe (Jeff) of Elizabeth Township, PA; and other family and friends. John was multi-talented and it showed in his careers working as a paramedic with various engine companies in the Pittsburgh, PA area, doing autobody and ending his career as part owner in a cable/networking company. He was a former social member of the Buena Vista Social Club 145, where he spent time laughing with his friends. He will always be remembered as the man who lived his life his way. He enjoyed cooking, always modifying the recipe to make it his own, having friends over to share his famous recipes, while enjoying a drink and laughter. He will be greatly missed by his wife and all those who loved him. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society or a local bloodbank of your choice. **ANDERSON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY** is serving the family.

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### HILDA (RICHARD) PEGHER



A kind and gentle lady, Hilda Pegher passed away peacefully on July 18, 2021. For 65 years she was the beloved wife of her late husband, Fran. Hilda was the mother of two daughters, Fran (Rich) Boguszewski and Pattie (Robby) Theissen; grandmother of Nate Boguszewski, Andrea Ashcraft and Craig Theissen; and great-grandmother of Grace and Sydney Theissen. The daughter of the late Charles and Lena Richard, Hilda is survived by her sister and best friend, Grace. She was preceded in death by her sister, Helen Hufnagel and two brothers, Andrew and Lester Richard. Hilda was a woman of many talents: a professional upholsterer, skilled seamstress, and expert baker. Over the years the grandkids enjoyed the hearty Sunday breakfasts she would make especially for them. And many cousins enjoyed the beautiful wedding cakes she created for their receptions. Family and friends received Friday, August 13, 2021, 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the **GEORGE A. THOMA FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 10418 Perry Hwy., Wexford. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, August 14, 2021, at 10 a.m. in St. Alphonsus Church (St. Aidan Parish). Everyone please meet at the church.

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### EILEEN C. (LAZEWSKI) PIET



On Friday, August 6, 2021 age 93, of Scott Twp. A life well lived. Wife of the late Jack Piet. Loving mother of Jack (Karen) Piet and Linda Dunn. Grandmother of Jacqueline Dunn (John Garver). Great-grandmother of Jude Garver. Also survived by nieces and nephews. Arrangements have been entrusted to the **SZAFRANSKI - EBERLEIN FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, where family and friends will be received on Tuesday, 3-7 p.m. at 101 Third Street, Carnegie. A Blessing Service will be held at the funeral home on Wednesday, 10 a.m. Burial to follow in St. Ignatius Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Holy Family Institute or the Jubilee Soup Kitchen. Additional details can be found at: [www.szafranski-eberleinfuneralhome.com](http://www.szafranski-eberleinfuneralhome.com)

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### DONALD JOSEPH PIPKO, DMD

Passed away suddenly in his office on August 2, doing exactly what he loved and lived for, working for his patients. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force. Dr. Pipko attended Duquesne University for his undergraduate degree and later graduated Summa Cum Laude in Prosthodontics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 1960. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Helen Pipko as well as his wife, Margaret McCormick Pipko. Dr. Pipko will be greatly missed by all those he touched. Services and Interment Private. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Prosthodontic Department, 3501 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261. Arrangements entrusted to **RALPH SCHUGAR CHAPEL, INC.**, family owned and operated, [www.schugar.com](http://www.schugar.com).

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### LOUISE STAUFFER RHOADS

On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, Louise Stauffer Rhoads, of Upper St. Clair passed away Tuesday, August 3, 2021 in Friendship Village of South Hills. Mother of Suzanne Mason (Randy) of Palmyra, Charlotte Freil (Scott) of Bridgeville, Paula Klass (Rusty) of Emmaus and Barbara Stauffer (Cia) of Anchorage, AK. Sister to William B. Jones of Marietta, CA. Grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of 11. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, August 21, 2021 in the First United Methodist Church, 161 W. Pike St., Canonsburg, PA 15317. Arrangements have been entrusted to the **MCILVAINE-SPEAKMAN FUNERAL HOME, LTD.**, Robert K. McIlvaine, Owner/Supervisor, 27 Cherry Ave., Houston, PA 15342. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contribution to the Charters-Houston Community Library, 730 W. Grant St., Houston, PA 15342 or The American Diabetes Association, 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22202 (donations.diabetes.org). Condolences may be left by viewing the obituary at: [www.mcilvaine-speakman.com](http://www.mcilvaine-speakman.com)

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### LT. COL. JAMES D. ROSS

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, RET.



Age 85, of Mt. Lebanon; surrounded by his loving family on Friday, August 6, 2021. Beloved husband for 62 years of Harriet J. (Blanning) Ross; devoted father of Brian (Cheryl), Michael (Linda) and William (Kimberly) Ross; proud grandfather of Katherine, Emily, Savannah, Daniel and Aidan; son of the late Wirt and Jane Ross; brother of Larry (Patty), the late Wirt and twin sister, Judy (Ken) Honderich; treasured brother-in-law of Lynne Blanning, Elsa Jane Weislogel (Lee) and Joleyne Colby (Dale). Born October 22, 1935, in Erie, PA, Jim graduated as president of his class at Allegheny College in 1958, where he also served as ROTC commander. He entered the Air Force in 1959, spent 20 years serving our country as a pilot, primarily with the Strategic Air Command (SAC), where he was responsible for creating air defense plans in the event of nuclear war. While at SAC, Jim also served as a flight crew evaluator. Awarded the Air Force Air Medal for Meritorious Achievement. Earned the Bronze Star for flying the C-7 Caribou in combat in Vietnam. Jim also flew KC-135s out of Thailand to refuel fighter jets. He flew a total of 231 combat sorties in Vietnam. Jim was also awarded many other commendations during his career. After his retirement from the Air Force, Jim completed his master's degree in human resources management from LaRoche University in Pittsburgh, PA. He started the next phase of his career as the human resources manager at Schneider Engineering. Later he worked for Von Roll Waste Management Technology in Liverpool, OH, also as human resources manager, after which he attempted to retire. Having failed at that, Jim returned to the workforce as the human resource manager at Chris Candies, in Pittsburgh, until 1990. Always an outdoor enthusiast, Jim shared his great love of nature with his wife, his sons and later his grandchildren. He was a devoted, kind, caring, generous, helpful and loving man, with quick wit and much fun to be with. Jim will be mourned deeply and missed greatly. A lifelong Presbyterian, Jim was a 40-year member of the Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church in Mt. Lebanon, serving as a deacon and elder and lending his beautiful voice to the choir. Friends will be welcomed at Sunset Hills Presbyterian Church on Friday morning August 13th from 11:00 until a Celebration of Life Memorial Service at 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that you may wish to consider a contribution to the Memorial Fund of the Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church, 900 Country Club Drive, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228 or to the charitable organization of your choice. **LAUGHLIN CREMATION & FUNERAL TRIBUTES.** [www.laughlinfuneralhome.com](http://www.laughlinfuneralhome.com)

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

### MADELINE H. RIPLEY

Age 87, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania passed away on August 5, 2021. Madeline was born in Racine, Wisconsin on October 16, 1933.

Madeline graduated from Saint Catherine High School where she met and married Richard Francis Ripley.

Madeline worked at Truax Field Air Force Base in Madison, Wisconsin as an administrative assistant. Richard and Madeline had 2 sons, Shawn Patrick Ripley in 1955 and Shannon Michael Ripley in 1959. After living in Madison, Wisconsin the couple moved to Rockford, Illinois and then to Arlington Height Illinois for a short period.

Richard and Madeline were transferred to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to work at Westinghouse Company as a National Sales Manager. Madeline advanced her career in Pittsburgh as an administrator with the Allegheny County Police Training Academy and remained there until her retirement in 2003. Madeline enjoyed her years at the academy and met many wonderful people and the camaraderie with the law enforcement officers.

In addition, Madeline worked at the McEntire Shelter for homeless children at night and on the weekends for many years. She liked working with the children and wanted to help make a difference in each child's life. Madeline always led by example and her sons were aware of her amazing work habits and have continued working the same way that she taught her sons.

Madeline was always a caring person and took care of her aging mother for many years. She also enjoyed traveling to Dallas, Texas and Atlanta, Georgia to visit her sons and have vacation time with them and truly loved that time together with her family. Although Madeline came to Pittsburgh in 1967 as a Cheese Head from Wisconsin, she loved Pittsburgh and became a true Pittsburgher, she loved Pittsburgh sports especially the Penguins and the Pirates and knew who all the players were and their statistics. She followed them through the good times and the bad times.

Madeline attended Saint Athanasius Catholic Church in West View.

Madeline was predeceased by her parents John and Julia Dylla of Racine Wisconsin and her brother Martin Dylla of Racine Wisconsin.

Madeline is survived by her sons Shawn Patrick Ripley and Jerri Lynn Ripley of Dallas, Texas and Shannon Michael Ripley of Atlanta, Georgia. Grandchildren Lindsay Ripley-Rothman of Denton and Zachery Ryan Ripley of Dallas, Texas. Madeline is beloved and will be missed by her family and friends.

No visitation. A Blessing service will be held Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. at **DEVLIN FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 806 Perry Hwy, North Hills.

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

### JANET SCHNEIDER



The family and friends of Janet Schneider mourn her passing on August 2, 2021, of complications of a stroke. She was two weeks shy of her 95th birthday.

Janet was born on August 16, 1926, in Elyria, Ohio. Upon graduation from high school in 1944, she joined the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps, and became a registered nurse. She met and married the first love of her life, Henry Schneider, in 1948. They raised two children, Carol and Bill (deceased 1992).

After the family relocated to Pittsburgh in 1963, Janet began working at Presbyterian University Hospital. She was in the first cohort of nurse practitioners to train at Presby, serving her patients with energy, compassion and skill.

Janet lived an adventurous life. Widowed after 34 years of marriage to Henry, she traveled the world. She and second husband Bob Dalecki explored the US. Upon his death, she married Don Stoicovy; passports in hand, they ventured to multiple European countries. The last love of her life was Jim Baney, whom she married at age 84. Together, they also traveled and enjoyed his large, loving family and circle of friends until his passing in 2019.

Above all, Janet is remembered as a woman of faith and an active member of the Lutheran Church. Non-judgmental, she always chose to be warm, kind and gracious to everyone she met. We will miss her energy, joie de vivre, and steadfast example of faith in action.

Janet is survived by her daughter, Carol Schneider (Walt Tauche); their son Dan Tauche and his fiancée Nataleigh Colton; beloved daughter-in-law, Linda Schneider and her two children Laura Schneider (Michael Hsu) and Andrew Kemp.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Animal Rescue League or the charity of your choice. And we acknowledge with great gratitude the caring staff of Redstone Highlands for serving Janet with devotion in her last days.

A memorial service (also live-streamed) in celebration of Janet's life will be held on Saturday, August 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, 4725 Old William Penn Highway, Murrysville, PA 15668. For more information, please visit [www.hartfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.hartfuneralhomeinc.com).

Send condolences post-gazette.com/gb

### ALLEN J. "OOP" SHOBE

Age 56, of Jefferson Hills Boro, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, August 6, 2021. Beloved son of Joan (Strittmatter) and the late William D. Shobe, Sr.; brother of Carol A. (Ken) Yanik, Janet Lewis and the late William D. (Survived by Jackie) Shobe, Jr. Oop was a car enthusiast all of his life. He was an auto mechanic who loved working on antique cars and trucks. You could often find him helping out at his sister's repair shop in Pleasant Hills. He also enjoyed learning about and tending to his garden at his home. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Friends received Tuesday 3-6 p.m. at the **GRIFITH FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 5636 Brownsville Road, (at 6th St.) South Park Twp., (412) 655-4600 where a Blessing Service will be held on Wednesday at 11 a.m. Condolences may be offered for the family at [www.GriffithFH.com](http://www.GriffithFH.com)

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### PHYLLIS SILVER



On Friday, August 6, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Harold Silver. Loving mother of Jill Silver Fine, Scott (Marie) Silver and Michael (Rivka) Silver. Sister of the late Charles Kirshner. Daughter of the late Harry and Berdie Kirshner. Grandmother of Nohar (Liad) Hamay, Tahel Silver, Salit (Liran) Shomer, Zack (Lindsay Wein, partner) Fine, Ben (Will Marrow) Fine, Emily (Andrew) Huff and Colin (Ellie) Silver. Great-grandmother of Shaya, Elroie, Yahli, Tomer, Aviv, Inbal, Zohar and George. Also survived by nieces and nephews, Fran (Stan) Barg, Meryl (David) Ainsman, Judy (Bob) Danenberg, Miles (Cheryl) Kirshner and their children and grandchildren.

Phyllis enjoyed world travel, family gatherings, golf and walks on the beach. She was active in the community and a philanthropist. A curious and bright lifelong learner, she attended classes throughout her life. She was a member of the Tree of Life Congregation in the early years and later joined Temple Sinai. She was a Bridge Silver Life Master and an avid reader. She worked for many years at Reuben Donnelly as Sales Representative and was a successful Real Estate Agent. Phyllis will be remembered by her many friends and family members as a very strong, proud, courageous, independent, vibrant and beautiful woman with her silver hair always perfectly-coiffed. Services at **RALPH SCHUGAR CHAPEL, INC.**, 5509 Centre Avenue, Shadyside on Monday at 1 PM. Visitation one half hour prior to service, (12:30 - 1 PM). Interment Tree of Life Memorial Park. Contributions in Phyllis's memory may be made to donations can be made to, Americans for Ben-Gurion University, P.O. Box 7410310, Chicago, IL 60674-0310, or call, 212-687-7721, <https://americansforbgu.org/donate-in-memory-of/>, (For donations by phone or mail, please indicate that the donation is in memory of Phyllis Silver). [www.schugar.com](http://www.schugar.com)

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## CLASSIFIED OBITUARIES

### PATRICIA L. (CAGNEY) SCHMIDT



Age 88, of Beechview, on Wednesday, August 4, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Paul E. Schmidt. Loving mother of Paul E. Schmidt and Patricia A. Schmidt. Grandmother of Amy, Jenny, and Daniel. Great-grandmother of Ryan, Elliot, and Henry. Sister of Eileen (Donald) Vernon, Alice (Timothy) Callahan, Denny (Denise) Cagney, Cathy (Robert) Randall, Thomas (Peggy) Cagney, and the late

William Cagney, John Cagney, and Bernice Romutis. Daughter of the late William and Annabelle (Crowley) Cagney. Sister-in-law of Gary (Mary Lou) Schmidt and Richard (Donna) Schmidt. Patricia will be sadly missed by many loving nieces, nephews, and friends. Patricia retired as a Registered Nurse from South Side Hospital after 25 years. Friends received 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. on Monday only at **BRUSCO-NAPIER FUNERAL SERVICE, LTD.**, 2201 Benson Ave., Pgh., PA 15216. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday at 10 a.m. in St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish - St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1810 Belasco Ave., Pgh., PA 15216. Burial to follow in Queen of Heaven Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either Animal Friends, Inc., 562 Camp Horne Rd., Pgh., PA 15237, Humane Animal Rescue, 1101 Western Ave., Pgh., PA 15233, or the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation, c/o PNC Bank, PO Box 535240, Pgh., PA 15253-9926. To leave a memory of Patricia, visit our website: [www.brusco-napierfuneralhome.com](http://www.brusco-napierfuneralhome.com)

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### JAMES E. "JIMMY" SCHOLZ



Age 65, formerly of Elliott, on Saturday, August 7, 2021. Beloved husband of Carol (Arnold) Scholz. Loving father of Matt (Jen) Scholz and Nikki (Steve) Onorad. Grandfather of Hadley Scholz, Tyler Onorad and Makenna Onorad. Brother of Maxine (the late Chick) Magilson, Linda (Jim) Meinzer (the late Jim Magilson), Ray (Tim Herrera) Scholz, Joyce (Bill) Coleman, and Brian Scholz. Son of the late James R. and

Eva (Brandt) Scholz and son-in-law of the late Robert and Eileen (Briggs) Arnold. Jim will be sadly missed by his numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. His best times were spent with family, friends, and especially his grandkids. Jim will be remembered as a respected community member and third-generation business owner of Scholz Brother's Hardware in Elliott. Friends received from 2:00 p.m. until time of Blessing Service at 7:00 p.m., on **TUESDAY** at **ANTHONY G. STAAB FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 900 Chartiers Ave., Pgh., PA 15220. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, <https://givenow.lls.org/>. At the family's request, guests will be REQUIRED to wear facial masks for visitation and service.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### BRUCE TASSONE



Age 60, of Mt. Washington, passed away on Friday, August 6, 2021. Beloved father of Elizabeth A. Tassone; loving grandfather of Krystal L. Tassone; beloved son of the late William Bruno and Josephine (Baldinger) Tassone; loving brother of Brian (Cindy) and the late Keith, Bruno and Mark. Beloved uncle of the late Justin Tassone; great-uncle of the late Jordyan Tassone; loving boyfriend of Melanie

Linsenbigler; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Family and friends welcome Monday, 2-7 pm at **WM. SLATER & SONS, INC.**, (412-381-3345) 301 Virginia Ave., Mt. Washington 15211 where a Funeral Service will be held Monday, 7 pm. Burial private to the family. [www.slaterfuneral.com](http://www.slaterfuneral.com)

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### MARY ELIZABETH TOOMEY

"MARY BETH"



Mary Elizabeth Toomey "Mary Beth" died after a long struggle with kidney disease on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, while in hospice care at Kane Community Center, Glen Hazel. A native of Hazelwood who grew up in Whitehall, she was born on April 18, 1953, and was preceded in death by her parents, John J. Toomey and Mary Catherine (O'Shea) Toomey, as well as her brother, Daniel M. Toomey. She is survived by

numerous cousins: the Kelemen's - Ed Kelemen, Mary K. (Norm) McDonald, Patty (Richard) Hartman, Ken (Marlene) Kelemen, Keith (Barb) Kelemen and Terry (Ron) Wetmore; the O'Reillys - Larry (Eileen) O'Reilly, Brian O'Reilly, Vince (Angela) O'Reilly, Jackie Walters and Lisa (Joe) Alfonsi; Dr. Dan (Pauline) Blackwell and the O'Sheas. A fervent feminist, Mary Beth was particularly proud of the advanced degrees she earned at the University of Pittsburgh in Developmental Psychology, School of Education (M.A. in 1980 and Ph.D. in 1985) and the work she did with children. She enjoyed traveling and exploring her Irish heritage, visiting Ireland multiple times, studying at Trinity College, and learning Gaelic. Although Mary Beth could be prickly at times (as anyone who has received her piercing stare is aware), she was generous with her time and attention, volunteering for many worthy non-profits over the years. The family appreciates the excellent care given to Mary Beth over the past five years by all of her Kane family. Arrangements were entrusted to **WILLIG FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY**. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at St. Raphael Church, St. Jude Parish at 10 a.m. 1154 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Inurnment will follow at Calvary Cemetery. Condolences and memories may be shared at [www.willigfuneralcremationservices.com](http://www.willigfuneralcremationservices.com). Memorial donations may be made in Mary Beth's name at Just Harvest, 16 Terminal Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 or The Kane Foundation, 955 Rivermont Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15207. Charles Danforth, Supervisor.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### BARBARA A. TURNBULL

Age 68, of Lakewood Ranch, FL, formerly of Plum Borough, Pittsburgh, PA passed away on Sunday, July 25, 2021. She is survived by her sister, Rebecca (Ernest) Swanson and her nephews, Dan Swanson and Steve Jaklic. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bruce Turnbull, her parents and her brother, John Colter. After graduating from Penn State in 1975, as one of the first women to get a degree in computer science, she had a long career with Westinghouse and later MSA. She was very creative and loved to paint. She made many crafts to be sold to benefit Relay for Life and other charities. She also loved to go to car shows and rallies with her very good friend, George Albert. She was fiercely independent, and her loving and giving personality will be missed by her family and her many friends in the Pittsburgh area.

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### DOROTHY J. UHLEMANN, R.N.



Of Pittsburgh, on Sunday, August 1, 2021. Wife of the late Paul L.; beloved mother of Karen O'Brien, Paul D. (Jennifer) and William K. (Amy) Uhlemann; companion of John Millik; grandmother of Jaime, Trent, Melanie, Kacey, Harper and Cynthia. Family and friends will be received at **THE FRANK F. DEBOR FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES, INC.**, 1065 Brookline Blvd., 412-561-0380, on Saturday,

4-7 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held on Monday, at 11 a.m., in St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 55 Forsythe Road, Pittsburgh 15220.

[www.deborfuneralhome.com](http://www.deborfuneralhome.com)

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### RONALD L. VIOLI



Ronald L. Violi, 81, passed away peacefully on August 4, 2021, at his home in Fox Chapel, PA. His battle with serious medical issues in recent years demonstrated the courage he showed when facing all of life's challenges. Ron was a lifelong and proud Pittsburgher. At the age of 17, he left high school to join the Navy. He credited the military with instilling in him discipline



and a pursuit of excellence that served him well throughout his lifetime. He was assigned to a submarine unit, was certified in scuba, deep sea, and salvage diving. He traveled the world and was a member of the elite Underwater Demolition Team (UDT), the forerunner to the United States Navy Seal program

that exists today. After leaving the Navy, Ron returned home to Pittsburgh to marry his high school sweetheart, Patricia Marie Larkin. He shared with his children he would have been a career Navy guy, but it was the Navy or your mom, and I chose your mom. Ron's first post-Navy job was as a door-to-door salesman, and he quickly discovered he had a talent for both sales and business. Those gifts propelled him to a successful career in retail sales and management and, during the second phase of his career, as a leader in healthcare administration. Ron's professional achievements and awards are many, but the two career accomplishments of which he was most proud were The Appliance Store and being the President and CEO of Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. In 1975, Ron and his partners opened the first, The Appliance Store, in Allegheny Center Mall on the North Side of Pittsburgh. In the early days, Ron sold by day and made deliveries at night. Over the course of 15 years, The Appliance Store grew into a chain of 58 stores throughout the tristate area. And as the business and Ron prospered, he felt a deep need to share his many blessings with others. One of his first philanthropic endeavors was fundraising for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, for which he received The Pittsburgh Press Old Newsboys' Award multiple times and lead him to a job about which he was personally and professionally passionate. Ron was asked to join the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh board in 1987, and in 1998, he was asked to help turn around the financially failing Children's. Under Ron's leadership as President and CEO, the hospital didn't just get back into the black, it thrived financially. He became a tireless champion for pediatric medicine, raising tens of millions of dollars for the hospital and various pediatric causes. In 2001, that work was recognized by the Children's Board of Trustees who honored Ron and his wife with The Ronald L. and Patricia M. Violi Endowed Chair in Child Development. Toward the end of his tenure at Children's, Ron engineered the hospital's move from Oakland to its current home in Lawrenceville, PA and spearheaded the construction of the beautiful facility that currently serves not only the children of Western Pennsylvania, but children from across the globe. He often remarked that his work at Children's was the most rewarding of his life. Ron sat on numerous boards and received numerous awards and accolades during his career. But that which was most important to him was his faith and his family. A devout Catholic, he tried to attend mass daily, constantly prayed for others, and sought God's direction in all matters. Second only to his love of God was his love of family. That sense of family started with his parents and siblings and grew exponentially when he married and had children, granddaughters, and great-grandchildren. A day did not go by when Ron's kids didn't hear from him, and rare was the night that he didn't say "goodnight and God bless you." Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Edith and Chuck Violi, brother Jimmy Violi, and sister, Vicki Lyn. Married for 59 years, Ron is survived by the "love of his life" Patricia Marie Violi; his three children, Valerie Violi Satkoske (Scott), Victor Violi (Deneane), and Victoria Louise Violi (Robert) Connors; his five adoring granddaughters, Maggie Carr (Billy Hepfinger), Veronica Hannan (Daniel), Casey Carr, Rachel Violi, and Sydney Heintzinger; and his great-grandchildren, Henry, Violet James, and Arthur Hannan. Also survived by his brothers, Wesley Violi (Nancy) and Mickey Violi (Patty) and his sister-in-law, Connie Violi, and his many nieces and nephews. Friends and family will be received at **ELOISE B. KYPER FUNERAL HOME**, 2702 Mt. Royal Blvd., Glenshaw, PA on Sunday, August 8, from 5 - 8 pm and Monday, August 9, from 2-8 pm. The funeral mass will be held at Christ the King Parish, St Joseph Church, 342 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA on Tuesday, August 10, at 10 a.m. with Father Thomas Miller officiating. We ask that those who wish to attend the mass proceed directly to the church for the funeral service. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to:

The Violi Family Fund  
c/o Fund for Charitable Giving  
116 Allegheny Center  
P8-YB35-02-Z  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### GARY LEE JAMES WELSH, SR.



Age 71, passed away on Friday, August 6, 2021, of South Side Slopes. Beloved husband of 48 1/2 years to Kathleen I. (Graczyk) Welsh; loving father of Gary Lee James (Tammy) Welsh, Jr, Rae Lynn (Michael) McKown and Dane A. (Dana) Welsh; devoted pap of Brianna, Adena, Gary, III, Taylor, Riley, Cassidy, Braiden, Blaine, Brodie, Dale, Maddison, Mariah, Aliyah and Dane, Jr.; proud great-grandpap of

Catalaya; son of the late Michael and Ann Speranza; brother of William (Priscilla) Welsh, Kathleen (Jeffrey) Hurst, JoAnn (Craig) Tornow and the late Judy Welsh. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Gary served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam, coached Southside baseball for many years and was a great outdoorsman. His family Uber rides will be greatly missed. Friends will be received at the **JOHN F. SLATER FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 412-881-4100, 4201 Brownsville Road, Brentwood 15227, on Monday, August 9 from 1-3 and 5-8 p.m. where a Blessing service will be held on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. Please send condolences to [www.johnslater.com](http://www.johnslater.com).

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### DR. THOMAS D. YAWKEY, PhD



Dr. Thomas D. Yawkey, PhD, of State College, peacefully passed away on August 6, 2021 at the age of 82. He was the son of the late Daniel T. and Catherine (Hovan) Yawkey; beloved husband of the late Margret (Gillespie) Yawkey; father of Shaun N. and Brian M. (Jessica Kim) Yawkey; grandfather of Jayden Yawkey and brother of Daniel R. Yawkey. Thomas was a Professor Emeritus of 40 years at Penn State

University as well as serving as a Deacon in the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church. Family and friends will be received on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 6-8 PM at the **SAVOLSKIS-WASIK-GLENN FUNERAL HOME, INC.**, 3501 Main Street, Munhall, PA 15120, where a Panachida Service will take place at 7 PM. A Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, August 12, at 10 AM, at the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Homestead. Interment will follow at Monongahela Cemetery, North Braddock. Condolences may be left at: [www.swgfuneralhome.com](http://www.swgfuneralhome.com)

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### MARY CATHERINE HARDT YINGLING



Mary Catherine Hardt Yingling, age 90, of Mercer PA, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2021. Mary was born in Gibsonia, PA to Patricia and John Hardt. Mary graduated from Hampton High School in 1949, and then earned a Certificate from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. She became a flight attendant with Capital Airlines, based out of Washington D.C. Mary was engaged to Earl Yingling

before he was sent off to serve in the Korean War. They were married, one week after he returned from service, on New Year's Eve and were happily married for 66 years. Mary's passion for art became her livelihood and she won numerous awards in art shows in PA and FL. She was commissioned to do several large murals, taught art classes, and had her own arts and crafts store. Aside from her love of painting, she enjoyed sewing, bridge, water skiing, cooking, entertaining, and the Red Hat Society. She took much pride and dearly loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Mary was a past President of Lake Latonka Women's Club, was an active bocce player, proudly served as a Park Ranger for the Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park, was very active in 4-H and in PTAs, and was an active member in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Mary is survived by her husband, Earl Yingling, her brothers and their wives, Charles and Margaret Hardt, Donald and Pat Hardt, Rich and Peg Hardt, Clyde and Joy Hardt, and sister-in-law, Joan Hardt, her five children, Mark and Carol Yingling, Deanna and Alan Armstrong, Glenn Yingling, Dwight and Glenda Yingling, and Janeen and Roger Struthers. She is also survived by her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family. She was preceded in death by her parents, Patricia and John Hardt, and her brother, Dennis Hardt. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to **ROSE AND BLACK FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC.**, 99 Franklin Street, Stoneboro, where family and friends are welcome from 4 - 7 pm on Tuesday, August 10. A vigil service will follow visitation at 7 pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 11 am on Wednesday, August 11, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, 100 Penn Ave., Mercer, with the Very Rev. Matthew J. Kujawinski, officiating. Interment will follow at Mercer Citizens Cemetery. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.RoseAndBlackFH.com](http://www.RoseAndBlackFH.com).

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### ROBERT A. YURCO



Sergeant First Class Robert Anthony Yurco, 83, passed away peacefully surrounded by family at his Penn Hills home on August 4, 2021. Robert was a decorated veteran who served 21 years in the Army, including the Vietnam War. Robert learned and taught the value of discipline, teamwork, and investing in a cause larger than himself. Robert was a proud postal worker, a loving father, and a brave and



honorable soldier. He is survived by his children, Sandra Yurco-Kuhar, Patricia Yurco, and Jeffrey Yurco; his grandchildren, Christian and Gabriella Kuhar; his loving cousins, extended family and friends. There will be a Memorial Service and sendoff at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 10AM. Family and friends are welcome. Arrangements entrusted to **TRENZ FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

Send condolences [post-gazette.com/gb](http://post-gazette.com/gb)

### In Memoriam

### J. EDWARD BRANDIMARTI

3/14/42 - 8/7/01



Sadly missed by all who love you.

The Brandimarti Family





Maura Losch/  
Post-Gazette

By Jacey Fortin  
The New York Times

About a year ago, even as the United States was seized by protests against racism, many Americans had never heard the phrase “critical race theory.”

Now, suddenly, the term is everywhere. It makes national and international headlines and is a target for talking heads. Culture wars over critical race theory have turned school boards into battlegrounds, and in higher education, the term has been tangled up in tenure battles. Dozens of U.S. senators have branded it “activist indoctrination.”

But CRT, as it is often abbreviated, is not new. It’s a graduate-level academic framework that encompasses decades of scholarship, which makes it difficult to find a satisfying answer to the basic question:

What, exactly, is critical race theory?

First things first...

The person widely credited with coining the term is Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, a law professor at the UCLA School of Law and Columbia Law School.

Asked for a definition, she first raised a question of her own: Why is this coming up now?

“It’s only prompted interest now that the conservative right wing has claimed it as a subversive set of ideas,” she said, adding that news outlets, including The New York Times, were covering critical race theory because it has been “made the problem by a well-resourced, highly mobilized coalition of forces.”

Some of those critics seem to cast racism as a personal characteristic first and foremost and to frame discussions about racism as shaming, accusatory or divisive.

But critical race theorists say they are mainly concerned with institutions and systems.

“The problem is not bad people,” said Mari Matsuda, a law professor at the University of Hawaii who was an early developer of critical race theory. “The problem is a system that reproduces bad outcomes. It is both humane and inclusive to say, ‘We have done things that have hurt all of us, and we need to find a way out.’”

OK, so what is it?

Critical race theorists reject the philosophy of “colorblindness.” They acknowledge the stark racial disparities that have persisted in the United States despite decades of civil rights reforms, and they raise structural questions about how racist hierarchies are enforced, even among people with good intentions.

Proponents tend to under-

## CRITICAL RACE THEORY

*A brief history*



AFP via Getty Images

People hold up signs during a rally in June at the Loudoun County Government center in Leesburg, Va., protesting against critical race theory (CRT) being taught in schools.

stand race as a creation of society, not a biological reality. And many say it is important to elevate the voices and stories of people who experience racism.

But critical race theory is not a single worldview; the people who study it may disagree on some of the finer points. As Crenshaw put it, CRT is more a verb than a noun.

“It is a way of seeing, attending to, accounting for, tracing and analyzing the ways that race is produced,” she said, “the ways that racial inequality is facilitated, and the ways that our history has created these inequalities that now can be almost effortlessly reproduced unless we attend to the existence of these inequalities.”

Why is this coming up now?

Last year, after protests over the police killing of George Floyd prompted new conversations about structural racism in the United States, President Donald Trump issued a memo to federal agencies that warned against critical race theory, labeling it as “divisive,” followed by an executive order barring any training that suggested the United States

was fundamentally racist.

His focus on CRT seemed to have originated with an interview he saw on Fox News, when Christopher Rufo, a conservative scholar now at the Manhattan Institute, told Tucker Carlson about the “cult indoctrination” of critical race theory.

Use of the term skyrocketed from there, although it is often used to describe a range of activities that don’t really fit the academic definition, like acknowledging historical racism in school lessons or attending diversity trainings at work.

The Biden administration rescinded Trump’s order, but by then it had already been made into a wedge issue. Republican-dominated state legislatures have tried to implement similar bans with support from conservative groups, many of whom have chosen public schools as a battleground.

“The woke class wants to teach kids to hate each other, rather than teaching them how to read,” Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida said to the state’s board of education in June, shortly before it moved to ban critical race theory. He has

also called critical race theory “state-sanctioned racism.”

According to Crenshaw, opponents of CRT insist that acknowledging racism is itself racist.

“The rhetoric allows for racial equity laws, demands and movements to be framed as aggression and discrimination against white people,” she said.

That, she added, is at odds with what critical race theorists have been saying for four decades.

What happened four decades ago?

In 1980, Derrick Bell left Harvard Law School.

Bell, a pioneering legal scholar who died in 2011, is often described as the godfather of critical race theory.

“He broke open the possibility of bringing Black consciousness to the premiere intellectual battlefields of our profession,” Matsuda said.

His work explored (among other things) what it would mean to understand racism as a permanent feature of American life, and whether it was easier to pass civil rights legislation in the United States because those laws ultimately served the interests of white people.

After Bell left Harvard Law, a group of students there began protesting the faculty’s lack of diversity. In 1983, The Times reported, the school had 60 tenured law professors. All but one were men, and only one was Black.

The demonstrators, including Crenshaw and Matsuda, who were then graduate students at Harvard, also chafed at the limitations of their curriculum in critical legal studies, a discipline that questioned the neutrality of the American legal system, and sought to expand it to explore how laws sustained racial hierarchies.

“It was our job to rethink what these institutions were teaching us,” Crenshaw said, “and to assist those institutions in transforming them into truly egalitarian spaces.”

The students saw that stark racial inequality had persisted despite the civil rights legislation of the 1950s and ‘60s. They sought, and then developed, new tools and principles to understand why. A workshop that Crenshaw organized in 1989 helped to establish these ideas as part of a new academic framework called critical race theory.

What is critical race theory used for today?

OiYan Poon, an associate professor with Colorado State University who studies race, education and intersectionality, said that opponents of critical race theory should try to learn about it from the original sources.

SEE CRT, PAGE D-5

## A war over critical race theory is dividing this Michigan town

By Hannah Natanson  
The Washington Post

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Nevaeh Wharton was busy with homework one evening in late April when her phone pinged with a warning. A friend had texted to say something disgusting was happening in a private Snapchat group chat.

When the 16-year-old woke the next morning, another message was waiting for her: She had been discussed in the group. Pretty soon the whole story trickled out. A group of mostly white students attending two of Traverse City’s high schools, including Nevaeh’s, had held a mock slave auction on the social media app, “trading” their Black peers for money.

“I know how much I was sold for: one hundred dollars,” said Nevaeh, who is half-Black. “And in the end I was given away for free” — to the friend who first warned her about the group.

The Snapchat group, titled “slave trade,” also saw a student share the messages “all blacks should die” and “let’s start another holocaust,” according to screenshots obtained by The Washington Post. It spurred the fast-tracking of a school equity resolution that condemned racism and vowed Traverse City Area Public Schools would better educate its overwhelmingly white student body and teaching staff on how to live in a diverse country.

But what happened over the next two months revealed how a town grappling with an undeniable incident of racism can serve as fertile ground for the ongoing national war over whether racism is embedded in American society.

Events in Traverse City would demonstrate how quickly efforts to address historic disparities or present-day racial harassment in schools can become fodder for a campaign against critical race theory, fueled by white parents’ growing conviction that their children are being taught to feel ashamed of their whiteness — and their country.

The equity resolution was unprecedented in Traverse City, an idyllic lakeside vacation spot with a population of 16,000 that is more than 90% white and politically split between red and blue. The two-page document, inspired by nationwide protests in the wake of George Floyd’s death last

SEE MICHIGAN, PAGE D-5



## Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

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# Getting school buses on the road

As perennial and predictable as the start of school is the shortage of drivers needed to get students there.

And it's leaving us to wonder about the future of the ubiquitous yellow school bus.

Transportation companies that provide service to school districts are repeating themselves: There aren't enough drivers to meet the need.

The woeful cries come at a particularly ironic moment: After a year of education that featured off-site learning due to a deadly pandemic, families and school officials have been looking forward to a fall start of school that would be held, well, at school. Five days a week.

But, again, can we get the kids there?

The largest school district in the region, Pittsburgh Public, has added contracts with charter companies to provide service. The district has redesignated a swath of students as "walkers." More kids will be riding Port Authority buses. And, still, there is doubt that these measures are enough.

The problem is pervasive, locally and nationally. Some contractors have taken to erecting billboards and marquee signs that beg for driving applicants.

Let's face it: the work isn't all that attractive to the typical job hunter. Bus driving is generally a part-time position that requires a background check, a commercial driver's license and a willingness to work a split day in most cases, morning then afternoon. The drivers must be ready to deal with passengers who can be rambunctious and weather that is unpredictable. And their cargo is of the highest value. In short, bus driving is a demanding job.

The problem is exacerbated by the reality that many drivers are retirees — older people who now are concerned about the health implications of COVID-19 and its variants.

The conundrum isn't really much of a conundrum, though. It's basic



Getty Images/iStockphoto

economics. The financial gain associated with bus driving is outweighed by the detractions (and the distractions.)

The answer is simple but carries a price tag. School districts need to partner with transportation companies that actually are working to entice prospective drivers. Signing bonuses, wage boosts, free CDL classes, and an attractive benefits package should be on the table. So, too, should school districts consider getting back into the transportation business. The vast majority of districts in Pennsylvania contract busing service with third-party companies.

All of this will cost more, and those costs will be passed on to taxpayers. But what is the alternative? Some school districts simply aren't walkable. Some districts have zero proximity to public transportation. Most parents don't want to operate a daily shuttle service. And even if that option were reasonable for some, the specter of inequity must be factored: Many parents can't, even if they would want to, provide their own transportation to and from school for their children.

There is all but uniform consensus that, for most students, the ideal educational model is one that puts kids inside a bricks-and-mortar classroom in their home school districts. Parents had a taste of at-home learning and hybrid models, and they've expressed in certain terms they want their children in school this year.

Now, to get the wheels on the bus rolling...

## U.S. Attorney picks represent 'firsts'

The slate of nominees for U.S. attorney posts, proposed by President Joe Biden last month, is an inspiring set of firsts for the country — and a panel that will boost the number of Black Americans in these positions of power and responsibility within the national justice system.

Mr. Biden nominated eight prospective U.S. attorneys across the country. They would be leaders within the Justice Department, which is headed by Attorney General Merrick Garland. The Justice Department's 93 U.S. attorneys are tasked with federal criminal prosecutions in their respective districts.

If confirmed by the Senate, the nominees would oversee offices in the District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York and Washington state. Many of the nominees are "firsts" — the first Black or female attorneys to lead their districts, reports the Biden administration.

It is significant and purposeful that this initial batch of U.S. attorney nominees represents firsts. It reflects the administration's interest in and commitment to diversity, especially at a time when the nation is focused on criminal justice reform and especially reform involving racial inequity within the system.

The White House said in a statement that the eight nominees were "chosen for their devotion to enforcing the law, their professionalism, their experience and credentials in this field, their dedication to pursuing equal justice for all, and their commitment to the independence of

the Department of Justice."

More nominees are to come, including for the key solicitor general role.

Among the nominees announced in late July: Rachael Rollins, the district attorney in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, who would be the first Black woman to serve as U.S. attorney in that state; Erek Barron, a current state lawmaker who has served as a prosecutor and as a policy adviser to Mr. Biden on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and would be the first Black U.S. attorney in the District of Maryland; Zachary Myers, who specializes in national security and cyber matters as a federal prosecutor in Maryland and who the White House said would be the first Black U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Indiana; Clifford Johnson, who would be the first Black lawyer to lead the Northern District of Indiana after spending nearly 35 years in that office; Justice Department environmental lawyer Vanessa Waldref, who would be the first woman to run the U.S. attorney's office in the Eastern District of Washington; and Nicholas Brown, who has been a federal prosecutor and general counsel to the governor, would be the first Black lawyer to run the Western District of Washington, which includes Seattle.

U.S. attorneys serve at the president's pleasure and are routinely nominated with a recommendation from a home-state senator. The Biden administration is on the right track in filling posts with qualified individuals who also reflect the rich diversity of the nation.



### Letters to the editor

## Climate needs collective policy action

In his op-ed (July 25, "How can an individual help fight climate change?"), Paul Sullivan describes many actions that could reduce individual greenhouse emissions. Yet he concludes pessimistically that "...it doesn't matter, that it's too late." Mr. Sullivan misses the essential point — that we need collective climate action.

In fact, it is too late if we rely solely on individual carbon footprint reductions. Instead, we need policies that work at a scale that matches the magnitude of the climate challenge.

The best way to eliminate something we don't want is to make it more expensive. Small wonder that economists and scientists widely agree the single most-effective climate policy is carbon pricing.

The best way for an individual to fight climate change is to join with other like-minded individuals in collective action. For me that organization is Citizens' Climate Lobby, which has advocated carbon pricing since 2007.

There has never been a better opportunity to achieve policy change. Public opinion on climate has shifted dramatically over the past several years. Climate bills are being proposed on both sides of the aisle and legislation is likely to pass this year.

Now is the time for action. Join a climate organization. Call or write your members of Congress. Tell them carbon pricing is essential to meet the climate challenge.

If we rely on individual carbon footprint reductions, it truly is too late. But if we work together for policy action, we can assure a livable future for all.

ROBERT R. MITCHELL  
Murrysville

infrastructure package being debated in Congress are based on "misrepresentations or misunderstandings of the actual science." It takes a hefty amount of gall to not only use cherry-picked, debunked climate change and disaster research to inform life-and-death policy decisions, but also to ignore the rising number of extreme weather events harshly impacting your own constituents.

The infrastructure package represents our best chance for real, meaningful action to protect our communities from climate disasters. We simply cannot afford to allow climate deniers like Sen. Toomey to stand in the way of that action.

Our future literally depends on it.

MATTHEW STEPP  
Executive vice president and  
chief of staff  
PennFuture

### We welcome your opinion

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

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

Email: letters@post-gazette.com At the present time, the Post-Gazette is only accepting letters electronically transmitted.

Submissions for Perspectives and Sunday Insight may be sent to [opinion@post-gazette.com](mailto:opinion@post-gazette.com)

the difference is in excess of \$150 million in 2019, and constitutes Nutting's profit. I'll repeat that. It is very likely that Bob Nutting profited over \$150 million from the Pirates in 2019.

Where is the unlevel playing field? The only people getting played are the people of Allegheny County. The people of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County paid for PNC Park and continue to pay the Pirates through sales tax, and taxes collected and distributed by the Regional Asset District. It is time for our representatives to act and ask where all of our tax dollars are going? If Nutting refuses, then the Pittsburgh Pirates should not receive another dollar from RAD.

CHRISTOPHER SHEPHERD  
Upper St. Clair

### Disclose finances

Bob Nutting is deceiving the people of Pittsburgh and residents of Allegheny County. Nutting, according to Jason Mackey's article, (July 13, "MLB commissioner Rob Manfred calls Bob Nutting a 'consistent voice for competitive balance'"), said [baseball] "is the most unlevel playing field in all of sports." According to Statista.com, in 2019 the Pirates had \$273 million in revenue and a payroll of \$63 million. That difference is \$210 million.

It is time for the Pirates to disclose their finances to the people of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Even if there are \$50 million in other costs,

### Air quality

In an article (July 20, "Pa. Sen. Toomey dismisses sweeping federal investment into infrastructure to guard against extreme weather events"), Pennsylvania's junior senator boldly claimed that climate science does not conclusively show a rise in extreme weather events in the United States.

Sen. Toomey must not have been paying attention to air quality advisories put in place recently across Pennsylvania as uncontrolled wildfires in the western United States spewed smoke across the country. He must have missed the historic heatwave in the Pacific Northwest earlier this month that killed hundreds of people, a weather event that scientists claimed was "virtually impossible" without climate change.

The list goes on: nearly a foot of rain fell in a span of a few hours last month in Bucks County, forcing the county commissioners there to issue a disaster declaration. From 2010 to 2020 alone, Pennsylvania experienced 37 extreme weather events that cost the state up to \$10 billion in damage, according to the Biden administration.

Sen. Toomey said calls to tackle the climate crisis through the historic \$1 trillion

## Pittsburgh deserves better air quality

You recently published an article about Port Authority's transit planning for the next 25 years (July 27, "Port Authority hosts first in-person open house for NEXTransit feedback"). I was at the event — in fact, you even published a photo of me. What the image doesn't show is my alarm about the very casual progress the Port Authority is making toward transit electrification.

As anyone breathing the air in Pittsburgh in recent weeks should know, global warming is upon us and the threat is existential. Pittsburgh must do its part to reduce emissions and our government agencies should be taking the lead.

Port Authority's proposed date of fleet electrification (2045) is slower than its peers. New York City has committed to buying no new internal combustion



engine vehicles after 2028 and Philly's transit agency, SEPTA, has already transitioned its entire fleet to 100% hybrid and electric buses. (Would you believe me if I told you that Shenzhen, China, has already transitioned its 16,000 buses to all electric?) Pittsburgh — a city/region known for its dangerous air quality — deserves better air quality now, and we all deserve a livable planet.

Port Authority is already a regional leader in improving air quality by getting people on buses. Let's encourage the Port Authority to do even better by expediting its plans to electrify and by providing firm details about how it intends to do it.

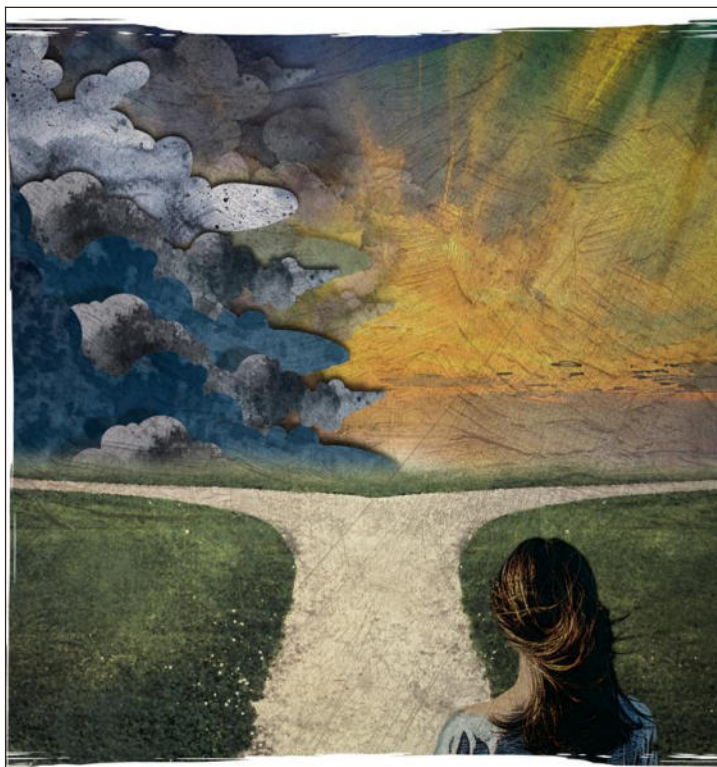
The time is now.  
GREG SCHAFFER  
Bloomfield



## Sunday Perspectives

Against the current  
KEITH C. BURRIS

# Distinguishing



Jennifer Kundrach/Post-Gazette

I have been thinking lately about the late actor Paul Newman. He was a true and great artist and an even better human being.

I am dating myself. Newman has been gone almost 13 years and was out of the motion picture business for a few years before that. His interests turned to race car driving and philanthropy and a bit to politics. Young people who know his name today know he made spaghetti sauce.

But I came across a Newman interview, with James Lipton of the Actor's Studio, that showed him to be two things: He was a total filmmaker with a deep and comprehensive vision of the tools and possibilities of storytelling in the medium of film. (Newman was a director and producer as well as an actor and he always knew where the camera was.) And he was an utterly unpretentious person.

When asked the key to his long marriage to Joanne Woodward (whom he said was the better actor of the two), or his success as a performer and craftsman, or the success of his salad dressings, with which he funded so much charity work, he almost always gave the same answer: luck.

He said: "I am a great believer in luck — good luck, bad luck, so-so luck."

It's an interesting statement because it seems so simple, and yet it's actually hard to wrap one's head around.

What does it mean exactly? Are most of the good, or bad, things that happen to us, simply a matter of accident or chance?

Fate is a more noble word, a more faithful word and a more stoical word.

But it still leaves us rather hapless and helpless. Where does human agency come into play?

Perhaps in our *response* to luck, good or bad: good looks, wit, strength, passion. Or, polio, Parkinson's, partial blindness, partial paralysis, Asperger's, fear itself.

Maybe it's not the lotto ticket that matters but the way each of us spends whatever we win.

Newman was admirable because he used his good looks not to cruise along in leading man parts, but to try to stretch his talent and try new things, a fair number of which failed.

After the salad dressing hit, he used the profits, all of them, to build the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, for children with serious illnesses, and other camps like it.

I recall, from when my family and I lived in Connecticut, that Newman and Woodward were regarded by fellow residents of the state much more as neighbors than Hollywood stars — the good folks down the road. They were rooted Nutmeggers.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp was in eastern rural Ashford, Conn. And Newman was a constant presence there, not merely a patron. He was a fun uncle and almost a pastor (a very irreverent one) to sick kids.

The Newmans lived, modestly, in the western part of

the state. They saved and ran the Westport Country Playhouse and lent their names and money to local candidates, YMCAs — all manner of needs and causes. Upstanding liberals some said. Just kind people, said others. Or, maybe, sagacious and grateful custodians of luck.

Luck and timing are half the game, whether the game is a small business, a political campaign or a marriage. Luck, good luck or bad.

The other half is how we respond. How we play the cards. And that's the only part we can control.

Abraham Lincoln, who was unlucky in marriage is reported to have said of such bad luck: Hug it all the tighter.

And then I think of Robert Kennedy's answer to fate. Not so much his response to his brother's death but his spontaneous reaction to Martin Luther King's. Everyone who has seen the footage of his remarks in

1968 is moved by it. He pled for understanding and forgiveness and an end to division and hatred in America. Don't choose anger and bitterness he told his Black brothers and sisters.

His response, itself, was an act of luck, or grace. Instead of babble, he spoke "... wisdom through the awful grace of God."

Maybe it's *all* luck or grace. Bobby Kennedy was not a particularly nice man, generally, but in a moment that mattered, something noble rose in him.

And although his death was as ill-fated as King's and Lincoln's, his life mattered.

How to handle luck, good or bad? It's sort of the whole deal.

In yoga, TM, and other variations of the Vedic traditions, gurus talk about a "mantra." It's not a slogan or personal bumper sticker. It's a point of meditation.

Mine, lately, has been "And the wisdom to distinguish."

It's taken from a prayer everyone thinks he knows, by Reinhold Niebuhr.

In its original form it runs: "God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,

Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other."

The second part of the prayer, almost never quoted, is just as important and contains these words:

"Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time,

Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,

Taking, as Jesus did, This sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it, ..."

That's another distinction.

To distinguish between the world as it is and as we would have it is not easy. To distinguish between good luck and bad luck, and to navigate both, is the whole deal.

*Keith C. Burris is the former editor, vice president and editorial director of Block Newspapers (burriscolumn@gmail.com).*

My take  
RUTH ANN DAILEY

## Group identity might be hiding our flaws

The man was working up a lather, fuming about the "ungodly" people he'd recently had a conflict with.

We were at summer Bible camp or some other true-believers-only setting — rather like today's ideological and political "bubbles" and potentially just as toxic.

The man narrated the back-and-forth of the conflict, culminating with the non-believers' harsh rejection of him and his message. He proclaimed triumphantly that this was what it meant to "suffer for your faith."

It was the first time I remember assessing someone's "testimony" and thinking, "Or maybe you were just being a jerk."

I'm seeing this pattern more often these days, in worlds far from my teenage religious milieu.

We hear lots of discussion about how the hyper-focus on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or other group identification is driving us apart as a society. And it is.

It is also making us worse as individuals. The more we experience our individual identity as bounded up with a particular group or cause, the more likely we become to interpret fraught interactions with someone from a different group as evidence of their bias.

But what if it's evidence, instead, of our own shortcomings or flaws? What if, in any given conflict between people from different groups, someone is just being a normal human jerk? Or both parties are?

Consider the zealous fellow from my youth. When he talked to non-believers about Jesus, he interpreted their negative reaction as proof of his righteousness. What if he'd created the problem through bad timing or emotional insensitivity?

If he'd considered the possibility that their pushback was reasonable, he might have spent productive time working on his communication skills or empathy. Instead he condemned them, while preening.

This isn't "shooting the messenger" for bringing bad news, but it's close. It's rejecting the message because the messenger is a different religion or race or gender or whatever. When we do this, we miss potentially important, even life-changing, information that we might really need to hear.

At this moment in history, it seems that any fraught exchange is immediately assumed to be due to bias.

In a Substack article titled "What Happens When Doctors Can't Tell the Truth?," journalist Katie Herzog tells of anguished medical professionals from around the country who meet each month via Zoom to discuss the "deeply illiberal ideology" that is poisoning their workplaces.

They are "largely politically progressive[s]" devoted to correcting racial inequities that have historically corrupted the practice of medicine, but they are themselves now stymied by racial politics.

Some say they've been "reported to their departments for criticizing residents for being late." They've "stopped giving trainees honest feedback for fear of retaliation." They've seen residents "refuse to treat patients based on their race or their perceived conservative politics."

But what if young professionals need to be taught punctuality and respect for the value of other people's time?

What if they need constructive criticism?

What if they should treat all patients, regardless of race or political persuasion?

They do, and they should. Now consider the opposite perspective. What if doctors called out for criticizing their trainees did so in a brusque, dehumanizing way?

What if they humiliated their students in such a way that it hindered learning rather than helped?

We can say unequivocally that medical students or professionals who "refuse to treat patients" based on race or political persuasion need to be strongly reprimanded or told to find a different line of work because they are betraying medicine's noble ideal.

As for the other interactions, we can't know because we weren't there. And the people who were themselves part of the exchange may not know either.

To "know" anything about any significant human interaction requires reflection and self-examination. The conclusions we reach may prove elusive as time passes or as we and our tormentors change.

This is certain, though: Groupthink won't bring us any closer to social harmony — or to individual maturity. We will be and remain jerks.

ruthanndailey@hotmail.com

## National perspective

DAVID M. SHRIBMAN

# Trump Republicans eschew 11th Commandment

The Republican Party is considering repealing the 11th Commandment.

The first 10 came from the Book of Exodus and were greeted by what the Bible described as "the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking." The 11th Commandment — Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican — became gospel after a speech Ronald Reagan gave in the Lafayette Hotel in Long Beach, Calif., on April 1, 1967. That, too, was greeted with thunderous applause, although there were no reports of lightning flashes or mountain smoking. Those would not hit California until decades later.

But the Reagan ethos expressed before the California Republican Assembly — the sounding of a trumpet, politically at least — helped account for Republican victories in seven of the 10 presidential races that followed, which we sometimes forget is a record roughly comparable to the power of the New Deal coalition beginning in 1932.

"The Republican Party, both in this state and nationally, is a broad party," said Reagan in his first year as governor of California and already spoken of as a future president. "There is room in our tent for many views; indeed, the divergence of views is one of our strengths. Let no one, however, interpret this to mean compromise of basic philosophy or that we will be all things to all people for political expediency."

That speech was more than a half-century ago, and it occurred during the week when the Beatles posed with wax figures from Madame Tussauds for the

cover of their "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album and when Jimi Hendrix set his guitar on fire for the first time. (He was hospitalized for burns.)

Today, the "big tent" philosophy growing out of the Reagan nostrum, expressed many times but seldom as succinctly or as forcefully as in that early speech, is under attack as never before. The House Freedom Caucus is agitating to expel Reps. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Adam Kinzinger of Illinois — the only two Republicans who agreed to join the House committee investigating the insurrection at the Capitol in January — from the party.

This move comes two months after a Quinnipiac University national poll showed that 85% of Republicans said they prefer political candidates who mostly agree with former President Donald J. Trump. A majority of Americans expressed a preference for candidates who mostly disagree with Trump.

In truth, the two representatives mostly agree with Trump and voted that way. Cheney sided with the president 93% of the time, higher than New York lawmaker Rep. Elise Stefanik, who replaced her as House Republican Conference chair after recording a 78% Trump loyalty record. Kinzinger voted with Trump 99% of the time in his first two years, although his record dropped to a still robust 84% in the second half of the Trump term.

The move to eject the two from the GOP conference and perhaps threaten their committee assignments is being led by Rep. Andy Biggs of Arizona, who argues that the two agreed to "join the Democrats on a witch hunt" against members of their own

party. He characterized them as "two spies"; they are among the 10 Republicans who voted to convict Trump in the second round of impeachment.

Party purges rarely succeed. The most famous effort was undertaken by Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, in trying to convert the Democrats into a liberal party in 1938, targeted Democratic Sens. Walter George of Georgia, Ellison "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina, Millard Tydings of Maryland and Guy Gillette of Iowa, all of whom prevailed anyway. The only party purge in modern times that succeeded was undertaken during World War I by Woodrow Wilson, who employed what he called an "acid test" of loyalty, used mostly against fellow Southerners, "thereby," according to biographer John Milton Cooper Jr., "muffling charges of outside interference."

But overall, that has not been the way either party has proceeded, and certainly it is not the Reagan formula. In 1986, the Republicans nominated Rep. Ed Zschau, who had a relatively low rating from the American Conservative Union (46 out of 100), for the Senate. The weekend before the election, Reagan praised Zschau at a Republican event, saying, "Here in California, we're lucky to have a standard-bearer who personifies enterprise and creativity, a candidate who young people can identify with and who can lead this party and our country into the 21st century."

Zschau lost, but Reagan's "big tent" concept endured. Republicans rarely have broken the 11th Commandment, conceived by California GOP chairman Gaylord Parkinson but popularized

by Reagan. Here, from that 1967 Long Beach speech, is the essence of the Reagan ethos:

Within our tent, there will be many arguments and divisions over approach and method and even those we choose to implement our philosophy. Seldom, if ever, will we raise a cheer signifying unanimous approval of the decisions reached.

Reagan urged party unity and party discipline. But he also argued that "unity does not require unanimity of thought."

Today's Republicans are in one of their periodic struggles for the soul of their grand old party. It happened in 1952, when Dwight Eisenhower faced Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio, and in 1964, when Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona faced Gov. Nelson Rockefeller of New York, and in 1976, when Reagan sought to unseat President Gerald Ford. But throughout these struggles, the former Democrat and New Dealer, who in 1980 would win the White House, hewed to his views about how Republicans should treat each other.

Trump is the most significant, and most powerful, Republican figure since Reagan. The 45th president seldom spoke about the 40th, but Reagan anticipated the rise of a Trump-like figure.

"Our 11th Commandment," Reagan said in 1967, "is perhaps more profound than we realize." More profound, perhaps — but more endangered than he might have imagined.

*David M. Shribman is executive editor emeritus of the Post-Gazette and a nationally syndicated columnist. He is scholar-in-residence at Carnegie Mellon University (dshribman@post-gazette.com).*



Maria Wheeler-Dubas

## Three keys to having productive vaccine conversations

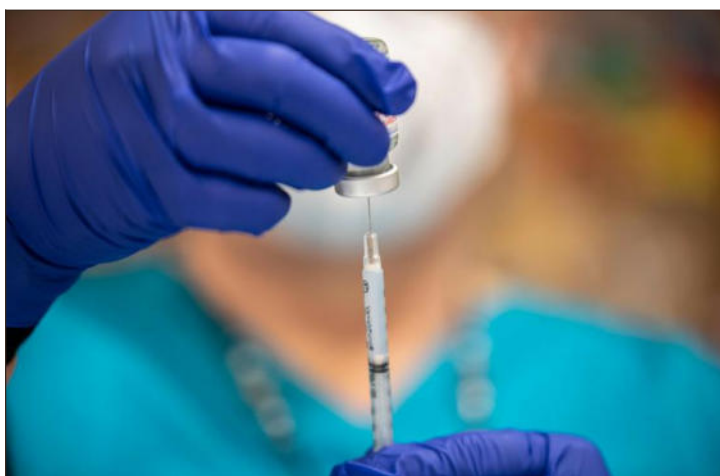
Currently, the U.S. is stalled with about 50% of the total eligible population fully vaccinated for COVID-19. However, many of the individuals who are currently refusing the vaccine are vaccine-hesitant (not outright anti-vaccine) and they do indeed want to hear honest, clear answers about vaccine safety and efficacy — particularly from trusted doctors, scientists and other such experts.

Certainly we are not all vaccine scientists or epidemiologists ourselves, and if we are not, we should not presume to have that level of expertise. However, many of us in scientific fields have increasingly found ourselves in conversations about vaccines, particularly with those around us who have concerns about them.

Here is the trick, though: knowing vaccine information is one thing, but communicating that information effectively and empathetically is quite another matter entirely. Most researchers are not trained in science communication strategies outside of building posters or delivering talks organized in the manner of introduction, methods, results and conclusion. Neither of these options, though, are particularly helpful when engaging non-scientist friends and family.

The counterintuitive situation is that we as scientists need to share work often and with those outside of our field, but we typically are not properly trained to do so. Science communication is its own field with strategies, theories, models, and data; and just like any other skill, it usually relies on practice and experience. Plus in the case of discussing vaccines, we have the added high emotion and rapidly changing information/misinformation availability complicating the possibility of a data-based conversation.

I would like to offer the following suggestions to my fellow scientists for how to engage effectively in those conversations. Keep in mind above all that science communication is just as much an exercise in humanity as it is a practice of making com-



Sergio Flores/Getty Images  
A nurse fills up a syringe with the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination site at a senior center on March 29 in San Antonio, Texas.

plex information accessible. Science is rarely neutral, despite our best efforts, and understanding that we humans are emotional beings, rather than strictly rational beings, will shape conversations differently.

### 1. Start with an empathetic relationship.

What is your relationship to the person you are trying to connect with? Are you the person who only pops up on their Facebook to disagree with their posts? Are you a neighbor? A family member? Authentic communication occurs when there is a mutual sense of trust and respect, and though we logistically can't all be best friends, that still means we as scientists must put in the work to cultivate conversation environments that feel safe.

Enter every conversation with empathy and respect. I cannot stress this enough: we must be empathetic and understanding. Parents fear for the safety of their children, families fear for loved ones, individuals fear for themselves and their communities. The average person just wants to do what is safest and healthiest for themselves and their families. Let your conversation partner know you care. Don't mock or belittle their fears, and never resort to frustrated name calling, whether in person or on social media.

Can we correct misinformation? Of course! But do so gently

and respectfully, and give them the benefit of the doubt. We humans respond to intellectual threats in a very similar way that we would a physical predator threat — fight, flight, or freeze. Try to avoid leading your friend to become defensive and shut down.

Listen carefully before responding. What is the real root of someone's hesitation or fear? Is it a fear of "new" science? Is it a misunderstanding of the science? Or is it a fear of the politics behind the pandemic? Listen carefully to what someone is saying, and don't assume you already know their reasoning. Repeat what you are hearing from before responding to ensure you truly understand.

Be humble. Everyone you meet is an expert in something. Their expertise may be something wildly different from your own expertise, but they are still an expert in something. Treat them that way.

Don't expect to change minds in one conversation. You might, and that's great! But that's usually not how we humans work.

### 2. Mind your language.

In particular, be mindful of your jargon. As you address folks' concerns, be aware of the language you are using. Some jargon is unavoidable in this case, but whittle away at it where you can. The trouble is, we often don't know when we

are using scientific jargon, so when in doubt, default to a fifth-grade proficiency level (not an insult — we all forget things).

Have your scientific explanations planned out before the conversations start. Before you even try to explain an mRNA vaccine to someone, plan out your explanation of it. What background information will your listener need first? What do they need to understand and what would they like to understand? How will you explain vaccine components and why they matter? Explaining them accessibly in the moment is exceedingly difficult, and it may feel belittling to your listener if you are just dumping a heavy stream of new information and fancy words on them. Plan it out ahead of time.

Don't muddy the waters. Every corner of our digital and in-person world is already full of opinions, information, disinformation and misinformation. Be clear and honest on you know and what you don't know. Scientists need to maintain credibility, and being open and honest is one of the best ways to maintain that.

### 3. Embrace storytelling.

People remember stories up to 20 times better than facts. Of course, as scientists, we know that anecdotes are not data, but stories are a way to make connections with others. It's a human process. At this point, we all have stories about the pandemic — whether our own or about a loved one. Those stories can help create the emotional bridges that lead to deeper conversations. Lead with a story, support with the data.

These three key items will be a huge help, but remember there are some folks you will never reach. That is not a reflection of your abilities. Focus your energy on those who need a compassionate ear — let them get their fears out in the open. Then empathetically help where you can.

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Greg Fulton

## Remembering a series for the ages

They often say when you die that your life flashes before you. I've always felt that one of those memories will be of Bill Mazeroski of the Pittsburgh Pirates running the bases and jumping with glee after hitting a home run in the bottom of the ninth of the 1960 World Series and giving the Pirates their first crown in 35 years. It was magical, unexpected and truly a miracle that the Pirates beat the mighty Yankees.

While many view the 1969 Amazin' Mets as the most astonishing team to win the World Series, I always felt that they didn't hold a candle to the 1960 Pirates.

The Pirates had not played in a World Series since 1927 and had not won the championship since 1925. In comparison they faced a team that had been in the World Series 21 times and won 16 over that period. On top of this, the Pirates were facing one of the most formidable teams in baseball history that had four future Hall-of-Famers including Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra and Whitey Ford, along with many others who would be considered for the Hall.

In World Series history the 1960 contest still holds the record for the greatest run differential with the Yankees scoring 55 runs and the Pirates 27 over the seven-game series. To reflect how astounding this really is, the 1996 World Series is the only other where the team that scored significantly more runs lost (the Yankees beat the Braves in 1996 with Atlanta outscoring the Yankees by only eight more runs over the six-game series).

For many, the seventh game was predetermined. The Yankees had trounced the Pirates 12-0 the day before. How could the Pirates come back after an embarrassing loss where they were not only shut out but routed? For many such a thrashing would be demoralizing and bouncing back less than 24 hours later would have been incomprehensible.

The seventh game though was at Pittsburgh's Forbes Field. The field gave the Pirates a slight advantage not only because of the fans, but its condition. Much like the city and its fans, Forbes Field was hardscrabble. The Pirates understood their field and the problems with it which gave them an edge.

The condition of the field played an important role in the Pirates win. In the eighth inning a routine ground ball hit by Bill Virdon of the Pirates to shortstop Tony Kubek struck a rock or pebble in the infield. As Kubek leaned down to field the ball, it popped up and hit him in the throat. Instead of Kubek turning a double play and ending the inning, the injury was serious enough that he needed to leave the game. Years later, Kubek described the infield at Forbes Field on that day as being like Normandy, half sand, half pebbles. The Pirates went on to score four more runs in the inning after the errant ground ball to take a 9-7 lead.

The drama did not end there as the Yankees tied the score in the top of the ninth inning, setting up one of the most memorable World Series endings ever.

In the bottom of the ninth the Pirates lead-off hitter was their second baseman, Bill Mazeroski. Maz was only 23 when he stepped to the plate and faced Ralph Terry of the Yankees. Although young, he didn't shrink from the challenge and slammed a 1-0 pitch over the left field wall. It was the first walk-off series-ending home run in World Series history.

You couldn't ask for a more unlikely Series hero than Bill Mazeroski. He was a great fielder but a light hitter. He hit for singles and averaged only 10 home runs per season. The chances of this quiet, modest man emerging as the savior of the Pirates in the World Series and hitting of all things not one, but two home runs (half of the Pirates home runs), in the overall series was remarkable. The view that heroes step forward in the time of need was true with Maz.

The unlikelihood of the Pirates winning the series was further reflected in the vote on the World Series MVP. It is the only time in history that a Series MVP was awarded to someone on the losing team. Bobby Richardson of the Yankees, who had a great series, received it. Mazeroski would have been a sure bet for the trophy if not for the fact that the writers took the vote prior to the ninth inning and his epic home run.

The 1960 Pirates are proof that miracles do occur but also that perseverance, self-confidence, and determination help to make them happen. It also helps though to have a few pebbles and rocks in the infield.

*Greg Fulton is the president of the Colorado Motor Carriers Association and lives in Denver. He grew up in New Castle and has been a lifelong Pirates fan.*

Kaitlin (Guarascio) Cooke

## For the People Act is needed to protect the right to vote

Amongst the chaos and tragedy of the pandemic, many people are not paying attention to the urgent need to pass the "For the People Act," aimed to protect voters' rights and ensure fair elections. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, I feel responsible to frame the importance of this crucial legislation in terms all of my fellow Yinzers will understand, so let's think of this as the "For the Pittsburgh Act" instead.

As a proud military spouse in a bipartisan household, I don't care to frame things in terms of Republicans versus Democrats. However, unfortunately, that's impossible not to do when explaining the need for the passage of this bill to uphold our democracy. Imagine the Democrats are the Steelers who just beat the Baltimore Ravens (Republicans) in the 2020 Super Bowl (presidential election). In hope of a better chance at victory, the Ravens then attempt to change the rules of the game so that many of the Steelers players are unable to play in the 2021 AFC Championship (mid-term elections).

Since this last presidential election, Republicans have enacted more than 30 laws, across 18 states, deemed "anti-voter" by the non-partisan Voting Rights Lab. These laws are strategically designed to make it more difficult for young people, people of color, and lower-income Americans to vote. Think of the Steelers as the 2020 presidential Democratic electorate made up of 36% non-white, 49% people under age 50

and 53% low-income voters. The Ravens (the Republican electorate with 12% non-white, 38% young, and 44% low-income voters) design the following laws to inhibit Steelers from playing (Democrats from voting):

**Voter Registration:** Republicans are passing and introducing bills to disallow online registration, automatic voter registration and same-day voter registration — all modes of registration predominantly aiding non-white and low-income voters, who are statistically less likely to vote regularly and thus more likely to be taken off the registration rolls without being informed. In our NFL parallel, the Steelers would be more likely than Ravens to be purged from the roster and then given limited windows to "register to play." Not fair... right?

**Voter Identification (ID):** Approximately 17% (1.2 million) of Black youth and 8% (600,000) of Latino youth, compared to less than 5% of white youth (ages 18-29), reported not voting because they didn't have the proper ID. Many states do not deem student IDs as valid, yet gun permits are accepted. The elderly, disabled and low-income voters are also negatively impacted by voter ID requirements, as barriers to obtaining ID may include not having a driver's license or any state-issued ID card, while public assistance, state employee, and veteran ID cards are not accepted as valid forms for voting. Though voter ID laws cost some states millions of dollars, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) calls them "a solution in search of

a problem," recently citing a study indicating only 31 cases of voter impersonation among the more than 1 billion ballots cast since the year 2000.

**Early Voting:** Lower income voters and non-white voters are more likely to vote early because of a lack of flexibility in their work schedules and travel options. Republicans are passing laws to narrow windows of early voting, thereby inhibiting these likely Democratic voters from voting. Imagine if the Ravens likewise inhibited non-white players and those from low-income families from playing in the first quarter of the game. Not fair... right?

**Vote by Mail:** As of June 2021, 11 states have passed laws making it more difficult to vote by mail. In the 2020 election, nearly two-thirds of Democratic voters chose to vote by mail compared to only one-third of Republican voters. I believe this was largely due to an oddly unexpected partisan division between those who viewed COVID-19 as a life-threatening versus those who did not.

**Voter Drop Boxes:** There have been a significant number of state bills aiming to eliminate or reduce the number of voter drop boxes in Democrat-dominant precincts, requiring significant travel and expense to vote via drop box or vote in-person even if voters aren't comfortable doing so or are not able to do so because of work obligations, disability, etc... Our NFL parallel here? Looks like the Ravens have shut down some major roads on select Steelers' routes to Heinz

Field, inhibiting them to physically attend the AFC Championship game.

**Criminalization at the Voter Polls:** Finally, perhaps most headline worthy, some states have made it illegal for poll workers to administer food and water to voters in lines. This, coupled with bills aiming to reduce the number of available polling options and the amount of time the polls are open, equates to even longer lines than we saw in 2020. Worse yet, a recent Stanford University study determined voters in neighborhoods with more than 90% non-white residents waited an average of 51 minutes to vote at 7 p.m. on Election Day, while voters in white neighborhoods waited an average of only 6 minutes. So, what if the Ravens banned the Steelers from providing their players with water during the game? You'd be pretty upset, right?

My fellow Pittsburgh friends and Americans, now is the time to get angry... not on behalf of our beloved Steeler nation, but on behalf of our sacred nation — the great United States of America. Call Sen. Bob Casey and Sen. Pat Toomey and ask them to vote "Yes" for the For the People Act and "Yes" to eliminate the filibuster impeding the bill's passage.

*Kaitlin (Guarascio) Cooke is a Pittsburgh native who worked on the Senate Finance Committee to aid in drafting the Affordable Care Act, served on President Biden's health policy working group, and is a leader of the national Women for Biden-Harris.*



# A war over critical race theory is dividing this Michigan town

MICHIGAN, FROM D-1

year, suggested more training for teachers and adding overlooked viewpoints to the school system's libraries and curriculum.

Although at first it drew vocal support — especially from families and children of color — it has since inspired equally vehement opposition, led by mostly white, conservative parents who contend that the resolution amounts to critical race theory in disguise. The theory, known as CRT, is a decades-old academic framework that holds racism is systemic in America, but which has become a catchall phrase conservatives wield to oppose equity work in schools.

At base, the conflict roiling Traverse City stems from two ways of viewing the world, and the town.

In interviews, children of color in Traverse City reported enduring years of harassment in the classroom and on the playing field. Black, Native American and LGBTQ students said casual racism, sexism and homophobia form part of daily life. Some white children said they have witnessed this, too.

The Snapchat incident was unsurprising to them: “I was more surprised that somebody found out about it and it got to the news,” said Eve Mosqueda, 15, who is Native American and Mexican, adding that other kids throughout elementary school had asked her if she lived in a teepee.

But white parents say their hometown was never racist — at least not until an obsession with race began infecting the school system through its embrace of CRT, an allegation school officials have denied. Now, these parents say, their children are coming home from school feeling ostracized for their conservatism and worried they must adhere to a liberal agenda to earn good grades on their assignments. The

parents declined to make their children available for interviews, saying the students were either not interested or feared being labeled racist for sharing their beliefs.

“We don’t, not even for a second, think about race,” said Darcie Pickren, 67, a vocal leader of the anti-CRT movement who is white, with Irish and Native American ancestry, and two of whose children graduated from the school system. “We never would. And I think that this is opening a can of worms and we are not going to be able to go back.”

Added Sally Roeser, 44, a white mother of two who graduated from Traverse City public schools: “We were all brought up not to take someone’s race into consideration. That’s what we’re guaranteed in America.”

The Snapchat scandal drew intense local media coverage, widespread outrage and, pretty soon, investigations from Traverse City Area Public Schools and the Grand Traverse County prosecutor’s office — which culminated in the recommendation that the students in the “slave trade” chat receive counseling and empathy training.

It also meant that Marshall Collins Jr., 44, an African American father of two children in the school system, received an urgent message from Traverse City school officials.

“It was like, ‘We need to speed up the equity resolution and get it there now,’” said Collins, who serves on the Traverse City schools social equity task force and heads an anti-racist group known as E3 Northern Michigan, whose triple E stands for “Educate, Elevate, Engage.”

The equity resolution stated that the school system condemned “racism, racial violence, hate speech, bigotry, discrimination and harassment.” It called for holding more “comprehensive”



Denis Charlet/AFP via Getty Images  
A group of mostly white students attending two of Traverse City's high schools held a mock slave auction on Snapchat, “trading” their Black peers for money.

training for teachers, adding historically marginalized authors to school libraries and reviewing the district’s “curriculum and instruction [to] address gaps . . . from a social equity and diversity lens.”

Collins wanted to make his almost exclusively white hometown more welcoming to families that looked like his own. One of the first steps, he believed, required eradicating the everyday racism still directed toward students of color. Collins knew this firsthand: His son was recently called the n-word by a classmate, the child of his son’s favorite teacher.

The resolution to the public for the first time on May 24. A public meeting followed on June 14. More than 100 people were packed into the red-brick building downtown that housed Traverse City school administrative offices, the Traverse City Record-Eagle reported. Most of them had read about the Snapchat group chat and the equity resolution and decided to share their support during a public comment session.

Hannah Black, a white parent and one of a small handful of dissenting voices, approached the podium. At an earlier meeting, she had told the school board that the

equity resolution was “laced with critical race theory,” according to the Record-Eagle. Now she stepped to the mic and asked, “Does skin color matter?” before urging the board to “share publicly why this resolution is needed,” when she believes all it will do is reduce children to their race.

Many white parents in Traverse City agree.

They say their hometown, although imperfect, is not a racist place, and they are not racist people. They say the Snapchat group chat is an isolated incident that is being weaponized by activists to paint an entire community as prejudiced, which they think is unfair. They say the school system is buckling to political pressure by pursuing initiatives like the equity resolution that inject race into every setting — when all that will do is spur more division.

The real answer, these parents say, is for the district to focus on enforcing the strong anti-bullying policy it already has. And officials should sit down with the students who participated in the group chat and teach them the golden rule: to love thy neighbor as thyself.

“That’s how I was raised,” said Lori White, a 41-year

old mother of two who has lived in the area her entire life. “I’ve never seen any sort of discrimination. People in Traverse City are just kind.”

White and a half-dozen other women spoke in a joint interview in mid-July. They agreed to be identified as white only if The Washington Post also specified they felt uncomfortable with that designation, because the women do not believe race should ever be relevant.

Some women spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid backlash. Many said their children were unwilling to speak publicly about the Snapchat incident or the equity resolution, or to share their views on CRT, for fear of being accused of bigotry in a school environment where they already feel shut out for their beliefs.

The women said their outrage with the school system — or “awakening,” as many called it — developed over months, progressing from issue to issue.

For Roeser, it started when her teenage son came home from school with a new catchphrase: “That’s racist, Mom.” He would repeat it automatically whenever she mentioned race. She wondered: What exactly were they teaching him in school?

For White, it started during virtual learning amid the pandemic, when she overheard a teacher asking students, including her teenager, to come up with their own version of the American flag. White could not understand the point of the assignment: “With all of the history, there is a reason why the American flag is the way it is.”

The women had read online about critical race theory, which they understood to be a way of looking at everyone and everything through a racial lens. They had read that debates over CRT were ripping apart school systems nationwide.

And now the battle had come to Traverse City, in the

form of a resolution that proposed reevaluating the curriculum through a “social equity and diversity lens.”

The women got the word out to other parents. Dozens gathered outside the administrative building before a June 28 board meeting, the Record-Eagle reported, hoisting signs and alleging the district was indoctrinating children.

More than 200 people then crowded into two rooms to listen to 55 people speak during a public comment session. The vast majority of speakers decried the equity resolution as critical race theory, according to public video of the meeting and the Record-Eagle.

By that time, school board members — wary of the building backlash — had already reworked the document. The second version lacks the line about applying a “social equity and diversity lens” to the curriculum. It also no longer suggests the district will add “marginalized” authors to their libraries, nor that Traverse City schools will give students more opportunities to learn about “diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging issues.”

Officials furthermore deleted the terms “racism” and “racial violence” from a list of things the school district condemns. Also deleted is a passage that stated “racism and hate have no place in our schools or in our society.”

“Diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging,” all of those words sound great,” said Nicole Hooper, a 42-year-old mother of three. “But when you drill back and actually look at the meaning of the words . . . they are interlaced with critical race theory.”

The women say they are unhappy with the level of vitriol in Traverse City. But they are unwilling to stop, they say, because the children’s well-being is at stake.

*The Washington Post’s Julie Tate contributed to this report.*

## No accountability one year after Beirut blast

By Hussein Ibish  
Bloomberg Opinion

It’s been one year since the devastating Beirut port explosion, perhaps the worst non-nuclear blast in a heavily populated area in human history. A large stockpile of ammonium nitrate stored at the port ignited in a devastating eruption that left much of the city shattered.

The anatomy of the disaster, one of numerous calamities that have befallen Lebanon over the past two years, sums up all the essential dysfunctions destroying the country: corrupt and incompetent administration; a complete absence of transparency, accountability and justice; and the willingness of powerful forces to place the entire society in extreme jeopardy for their own narrow, selfish purposes.

The official explanation of how the chemicals, which can be used as either fertilizer or explosive material, arrived in Lebanon was always implausible and now appears beyond ridiculous. In 2013, a Moldovan-flagged vessel arrived at the port, supposedly en route to Mozambique. Eleven months later, the dangerous cargo was offloaded to hangar 12, where it remained until the explosion that killed at least 218 people and injured thousands.

But according to a 2020 FBI report completed shortly after the catastrophe, of the original shipment of 2,754 tons of ammonium nitrate, only 552 exploded. Lebanese authorities quietly agree with that assessment, according to Reuters.

There are two obvious conclusions. If the full amount had still been in hangar 12 and exploded, most of the city would have been wiped out and the death toll unimaginable. Second, while the ammo-

nium nitrate was supposedly being stored at the port, in fact most of it was being used, and almost certainly not for agriculture.

It’s not absolutely impossible that most of the ammonium nitrate didn’t explode but was instead blown into the sea. But in the broader context that strains credibility.

It is likely that these dangerous chemicals were brought to Beirut to be used in explosives. Ever since the blast, many Lebanese have cast suspicion and blame on the pro-Iranian Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah and its close ally, the Syrian dictatorship of Bashar Assad. It would not have been the first time these forces have used the Lebanese state and society as a cover and vehicle for their nefarious activities, for which the Lebanese people have again paid an exorbitant cost. (Hezbollah has denounced allegations it was to blame.)

But there will be no accountability. In the immediate aftermath of the explosion, authorities promised a quick and thorough probe. That was never going to happen. The first investigative judge was summarily fired after he sought to question key officials. His replacement has been completely unable to secure testimony from security officials and members of Parliament, or to lift the lawmakers’ legal immunity to get at the facts.

If it were merely a question of protecting incompetence, or even corruption, some semblance of an investigation could be possible, even in Lebanon. But a real inquiry can’t be allowed because it would more than likely reveal that the Mozambique cover story is fiction and that the chemicals were, in fact, destined for Beirut from the beginning. Eventually, it would uncover what really happened to the missing 2,200 tons



Bilal Hussein/AP Photo  
This photo shows a general view of the scene of an explosion that hit the seaport of Beirut, Lebanon, on Aug. 5, 2020.



Hussein Malla/AP Photo  
A Chilean rescuer uses a sound tracking machine at the site of a collapsed building in Beirut, Lebanon, on Sept. 4, 2020.

and, most importantly, who is really responsible.

But the Lebanese state is in no position to hold Hezbollah and the agents of the Syrian regime accountable, or even admit to much of their activities. The irony is that the Lebanese government institutions that seem so helpless, and even hostages, to these forces are the only real alternative to the domination of Hezbollah and its allies. Calls in the

U.S. to stigmatize the Lebanese government and deny it badly needed aid will only strengthen their grip on the country.

Even targeted sanctions can backfire. U.S. Treasury Department sanctions, richly deserved on the merits and imposed in 2020, against Gibran Bassil, the son-in-law and would-be heir to Lebanese President Michel Aoun, mainly had the effect of hardening the

Lebanese political gridlock that has prevented the country from reaching a desperately needed bailout agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The port explosion and its wretched aftermath do indeed illustrate everything that is wrong with Lebanese realities, and institutions. But if the rest of the world is rightly disgusted with the corruption, unaccountability and hijacking by extremists of Lebanese institutions, the answer is to help strengthen — not to shun — them.

The sudden devastation at the port a year ago is mirrored by a more slowly unfolding, and far worse, social and economic calamity. In both cases, the only reasonable answer is to help the Lebanese rebuild and restructure. Turning away or penalizing Lebanon will only make the tragedy, and the problem, worse.

*Hussein Ibish is a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. This piece was first published by Bloomberg Opinion.*

## A brief history of critical race theory

CRT, FROM D-1

“If they did,” she said, “they would recognize that the founders of CRT critiqued liberal ideologies, and that they called on research scholars to seek out and understand the roots of why racial disparities are so persistent, and to systematically dismantle racism.”

To that end, branches of CRT have evolved that focus on the particular experiences of Indigenous, Latino, Asian American, and Black people and communities. In her own work, Poon has used CRT to analyze Asian Americans’ opinions about affirmative action.

That expansiveness “signifies the potency and strength of critical race theory as a living theory — one that constantly evolves,” said Maria C. Ledesma, a professor of educational leadership at San Jose State University who has used critical race theory in her analyses of campus climate, pedagogy and the experiences of first-generation college students. “People are drawn to it because it resonates with them.”

Some scholars of critical race theory see the framework as a way to help the United States live up to its own ideals, or as a model for thinking about the big, daunting problems that affect everyone on this planet.

“I see it like global warming,” Matsuda said. “We have a serious problem that requires big, structural changes; otherwise, we are dooming future generations to catastrophe. Our inability to think structurally, with a sense of mutual care, is dooming us — whether the problem is racism, or climate disaster, or world peace.”



## Insight

# Deported veterans long to return from exile. Some will get the chance.

By Miriam Jordan  
The New York Times

ROSARITO, Mexico — Alex Murillo leads a full life in the Mexican town of Rosarito, a 40-minute drive from the U.S. border near Tijuana. By day, he works at a call center, speaking in a cheerful, caring tone to retirees across the United States about their Medicare insurance. After work, he crams cleats, flags and other gear into a duffel bag and heads out to coach a youth football team whose players credit him with building their skills in the American sport.

But Murillo, 43, has no desire to stay in Rosarito, where he has lived for nearly a decade. In fact, he does not feel he belongs in Mexico at all, a country he left when he was an infant.

Home, for him, is in Phoenix, Arizona, where he grew up, enlisted in the Navy, had four children — and later got into trouble. He was deported two days before Christmas in 2011, after serving time for transporting several hundred pounds of marijuana.

Murillo is one of hundreds of immigrant military veterans who have faced lifetime removal to the countries of their birth as a result of crimes, sometimes minor, that they committed after their military service.

“I have always just been waiting for the day I can go back,” said Murillo, who was wearing, as he does on many days, an Arizona Cardinals hoodie. “Everything I do here is positive, but I want to be home with my family.”

The wait, he hopes, is almost over.

The Biden administration said in July that it would begin allowing foreign-born veterans who were deported to return to the United States and help them become U.S. citizens.

“We are committed to bringing back military service members, veterans and their immediate family members who were unjustly removed and to ensuring they receive the benefits to which they may be entitled,” said Alejandro Mayorkas, the Homeland Security secretary.

The announcement was

momentous for veterans who have been exiled from the United States, often for more than a decade.

Robert Vivar, a co-director of the Unified U.S. Deported Veterans Resource Center in Tijuana, estimates there are at least 1,000 military deportees living in some 40 countries. About two dozen have been allowed to return in the past few years, mainly those who had the least serious criminal offenses, such as firearms possession or driving under the influence. Pardons by governors have paved the way for a few repatriations, though they can take years.

But deciding who qualifies for readmission could prove thorny: Some of the veterans committed serious crimes, including domestic violence, sexual assault and, in Murillo’s case, major drug violations, and it is not clear that everyone will be allowed to return.

“How will they determine who was ‘unjustly deported?’” said Hector Barajas, 44, a decorated ex-U.S. Army paratrooper convicted of shooting at a car in 2002

who returned in 2018 after a pardon from former Gov. Jerry Brown of California.

What is certain is that the Department of Veterans Affairs and other agencies will be tasked with assisting a group of people who will most likely require an array of services as they strive to rebuild their lives.

Separated from their families, they have often seen their lives further unravel in countries they had left long ago. Their spouses have left them; their children have become troubled.

“It’s not like we’re home now, have a job and our families back,” said Barajas, whose activism first drew attention to the plight of deported veterans.

Now a U.S. citizen, Barajas has battled depression and diabetes. It has been difficult to connect with his daughter, 16, after his prolonged absence.

Many veterans said that they did not realize they could be deported until an officer from Immigration and Customs Enforcement showed up at the end of their prison sentence. Many feel wronged that, after serving

their time, they face additional punishment.

“The country you were willing to die for threw you out like a piece of trash,” said Hector Lopez, 57, a U.S. Army veteran, who was deported in 2006 and now helps run the resource center for deportees in Tijuana.

But critics of blanket readmissions say any noncitizen who commits a serious crime faces possible deportation. “That’s the way the law works,” Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., said at a 2019 hearing on deported veterans. “There’s nobody else that would get an exception to that.”

Murillo said he had never thought of himself as anything but American.

“I grew up as a regular American kid,” he said. “I played baseball, basketball and football.”

He joined the Navy straight out of high school in 1996. At the time, his parents were applying for citizenship, and he could have been added to their application.

“Ma, don’t spend money on that,” his mother, Leticia Bernal, said he told her. “They’re giving me my citi-

zenship in the Navy.”

Murillo was deployed to the Middle East on the USS George Washington aircraft carrier as an aviation mechanic. At a base in Florida in 1998, he was caught using marijuana and ultimately discharged for bad conduct.

He returned to Phoenix to a broken marriage, and from there, he said, his life spiraled downward. Still on drugs, he lost his job installing satellite dishes and fell behind on his child support payments after getting divorced.

In April 2009, he agreed to drive a mammoth load of marijuana to St. Louis for \$10,000, but he was caught by a highway patrol officer.

He received a 37-month prison sentence, and after his release in December 2011 was placed on a bus to Mexico.

Murillo said that he simply wishes to be back where he feels that he belongs.

“I grew up with ‘Scooby Doo,’ ‘Andy Griffith,’ ‘I Love Lucy’ and ‘The Price Is Right,’ Oprah, baseball — all the American things,” he said. “Everything that I am is American.”

## Volunteering can be good for you

By Jennifer A. Jones  
The Fulcrum

More than 77 million Americans volunteer a total of 6.9 billion hours a year doing everything from fighting fires to raising funds for cancer research. These efforts help others and support communities. But volunteering also tends to benefit the volunteers themselves in at least four different ways.

**1. Boosting your health, especially if you assist others**

Volunteering has long been associated with good mental and physical health, particularly for older people. In a long-term study, researchers at the University of Wisconsin found that volunteering was linked to psychological well-being, and the volunteers themselves said it was good for their own health.

While anyone can benefit from volunteering, people who are the least connected to others tend to benefit the most. In fact, the benefits are so strong that researchers have suggested public health officials educate the public to consider volunteering as part of a healthy lifestyle.

One study in particular looked into which kind of volunteering may be best for

your health. When a team of social scientists combed through data collected in Texas, they found that people who volunteered in ways that benefited others tended to get a bigger physical health boost than volunteers who were pitching in for their own sake. They also benefited in terms of their mental health, such as by experiencing fewer symptoms of depression and becoming more satisfied with their lives.

**2. Making more connections**

Volunteering, especially when it’s done on a regular basis, can help you make new acquaintances. Whether you volunteer for an organization on a daily, weekly or monthly basis, over time you are bound to develop strong relationships, typically with other volunteers and staff members.

Regular volunteers may get these benefits to a greater degree than people who volunteer sporadically, known as episodic volunteers. Consider this: Handing out water at a fundraising run in April and then helping bag groceries to give away in November is surely easier to squeeze into a busy schedule than volunteering regularly in an office. But those more



Jason Pierce/The Sacramento Bee/TNS

Volunteers ready boxes of food to load into cars that are waiting at Hiram Johnson High School on Jan. 8 at one of the “touchless” food distribution sites run by the Sacramento Food Bank.

convenient activities aren’t as likely to help you build relationships over time. In other words, consistency matters.

There are benefits and drawbacks to every type of volunteering. For example, volunteering once in a while is often easy to schedule and is something families or friends can do together. However, volunteers who pitch in occasionally may not feel very connected to the mission of the nonprofits they support or get to know many other volunteers.

Regularly volunteering, on the other hand, makes it more likely that you will develop a deep relationship to

the cause and to other staff and volunteers. However, this kind of volunteering requires a longer-term and bigger time commitment. It can also become frustrating if the volunteer’s duties aren’t a good fit for them.

Still, if people are willing to work toward finding the right fit and making time in their schedules, volunteering on a regular basis can help them get more out of their efforts, including new friends and acquaintances.

**3. Preparing for career moves**

When volunteers gain and strengthen skills and meet more people, it can help them find new paid

work by honing their social and job skills and expanding their professional contacts.

Especially if you’re unemployed or eager to get a new job, you may want to volunteer in ways that are more likely to fill gaps in your resume or help you network with people who can help advance your career. For example, you can learn leadership and governance skills by volunteering on a board of directors at your local food pantry and, at the same time, network with other board members.

Alternatively, you can volunteer for an organization in your field, whether it’s health care, child care or

accounting, as a way of staying current and active while looking for work.

Including volunteer work on your resume can also signal to a prospective employer that you’re community-minded, self-motivated and willing to go above and beyond. As I often see with my students who volunteer, close relationships with nonprofit staff can lead to job referrals and glowing letters of recommendation.

**4. Reducing some risks associated with aging**

Older people who engage in mentally stimulating leisure activities on a regular basis may have better memory and executive function than those who don’t, according to an analysis of related studies.

And because volunteers may need to tackle new problems, interact with clients and staff or drive to a new location, volunteering can be a highly stimulating leisure activity.

Volunteering can also help older people feel valued. For example, nonprofits can encourage older volunteers to become mentors — giving them a chance to impart what they’ve learned from their life and career experiences.

*Jennifer A. Jones is an assistant professor of nonprofit management and leadership at the University of Florida. She wrote this for The Fulcrum, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news platform covering efforts to fix our governing systems.*

## Japan must finally end the sale and trade of elephant ivory

By James A. Baker III and Hillary Rodham Clinton

As the world watched the Tokyo Olympics, our thoughts turned to the international peace and cooperation that the Games have come to symbolize. Each of us, in the administrations we served, wedded these traditional concerns of state to the conservation of nature — and of wildlife species in particular. The growth of wildlife trafficking by sophisticated criminal syndicates has heightened our conviction that the world must speak with one voice.

With that in mind, we believe Tokyo has now a singular opportunity to finally eliminate the sale and trade of elephant ivory in Japan while improving its reputation as a global leader and financial capital.

Market demand for ivory products is the main driver for elephant poaching. Now that the United States, Brit-

ain, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore have closed their domestic markets for elephant ivory, Japan has become the world’s largest remaining legal domestic ivory market.

Significant loopholes in Japan’s federal regulatory system continue to allow illegal ivory to enter the country. For example, reliable proof of legal origin and acquisition has never been a requirement, even though it is an obligation under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Likewise, cut pieces of tusks used to make small items of worked ivory are exempt from Japanese registration requirements, making it impossible to identify and track individual pieces, because marking them is not required.

Substantial evidence indicates that these loopholes, combined with weak monitoring and enforcement, have made Japan a key des-

tination for and source of transnational ivory trafficking. As a result, other countries’ bans on domestic ivory trade are undermined — particularly valiant efforts by African countries to protect elephants in their territories.

Between January 2018 and December 2020, at least 76 seizures of ivory routed through Japan were made in other countries, including 72 occurring in China. A recent study of Chinese travelers to Japan found that 19% planned to purchase ivory and an estimated 12% actually did make an ivory purchase, with the majority bringing that ivory home to China by plane or through the mail, which constitutes smuggling under Chinese law.

The preference of Japanese dealers for the hard ivory of forest elephant tusks is particularly worrisome. Africa’s forest elephants — a critically endangered species native to the

humid forests of West Africa — have been devastated by trade. Almost two of every three African forest elephants were eliminated between 2002 and 2011 according to a census led by the Wildlife Conservation Society.

This is a matter of personal interest to us both. James Baker carried on a decades-long commitment to conservation by Republican administrations as secretary of state under President George H.W. Bush. Responding to rampant elephant poaching, the Bush administration joined the diplomatic and conservation communities in 1989 to call for a total ban on ivory trade. The United States paved the way for this historic agreement through a unilateral ban on ivory imports, as well as its strong support for including the species on Appendix I of CITES.

Hillary Clinton has vivid memories of seeing African elephants in the wild during

her travels with President Bill Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, only a few years later. As secretary of state, she assisted President Barack Obama on the issuance of a National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking and the establishment of the U.S. Task Force and Advisory Council on Wildlife Trafficking. Out of government, she launched a partnership to save elephants through the Clinton Global Initiative.

As Tokyo vies to attract foreign investment and position itself as a regional financial hub, the city’s leaders must take seriously the risks that the domestic ivory trade creates for these firms and banks. The Financial Task Force of the Royal Foundation, led by Britain’s Prince William, has received pledges from leading global financial institutions to uncover the laundering of profits derived from the illegal wildlife trade. They are seeking partnership from gov-

ernments to impede these activities, which in many cases are used to finance drug trafficking, terrorism, and other domestic and international transnational crimes and security threats.

We applaud Tokyo’s governor, Yuriko Koike, for establishing an Advisory Committee on the Regulation of Ivory Trade in January 2020. That was an important first step. With international focus on the Olympics, this is a moment when decisive action can have a significant and positive impact on the conservation and protection of elephants as well as on national and international security. Japan must act now to preserve its reputation as a global leader.

*James A. Baker III was secretary of state under President George H.W. Bush. Hillary Rodham Clinton was secretary of state under President Barack Obama. This piece was first published by The Washington Post.*



# Books

## The war on America by America

By Glenn Altschuler

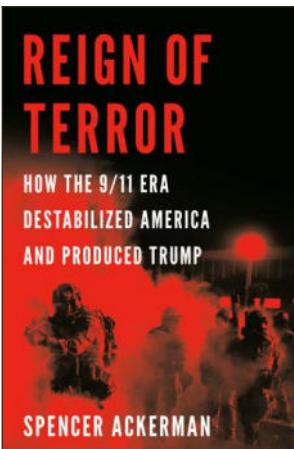
Following Al-Qaeda's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, Americans united behind President Bush's "War on Terror," boosting his approval rating past 90%. Michael Morrell, who would serve as acting director of the CIA, considered it "the great war of our time."

In "Reign of Terror: How the 9/11 Era Destabilized America and Produced Trump," journalist Spencer Ackerman provides an in-depth examination of the national security policy of the United States in the 20 years since 9/11. George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump, Ackerman argues, turned "The War on Terror" into a "Forever War," which, "if left alone, will produce neither peace nor victory."

Unapologetically partisan and polemical, "Reign of Terror" is Ackerman's take-no-prisoners attack on policies of the "Security State" that have eroded democracy and human rights at home and abroad. "How like America it is," he asserts, "not to recognize that the true threat was counterterrorism, not terror-

ism." And once the U.S. government was willing to cage a child in Guantanamo, "it was willing to do anything to anyone, in a boundaryless war." Trump, he writes, gratuitously, is "an amalgam of no less than four of the worst kinds of New Yorkers—Outer Borough White Racist, Wealth Vampire, Dignity-Free Media Striver and Landlord."

That said, Ackerman provides detailed documentation of his claim that the legacy of the War on Terror isn't limited to disastrous foreign military deployments; it has built an "entrenched architecture" of surveillance, secrecy, detention, deportation, torture, nativism, and immigration suppression. The NSA, Ackerman reminds us, collects in bulk Americans' international communications, from phone records to email, as well as domestic calls. And, as former NSA Director Michael Hayden put it, "We kill people based on metadata." The CIA lied to Congress about the scale, scope and efficacy of its torture program. The agency controlled the narrative of secret drone strikes, including the identification of targets and "collateral deaths." And



**"REIGN OF TERROR: HOW THE 9/11 ERA DESTABILIZED AMERICA AND PRODUCED TRUMP"**

By Spencer Ackerman  
Viking (\$30)



Efrat Kussell  
Spencer Ackerman

including Obama, did not challenge and often enabled the War on Terror. As a candidate and as president, he acknowledges, Obama "correctly diagnosed the unapologetic hysteria at the heart of post-9/11 America." But he viewed the Forever War as "inseparable from the politics of fear that underlay it and that in turn reinforced" and left intact "its machinery, its authorities, and its material impact on human beings." Obama and his liberal colleagues called "the War on Terror something else, reconciled themselves to a diminished 'sustainable' version, and postured as if that was as good as ending the war."

"Reign of Terror" also lays out the ways in which the War on Terror amplified Isla-

deportations, which escalated substantially under Obama, included individuals who overstayed visas, were arrested for minor offenses, and split families apart.

Indeed, although Ackerman is sharply critical of Bush and Trump, he maintains that liberal Democrats,

### Bestsellers

#### HARDCOVER FICTION

- 1. The Midnight Library**, Matt Haig, Viking, \$26
- 2. Malibu Rising**, Taylor Jenkins Reid, Ballantine, \$28
- 3. The Paper Palace**, Miranda Cowley Heller, Riverhead Books, \$27

#### HARDCOVER NONFICTION

- 1. I Alone Can Fix It**, Carol Leonnig, Philip Rucker, Penguin Press, \$30
- 2. The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse**, Charlie Mackesy, HarperOne, \$22.99
- 3. This Is Your Mind on Plants**, Michael Pollan, Penguin Press, \$28

mophobia, xenophobia and white supremacy. Although America experienced very few incidents of domestic "Radical Islamic Terrorism," Ackerman points out that Sarah Palin "sparked," and Trump "stoked" the lie that Obama was a Kenyan-born Muslim and reframed the permanent national security emergency as a struggle to preserve the "Real America." Twelve state legislatures passed "anti-sharia" laws during Obama's presidency. White nationalists insisted that Muslims were entering the United States through the southern border, an absurd claim, according to Ackerman, that revealed their appetite "for a narrative of besiegement, abandonment and betrayal." An appetite that was fed by the protests of Black Lives Matter and Antifa activists following the death of George Floyd. "Now that we clearly see Antifa as terrorists," asked U.S. Rep.

Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., "can we hunt them down like we do those in the Middle East?"

Ackerman clearly agrees with U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., that "there is a straight line from the decision to reorient U.S. national security strategy to place migrant children in cages on our southern border."

The War on Terror, Ackerman concludes, made it possible for many Americans to believe that a "white man with a flag and a gun," who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, intent on making his country great again, "was not a terrorist... he was a counterterrorist." Until it is understood as a reign of terror and abolished, he warns, The War on Terror "will propel itself toward greater domestic destabilization."

*Glenn C. Altschuler is the Thomas and Dorothy Litwin Professor of American Studies at Cornell University.*

## Last Word

### Contract Bridge

STEVE BECKER / THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC

The most interesting hands are those where the contract seems hopeless and declarer, by good play, manages to get home safely.

Consider this deal where West, after cashing two clubs, shifts to a low diamond. Looking at all four hands, it is not easy to see how South can make four hearts. It seems he must inevitably lose a diamond and a spade and go down one.

But correct play lands the contract, and there is nothing the defense can do about it. South wins East's jack of diamonds with the king, leads a trump to the ace, ruffs a club and plays three more rounds of trump, producing this position on the right.

Declarer now plays his last trump, forcing West to discard a diamond as dummy and East part with a spade. Having squeezed

<b>North</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
♠ 9 4	♠ K J	♠ 8 7 6	♠ A Q
♥ A 5	♥ 10 8	♥ Q 3	♥ 9
♦ 10	♦ J		♦ 9 6

West out of a diamond, South next leads a diamond to the ace, returns the ten of clubs and discards his diamond loser on it. West wins with the jack and is forced to return a spade into South's A-Q, handing him the contract.

Declarer's line of play is clearly indicated — even without seeing the missing cards — because West is marked by the bidding with the king of spades.

West dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9 4  
♥ A K 10 3  
♦ A 5 4  
♣ 10 8 6 2

**WEST**  
♠ K J 10 5  
♥ —  
♦ 10 8 7 2  
♣ A K J 9 3

**EAST**  
♠ 8 7 6 3 2  
♥ 8 7 4  
♦ Q J 3  
♣ 7 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q  
♥ Q J 9 6 5 2  
♦ K 9 6  
♣ Q 4

The bidding:  
West 1♣ North Pass East Pass South 1♥  
1♣ 3♥ 3♣ 4♥  
Opening lead — king of clubs.

### The New York Times Crossword

TODAY: OFF BRAND (0808)

Matthew Stock, who turns 25 this month, works for a math-education nonprofit in East St. Louis, Ill. The idea for this puzzle came about in January, when he was on a long road trip and passed a Honda Odyssey. He reinterpreted the name as "Honda odyssey" (small "o"), which aptly described what he was on. That bit of wordplay didn't make it into this puzzle, but similar ones with other brand names did. This is Matthew's sixth Times crossword, and his second Sunday. — W.S.

#### ACROSS

- A is one
- Ozone-harming compounds, for short
- Actor Guy
- "How awesome!"
- Play with, as a cat might a toy mouse
- Naysayers
- Five guys?
- It might have desks and drawers
- Shade of purple
- Those: Sp.
- Green giant?
- Ambulance driver, for short
- Finished first
- "\_\_\_-ching!"
- Just
- Like basalt and obsidian
- Something sent on a Listserv
- Police broadcast, for short
- "Special Agent \_\_\_" (animated)
- Disney show about a bear
- Main character in Larry McMurtry's "Lonesome Dove"
- Apt name for a Christmas caroler?
- \_\_\_ Clarendon, first openly transgender
- W.N.B.A. player
- Jolly rancher?
- Hole
- Diagnosis characterized by repetitive behavior, in brief
- Focus of a marathon
- Grand opening?
- Sides (with)
- \_\_\_ school
- Dessert with some assembly required
- Grammy recipient Lisa
- What pro bono

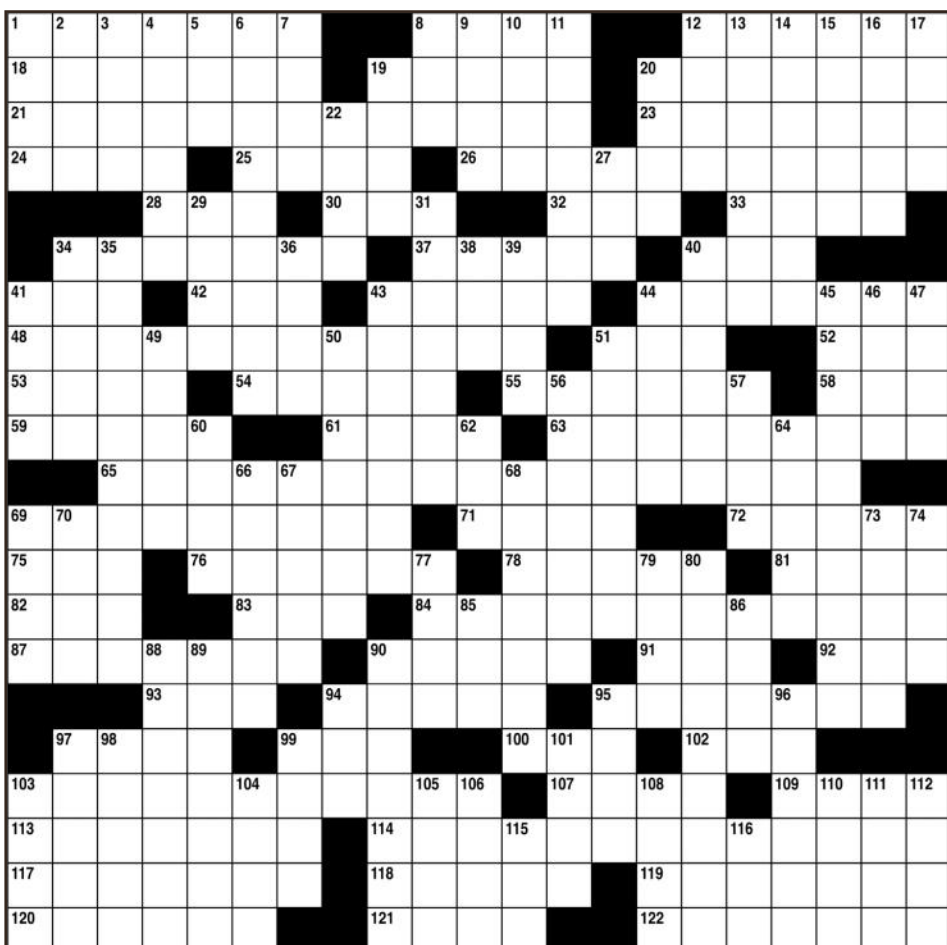
- lawyers waive
- 121 [Hey, over here!]
- General mills?
- The British
- 20-pence and 50-pence coins, geometrically
- Member of a South Asian diaspora
- Photo finish
- Every last drop
- Bank, often
- Exams offered four times a year, for short
- Grown-up pup
- "I promise I won't laugh," often
- Certain guiding principle
- Texas
- instruments?
- Meadow grass with brushlike spikes
- Fermented Baltic drink
- "Ugh, gross"
- Stag's date?
- Doc treating sinus infections
- X, in linear functions
- Dolphins' div.
- Like many a company softball game
- "That stinks!"
- Subj. devoting extra time to idioms
- \_\_\_ milk
- 103 Band aid?
- 107 Truce
- 109 Litter-box emanation
- Efflux
- Old navy?
- Like many a grillmaster
- 118 Supermodel Kate
- 119 Headache helper
- 120 Took a little look

#### DOWN

- Standing on
- Texter's "Hilarious!"
- Soy something
- Ones working block by block?
- Hoodwink
- Drift apart
- Certain Ivy Leaguers
- Pac-12 school, informally
- Qualification shorthand
- "Ple-e-ease?"
- Help when writing a letter
- Its national drink is the pisco sour
- State of disorder
- Some vacation rentals
- Lube up again
- Old pal
- Actress \_\_\_ Creed-Miles
- South American capital
- Figures
- Statements of will?
- "The power of global trade" sloganer
- \_\_\_ Millions
- Into crystals and auras, say
- Its calendar began in A.D. 622
- Inflated feeling of infallibility
- Letters on a stamp
- \_\_\_ B or \_\_\_ C of the Spice Girls
- Actor Alan of "Crimes and Misdemeanors"

### Last week's answers

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



- Binghamton
- Rumble Ponies or Birmingham Barons
- "My bl!"
- Sign
- Feudal lord
- Plots of western films?
- Brain-freeze cause, maybe
- Does a summer job?
- Warrant
- Magic can be seen here
- Relating to land, old-style
- They can help you see or taste
- Like the odds of finding a needle in a haystack
- Airline based near Tel Aviv
- Deserving of a timeout, say
- Big spread
- "No need to elaborate"
- Like the Hmong language
- \_\_\_ Ng, author of "Little Fires Everywhere"
- 12/24, e.g.
- \_\_\_ Perlman, role for Timothee Chalamet in "Call Me by Your Name"
- Means of divination
- "What \_\_\_?"
- Indicate availability, in a way
- South Pole
- "Weekend, here I come!"
- Side dish at a barbecue
- Upsilon preceeder
- Producer of the world's most widely read consumer catalog
- Genre for One Direction
- "... finished!"
- Ties
- Android alternative
- Exclamation after a sigh
- Teeny-tiny
- Sporty wheels
- Eccentric
- Explorer Richard who made the first flight over the
- 101 Attempt to control the narrative, in a way
- 103 Lava, e.g.
- 104 Took to court
- 105 Oom of "Love & Basketball"
- 106 Rolls around while exercising?
- 108 Quick talk
- 110 What
- 111 nychophobia is the fear of
- 112 Slobbery cartoon character
- 112 "\_\_\_ over" (words after letting off steam)
- 115 Often-contracted word
- 116 Tech sch. in Troy, N.Y.



# ONCE UPON A TIME

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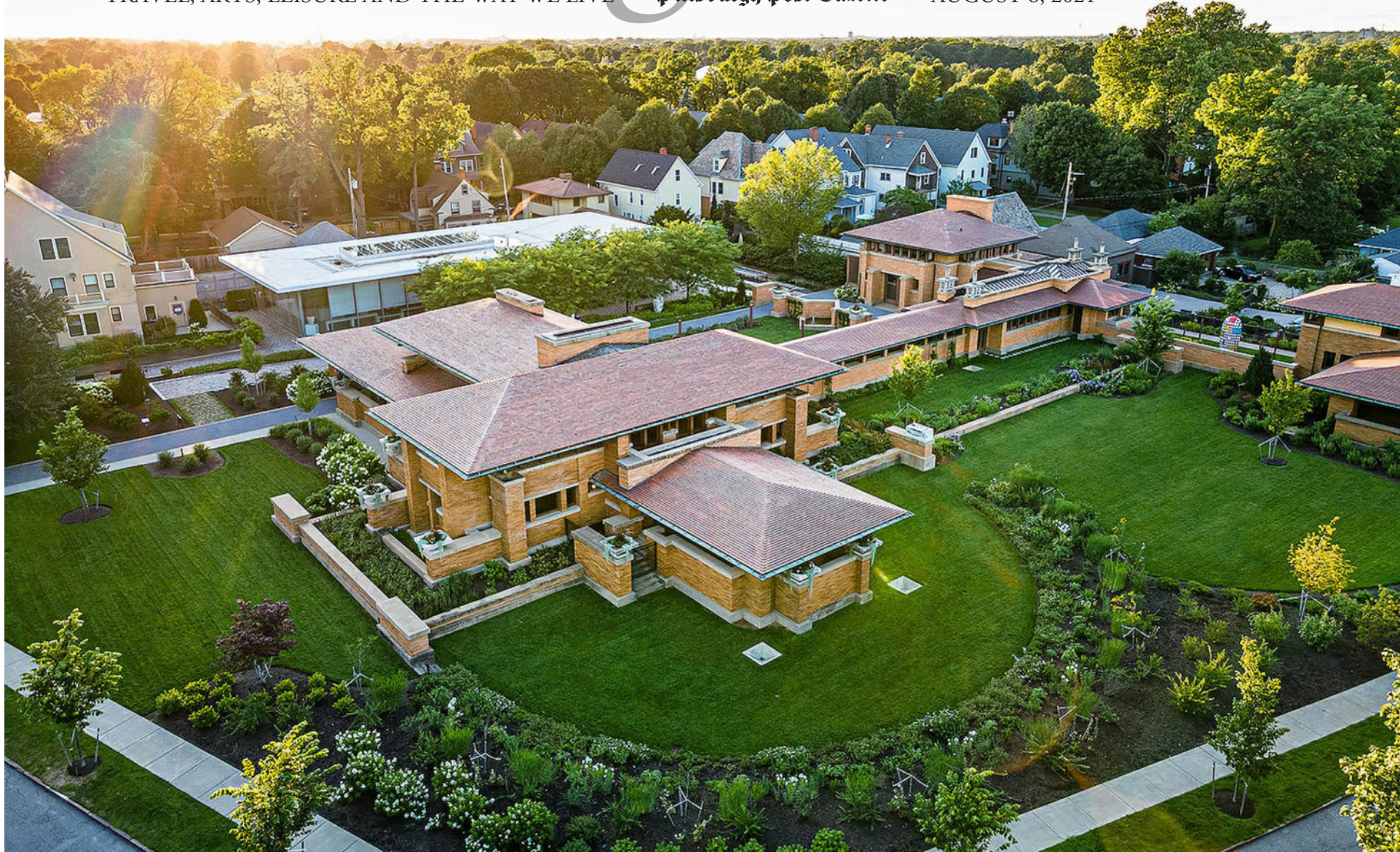


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Darwin Martin House

The floricycle is the semicircular flower bed at the bottom of this drone shot of the Darwin Martin House and related buildings in Buffalo, N.Y.

## Break on the lake

Wright's 'floricycle,' locally made carousel spring back to life in resurgent Buffalo

By Kevin Kirkland  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**T**OO SMALL for the big-kid rides, I wrap my arms around my horse's muscular neck as he rises and falls like the waves of Lake Erie.

In another Kodachrome memory, I squint up at a hill of flowers as colorful and orderly as my Crayola 64-pack. I wonder: Are they real?

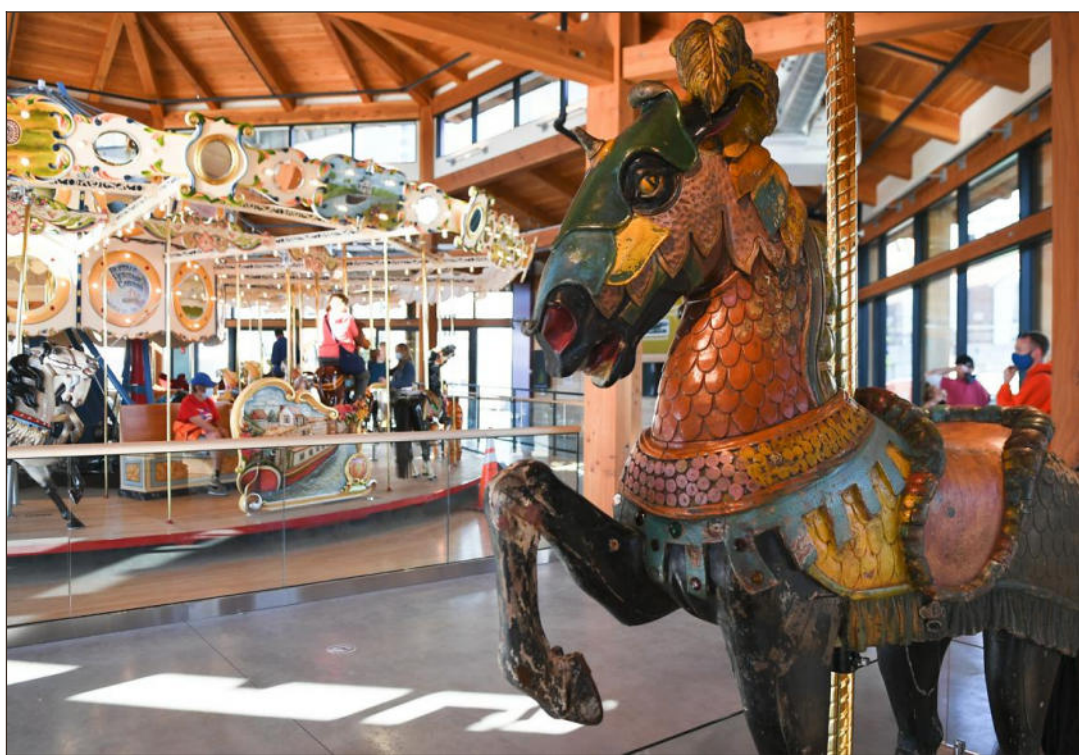
They are in the floral clock on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. But the horse with the carved, flowing mane and flaring nostrils was part of the carousel at Crystal Beach in nearby Ontario, Canada. The 1880s amusement park closed in 1989 and the carousel was sold along with its roller coasters and other rides.

Now the horses are back, along with lions, ostriches, giraffes and other carved wooden creatures, in a restored antique merry-go-round powered by the sun, the Buffalo Heritage Carousel.

And the flowers? They still bloom on the floral clock's 40-foot face on Canada's side of the falls. Starting Monday, vaccinated U.S. residents can again visit Canada.

But what wait in line at the Peace Bridge? You can see Frank Lloyd Wright's "floricycle" — a huge curving garden bed where flowers bloom in succession from March through November — at Buffalo's Darwin Martin House. Both attractions are a little over three hours' drive from Downtown Pittsburgh.

SEE **BUFFALO**, PAGE E-2



Nancy J. Parisi

A partially restored carousel horse stands near the Buffalo Heritage Carousel at Canalside in Buffalo, N.Y.

## Reflecting on Patricia Wilde, a graceful dance legend

By Sara Bauknecht  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

### Appreciation

One of the privileges and pleasures of being a journalist is meeting all kinds of people. While they're all important, some interviews linger in your memory for years.

The time I spent with former Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre artistic director Patricia Wilde in 2018 was one of them. I wasn't in Pittsburgh during her heyday with the company from 1982 to 1996 and had only done a couple shorter phone calls with her until then. This time, however, I got to spend a few hours with her during one of her regular visits to PBT headquarters in the Strip District.

She was 88 at the time, and the occasion was a new book about her life by Joel Lobenthal, an editor for Ballet Review. She also was inducted that summer into the Na-

tional Museum of Dance's Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. As a veteran principal of New York City Ballet — and a favorite of its co-founder George Balanchine — she was a living dance legend.

But what stood out to me as we walked together through PBT's studios and sat for a conversation was her humility and grace. Talking with her about her storied career felt like catching up with an old friend. Even though she was in her late 80s, she still had the posture of a prima ballerina.

Her commitment to the artform never wavered, either, particularly when it came to getting more live music at PBT performances.

"I think I've talked to the right people," she told me. "I keep trying."

That goal became her last wish. Wilde died July 17 — a day after her 93rd birthday — following a brief illness. In lieu of flowers, Wilde's family requests that people make donations to PBT's live music appeal in her honor. Launched in 2019, its goal is to raise enough funds to sustain live music at the ballet for the next 50 years.

In the weeks since her death, Wilde's daughter, Anya Davis, said this should be a time to celebrate her rich life.

"I think the best statement was made by my nephew when he dropped off a picture," Davis said. "He said, 'I never knew how famous she really was. She was always just Gram.'"

SEE **WILDE**, PAGE E-2



Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

Patricia Wilde leads a rehearsal with dancers at Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre in October 2014. The former PBT artistic director died July 17.



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Nancy J. Parisi

Children of all ages ride lions, ostriches and horses, of course, on the nearly 100-year-old carousel in Buffalo's Canalside.

## Buffalo carousel whirls again

**BUFFALO**, FROM E-1

The 34 carousel animals that circle endlessly in a solar-powered pavilion by the Buffalo River started as blocks of wood carved by unknown artisans in suburban North Tonawanda, N.Y. Spillman Engineering Co. craftsmen — many of whom also carved for Spillman's cross-town competitor, now the Herschell Carousel Factory Museum — created this carousel in 1924 for Domenick DeAngelis, who operated it at various parks in Massachusetts. It's known as a menagerie carousel because it has more than horses.

After DeAngelis died in 1952, his family kept the carousel in storage for 60 years, hoping to see it run once again. In 2016, the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp. bought it for \$250,000 to install at Canalside, an entertainment complex in downtown Buffalo near the western terminus of the Erie Canal. Then the fun really began.

"My friend recruited me," said artist Linda Chaffee, 70, of Akron, N.Y. "We're going to paint this carousel. It will take a year." It took four years.

The restorers, most of them volunteers like Chaffee, spent about 200 hours on each animal, heat-stripping and documenting



Visit Buffalo Niagara

Artist Linda Chaffee of Akron, N.Y., paints a horse for the Buffalo Heritage Carousel in Buffalo, N.Y.

each layer of paint, removing screws and nails, patching, sanding and applying five coats of paint and sealer.

Although the horses were ordered from a catalog, customers could add details that made them unique. DeAngelis, an Italian immigrant, asked Spillman to carve an American eagle and sword into horses' flanks.

"Several of our horses are one of a kind. We're the only one who has them,"

said Carima El-Behairy, director of operations and development.

Chaffee, who often works the register, said 50,000 people have ridden the carousel since it opened in late May.

"What surprises me is it's all ages," she said. "We had two ladies who were 99 and 104 years old. They walk through the door and they're kids again."

Kevin Kirkland: [kkirkland@post-gazette.com](mailto:kkirkland@post-gazette.com).

## Martin House volunteers tend modern garden from yesteryear

By Kevin Kirkland  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

We don't know if Frank Lloyd Wright invented the word "floricycle," but letters between the architect and his wealthy clients, Isabelle and Darwin Martin, show all three liked the idea of flowers blooming from early spring to late fall.

But how to do it? That question and Wright's delays in sending a detailed landscape design vexed Martin in the early 1900s.

"As the shrubs were drying up we planted them Saturday and enclose this photograph showing how they were planted," the Larkin soap executive wrote in 1905. "If the photograph is meager, remember that the planting plan was meager, too."

Martin had no way of knowing that Wright's plant expert, Walter Burley Griffin, had quit because he wanted to be paid in something other than Japanese prints.

With Griffin's help, Wright came up with a plant list filled with old-fashioned garden stalwarts — hollyhock, phlox, columbine, lupine and my personal favorite, delphinium.

All of them grow today in the floricycle and other beds around the landmark Darwin Martin House ([martinhouse.org](http://martinhouse.org)) and adjacent Barton House built for Martin's sister.

But it wasn't easy. Martin lost his fortune in the 1929 stock market crash and his landmark house and 1.5 acres were in ruins when restoration began in the 1990s. The gardens were the last piece, begun in 2016.

Landscape architect Mark Bayer was charged with re-creating this collaborative landscape.

"This garden is as much the Martins' as it is Frank Lloyd Wright's. They loved plants and gardening," said the owner of Bayer Landscape Architecture in Honeoye Falls, N.Y.

Since it was a rehabilitation rather than restoration, Bayer had more leeway in choosing perennials, shrubs and trees. Improved cultivars are available for most of the plants that grew a century ago.



Kevin Kirkland/Post-Gazette photos

'Pink Glow' Culver's root, left, and pink hollyhocks bloom in early July in the floricycle at the Darwin Martin House.



'Pagans Purples' delphinium blooms in early July by the verandah at the Darwin Martin House.

The 'Pagans Purple' delphiniums by the verandah were spectacular when I visited in early July. But they have been fading lately so Susan Perlow and other garden volunteers recently cut them back.

"We get a beautiful second bloom in September," said the recent retiree from Williamsville, N.Y.

Rosanne Stolzenburg, of East Amherst, said she and the other 20 regular garden volunteers learn constantly and sometimes use those lessons in their home gardens. Her favorite flower overall is delphinium, but it

changes every week.

"This week the phlox look amazing. They're purple, pink and white," she said.

Perlow said she feels "privileged" to work upon a national landmark property that is part of the Great Wright Road Trip along with Western Pennsylvania's Fallingwater, Kentucky Knob and Polymath Park.

Stolzenburg, who averages 12-15 hours a week in these gardens, agreed.

"To see how the landscape complements the beautiful Martin House, it's awesome," she said.

## Reflecting on a dance legend

**WILDE**, FROM E-1

### A dancer is born

Wilde was born July 16, 1928, in Ottawa, Canada, and was raised on a working farm. Her father was an engineer, and her mother commercially farmed the family's estate. She was the youngest of five children.

She took an interest in dance at just 3 years of age after her older sister, Nora, started taking classes.

"She always said it was her passion," her daughter recalled. "Once she saw her sister taking classes, she always wanted to do it and ended up stealing the show a couple of times."

The sisters studied together in Ottawa. In 1942, Wilde's older sister — who also went on to dance professionally — won a scholarship to the School of American Ballet. Wilde joined her in New York City the next year.

Wilde began working with Balanchine in 1945, when she was part of a small group of dancers he took to perform at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. That's when he choreographed the first of many roles for her.

"He was always challenging her skills, and that's what she loved," Davis said. "She loved being able to perfect everything she was doing, and she had a passion for passing that knowledge and joy in dance on to her students and her company members."

Not long after the Mexico City trip, Wilde joined Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, where Balanchine was chief choreographer, and toured the country. In 1948, Balanchine's New York City Ballet gave its debut performance. He invited Wilde to join the company 18 months later. During her 15-year tenure as a principal dancer, her repertory with Balanchine's company included 40 roles and extensive domestic and international touring.

"She had extraordinary technique, which is what I think drew her to Balanchine and Balanchine to her," said longtime PBT artistic administrator Bob Vickrey, who also danced professionally. (When Vickrey came to PBT 26 years ago, it was Wilde who hired him.) "She could move so quickly, so rapidly and jump like nobody's business."

Vickrey got to see her talents firsthand as a dancer with Harkness Ballet, a start-up company in New York in the 1960s and '70s. After retiring from the stage, Wilde worked at Harkness Ballet School as its director. Her husband, George Bardyguine, was the production stage manager.

The couple wed in 1953 and had two children, Anya and Youri. Wilde's husband died in 1994 at age 74.

Wilde also taught and coached dancers at New York City Ballet and later joined American Ballet Theatre's rehearsal staff and its school's faculty, where she directed its scholarship program.

### Pittsburgh bound

In 1982, Wilde became PBT's artistic director, a rare role for a woman at the time.

"There were hardly any in the world," said costumier Janet Groom Campbell, who's worked with PBT since 1973. She remained close friends with Wilde until her death.

According to Campbell, then-general manager Eugene Tanner suggested Wilde for the position.

"When she came to Pittsburgh, it was wonderful because she had carte blanche with [Balanchine's] ballets because he trusted her so much," Campbell said. "We didn't have to have a répétiteur come in and teach them all the time because she knew a lot of them."

Wilde elevated PBT's position in the professional dance world by bringing more classical pieces to



Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

Patricia Wilde in "Allegro Brillante." Wilde, shown above in 1989, served as Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre's artistic director from 1982 to 1996.



Gene Puskar/Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre

its repertoire. She also had a knack for pushing boundaries with innovative works. One of her most notable commissions was with Israeli choreographer Ohad Naharin. In 1986, PBT premiered "Tabula Rasa" in his Gaga movement style. (The Pittsburgh Dance Council recognized Wilde at a performance in February 2020 that included an expanded version of "Tabula Rasa" on the program.)

Wilde also founded creative in-house positions, including having a resident choreographer and composer during her tenure, and encouraged more touring.

"It was wonderful things like that that would happen here, and we were all very excited to be part of it," Campbell said.

Wilde had great attention to detail. When Campbell had to make PBT's costumes for Balanchine's "Serenade" — one of Wilde's favorite ballets — she had New York City Ballet send one to Pittsburgh for Campbell to copy.

"She stood beside me while I cut all the skirts," Campbell recalled, laughing. "By the end I was a

wreck, but I was glad she was there. She was always positive, supportive and kind."

Of course, live music was a must in her classes.

"It didn't matter how old the kids were, either. It was a live pianist," her daughter said. "I remember hearing stories about using a CD machine and it would never work or skip to the wrong place."

Wilde always wanted what was best for her dancers, on and off the dance floor. She would attend their wedding and baby showers.

"Then she would say to me, 'I wish they'd eat more,'" Campbell said. "It was funny to hear both sides."

When dancers started their own families, she strived to make PBT a comfortable environment for them. Davis remembered one time during "Nutcracker" season Wilde gave up her bigger dressing room so a dancer with an infant could put a crib in it.

Wilde retired in 1996 and enticed Terrence Orr to replace her as PBT's artistic director. Even after her retirement, PBT's dancers were still a top concern.

"Throughout the pandemic, I did FaceTime with her and she would ask, 'How are the dancers? Are they getting their classes?' Vickrey said. "Her thoughts were always for them. She didn't even know most of them personally at that point."

### A legacy goes on

Retirement didn't slow Wilde down. She stayed in Pittsburgh at an independent living facility until the pandemic, when she went to live with her daughter in Virginia. She was a regular at PBT performances and company events. A small gathering at the Duquesne Club was held for her in June, with Wilde in attendance, to celebrate her lifetime achievement award from the National Society of Arts and Letters.

She also got a chance to talk with PBT's new artistic director Susan Jaffe, who had Wilde as a teacher in New York City.

"Susan asked her if she remembered her and my mom said, 'Absolutely I remember you,'" Davis said. "She was very, very happy with Susan taking over the company now."

Beyond ballet, Wilde loved dogs, with a soft spot for Rottweilers. Traveling, reading and spending time outdoors were other favorite pastimes. For her 80th birthday, she went with a friend to New Zealand.

Because of her active lifestyle, the COVID-19 shutdown was hard, Davis said.

"Not being able to see people face to face was difficult for her."

When PBT returns to Benedum Center in October to open its mainstage season, the company plans to honor Wilde with an opening night tribute and a display of photos and other mementos from her life and career in the lobby.

In addition to her daughter, Wilde is survived by her sister Nora, 95, of Vermont; her son, Youri, of Coraopolis, and three grandsons.

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Shuji Kajiyama/Associated Press

Fireworks over Tokyo's National Stadium for the opening of the Summer Olympics.

## Television shows you'll want to watch this week

**Olympics closing ceremony** — The Tokyo Games, delayed one year because of the pandemic, will go down as one of the strangest Olympics ever. Fans and families were mostly missing. Coronavirus concerns cast a shadow over the action. Simone Biles dropped out of most of her events. As for the viewers at home, many grew frazzled trying to weave their way through a maze of broadcast, cable and streaming options. Still, there was plenty of must-see drama and now 7,000 hours of coverage all winds down as the 11,000 athletes from some 200 countries are celebrated during the closing ceremony at Tokyo's National Stadium. (8 p.m. Sunday, NBC).

### Other bets

**Sunday:** "UFO" is a four-part documentary series that explores our ongoing fascination with unidentified flying objects, and asks: Is there a government or military conspiracy to shield the truth behind extraterrestrial phenomena from the public? (9 p.m., Showtime).

**Monday:** Based on the popular Instagram account (with more than 1.6 million followers), "Cheap Old Houses" follows the husband-wife team of Ethan and Elizabeth Finkelstein as they search for bargain-priced homes — all under \$150,000 — and imagine what the houses could look like with proper restorations. (9 p.m., HGTV).

**Tuesday:** TV's crazy obsession with reboots continues with "Fantasy Island." In this update, Roselyn Sanchez plays Elena Roarke, a descendent of Ricardo Montalban's iconic character and steward of a mysterious tropical resort. There, guests

### TV picks

have their deepest desires fulfilled, but rarely in a way they expect. (9 p.m., Fox).

**Wednesday:** On the new series "Money Court," Kevin O'Leary ("Shark Tank") presides over high-stakes financial disputes — from estranged business partners battling over a deal gone sour, to siblings falling out over their family business. Along with trial attorney Katie Phang and former Judge Ada Pozo, he exam the evidence and delivers fiscal justice. (10 p.m., CNBC).

**Thursday:** As the beloved cop comedy "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" begins its eighth and final season, Jake struggles with a complex case while his wife, Amy, returns from maternity leave. (8 p.m., NBC).

**Friday:** Have the tissues handy. The romantic anthology series "Modern Love" returns for a heartfelt second season. Based on the popular New York Times column (and podcast), the stand-alone stories explore love and relationships in all their complex and fascinating forms. (Amazon Prime).

**Saturday:** "Sealed With a Kiss: Wedding March 6" is the sixth installment in the warm-hearted film franchise. The modest wedding plans of a celebrity and his down-to-earth fiancée escalate while Mick (Jack Wagner) gets an enticing opportunity Olivia (Josie Bissett) won't let him refuse. But it puts their own big day in jeopardy. (9 p.m., Hallmark Channel).

Email Chuck Barney at [cbarney@bayeranewsgroup.com](mailto:cbarney@bayeranewsgroup.com).

## TV highlights

### SUNDAY

**8 p.m. on WQED**  
**In Their Own Words**  
This biographical series, which profiles some of the 20th century's greatest figures by using their own quotes to shed light on key moments of their lives, continues with "Princess Diana." This once shy princess defied somewhat low expectations to become one of the most beloved icons of her era.

### MONDAY

**9 p.m. on FOOD**  
**BBQ Brawl**  
In "Future 'cue,'" team captains Michael Symon, Eddie Jackson and Bobby Flay challenge the competitors to stretch their imaginations and make the barbecue of the future in some of its most tantalizing possibilities.

### TUESDAY

**10 p.m. on TLC**  
**Doubling Down With the Derricos**  
The season two finale finds Karen champing at the bit to take action now that Deon finally has agreed to go to therapy, where they hope to confirm whether he really has OCD.

### WEDNESDAY

**9:30 p.m. on MTV**  
**MTV Cribs**  
More than 20 years after its original debut, one of MTV's most iconic series — which revolutionized the celebrity home tour genre — gets a reboot, providing a peek at the lifestyle and personal domestic rituals of favorite personalities and their families.

### THURSDAY

**10 p.m. on WE**  
**The Mysterious Death of Easy-E**  
This four-part docuseries explores the 1995 death of the NWA frontman, born Eric Lynn Wright, whose passing was attributed to HIV/AIDS. But conspiracy theories suggest Easy-E was administered an injection of tainted blood.

### FRIDAY

**8 p.m. on WPCW WUAB**  
**Burden of Truth**  
Joanna and Billy (Kristin Kreuk, Peter Mooney) both are completely blindsided when Joanna becomes the target of a mysterious criminal investigation in the new episode "From Out the Gloomy Rack."

### SATURDAY

**10 p.m. on TRAV**



The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. In order to take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

#### ACROSS

- \_\_\_ Lund; "NCIS: New Orleans" role
- Prepare to take a selfie
- Paquin or Faris
- Role on "All Rise" (2)
- Wraparound dress
- \_\_\_ LaRue of "CSI: Miami"
- Explosive letters
- Knickknack
- Certain vote
- Barcelona bull
- Illegally off base, for short
- Initials for circus man Barnum
- Part of the neck
- John Pankow's "Mad About You" role
- "\_\_\_ and a Half Men"
- Happy expression
- Kemi's portrayal on "Bob Hearts Abishola" (2)
- "Well, that went over like \_\_\_ of bricks!"
- Thirst quenchers
- Judge on "American Idol" (2)

#### DOWN

- Not as sweet
- Naook of the North, for one
- "The Singing \_\_\_" (2007-12)
- Casual farewell (hyph.)
- Tattoo parlor supply

- Ekberg or Bryant
- "The \_\_\_"; Fran Drescher series
- Actress Dana
- "\_\_\_ Bought a Zoo"; Matt Damon film
- Vigoda's initials
- Sault \_\_\_ Marie
- Take a load off
- \_\_\_ Lansbury
- Buffet or Beatty
- Namesakes of a Mayberry kid
- Mr. Goodman
- Arnold of "Green Acres," for one
- "Law & Order: \_\_\_ by Jury" (2005-06)
- Language for many in Africa
- 1982-88 co-star for Sharon Gless
- Setting for "Frasier": abbr.
- Sharif's initials
- Good to go (hyph.)
- Dinner for Mister Ed



### The Dead Files

A new episode called "The Bone Collector" takes medium Amy Anna and former homicide

detective Steve DiSchiavi to Discovery Bay, Calif., where a woman claims a paranormal presence killed her father.

SUNDAY	MOVIES		SPORTS		KIDS		NEWS		TALK	
	8	8:30	9	9:30	10	10:30	11	11:30		
2 KDKA	Big Brother (N) (CC)		Love Island (9:01) (N) (CC)				News at Eleven (N)		Cochran Sports	
4 WTAE	MLB Baseball (7) Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs. From Wrigley Field in Chicago. (N) (L) (CC)		The Chase Brad Rutter's first turn as the chaser.				Action News 4 (N)		Action News 4 (N)	
6 WJAC	2020 Tokyo Olympics Closing Ceremony. (N Same-day Tape)		Family (N)				News (N)		Olympics	
7 WTRF	Big Brother (N) (CC)		Love Island (9:01) (N) (CC)				News		NCIS: N.O.	
8 WWCN	Simpsons	Great North	Burgers	Fantasy	FOX 8 (N)		Storm of Suspicion		The First 48	
9 WTOV	2020 Tokyo Olympics Closing Ceremony. (N Same-day Tape)		Family (N)				News (N)		Olympics	
10 WTAJ	Big Brother (N) (CC)		Love Island (9:01) (N) (CC)				News (N)		2 Broke Girls	
11 WPXI	2020 Tokyo Olympics Closing Ceremony. The Tokyo Olympics conclude with the closing ceremony. (N Same-day Tape) (CC)		Family Game Fight! (N) (CC)				Channel 11 News at 11		2020 Tokyo Olympics	
13 WQED	In Their Own Words Princess Diana. (N)	Unforgotten on Masterpiece (N) (CC)		Professor T A girl may be a key murder witness. (N) (CC)			Professor T Professor T returns to his old life. (CC)			
16 WINP	Criminal Minds Scream.	Criminal Minds Lockdown.		Criminal Minds Breath Play.			Criminal Minds			
19 WPCW	DC's Legends of Tomorrow The Final Frame. (N) (CC)	Wellington (N)	Dead Pixels (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)	The Nightly Sports Call		NCIS: New Orleans A lethal group of former agents.			
21 WFMJ	2020 Tokyo Olympics Closing Ceremony. (N Same-day Tape)		Family (N)				News (N)		Olympics	
22 WPNT	Marketplace Pittsburgh	Seinfeld The Revenge.	Seinfeld The Deal. (CC)	To the Rescue (CC)	Ring of Honor Wrestling (N) (CC)		Emeril's Homemade Pasta Secret!			
27 WKBN	Big Brother (N) (CC)		Love Island (9:01) (N) (CC)				First News		NCIS: N.O.	
33 WYTV	MLB Baseball (7) Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs.		The Chase (CC)				News (N)		Castle (CC)	
40 WPCB	Rod Parsley Now (CC)	Manna-Fest/ Perry Stone	Prophecy Connection	Skywatch TV (CC)	Prophecy Watchers	Joyce Meyer Humanitarian	Move Your Mountain (CC)			
43 WUAB	DC's Legends (N)		Wellington	Dead (N)	News (N)	Sports Extra	Edition (N)		Raw Travel	
53 WPGH	The Simpsons	The Great North	Bob's Burgers	Fantasy Island	Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N) (CC)		The Big Bang Theory		Two and a Half Men	
59 WEPA	Munsters	Munsters	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	Roseanne	3rd Rock		3rd Rock	
PREMIUM CABLE										
HBO	"Best in Show" (7:22) (2000) *** (CC)		The White Lotus (N) (Part 7 of 8) (CC)		100-Foot Wave (10:02) (N) (CC)		Last Week To. (N)		The White Lotus (11:35)	
HBO/2	The White Lotus Armond's desire for sobriety is tested.		"The Hundred-Foot Journey" (2014) ** Helen Mirren, Om Puri, Manish Dayal. (CC)				"Beverly Hills Cop" (11:05) (1984) *** (CC)			
HBO/FAM	"Like Mike 2: 'Pitch Perfect' Streetball" (8:36) (2012) *** Anna Kendrick. College students enter an a cappella competition.		"Keeping the Faith" (10:28) (2000) *** Ben Stiller. (CC)							
HBO/SIG.	"Extract" (7:25) (2009) ** (CC)		"Just Married" (2003) * Ashton Kutcher, Brittany Murphy. (CC)		"Clueless" (10:35) (1995) *** Alicia Silverstone, Stacey Dash. (CC)					
MAX	"Trance" (2013) *** James McAvoy, Rosario Dawson. (CC)		"The Hours" (9:42) (2002) *** Meryl Streep. Three women in different eras suffer emotional crises.				"El cantante" (2006)			
SHO	The End (CC)	The End (CC)	UFO 101. (Series Premiere) (N) (CC)	The L Word: Generation Q (Season Premiere) (N)	Desus & Mero (N)	The L Word: Generation Q				
STARZ	Power Book III: Raising Kanan Don't Sleep. (CC)		Blindspotting Bride or Die.	The Deceived (9:35) (CC)	Power Book III: Raising Kanan (10:23) Don't Sleep.	Blindspotting (11:16) (CC)				
STARZ-E	"Bachelorette" (7:01)	"Heat" (8:31) (1995) *** Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Val Kilmer. A homicide detective matches wits with a cunning adversary. (CC)		"Catch and Release"						
STZENC	"Little Women" (6:42) (2019) *** (CC)		"Working Girl" (1988) *** Melanie Griffith. An ambitious Staten Island secretary moves up the ranks.		"28 Days" (10:57) (2000) ** Sandra Bullock.					
STZ/ENCL	"Forgetting Sarah Marshall" (7:07) ***		"An Officer and a Gentleman" (1982) *** Richard Gere, Debra Winger, Louis Gossett Jr. (CC)		"For Love of the Game" (11:07) (1999) **					
STZ/ENCW	"100 Rifles" (1969) ** Jim Brown. An Arizona lawman is caught in the Yaqui-Mexican conflict. (CC)		"Young Guns II" (9:51) (1990) ** Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland. (CC)		"4 Guns-Bord."					
STZ/ENSU	"Hustle and Heat" (7:30) (2003) Duane Martin. (CC)		"The Chamber" (1996) ** Chris O'Donnell. A lawyer seeks clemency for his grandfather on death row.		"The Lazarus Effect" (10:55) (2015) *					
TMC	"Silver Linings Playbook" (2012) *** Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro. (CC)		"The Words" (10:05) (2012) ** Bradley Cooper, Jeremy Irons. (CC)		"About Last Night ..."					
BASIC, EXPANDED AND DIGITAL CABLE										
A&E	The First 48 A Cleveland father shot in the back. (CC)		The First 48 Gangland. (CC)		The First 48 (10:01) Secrets and Lies. (CC)		The First 48 (11:04) An elderly man is burned alive.			
AMC	A Discovery of Witches Episode 8. Diana grows ill. (N)		"The Rock" (1996) *** Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage, Ed Harris. Alcatraz Island terrorists threaten to gas San Francisco. (CC)							
ANIM	North Woods Law (N)		North Woods Law (N)		Buddies (N)		Buddies (N)		North Woods Law (11:01)	
ATSP	MLB Baseball		Bensinger		Poker Night		Heartland Poker Tour (N)		Alpha 8	
BBC	"The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" (7) (2012) ** Ian McKellen. (CC)									
BET	"Uncle Drew" (7:30) (2018) ** Kyrie Irving. (CC)		Martin (CC)		Martin (CC)		Martin (CC)		Martin (CC)	
BRAVO	The Real Housewives of Potomac (N) (CC)		Shahs of Sunset (N) (CC)		The Real Housewives of Potomac (CC)		Shahs of Sunset			
CMT	Mom (CC)		Mom (CC)		Mom (CC)		Reba (CC)		Reba (CC)	
CNBC	Shark Tank (CC)		Shark Tank (CC)		Shark Tank (CC)		Shark Tank (11:06)			
CNN	History of the Sitcom		History of the Sitcom (N)		Jerusalem-Faith (N)		History of the Sitcom			
COM	"Step Brothers" (7:30) (2008) ** Will Ferrell.		"Ride Along" (2014) ** Ice Cube. (CC)							
C-SPAN	Q & A (CC)		Prime Min. Public		January 6th (N)		Q & A (CC)			
DEST	Holmes Inspection Stacked Against Us. (CC)		Holmes Inspection Attic Dealbreaker. (CC)		Holmes Inspection Bigger Not Better. (CC)		Holmes Inspection A renovated bungalow has issues.			
DFC	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Peter Family. (CC)		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Arena Family. (CC)		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Hawkins Family.		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Kubena Family.			
DIS	"Minions" (2015) ** Voices of Sandra Bullock, Jon Hamm. (CC)		Big City Greens (9:40)		Big City Greens		Big City Greens		Big City Greens	
DSC	Naked and Afraid Two is a Crowd. Lynsey is at odds with her companion. (N) (CC)		Naked and Afraid (11:06) Thieves in the Night. (CC)							
DSC/INV	Evil Lives Here Horrifying stories of heinous crimes.		Evil Lives Here He Got Away With Murder. (N)		On the Case With Paula Zahn (N) (CC)		On the Case With Paula Zahn A Storm of Rage.			
E!	"The Proposal" (7) (2009) **		"The Intern" (2015) ** Robert De Niro, Anne Hathaway. (CC)							
ESPN	2021 Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony (7) (N) (L)		SportsCenter (N) (L) (CC)							
ESPN2	Basketball NBA Summer League Basketball: Thunder vs Pistons		NBA Summer League Basketball							
ESPN-C	College Football		College Football							
EWTN	Sun. Mass Catholics		Life (N)		Holy Rosary		EWTN on Location (N)		Catholic Catholic	
FX	Life, Liberty & Levin (N)		The Next Revolution (N)		Sunday Night in America		Life, Liberty & Levin (CC)			
FOOD	Guy's Grocery Games		Buddy vs. Duff Enticing cake versions of food feasts. (N)		Beat Bobby		Beat Bobby			
FREE FRM	"Monsters, Inc." (7:15) (2001) *** Voices of John Goodman.		"Monsters University" (9:20) (2013) *** Voices of Billy Crystal. Animated. At first rivals, Mike and Sulley became the best of pals.							
FS1	"Seabiscuit" (6:30) (2003)		"The Natural" (1984) *** Robert Redford, Glenn Close. (CC)		Seabiscuit					
FX	"Guardians of the Galaxy" (2014) *** Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana. A man must unite a team of aliens against a cosmic threat. (CC)		"Guardians of the Galaxy" (2014) *** Chris Pratt. (CC)							
FX	Family Guy		Family Guy		The Simpsons (CC)		The Simpsons (CC)		Bob's Burgers	
GOLF	PGA Golf		PGA Korn Ferry Tour		Golf Central (N) (CC)					
GSN	America America		America America		Family Feud		Family Feud		Family Feud	
HALL	"The 27-Hour Day" (7) (CC)		"Her Pen Pal" (2021) Mallory Jansen. (CC)		Golden Girls		Golden Girls			
HGTV	Renovation Island (N)		Battle on the Beach (N)		Beach (N)		Beach (N)		Mediterr. (N) Mediterr. (N)	
HIST	The Machines That Built America Motorcycle King.		The Machines That Built America (N) (CC)		Modern Marvels (10:03) Moving America. (N) (CC)		The Machines That Built America (11:05) (CC)			
IFC	"Crocodile Dundee II" (8:15) (1988) ** Paul Hogan. Outback he-man and girlfriend face Colombian drug dealers. (CC)		"Crocodile Dundee" (10:45) (1986) *** Paul Hogan. (CC)							
LIFE	"Lethal Love Triangle" (2021) Savvy Shay. Premiere. Two students meet the subject of their criminal profile.		"The Bachelor Next Door" (10:03) (2017) Haylie Duff, Michael Welch, Sarah Davenport. (CC)							
MSNBC	The Mehdi Hasan Show (N)		Week-Joshua Johnson (N)		Voices-Alicia Menendez		The Mehdi Hasan Show			
MTV	Ridic. (N)		Ridic. (N)		Ridiculous. Ridiculous.		Ridiculous. Ridiculous.		Ridiculous. Ridiculous.	
NBCS	IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship Road America. (N Same-day Tape)		MotoGP Race							
NGEO	Wicked Tuna (N)		Wicked Tuna (N)		Unknown Waters (N)		Wicked Tuna: Outer Banks			
NICK	"Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" (2012) ** Voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock. (CC)		Friends (CC)		Friends (CC)		Friends (CC)		Friends (CC)	
OWN	20/20 on OWN Presents: Homicide		20/20 on OWN A whirlwind romance takes a dark turn.		20/20 on OWN A teen romance ends in murder.		20/20 on OWN NXIVM.			
OXYGEN	Snapped Marissa Wright.		Snapped Becky Machetti.		Charmed to Death (CC)					
PARMT	Bar Rescue (CC)		Bar Rescue (CC)		Bar Rescue (N) (CC)		Bar Rescue Saving Gi Jodi.			
PCNC	Race to PCNC		PCNC 9PM		PCNC		NightTalk		Paid Prog. PCNC 11	
SC	Hunting Atlantis A 7,000-year-old skeleton. (CC)		Hunting Atlantis Legend of the Adriatic. (CC)		Secret Nazi Ruins Secrets of Vogelsang Castle. (N)		Secret Nazi Ruins Underground Superweapons.			
SYFY	"Bad Boys II" (7:30) (2003) ** Martin Lawrence, Will Smith. Two detectives battle a drug kingpin in Miami. (CC)		Jordi Molla.		"Armageddon" (10:35) (1998) ** Bruce Willis, Liv Tyler. (CC)					
TBS	The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		The Big Bang Theory		Love Life (N) (CC)		"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" (10:37) (2005) *** Johnny Depp.	
TCM	"Thrill of a Romance" (1945) *** Van Johnson, Esther Williams, Lauritz Melchior. (CC)		"Easy to Love" (1953) *** Esther Williams. An aquatic performer tries to attract the man she loves.							
TLC	90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After? (N)		You, Me & My Ex (N)		90 Day Fiancé (N)					
TNT	"Star Wars: Return of the Jedi" (6:02) ***		Animal Kingdom Deran and J compete for control. (N)		Animal Kingdom Deran and J compete for control. (N)		"Solo: A Star Wars Story" (2018) **			
TOON	Burgers		Amer. Dad		Amer. Dad		Family Guy		Rick (N) Tuca-Bert	
TRAV	Mountain Monsters The team locates a secret lair. (N)		Terror in the Woods (N) (CC)							
TRUTV	Imp. Jokers		Imp. Jokers		Imp. Jokers		Imp. Jokers		Fast Foodies Fast Foodies	
TVL	Two Men		Two and a Half Men (8:45)		Two Men		Two Men		Two Men Two Men	
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (CC)			
VH1	"Big Momma's House"		"Johnson Family Vacation" (2004) ** (CC)		"Big Momma's House 2"					
WE	NCIS Jack Knife. (CC)		NCIS Mother's Day. (CC)		NCIS Double Identity. (CC)		NCIS Moonlighting. (CC)			
WGN-A	NewsNation Prime (N)		Banfield (CC)		Banfield (CC)		NewsNation Prime (CC)			



## Condo in South Side row house priced under \$290,000

By Elizabeth Gray  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In 1992, Susan Liu moved from New York City to Las Vegas to work in the restaurant industry. She started building her first restaurant, but things didn't go according to plans. "My contractor took my money and didn't come back. So that's how I got into construction," she said.

### Buying here

Liu got a contractor's license and now rehabs properties in Pittsburgh and Las Vegas, where she lives.

Her latest project, a one-bedroom, one-bathroom condominium at 1912 Jane St. on the South Side, is on the market for \$289,999 and listed with Joanne Watterson of Keller Williams Realty (724-612-5006 or www.kw.com).

Unit B is one of four condo units in the 1920 brick building. Lui said the two front units are finished and the two in the rear are 90% completed. Unit A, which also has one bedroom and one bathroom, is priced at \$269,999 and is under contract.

"She's some kind of dynamo. She does everything herself, very hands-on," said Watterson, her real estate agent.

Liu has designed and built out all four condominiums in the former delicatessen.

"A friend of my brother-in-law introduced me to Pittsburgh and when I went there the property was cheap," she said.

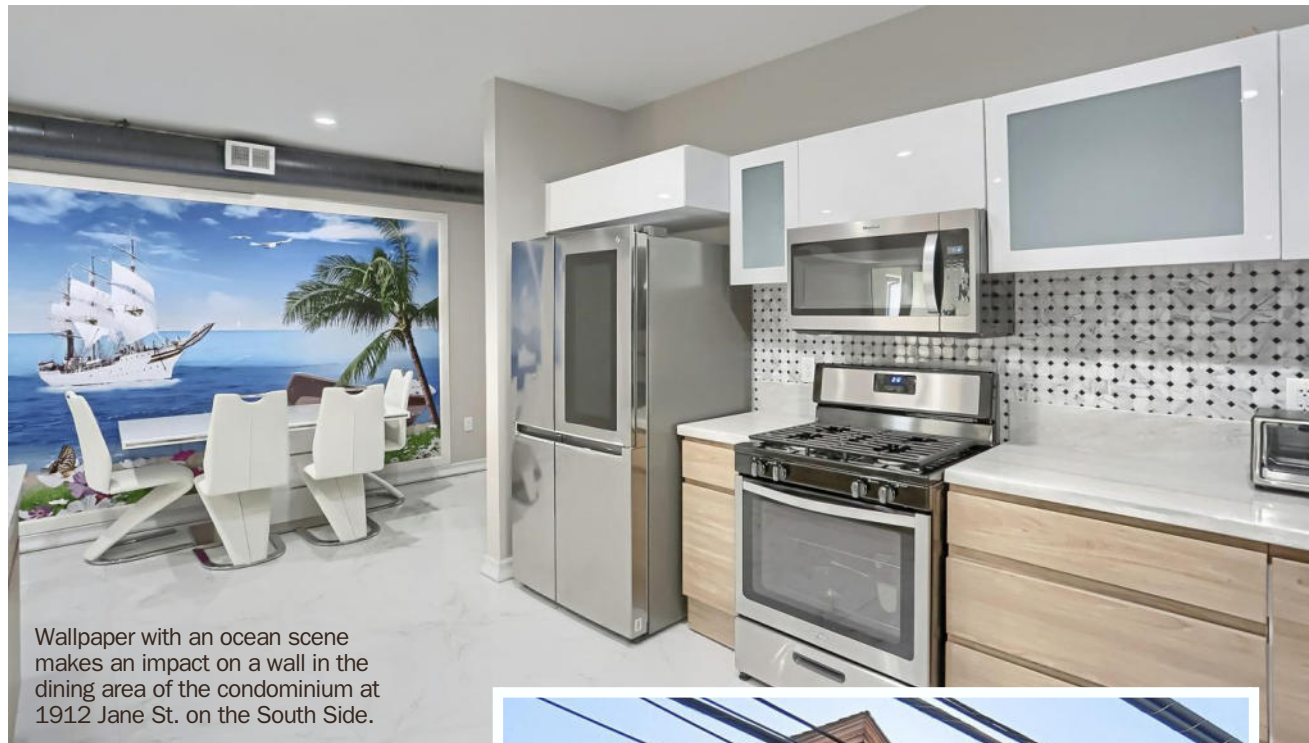
She started with a house in Swissvale and made a decent profit compared with her Las Vegas projects, Liu said.

The front door to the Jane Street unit is glass-paneled with sidelights and transom windows. Like many row houses, it has a hallway on one side and the bedroom and bathroom on the other.

At the end of hallway is a large open area that includes the kitchen, dining and living rooms. The flooring is large porcelain tile that looks like marble. Can lights in the ceilings add to the gallery feel of the condo.

The bedroom measures 20 by 11 feet and has a large double closet and luxury vinyl plank flooring in a soft shade of gray. The engineered-wood closet doors, imported from China, are far from your standard builder-grade. Mechanicals hide behind a door in the bedroom.

The adjacent bathroom features a long, quartz-topped vanity, two sinks and a very large mirror with embedded LED lighting that adjusts with a touch button on the bottom. On the far wall is a closet that contains a stacked Whirlpool



Wallpaper with an ocean scene makes an impact on a wall in the dining area of the condominium at 1912 Jane St. on the South Side.

## VEGAS IN THE FLATS

washer-dryer combination. The walk-in shower has frameless glass doors, porcelain tile, pebbled flooring and a shower seat topped with granite. A rainfall shower head makes the bathroom a peaceful oasis. Liu said the living space is in the rear of the row house to give direct access to the courtyard. The combined space has exposed brick walls and an island that divides the kitchen from the living and dining areas. On the wall behind the dining area is a large image of the ocean that will remain. It's wallpaper that's easy to remove if an owner chooses.

SEE **CONDO**, PAGE E-5



Bryan Reid/Reid Realty Images

Unit B is inside a century-old brick building constructed in 1920.

## Fairywood welcomes Emerald Gardens

By Linda Wilson Fuoco  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The name Fairywood conjures up images of tiny, gauzy-winged fairies, friendly trolls and unicorns. Although none of those mythical creatures populate Pittsburgh's western-most neighborhood, Fairywood is tiny, with just 1,002 residents in the 2010 census.

A large percentage of them live in **Emerald Gardens**, a gated community of apartments and townhomes that replaced Westgate Village, a community of subsidized and low-income apartments.

New Jersey-based Tryko Partners Inc. purchased Westgate Village in 2007, when the property was bankrupt. Tryko invested more than \$10 million to develop 427 one-, two- and three-bedroom units on 48 green acres next to the city's Fairywood Park. Monthly



Tryko Partners Inc.

Are there fairies in the woods surrounding Emerald Gardens in Pittsburgh's Fairywood neighborhood?

### Living here

rents range from \$995 to \$1,850 and there are a variety of floor plans that can be viewed at the Emerald Gardens website, www.emgardens.com.

There are 314 two-bedroom townhomes with 820 square feet of living space and rents ranging from \$1,210 to \$1,655. Eighty three-bedroom townhomes with 1,020

square feet go for \$1,210-\$1,655. The 33 one-bedroom apartments have 544 square feet and rent for \$995-\$1,060.

The buildings have brick on the first stories and vinyl siding on the second. Residents use key fobs to open the electronic gate.

Each unit has stainless-steel appliances, central air-conditioning, a gas stove, microwave and

SEE **FAIRYWOOD**, PAGE E-5

## White calamint attracts pollinators to your garden

By Carol Papas



**Penn State Extension**

Allegheny County

Looking for a versatile, easy-care perennial for a sunny spot in the garden? Look no further than lesser calamint (*Calamintha neptetoides* subsp. *nepeta*). Lesser calamint has been chosen by the Perennial Plant Association as the 2021 Perennial of the Year. The PPA is a trade association composed of growers, retailers, landscape designers and other professionals involved in the green industry. They know their perennials, and this year's choice is perfect for gardeners in our region.

Lesser calamint has soft green foliage topped in midsummer with wands of tiny white flowers that sometimes have a tinge of pale purple. It has the effect of baby's breath in the garden, its diminutive leaves and flowers contrasting well with larger flowers and leaves. Topping out at 12-18 inches, this perennial is especially useful along a path or as an edging plant for taller perennials or shrubs. Let calamint add a fresh look to the mulched space be-

tween shrubs and lawn or as a low-maintenance change from a yearly planting of annuals.

Calamint is a member of the mint family (Labiatae). Its cultural needs are consistent with plants of that realm, preferring full sun and tolerating lower fertility and dry soils. Unlike mint, calamint will not take over a garden but will self-sow occasionally in places where it is happy. Given richer soil and more consistent moisture, it will thrive but not flop, making it a perfect choice for a tidy gardener. Its foliage has an aromatic scent, so deer and bunnies leave it alone.

Lesser calamint is native to the Mediterranean. For larger flowers and more robust foliage, look for

SEE **CALAMINT**, PAGE E-5



HELLO

# Summer

SAVINGS

## Hot Buy

of the Week

**LG**

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LFXS28968S

Regular Price \$2899

**Hot Buy Price \$2499**

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The 20- by 11-foot bedroom has double doors made in China.



The kitchen, dining and living areas are in the back.



The wallpaper mural on one wall is easily removed.

## Condo inside South Side row house priced under \$290,000

**CONDO**, FROM E-4

Glazed glass in the kitchen's upper cabinets contrasts with lower cabinets that are lightly stained. A mosaic tile backsplash ties the design together. On one side

is a door to the pantry/utility room used for storage.

"The appliances are new, bought at Lowe's," said Liu.

There are a Whirlpool dishwasher and microwave with a vent fan above a gas stove. The LG side-by-side

refrigerator has an InstaView door that allows users to see what's available without opening the door.

Industrial glass doors on the far wall lead to the large communal courtyard and bring in natural light. The courtyard is

covered by an awning and behind the rear wall is a parking space that comes with the condominium.

Jane Street is two blocks south of East Carson Street and close to buses, restaurants and shopping — Giant

Eagle and Aldi's grocery stores are a short walk away. Within walking distance are a Carnegie Library branch, South Side Slopes Park and South Shore Riverside Park.

Over the past four years, four condos have sold at 1912

Jane St. for prices ranging from \$35,000 in June 2017 to \$299,000 in June 2020 ([www2.allegheycounty.us/realestate/GeneralInfo.aspx?](http://www2.allegheycounty.us/realestate/GeneralInfo.aspx?)).

Lizabeth Gray:  
lgray@post-gazette.com.



Amy Osborn/Stonehouse Nursery

Lesser calamint, named the 2021 Perennial of the Year, has long-lasting white flowers.

## White calamint can bring pollinators to your garden

**CALAMINT**, FROM E-4

'Montrose White' Calaminta nepeta. Both this cultivar and the species have an exceptionally long bloom period, starting in midsummer and persisting into early fall.

Pollinators flock to the flowers of lesser calamint. It's a terrific addition to a pollinator garden, softening coarser plants like coneflower (Echinacea), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia) or asters.

Or treat lesser calamint as a matrix plant in a modern meadow planting, massing it as a backdrop for upright grasses such as little bluestem (Schyzacharium scoparium) or border phlox (Phlox paniculata).

However you choose to use it, lesser calamint is a beautiful, tough workhorse in the sunny garden.

### North Park garden tours

Join Penn State Master Gardeners at the North Park demonstration gardens on Aug. 14. From 9 to 11 a.m., we'll tour the new sensory container garden and the Penn State Trial Gardens, which showcase new plant introductions from growers around the world. Visitors on the free tours can also see the pollinator and herb gardens at North Park. The gardens are at the intersection of Ingot and Wildwood roads.

*Carol Papas is a Penn State Master Gardener. This volunteer program supports the outreach mission of Penn State Extension and provides research-based information on best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship. Information: [allegheymg@psu.edu](mailto:allegheymg@psu.edu) or 412-482-3476.*

## Emerald Gardens features 427 units

**FAIRYWOOD**, FROM E-4

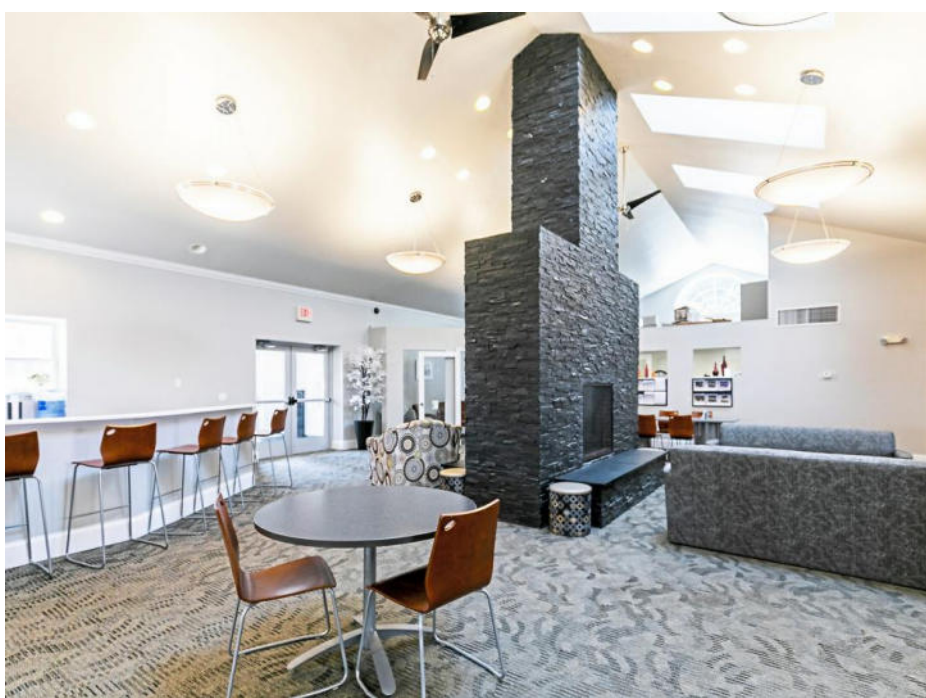
refrigerator. Two- and three-bedroom units have dishwashers. Floor coverings include vinyl planks in the living rooms, ceramic tile in kitchens and bathrooms and carpet in bedrooms.

Amenities include a laundry room and a 24-hour fitness center with tanning bed. The pet-friendly complex has an on-site dog park, a pavilion and a "paw spa" with a dog wash station.

Residents can have up to three pets, with a monthly fee of \$25 per pet. There's also a one-time pet fee of \$75 and a \$75 refundable deposit.

A potential amenity, Fairywood Pool, has been empty for years. Assistant property manager Brittny Saville said she has repeatedly asked city officials to fill the swimming pool, but nothing has come of it.

There's a strong sense of friendship and community among the tenants, especially those who have dogs to walk, Saville said. Many events were canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic, but this year has seen food



Tryko Partners Inc.

The community room at Emerald Gardens has a fireplace.

trucks on weekends and ice cream trucks every other Friday. Emerald Gardens also hosts community and holiday events, including photos with Santa, she said.

And the neighborhood's name? Some websites say that early residents believed fairies inhabited the nearby woods. In the early 1900s, the Pennsylvania Railroad built housing for its workers and called the neighborhood Fairywood, according to [pittsburghbeautiful.com](http://pittsburghbeautiful.com).

Linda Fuoco:  
lfuoco@post-gazette.com.



The fitness center with treadmills and free weights.



There is a dog washing station in the Paw Spa.



Woods surround the picnic area and volleyball court.

## Horoscope: Georgia Nicols, Aug. 8, 2021

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

**Moon alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The new moon is in Leo.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** You have focus. You are determined, hardworking and creative. Adventure appeals to you, and yet you value security. You're not afraid to commit. You are an excellent friend to others, always loyal. This year is more lighthearted and sociable. You might explore pleasing changes to your appearance, your routine or where you live. Others might seek your advice this year.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Today's new moon is the time to think about how you can im-

prove relations with your kids. Meanwhile, do you give yourself enough playtime versus worktime? You need creative outlets. Tonight: Chatty! This week: Work to improve your health.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Each new moon is a time for resolutions. How can you improve your relationships with family members and where you live? Tonight: Focus on home and family. This week: Enjoy entertaining diversions, sports and fun activities with kids.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Think about how you communicate with others. Are you a clear communicator? Do you listen to others? How can you improve? Tonight: Learn something new. This week: Redecorate and entertain.

**CANCER (June 21**

**-July 22):** Today's new moon is about money, cash flow, assets and wealth. Do you take care of what you own? Do you respect your assets? What do you need to get rid of? Tonight: Think budgets. This week: A busy schedule with short trips, errands.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** This is the best day in the year to take a realistic look in the mirror. How can you improve the image you create on your world? New hairstyle? Wardrobe change? Weight? What changes will make you feel better about your image? Tonight: Makeover ideas? This week: Shopping and buying beautiful things.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Think about your hidden agenda — not only your hidden agenda but also your spiritual values and the things you think about in the dark. What

values guide your life? Are your values worthwhile? Tonight: Solitude. This week: High energy! Shop for wardrobe goodies.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You are a social sign, and today the new moon offers you a chance to think about how to improve your relations with casual friends, acquaintances and groups to which you might belong. These are important connections for you. What can you do to make them better? Tonight: Schmooze. This week: Take a breather. Cocoon.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** At times we are all judged by parents, bosses, the police or VIPs. Today you are aware of your relationship with authority figures. What can you do to improve these relationships? Meanwhile, are you headed in the life direction that you want to

go? Tonight: You are noticed. This week: Enjoy friendships and groups plus physical competitions.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Use today's new moon to think about what further education or training you can get that will improve your life. Furthermore, what travel can you explore or enjoy that will enrich your life? Right now, these issues are important to you. Tonight: Explore! This week: Others admire your ambition.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Today's new moon urges you to be aware of anything related to inheritances, taxes, debt or shared property. Don't overlook things or be slapdash. Roll up your sleeves and take care of loose details so you feel more confident about these areas. Tonight:

Check your finances. This week: Travel and expand your universe.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Today the only new moon opposite your sign all year is taking place, which is the perfect time to think about how you can improve your closest relationships. These relationships matter to you. What can you do to enrich these relationships? Tonight: Listen sympathetically. This week: Passions will run high! Watch your budget.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** This might be the best day of the year to ask yourself how you can be more efficient and effective in everything that you do. How can you work harder and smarter? Meanwhile, what can you do to improve your health? Tonight: Get organized. This week: Focus on partners and close friends.



# No-vax father-in-law makes beach house vacay a hazard

By Amy Dickinson  
Tribune Content Agency

**Dear Amy:** Our son “Tom” received a heart transplant 10 years ago. He’s done great. He is very diligent about keeping in shape, taking his meds and eating a healthy diet.

Tom’s wife “Tracy” works in a nursing home. Throughout the pandemic, they’ve both been extremely careful. Everyone in our family, including Tom and Tracy, were vaccinated at the earliest opportunity.

Tom’s heart failure and subsequent transplant was the result of acute viral myocarditis, so we have a healthy respect for the destruction that a virus can cause. Our family has been extra cautious because of Tom’s immunosuppressed status and understand that it’s likely he has reduced protection from COVID-19 even though he’s been vaccinated.

Next month, Tom and Tracy plan to share a beach house with her sister, sister’s husband and their 3-year-old daughter. Tracy’s father, “Lou,” will also be there and will be the only unvaccinated adult present.

Tracy says her father’s refusal to be vaccinated has caused some friction in their relationship and that, even though she’s disappointed in his choice, she doesn’t want to discuss it with him.

My husband and I are livid. What’s our role here (if any)? We’d like to contact Lou to let him know how his decision affects not just him, but also Tom, Tracy and potentially her nursing home residents, as well as his granddaughter, who is too young to be vaccinated. His decision could literally kill our son.

While it would be therapeutic for us to share our concerns, it’s unlikely to change his mind. But saying

## Ask Amy

nothing and giving him a pass doesn’t seem like the right thing, either. What do you think? —Mad Mother

**Dear Mother:** It seems obvious that the two most medically vulnerable people in this beach house setup are your son and his father-in-law. Yes, it seems at this point that you have little to lose in urging “Lou” to choose vaccination. No doubt you would regret not speaking out if the elder man contracted the disease.

However, given your son’s extreme situation, his choice to attend this house party also deserves your careful examination (and comment).

As of this writing, the latest information from Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention is: “There is a clear message that is coming through: This is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated. ... Our biggest concern is we are going to continue to see preventable cases, hospitalizations and sadly deaths among the unvaccinated.”

Even TV personality (and professional vaccine underminer) Sean Hannity seems to have decided recently that “enough people have died ... and it absolutely makes sense for many Americans to get vaccinated.” This is hardly a call to shots-in-arms, but it might be a start.

**Dear Amy:** “Surviving” described her experience of having cancer during the pandemic. Like her, I had my treatments during the pandemic last year when hospital and medical visits were my social life.

Working with nurses who patiently, compassionately and skillfully completed my treatments and answered my endless questions

brought a close bond among us. There can be a letdown feeling after chemo is completed, when you know you won’t see these wonderful nurses very often and after a while, not at all.

I went through a sort of grieving process, knowing that my relationship with the nurses had changed, even though we celebrated the end of the treatments. Unless you have gone through surgeries or other treatments for serious diseases, you don’t realize that just because treatment is over, the person may not be himself or herself for quite a while yet.

I have been guilty of that sort of thinking, myself, before my own ordeal. Each of us has to get through treatments in our own way and also get through the aftermath of treatments. —Grateful for My Nurses

**Dear Grateful:** You describe an almost surreal topsy-turvy experience where because of the everyday isolation brought on by the pandemic, your contact with oncology nurses and hospital staff during your treatment became a social lifeline for you. Talk about the “half-full” glass!

Thank you so much for offering this perspective, as well as singing the praises of these wonderful nurses, who see and treat their patients through extremely challenging times.

**Dear Amy:** Responding to people wondering how long a person should grieve, I buried my beloved wife in April, and was so lonely that I remarried the following February — happily. I’m 90 years old. —Buddy

**Dear Buddy:** Congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy marriage!

*Email Amy Dickinson at askamy@amydickinson.com or send a letter to Ask Amy, P.O. Box 194, Freeville, NY 13068.*

## Real estate transfers



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### Allegheny County

#### PITTSBURGH

##### 2nd Ward

429 Forbes KPP 2 Forbes Avenue LLC to 429 Forbes Associates LLC, office building, 429 Forbes Ave., \$10,075,000. Angela Liberto Rex to James Maurice and Elizabeth Vannoststrand, 320 Fort Duquesne Blvd. Unit 15K, \$330,000. Mary Polito to Dennis Michael and Lisa Ben Manning, 320 Fort Duquesne Blvd. Unit 18G, \$154,900. Mark Shannon to Kenneth Strauss, 320 Fort Duquesne Blvd. Unit 24A, \$180,000. Ian Wallace to 501 Smallman Place LLC, 2419 Smallman St. Unit 501, \$535,000. Smithfield Oliver Phase 2 Partners LP. to KMF Ventures II LLC, 525 Smithfield St., \$789,300. Riverplace Developer LLC to Michael Flaggi, 1754 Waterfront Pl, \$907,142.

##### 3rd Ward

Richard Berenzak to Eric James Sciuilli, 112 Washington Place Unit 11D, \$152,000.

##### 4th Ward

Estate of John Kehayas to JKMO Realty LLC, commercial property, 257 Atwood St., \$700,000. Michael Naumuk to David Lewis Schwing, 166 Dithridge St. N Unit C3, \$183,000. David Ross to Elizabeth Dickey, 166 N Dithridge St. Unit K3, \$285,000. Manuel Tantoco to Lily Shih, 128 N. Craig St. # N, \$258,500.

##### 5th Ward

Fletcher Jones to Madeline Howard, 3343-3349 Webster Ave., \$97,500. Konstantine Deyev to ANG Real Estate LLC, 3374 Webster Ave., \$20,000.

##### 6th Ward

John Elisco to Zachary and Lauren Aldewereld, 220 38th St., \$750,000. NSB Legionary LLC to Charles James and Camila Alarcon Chelecki, 3434 Ligonier St., \$442,500. Louis Kotlinski to Justin Harris Woolhandler, 3036 Wiggins St., \$172,000.

##### 7th Ward

Estate of George Tutwiler to Alex Simon and Christopher Miller, 5825 Fifth Ave. Unit 202, \$230,000. Dennis Curley to David Maxwell, 5036 Castleman St., \$1,500,000. Giuseppe Pettilio trustee to David and Ellen Sussna Heyman, 705 Filbert St., \$440,000. David Kuhn to Hua Win Realty LLC, 5743 Howe St., \$495,000. Estate of Elizabeth Kennard to Divakaran Ligninal and Sindu Velsar, 825 Morewood Ave. Unit A, \$250,000. Rehan Nasir to Hector Manuel Nieves Rosado and Jason Douglas Mobley, 6015 Walnut St. 104, \$205,000.

##### 8th Ward

Estate of Francis John Lach to Steel Town Properties M3 LLC, 125 43rd St., \$125,000. Paul Meng to Tanner Fitzgerald and Madeline Saxon, 159 44th St., \$435,000. Eleanor Gialanella to William Gialanella, 4209 Bessemer St., \$360,000. Andrew Cooper to Jamie Jackson, 4630 Carlton St., \$330,000.

##### 9th Ward

Estate of Sarah Ann Brunn to Ryan Walker, 5560 Carmelia St., \$135,000. St. Raphael Parish Charitable Trust to Ballyferrier LLC, 1163 Chislett St., \$220,000. Nathaniel Goodson Jr. to Faizul Islam, 4409-4411 Coleridge St., \$124,000. Kendall Paul to Kindred Properties LLC, 5214 Columbo St., \$110,000. Estate of James Tegge to Aspen Assoc. LLC, 4826 Dearborn St., \$195,000. Jeffrey George Durik to Gregory Adamczyk and Kyle Helliar, 1130 Fairfield St., \$266,000. Lenka Baskin to Olga Schieneman, 1634 Jancey St., \$280,000. Creative Solutions Investments LLC to Sayer Real Estate LLC, 903 McCandless Ave., \$94,900. OB Properties LLC to Samuel Smith, 1832 Morning-side Ave., \$320,000. Carey Morschi to Sachin Paka and Brianna Christine Ellison, 1846 Morningside Ave., \$219,900. Patrick Breiner to Tara Matthews, 5150 Natrona Way, \$220,000. Stefanie Zukowski to Vi Hoang and Mai Phuong Nguyen, 5334 Natrona Way, \$310,000. Nicholas Augspurger to Patrick Obrien and Jasmine Turner, 5241 Stanton Ave., \$400,000. Estate of Carol Goldstein to Andrew Balko, 1020 Stanton Ter, \$135,000.

##### 10th Ward

Thomas Dickson to Kathleen Paola, 5824 Bryant St., \$200,000. 822 Mellon LP to Julian and Alison Andronic, 822 Mellon St., \$507,500. Rippey Street Partn. LLC to Ruth Fey, 322 N. Euclid Ave., \$42,000. Estate of Betty Goldsmith to Notrab Partners LLC, 130 N. Fairmount St., \$150,000. Jasmine Rose to Gabrielle Demarchi, 1437 N. St. Clair St., \$189,000. East Liberty Develop Inc. to Samantha Gilcrease, 409 Selma St., \$155,000.

##### 11th Ward

Estate of Howard Ramsey to Ardella Miller, 1602 Broadhead St., \$10,000.

##### 12th Ward

Buy Right Properties LLC to JMS5 LLC, 1911 Remington Drive, \$4,060.

##### 13th Ward

Sigrid Wecht to Kumar Amin and Lisa Rivera, 5420 Darlington Road, \$1,350,000. Wei Clark to Jordan Pransky and Radhika Patnam, 6314 Darlington Road, \$690,000. William Musser to Michael and Sara Safyan, 5474 Fair Oaks St., \$700,250. Temple Sinai Pittsburgh PA to Jie Hu and Hongzhou Liu, 5531 Forbes Ave., \$612,000. Adam Hecht to Joshua and Corinne McGinley Smith, 639 Gettysburg St., \$350,000. Lindsey Teasdale to Jay Whitacre and Kathryn Berlacher, property, McPherson Blvd., \$135,000. Douglas Harper to Jared Stayer, 2759 Mt. Royal Road, \$305,000. Maxwell King to Jonathan and Leslie Cagan, 5351 Northumberland St., \$1,075,000. Drew Feiner to Pravalika and Sampath Pulukurthi, 2249 Wightman St., \$220,000.

##### 14th Ward

Joseph Marchese to Yaacov Dlinn, 438 Connor St., \$151,518. James Kurtanich to Sala MD Uddin and Marzana Ahmed, 5237 Gertrude St., \$55,000. Urai Tasit to Jumnian Namsai, 5411 Glenwood Ave., \$15,000. Sharon Boag to Easy Rentals LLC, 4016 Haldane St., \$55,000. Yongying Han to Yan Wang, 225 Winston St., \$5,000.

##### 15th Ward

Allan Braithwaite to PGH Investors Group LLC, 418 Cathedral St., \$50,000. Dennis Korbe Jr. to Anthony Charles Seskey, 125 Dawes St., \$73,000. Glenn Gross to Timothy Seskey, 2122 Eccles St., \$70,000. Evergreen Property Invest LLC to RE Assets LLC, 2318 Eccles St., \$45,000. Richard Gross to John Koutsogiani, 721 Fisher St., \$35,000. Charles Half to Philip and Jill Hackney, 54 S. 22nd St., \$15,000. Paul Ford to Michael McCleary, 2305 Sierra St., \$100,000.

##### 16th Ward

Richard Nagy to Taylor Williams, 1327 Breed St., \$288,000. Karl Leopold Dittl to Florence Kwok, 202 S. 15th St., \$100,000. Taylor Spence to Mercedes Martinez and Elizabeth Simison, 126 S.

20th St., \$240,000.

##### 18th Ward

George McCollum to Jeffrey Tully, 347 Bailey Ave., \$355,000. Charles Williams to Jason Steverson and Bibiana Hill, 91 Lafferty Ave., \$5,000. David Sherrange to Steel Forged Properties LLC, 748 Lillian St., \$26,000. Louis Macri to Cooperative Holdings LLC, industrial site, 118 Millbridge St., \$300,000. Antony LaRoch to CMX Ventures LLC Series C, 406 Roxton St., \$61,332.

##### 19th Ward

Citylife Realty Pittsburgh LLC to Dana Lynn Parker, 2374 Bensonia Ave., \$160,000. Justin Hurst to Jason Piariski, 606 Benven Ave., \$131,000. Estate of George Reichel to Michael Alan Hollingshead, 1214 Fortuna Ave., \$105,000. Ronald Kiefer to Max Hurwitz and Jennifer Lopez, 2523 Glenarm Ave., \$219,900. Shirley Ann Sweeney to Stephen Novak, 224 Longmore Ave., \$50,000. Michael Cunningham to Mountain View Financial LLC, 511 Natchez St., \$202,000. Steven Webb to Joshua Fine, 614 Natchez St., \$147,500. Pomo Development Inc. to Brad Wesley Butcher, 1660 Rutledge St., \$695,000. William Laughner II to Sebring 276 LLC, 276 Sebring Ave., \$74,000. Estate of Mary Zaffino to Fred Frances and Morgan Cunningham, 324 Sebring Ave., \$140,000. Angela Woodard to Precision Real Estate Solutions LLC, 1707 Suburban Ave., \$87,500. Daniel Mark Pula to Andrew Carto, 810 Vaux Way, \$312,375. Gregory Fratangelo to Ryan Flint and Brianna Pentuk, 1231 Waresman St., \$227,000. Eric Steiner to Shaun Bogden, 1204 Woodbourne Ave., \$120,000.

##### 20th Ward

Micheale Starcher to Cabs Properties Ltd. LLC, real estate, Frankfort St., \$48,500. Ollie Greshaw to Samuel Reihns, 1427 Harlow Drive, \$96,000. John McLaughlin III to Joann Louise Metzler, 1036 Jerome St., \$110,250. Estate of Alex Simon to James Rhodes, 733 Lime St., \$17,500. RA 40 Acquisitions LLC to Sustainable Neighborhoods Development Co., 2957 Mervyn Ave., \$455,000.

##### 21st Ward

David Resanovich to Orchard Capital Group LLC, 1224 N. Franklin St., \$90,000.

##### 23rd Ward

Estate of Edward Staiger Jr. to Rightway Management LLC, commercial property, 840 E. Ohio St., \$150,000. Sara Thompson to Wesley Williams and Sharon Steed, 1215 Middle St., \$330,000. Photo Antiquities to JSF Madison CMP LLC, property, Turtle Way, \$450,000.

##### 24th Ward

Cheryl Juratovic to Jonathan Gaslowitz and Hannah Dobbs, property, Solar St., \$4,100. Rockefeller Enterprise LLC to Palazzi Properties LLC, 28 Woessner St., \$29,500.

##### 26th Ward

PA Coldstream LLC to Briann Moye, 101 Dunlap St., \$99,000. G & S Holdings 2003 LLC to Vanessa Diggs, 204 Essen St., \$68,000. Scott Hallam to Carolyn Beiffuss, 4024 Franklin Road, \$177,000. Jordan Robert Mitro to Quinn McAlary, 2596 Magnet St., \$4,000. Estate of Herchal Rapp to Mummy Buys Houses LLC, 2925 Reekes Way, \$25,000. Mummy Buys Houses LLC to Donaldson Property East LLC, 2925 Reekes Way, \$30,314. Estate of Herchal Rapp to Mummy Buys Houses LLC, 2905 Spring Garden Ave., \$25,000. Mummy Buys Houses LLC to Donaldson Property East LLC, 2905 Spring Garden Ave., \$31,814.

##### 27th Ward

Robert Piata II to Jeane Beerman, 120 Bookbinder Circle, \$176,900. Ruth Chorrher to Garrett Miller, 2718 California Ave., \$40,000. Homes 4 Comfort LLC to Willis and Alexandra Berkshire, 3938 California Ave., \$280,000. Joseph Mackrell III to Patricia Taylor, 1141 Cornell St., \$91,500. William Schneckloth to Kyle and Dana Patrick, 3653 Harbison Ave., \$202,000. Matthew Livenspire to Elyse Polish, 1539 Pennock Road, \$150,000. Dominic Demangone to Kimberly Tymous, 2011 Termon Ave., \$230,000. Getsemana Place LLC to Jasmine Henderson, 1043 Woods Run Ave., \$20,000. Deborah Pukony to Joseph Barnes, 1217 Woods Run Ave., \$1,200.

##### 28th Ward

Brian Barker to Dawn Marie Ninness, 263 Balver St., \$16,000. West End Assets LLC to Au Ag LLC, 152 Elmont St., \$32,000. Marie Tuff to Garrett Kunuc, 1415 Hidden Timber Drive, \$133,900. Robert Ions to WHFC Gram LLC, 1223 Hollywood St., \$29,200.

##### 29th Ward

Voelker Properteis LLC to Ryan Fahmer, 226 Cedarrove St., \$163,000. Donda Development Co. to Joseph Acedes, 105 E. Meyers Ave., \$70,000. David Resanovich to Jeffrey and Linda Streschenko, 128 Poplagraff St., \$35,000. Mario Bembic to Judith Poplos, 125 Spencer Ave., \$128,700.

##### 30th Ward

Donald Singleton to Samuel Leitch, 127 Bausman St., \$8,000. Estate of Arthur Fedorek to 420 Brownsville Rd LLC, commercial property, 420 Brownsville Rd, \$210,000. Estate of Arthur Fedorek to 24 Grape St. LLC, 24 Grape St., \$30,000. Hoang & Nguyen Properties LLC to Thi Bich Thanh Hoang, 165 Knox Ave., \$21,000. David Resanovich to Steel Forged Properties LLC, commercial property, 341 Orchard Pl, \$155,000. Roi Shlomo to Fairtown 01 LLC, 410 Suncrest St., \$26,000. Standing Rock Holding LLC to RE Assets LLC, 213 Wilbur St., \$29,000. Robert Jenkins to Admiral Property Management LLC, 238 Zara St., \$19,000.

##### 31st Ward

Renee Susan Morris to George Bell, 5131 Delford St., \$17,000. Richard Kozikowski to Shilo Ben Moshe, 5516 Dellaglan Ave., \$36,257. Brandon Hathaway to Kevin Stoerkel, 5102 Glenhurst Road, \$145,000.

##### 32nd Ward

Marisa Kreider to Luke Hrapchak, 138 Aidan Ct, \$215,400. Robert Richards to Yihwen Jwo and Shiyung Liu, 175 Aidan Ct, \$24,000. Estate of Benedict Serrato to Barry Comeriatari Jr. and Shana Leff, 1668 Brookline Blvd., \$150,000. William Henry to Barbara Lee Wolowicz, 536 Horing Ave., \$143,000. Joshua Updyke to Matthew and Allison Guerrero, 2102 Whited St., \$177,300.

##### Aleppo

Daniel Kriger to William and Deborah Wible, 206 Mc Coy Road, \$340,000.

##### Aspinwall

Dillon Stein to Erica Franko, 414 Brilliant Ave., \$385,000.

##### Avalon

Steven Langhurst to James Irwin III, 508-506 California Ave., \$265,000. Michael Glavin to Timothy and Maureen Frew, 640 City View Ave., \$67,000.

##### Baldwin Borough

Paul Haley to Yadu Subedi, 471 Balconade Drive, \$180,000. UGC 38 LLC to Nicholas and Kristen Hills, 735 Baldwin Drive, \$220,000. Douglas Robson to VB One LLC, 5157 Cuyam Road, \$82,000. Walter Roth to Home Buying Solutions Inc., 159 Goucher Drive, \$95,000. Estate of Ronald Radziukinas to Guman Biswa, 1646 Hollywood Road, \$190,100. Darry Brown to Old Clairton Partners LLC, Indus-

trial site, 4999 Old Clairton Road, \$450,000. Bernice Dwyer to Robert Mirt, 495 Songo St., \$86,500. Giuseppe Casamassa to Brandon Crusan and Sarah Yonash, 1103 Towerview Drive, \$391,000. Lawrence Yantz to Sonya Trufley, 3022 Vernon Ave., \$120,000. Gregory James Gielas to Bryan Kozlowski and Carly Sherer, 3032 Vernon Ave., \$168,500. Eric Ruckth to McCuskey Properties LLC, 51 Walton Road, \$142,000.

##### Baldwin Township

Barbara Zysk to Martin and Doreen Beyers, 802 Highview Road, \$152,000.

##### Bellevue

James Kania Jr. to RECB LLC, 621 Monrovia Ave., \$82,000. Stephanie Ruffner to Joseph Bassar, 428 Roosevelt Ave., \$140,000.

##### Bethel Park

Estate of Pater Hayko to Keith and Jody Macell, 5012 Belmont Ave., \$205,000. John Kovac to Toomey Hancock LLC, property, 1227 Braun Road, \$38,900. Charles Barkey to Gregory and Sara Murtaugh, 1020 Brookfield Drive, \$382,000. Robert Kanotz to RP2ALL LLC, 321 Broughton Road, \$205,000. Enez Bagoric to William Keene Jr. and Karen Keene, 122 Cambridge Road, \$240,000. Crystal Starkey to Amber Tolentino, 5753 Clark Ave., \$185,400. Dustin Buys Houses LLC to Bradley Loiben and Britt any Garove Loiben, 362 Fruitwood Drive, \$260,000. Shashi Timsina to James and Prem Narayan Adhikari, 1518 Melia Drive, \$180,000. Scott Carpenter to Hans and Breanna Eichenlaub, 5957 Monongahela Ave., \$320,000. David Nalepa to Kevin and Erika Halpin, 6000 Murdoch Ave., \$263,000. Cheryl Tacka to Jay and Joelle Lessler, 2824 Oak St., \$89,000. Lee Metz to Sarah Rebecca Caboron, 168 Old Village Lane, \$164,900. Ryan Bane to RP2ALL LLC, 1152 Star Ave., \$166,000.

##### Brackenridge

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency to Scott and Susan Twiss, 813 Cleveland Ave., \$31,500. Housing & Urban Development to Jacob Marino, 717 Penn St., \$32,150.

##### Braddock

Steel City Soils LLC to Pantone Property LLC, commercial property, Braddock Ave., \$2,600. Heritage Health Foundation Inc. to Pittsburgh Stays LLC, property, Comrie Ave., \$2,100.

##### Bradford Woods

Estate of Roberta Jean Borden to Nicolas Elms and Jacquelyn Previt, 123 Boothby Hbr, \$335,000. Joseph Frederick to Eileen Ravis, 71 Marblehead Hbr, \$181,032. Nigel Watts to Christopher and Noelle Wiker, 81 Seldom Seen Road, \$566,450.

##### Brentwood

Jeneane Langenbacher to David Ford III, 116 Catskill Ave., \$150,000. Joyce Ann Malinosky to Kaitlyn Marie Ruhl, 3871 Delco Road, \$100,000. Joshua Hauser to Lois Jane Williams, 524 E. Garden Road, \$150,000. Brittanee Bell to Ryan Thompson and Jessica Friday, 2917 Waidler Ave., \$115,000.

##### Carnegie

Melissa Ann Kraft to Allison Papula and Jacquelyn Proie, 406 Second Ave., \$180,000. Michael Gissin to Michelle Barton, 407 Seventh Ave., \$51,000. Robert Moser to Michael Ryan, 4 Ann St., \$155,000. Rosemarie Wallace to Kevin Anthony McCrea, 612 Boquet St., \$147,000.

##### Castle Shannon

Estate of Robert Hibler to Kody Helbig and Dana Achille, 4227 Greenridge Road, \$130,000. Estate of Jerome Galiszewski to Sean and Ann Omara, 3190 Home Ave., \$175,000. Daniel Short to Matthew Burkett, 813 Kerry Hill Drive, \$147,000. BSAT LLC to Elessa Young, 4231 Willow Ave., \$160,000.

##### Chalfant

Barbara Faye Kaczor to Mark Bailey and Emily Hilliard, 148 Brighton St., \$10,000. Donald Fulmer to Matthew Ian Lehet and Michelle Elizabeth Stepan, 221 Greenfield Ave., \$138,500.

##### Cheswick

Candle Shreve to Betty Nesbit, 414 Pillow Ave., \$18,000. Christopher Nacy to Madison Petras, 1531 Sherman St., \$149,900.

##### Churchill

Florence Palmieri to Hayward Arnold, 1445 Beulah Road, \$212,000. Christopher Pearlman to Alan Davis and Angela Palombo, 52 Garden Terrace, \$152,250. Michael McFarland to Justin and Maria Devore, 1514 Williamsburg Place, \$209,900.

##### Clairton

Nasir Raees to Kirk Yogan, 672 Fifth St., \$14,000. Nasir Raees to Kirk Yogan, 113 Carnegie Ave., \$14,000. Nasir Raees to Kirk Yogan, property, 525 Farmsworth Ave., \$84,000. Bottom Land LP. to Bridget Golman, 816 Horton St., \$48,750. Nasir Raees to Kirk Yogan, 928 Miller Ave., \$154,000. Shaheen Sajid to Kirk Yogan, 516 Thompson Ave., \$14,000.

##### Collier

Michelle Montani to Lance Cooper, 88 Baldwin Road Ext., \$260,000. Paragon Homes Inc. to Matthew Eby, 1101 Boxer Way, \$600,000. Estate of Philip Cartier to Jordan and Thomas Zahorchak, 773 Darlington St., \$171,800. Nick Mamula to Donald and Sarah Schwartzmiller, 24 Landview Road, \$230,000. Mary Welsh to Jessica Tan, 617 Hilton Cir., \$270,000. Robert Semancik to John Uhl and Dana Sloboda, 206 Meadowgrove Cir, \$460,000.

##### Crafton

Randraft Wharton to Douglas and Elizabeth Spies, 58 Hawthorne Ave., \$325,500. Kraig Coxon to Vincent Ridilla and Jamie Nowalk, 20 Walnut St., \$171,500.

##### Dormont

Joseph Turk to Abigail Howard, 912 Parkside Ave., \$214,900. Susan Whyard trustee to Pirain Family L.P., commercial property, 3130 Raleigh Ave., \$710,000.



# Real estate transfers

## DEEDS, FROM PAGE E-6

### Elizabeth Township

Paulette Rush to Jacqueline Joan Axon and Joy Washowich, 207 Elizabeth Ave., \$295,000. Joy Washowich to Bruce Thomas and Darlene Ann Coleman, 2224 Lebanon Drive, \$186,000. Estate of Patricia Mains to Kathryn Goettel, 437 Lincoln Hall Road, \$112,500. Stacey Skerkowski to Christopher Gary, 428 Simpson Howell Road, \$235,000.

### Ensworth

Owen Kirkpatrick to Christopher Fedosick and Amber Weigle, 219 Church Ave., \$237,077.

### Fawn

Charles Ehrman to Kevin Roberts and McKay Ehrman, 3082 Donnellville Road, \$47,367.

### Findlay

Maronda Homes LLC to Kevin Dean Shiffert, 160 Craig St., \$320,319. BGRS LLC to Brenna Grogan, 4 Trotter Lane, \$437,000. George Messner to RM Real Estate Venture LLC, property, US Route 30, \$225,000. Mary Wolf to MGW Ventures LLC, office building, 1383 US Route 30, \$2,000.

### Forest Hills

Estate of James Madden to Simon Nicholas Heath, 208 Berkeley Ave., \$123,000. Kodiak Firemist to John Patterson and Alessandra Trunzo, 105 Forest Glen Drive, \$185,700.

### Forward

Greg Enterprises Inc. to Darrell and Denise School, commercial property, 4245 Coral St., \$255,000. Estate of Regis Monsour to Jeffrey and Leanne Pomponio, 2060 John St., \$87,000. Anthony Bavuso to Haley Wigand, 2486 McKeever St., \$35,000. Christopher Wessling Sr to Ashley Marie Debevec, 4525 Williamsport Road, \$45,000.

### Fox Chapel

Todd Alan Fennell to New Frontier Influence Group, 15 Chapel Ridge Road, \$280,000. Charles Irwin Jr. to Ryan Nelson and Katherine Wilhelmy, 28 Easton Drive, \$633,500. Gaurav Gandotra to John and Meghan Wilson, 111 Forest Drive, \$755,000. Chilly Night Fox Run LLC to Mark and Maria Henderson, 1080 Fox Chapel Road, \$975,000. Sylvia Vogt to Christian and Joanna Massetti, 160 Lakeside Drive, \$1,150,000.

### Franklin Park

Leroy Dallas Martin to Jacob Raymond Hince and Nicole Liberto, 2400 Antrim Court, \$420,300. Tayyeba Kokan to Eric Hamilton Obrien, 1400 Mystic Valley Drive, \$663,000. Darren Frank to David Brown and Tiffany Marie Shemela, 1432 Mystic Valley Drive, \$995,000. Robert Shema to Tanuja Basavaraj and Renukandana Kiladar Prasada, 1409 North Shevlin Ct, \$500,100. Irene Potetz to Eric Neurohr, 2030 Reis Run Road, \$225,000. Leslie Shar to Thomas Richard Knouff Jr. and Tiffany Knouff, 2305 Salem Drive, \$455,500. KR Group LLC to Ashweena Goungutla and Ramakrishna Mukkamalla, 1700 Stevenson Drive, \$720,000. Eileen O'Malley to Sharadha Devi Gunasekaran and Ranjithumar Somsandaram, 1818 Willow Oak Drive, \$715,000.

### Frazier

Dean Odell to Nelson Milano and Ashley Fersch, 729 Crawford Run Road, \$130,000. Alan George Solits to David and Irma Gina Disanti, 1542 Days Run Road, \$100,000.

### Glassport

Kevin Morrow to PGX Realty LLC, 619 Vermont Ave., \$44,044. Darren Kennedy to Joshua Matthew Dusha and Brittany Danford, 2019 WASHINGTON BLVD, \$130,000.

### Green Tree

Ryan Knies to Tyler Earl Keef, 104 Bergen Place, \$289,000. Hassan Alfatwi to Hayder A Albu Mohammed, 1105 Green-tree Road, \$195,000.

### Hampton

John Woods Jr. to Coby Green, 2924 Camberly Drive, \$241,000. Richard Miller Jr. to Chad and Justine Clark, 2129 Duncker Ave., \$107,000. NVR Inc. to Hong Van Nguyen, 5145 Hampton Place Drive, \$549,625. Heather Kelly to Keith Pelkey Jr., 2437 Lakemont Road, \$269,000. Estate of Gamett Turner to Edward and Rebecca Nadelny, 4421 Laurel Oak Drive, \$179,000. Estate of Paul Cox to Terry and Laura Mann, 2432 Linden Drive, \$135,000. Estate of Russell Knapp to John Schwab Jr., 2424 Mina Drive, \$229,000. Thomas Rudy to Brandon and Meghan Strahler, 2477 Trotter Drive, \$316,000.

### Hammar

Elizabeth Pierce to James Wood, property, 715 Gulf Lab Road, \$11,286. Langley Seacat Cass to Vincent Josua and Kaari Elaine Hellebrand, 909 Red Oak Drive, \$537,500.

### Harrison

Angelo Cialone to Albert Cialone, 1250 Tenth Ave., \$77,900. MTGLQ Investors L.P. to Heller Brothers Investments LLC, 1284 Eighth Ave., \$10,000. Omar Henderson to Gary and Brenda Swager, 28 Federal St., \$5,000. James Bottles Sr to Ethan Frantz, 1204 Montana Ave., \$115,000. Scott Huckabava to Tiffany Carter, 1216 Princeton Ave., \$94,000.

### Heidelberg

Jacob Bosiljevac to Daniel Ryan, 544 Garfield St., \$189,900.

### Homestead

Hary Williams Jr. to SRB Construction LLC, 221 E. 14th Ave., \$31,000. Estate of Avis Alberta Brook to Aroeria Properties L.P., 246 E. 14th Ave., \$6,000. David Mullen to Beccato Properties LLC, 343 W. 15th Ave., \$7,000.

### Indiana

Michael DiNatale to 1910 Fox Chapel LLC, 1910 Fox Chapel Road, \$81,500. Kyle Johnson to Richard Michalek Jr., 122 McClelland Drive, \$335,000.

### Jefferson Hills

John Newman to Sean Glenn and Kris Lynn Weldon, 411 Valleyview Drive, \$670,000. Sean Weldon to Puma Lamsal et al. and Bishnu Mainali, 3317 Woodwind Drive, \$407,000.

### Kennedy

Madelyn Haber to Eric Rubalcaba and Mary Mudy, 92 Coraopolis Road, \$169,900. Cheryl McDermott to Donald Devenzio, 65 Fairhaven Road, \$175,000. Brian Adamski to Taylor Jordan, 5019 Julia Lane, \$102,942. Jeffrey Rectenwald to Jay and Courtney Freudenberg, 123 Mallard Drive, \$220,000. Mario Manna to Deborah Peters, 1531 Meerschbaum Lane, \$268,900. NVR Inc. to James Bircic Jr. and Sherri Bircic, property, 105 Red Pine Drive, \$447,700. NVR Inc. to Richard and Lauren Mongiovi, 118 Red Pine Drive, \$477,945.

### Liberty

Estate of Colleen Williams to David Williams, 2707 E. St., \$53,000. Ashley Holl to Regina Shank, 503 Soene Ridge Road, \$134,921. Jay Medved to Dennis Thir II, 2752 Washington Blvd., \$205,000.

### Marshall

Mark Shaffer to Frank Farina, 512 Carvine Court, \$325,000. Celtic Capital LLC to Kenneth and Laura Broadbent, 228 Faulk Drive, \$311,020. Celtic Capital LLC to James Madonna and Christina Westall

Madonna, 230 Faulk Drive, \$288,900. Bachman Builders Inc. to Dustin Simmons, 1014 Goldeneye Drive, \$1,180,000. Tony Malouf to Patrick Demeo, 308 Marshall Heights Drive, \$262,000. SAISH Properties LLC to Divyasree Devarajan and Sarat Chandran Sarnagadharan, 352 Marshall Heights Drive, \$310,000. Donald Kerish to Joshua and Moon Fenton, 152 Peppergrass Road, \$1,825,000.

### McCandless

Charles Lavery to Samantha and Taylor Howland, 1828 Allison Ave., \$300,000. Edward Desautels to Samuel Sherlock and Kelly Jenniches, 1091 Balmoral Drive, \$293,000. Sean Smith to Bo Li and Chen Zhang, 888 Beacon Lane, \$380,000. Roy Halayama to Jason Blake and Sarah Cobbs, 2190 Ben Franklin Drive, \$486,700. Jay Cadwallader to Guofeng Huang and Zhaocong Xie, 8811 Brezewski Drive, \$261,000. Lia Desto to Thawing Com Man and Lim Lat Thaw, 10537 Forest Hill Drive, \$281,000. Joseph Huwe Jr. to Brian Patrick Saylor and Crystal Lynn Mangone, 10540 Grubbs Road, \$463,000. Gary Machiko to Northland Properties, commercial property, 9380 McKnight Road, \$91,000. Gary Machiko to Northland Properties, ofice building, 9380 McKnight Road Ste 102, \$91,000. Jack Rudolph to Julie Hough, property, Mohican Ave., \$160,000. Jason Martin to Joshua Bickle and Danielle Coury, 385 Pine Creek Road, \$415,000. Scott Boehmke to Rocco Palmieri, 10015 Pine Ridge Drive, \$419,000. Gary Sapp to Vinit Ajit Jain, 863 Plecher Lane, \$496,400. Donald Neuberger to Christopher and Irish Eichler, 8165 Taft Pl, \$324,900. Carolyn Halferty to Myers Boys Properties LLC, 9863 Tomahawk Trl, \$160,000. Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC to Edward Uhler IRA, 438 W Ingomar Road, \$107,500. Brian Sayer to Nickolas Rostek, 9015 Willoughby Road, \$329,000.

### Mckeesport

CA Property Management LLC to Kirk Yogan, 1411 Beech St., \$22,000. Federal National Mortgage Assn. to Carl Wilkinson IV, 2115 Duquesne Ave., \$35,200. Jems Properties LLC to Kirk Yogan, 1129 Freemont St., \$26,500. Karen Livingston to Renee Mikell, 1403 Freemont St., \$35,900. BZM LLC to Kirk Yogan, 3409 Gleason St., \$25,000. Sydney Cummins Jr. to Ronald and Constance Kugler, 3110 Glover St., \$5,000. Laird Oskin to Carmen Giarmatino, 3220 Grover St., \$42,400. Keith Soles to Kirk Yogan, 175 Oxford Drive, \$25,000. James Brewer to Julian and Stephanie Thomas, 438 Pacific St., \$28,850. Richard Dellapenna to Kennedy Investment Properties LLC, 1710 Sumac St., \$31,000. ETMS Group LLC to Kirk Yogan, 2807 Versailles Ave., \$18,000. Derrick Gibson to Cassie Priselac, 2040 Wesley St., \$14,791.

### Millvale

Jack Klein to Audrey Kreider, 6 Bismark St., \$127,653. Chad Lowers to Michael and Zachary Grossman, 709 Evergreen Ave., \$138,321. Lambo Properties 36 Troy LLC to Christopher Main and Cassandra Chan, 36 Troy St., \$275,000.

### Monroeville

George Foster to Krista Wible, 210 Blue Grass Circle, \$235,000. Anne Fields to Saige Cuccia, 442 Brunner Drive, \$289,900. Mark Outrich to Jacquelyn Arenth, 700 Cottonwood Drive, \$175,000. Sal Divita to Segavepo LLC, 204 Dolomite Drive, \$161,000. Thomas Pope to Genysa Davis and Cynthia Pope, 948 Garden City Drive, \$175,000. John Hansberry to Tracey Tanver, 4426 Gateway Drive, \$340,000. Matthew Stephen Beltz to John Braun, 1156 LaSalle Road, \$175,000. Jonathan Williams to Lyle Bursic and Rachel Kotvas, 4745 Lolly Drive, \$165,000. Geraldine Crovovsky to Anthony and Alyson Young, 307 Mcmasters Drive, \$122,000. Gary Tarkus to Casey and Miranda Carreiro, 2295 Monroeville Road, \$115,000. Karl Gskovich Jr., 1306 Elliott St., \$138,000. D & L Management Group LLC to PD & B Enterprises LLC, property, Franklin Road, \$4,000. Mazal Schneid to Manzur Asadov, 417 Guylin Drive, \$40,000. Albert Dorn to Paul Thomas and Roberta Kaylor, 1121 Hallford Drive, \$149,900. Donna Cowder Gray to Anita Jane Williams, 203 Hibiscus Drive, \$169,000. Isaac Buckman to Mohamed Suliman Hamid, 210 Hoodberg Road, \$75,000. Vera Hunter to Rebecca Shaffer, 245 Marshall Drive, \$85,000. Estate of Blair Ceszra to Randy Gardner, 116 McGregg Drive, \$109,900. Anthony Laroche to CMX Ventures LLC Series D, 115 Morlow Drive, \$82,422. Svagn Gvion to VB One LLC, 341 Orin St., \$33,000. Maica Properties LLC to Michael Santiago, 755 Parkway Ave., \$98,000. Samreen Durran to Ladonne Howard, 358 Princeton Drive, \$107,000. Anthony Laroche to CMX Ventures LLC Series E, 141 Rosewood Drive, \$83,904. Daniel Alder trustee to Sara Mancine, 616 Sara Lane, \$105,000. Verona Trust No 1006963 to MD Trade LLC, 6963 Verona St., \$9,467.

### Moan

Raymond Carretta to Jaime and Mireya Ortiz, 306 Beagle Ct, \$475,000. JPKM Realty LLC to Kathleen Marie Welsh and Tracey Marie Welsh Pedersen, 622 Bonnie Brae Drive, \$99,000. National Transfer Services LLC to Nicholas Edward Faraci and Katelyn Maione, 123 Cimarron Drive, \$317,500. Joelah Sieck to Andrew and Jasmina Konitzer, 1185 Ewing Road, \$290,000. Leonard Mixer trustee to Matthew McCormick, 336 Flaugherty Run Road, \$84,800. Richard Coradi to Lawrence and Lorraine Vales, 305 Mclntosh Drive, \$245,000. Maria Gutierrez to Anthony Boggio and Hanna Stubenbort, 129 Scottsdale Drive, \$220,000. Frederick Abegg to BGRS LLC, 5009 Stags Leap Lane, \$412,000. BGRS LLC to Ryan Anthony and Kassie Donnell Jones, 5009 Stags Leap Lane, \$412,000. Michael Petersen to Kenneth Leffler and Allison Shields, 218 Westminster Drive, \$345,000.

### Mt. Lebanon

Matthew Minczeski to Melissa Froelich, 333 Akron Ave., \$306,000. Leanna Frey to Patrick Morosetti, 205 Alfred St., \$246,500. Estate of Edward Campbell to LBNGSouth LLC, 1182 Arrowood Drive, \$205,000. Robert Bates to SIRVA Relocation CR LLC, 624 Beverly Road, \$446,001. SIRVA Relocation CR LLC to Daniel Slotkiss and Hanna Leggenza, 624 Beverly Road, \$446,001. Robert McDowdell to Kevin and Sara Bentley Ryan, 95 Castle Shannon Blvd., \$539,000. Casey West to Dawn Crissman and Chastity West, 218 Dell Ave., \$82,479. Adam Bauman to Hudson Family Trust, 86 Hoodridge Drive, \$520,000. Sean Stefanik to Sanjay Prasher and Elaine Klody, 123 Inglewood Drive, \$390,000. Estate of Ada Facenda to Nora Anderson, 545 Kingsberry Cir, \$440,000. Estate of Fred Hoffman to Joseph and Cecilia Satovich, 1091 Mississippi Ave., \$163,000. James Van Nostrand to Sean Staltari and Alanna Platt, 275 Orchard Drive, \$520,000. Gerald Burke to David and Frances Nicole Parker, 365 Orchard Drive, \$330,000. Gareth J Williams to Steven F Baicker and Carol Baicker McKee, 635 Overlook Drive, \$383,000. James Ackerman to John and Mary Adele Kroiukowski, 276 Park Entrance Drive, \$459,900. Kenneth Smith Madelyn Haber to Eric Rubalcaba and Mary Mudy, 92 Coraopolis Road, \$169,900. Cheryl McDermott to Donald Devenzio, 65 Fairhaven Road, \$175,000. Brian Adamski to Taylor Jordan, 5019 Julia Lane, \$102,942. Jeffrey Rectenwald to Jay and Courtney Freudenberg, 123 Mallard Drive, \$220,000. Mario Manna to Deborah Peters, 1531 Meerschbaum Lane, \$268,900. NVR Inc. to James Bircic Jr. and Sherri Bircic, property, 105 Red Pine Drive, \$447,700. NVR Inc. to Richard and Lauren Mongiovi, 118 Red Pine Drive, \$477,945.

### Mt. Oliver

John Kelly to 19 Holdings Limited, 429 Hays Ave., \$111,000. Blue Line Property Management LLC to Joel Grosse, 316 Onyx St., \$40,000.

### Munhall

Wells Fargo Bank NA to Law 1 Capital Real Estate LLC, 266 Cherry Way, \$82,000. Tanya Halkyert to Cicc & Sons Investments LLC, 807 E. 11th Ave., \$57,000. Beverly Monroe to Stephen Ludovico, 4814 Hamilton Road, \$183,900. Jeff Penninger to Brian and Cindy Miedel, 182 Larkspur St., \$126,000. Vincent McCloskey Jr. to West Virginia Avenue

LLC, 3633 Trautman St., \$125,000. Susan Cometto to Benjamin Beisler, 3534 Valewood Drive, \$137,500. Sean Russell to Katie Dopkowski, 416 Vine St., \$75,000.

### North Braddock

George Garrett to Homestead Heritage Property Management L, 1504 Electric Ave., \$10,000.

### North Fayette

BGRS LLC to John Ciccarelli and Lindsay Dull, 105 Derby Ln, \$449,900. Court-royes At The Preserves LLC to James and Rose Ann Cochran, 315 Dupont Drive, \$379,000. Thomas Schott to Joseph and Deb Maritato, 7908 Green Meadow Drive, \$80,000. Maronda Homes LLC to Cory Adam Bolinger and Ramsha Rizvi, 313 Regent Ct, \$534,074. Samuel Lucchi to DCI Custom Homes Inc., property, 874 Seabright Road, \$43,000. Mark Albaugh to Christopher Branchetti, 107 Stonebridge Drive, \$405,000. Mark Morris to Ronald Grimm and Cheryl Charlie, 324 Woodcrest Drive Unit 111-m, \$284,900.

### North Versailles

Estate of Freda Chidester to Silver Snow, 71 Arlene Drive, \$114,900. Daryl Nissen to Andrew Morfenski and Stacia Kagaris, 73 Arlene Drive, \$97,000. Tammy Wright to Lary and Janice Elaine Ryan, 228 Delaware Ave., \$83,000. Amanda Dieffend-erke to Janese Scott, 263 Greensburg Pike, \$30,650. JEM Services LLC to Ventures Group LLC, 1011 Preston Drive, \$40,000. Bernardo Velazquez Aviles to Bryan Cogley, 320 Union Ave., \$75,000.

### O'Hara

Melvin Brooks to Gail Bayer, 300 Fox Chapel Road 610, \$270,000. Estate of Thomas Haykin to Nathaniel and Mindy Kalac Coblentz, 1115 Powers Run Road, \$290,000. James Park to Wesley and Nancy Windrose, 238 Sunridge Road, \$564,000. Elizabeth Sapp to Adam Sharbaugh and Elizabeth Pace, 625 Virginia Ave., \$290,000.

### Oakdale

Marc Huber to Peps Realty Group LLC, ofice building, 108 Seminary Ave., \$175,000.

### Oakmont

Bonnie Cowan to Anthony and Linda Manno, 628 Tenth St., \$352,400. Joseph Ison to Adam and Catherine Wick, 533 11th St., \$330,000. Peter Daley to David and Melissa McFadden, 821 11th St., \$628,750. Estate of Frederick Favo to Keith and Loraine Zatawski, 724 14th St., \$318,150. Michael Hummel to Ashley Boye, 816 Seventh St., \$389,900. Jared Hauger to Changging Chen and Stephanie Lin, 35 Allegheny Ave., \$464,900. Edgewater Properties LP., Geoff Thomas and Heather Lea Hogate, 26 California Ave., \$411,000. Mindy Labelle to Blake Lanious, 297 Commons Drive, \$172,500. Dolores Twells to David and Lucy Bobby, 514 Edgewood Ave., \$194,000. Cohen Hulton Road LLC to Cypress Land Partners LLC, property, 1037 Hulton Road, \$1,000,000. Steven Hemingray to Michael and Monica Hummel, 1305 Summit Drive, \$580,000. Steven Goto to Daniel Adamek and Emily Laubhan, 1106 Virginia Ave., \$449,000.

### Ohio

David Braun to Matthew and Emily Gailey, 310 Castone Lane, \$250,000.

### Osborne

Keith Droz to BGRS LLC, 1314 Linden St., \$655,000. BGRS LLC to Joshua Marc Lambert and Brittany Christine Cole, 1314 Linden St., \$655,000.

### Penn Hills

Vladimir Ivanov to Kellie Dyer, 11042 Aza-ble Drive, \$145,000. Herbert Walker Jr. to Lance Weber, property, 113 Caldwell Ave., \$2,000. Anthony Aiemo to Danielle Mazzotta, 294 Coal Hollow Road, \$98,000. Alyssa Lippert to Karen Lippert, 208 Crescent Pines Drive, \$110,000. Dorothy Hann to William Broadus Jr., 1386 Elliott St., \$138,000. D & L Management Group LLC to PD & B Enterprises LLC, property, Franklin Road, \$4,000. Mazal Schneid to Manzur Asadov, 417 Guylin Drive, \$40,000. Albert Dorn to Paul Thomas and Roberta Kaylor, 1121 Hallford Drive, \$149,900. Donna Cowder Gray to Anita Jane Williams, 203 Hibiscus Drive, \$169,000. Isaac Buckman to Mohamed Suliman Hamid, 210 Hoodberg Road, \$75,000. Vera Hunter to Rebecca Shaffer, 245 Marshall Drive, \$85,000. Estate of Blair Ceszra to Randy Gardner, 116 McGregg Drive, \$109,900. Anthony Laroche to CMX Ventures LLC Series D, 115 Morlow Drive, \$82,422. Svagn Gvion to VB One LLC, 341 Orin St., \$33,000. Maica Properties LLC to Michael Santiago, 755 Parkway Ave., \$98,000. Samreen Durran to Ladonne Howard, 358 Princeton Drive, \$107,000. Anthony Laroche to CMX Ventures LLC Series E, 141 Rosewood Drive, \$83,904. Daniel Alder trustee to Sara Mancine, 616 Sara Lane, \$105,000. Verona Trust No 1006963 to MD Trade LLC, 6963 Verona St., \$9,467.

### Pennsville Village

Frank Difolco to Kelly Ann Horak, 230 Colony Court, \$141,500.

### Pine

Showcase Properties Inc. to Justin Michael and Kelly Elizabeth Lennon, 205 Abbacy Drive, \$613,388. Estate of Rosemarie Moltetz to Dustin and Tiffany Hilgar, 5036 Bakerstown Road, \$385,000. Scott Harer to David and Debra Homa, 145 Blue Heron Drive, \$424,900. Kelly Rupprecht to Timothy and Jennifer Lipp, 4111 Fairway Drive, \$650,000. Matthew Whittington to James and Lisa Snyder, 792 Franklin Road, \$260,000. Wexford Properties LP. to Robert Salas, 510 Garden Way, \$359,700. Brian Mergenthaler to Levi Buck and Ashley Wilkinson, 345 Haefer Drive, \$395,000. Jeffrey Maynard to Douglas Orszulack and Alissa Ricci, 312 Heather Hill Drive, \$435,000. Brian Putos to Richard and Arianna Bazzy, 118 Kestler Drive, \$334,900. Stephen Walker to Weichert Workforce Mobility Inc., 109 Lyndhurst Circle, \$849,999. Weichert Workforce Mobility Inc. to Robert and Laurie Sabatelle, 109 Lyndhurst Circle, \$849,999. Benjamin Kline to Mark Kempic and Craig Andrew Ryan, property, 218 Macfadden Drive, \$230,000. Santaciari Properties LLC to Peter and Mary Lynne Rander, property, 805 Mt. Pleasant Road, \$600,000. Pine Develop Co. to NVR Inc., property, 711 Mulkenin Ct, \$180,000. Brett Lucido to Jonathan and Maureen Steele, 122 Northbrook Drive, \$478,000. Dennis Dowiak to Andrew Michael and Kelly Lynn McNelis, 317 Pine Wood Drive, \$805,000. Dana Meissner to Scott and Kristy Harer, 114 Tanglewood Drive, \$600,000. Maronda Homes LLC to Brody Maughan Evanson, 370 Trinity Way, \$373,169. Donald Ludovick to Michael and Lia Albright, 6005 W. Grove Cr, \$498,500.

### Pleasant Hills

Karl Wright to Robert Andrew and Lynda Mae Vernon, 421 Audrey Drive, \$270,000. Ingelfield Land Co. LLC to Joseph Thomas Greer Jr. and Kathryn Leigh Greer, property, 142 Hubbs Ln, \$70,000. Steven John Denk to Amanda McHugh, 411 Nantucket Drive, \$228,000. Reg Hugh Jr. trustee to Charles Thomas Bedekovich II and Joanne Julia Bedekovich, 423 Nantucket Drive, \$211,500. Hillcrest Assoc. LLC to Daniel and Harmony Lynn Alrod, 138 Rvere Drive, \$195,000. Carol Soska to Achut and Bhawana Nepal, 404 Toura Drive, \$290,100.

### Plum

Joan Kotz to Bradley and Korri Thomason, 131 Dinwiddle Drive, \$200,000. Bible Baptist Church Plum Boro Inc. to Liv-

ing Word Plum, institutional site, 200 Elicker Road, \$195,659. William Wardle to Joseph Binkley and Jennifer Klinsky, 802 Garlow Blvd., \$127,000. Scott Evans to Samuel Jay and Candace Kay Newland, 181 Winchester Drive, \$299,900.

### Port Vue

Estate of James Mossburg to Anthony and Helene Serrano, 1112 Beverly Road, \$52,000. Casey Roche to Zaluski Properties LLC, 507 Manning Ave., \$61,500. Elaine Valecko to Agena Lewis, 1005 Norwood St., \$95,000.

### Reserve

James Snyder to Emily Kauffman and Diane Schrom, 2471 Pittview Ave., \$156,000. Sara Ulloa to Stephen and Kimberly Grace, 151 Villa Drive, \$195,000.

### Richland

Wendy Farone to Daniel Guerra and Melissa Borza, 302 Beach St., \$22,500. Rebecca Smith to Keith and Christina Marie Butler, 135 Bellefield Court, \$259,900. Linda Eldridge to Thomas and Julia Tulba, 243 Corey Drive, \$247,000. Alexis Antoszewski to Chelsea Lynn Curcio, 1502 Eddy Court, \$234,900. Jonathan Abbott to Nickolas and Desirae Endres, 3916 Shepard Road, \$309,000. Joanne Pikur to Dale and Nancy Lord, 1025 Victoria Pl, \$730,000.

### Robinson

Thomas Stack to Daniel and Kelley Popochock, 108 August Drive, \$246,000. James Cochran to Daniel Tjickaj and Mary Lynn Nicholson, 201 Calvin Drive, \$310,000. Ronald Condelucci to Gary Peakes, 2708 Leona Lane, \$160,000. James Jones to Ketan and Bina Shah, 572 McMichael Road, \$325,000.

### Ross

BGRS LLC to Shufen Han, 56 Chapel Drive, \$134,000. Jacqueline Dully to Jeffrey and Colleen Childs, 147 Connie Drive, \$225,000. Benjamin Hoffman to Ansell Holdings LLC, 87 Graham Road, \$150,000. James Zubik to Brad and Melissa Commar, 965 Harden Drive, \$299,000. Heather Kathleen DeFazio to Karen Eonta, 16 Hilland Valley Drive, \$173,000. Kate Benson to Stephen and Tracy Lynn Matson, 322 Hillcrest Ave., \$280,000. Alessandro DiBello to Randall and Deanna Blincow, 761 Lee Avenue Ext., \$90,000. Benjamin Copeland to Eileen Quolke, 112 Lily Ave., \$255,000. Stephanie Burns to Rachel Gordon, 600 Maplewood Court, \$179,900. Michael Quoc Vinh Mai to Paul and Bethany Leszczynski, 412 Neola Cir, \$200,000. Shirley Escuilla to James Kealy, 611 Park Pl, \$80,000. Bernard Gray Jr. to Matthew and William Ferry, 111 Peony Ave., \$191,000. Sean David Novay to Gallarrn McKee, 103 Raleigh Court, \$139,000. Jason Dietz to Michael and Shayla Stroymer, 100 Rene Drive, \$227,500. Joseph Anthony's LLC to Carlo and Zita Isabella, 110 Schars Lane, \$303,000. John Schwab to Anthony Defelice II, 95 York Drive, \$225,000.

### Rosslyn Farms

Bernard Grandjacques to David Parker and Sarah Fox, 10 Old Farm Road, \$460,000.

### Scott

Franklin Gray Jr. to Brandon and Angela Jones, 58 Cypress Drive, \$284,900. Estate of Sandra Lee Schaffer to Samuel Santavacca and Sarah Schepfer, 519 Somerville Drive, \$170,000. Frances Profeta to Lindon and Yasmin Abroleida, 1482 Sturdy Oak Drive, \$297,000.



## Real estate transfers



### Middlesex

Jessica Lynn Boynton to Jacob Lanich, 1070 Adair Ave., \$331,000. Elizabeth Dillner trustee to Adam and Allison Dillner, property, Forsyth Road, \$250,000.

### Seven Fields

Raymon Cumberledge to Gary and Carolyn Fox, 239 Sycamore Drive, \$300,000.

### Zelenople

Cynthia Rae Schnaviller to Keith and Jodi Dague, 211S High St., \$319,500.

## Washington County

### Canonsburg

Canon McMillan School District to Canonburg Senior Lofts LP., institutional site, 803 First St., \$650,000. Armando DeMarco to Randal Habeeb, 108 Columbia Drive, \$117,000.

### Cecil

William Grimes to Paul and Nancy Brown, 344 980 Road, \$110,000. NVR Inc. to Ryan and Chelsea Cooper, 1003 Coldstream Drive, \$550,195. McConnell Trails LLC to NVR Inc., condominium property, Frances Ln, \$226,600. NVR Inc. to James and Caitlin Cafaro, 5010 Kensington Drive, \$621,401. TOA Cecil LLC to Munaii Franjione, 171 Liberty Blvd., \$405,300. TOA Cecil LLC to Ronald and Linda Sustich, 181 Liberty Blvd., \$445,487. TOA Cecil LLC to Marilyn LaMarca, 182 Liberty Blvd., \$701,236. TOA Cecil LLC to Dennis and Pamela McAvoy, 184 Liberty Blvd., \$485,445. TOA Cecil LLC to Anthony Betz III and Nancy Betz, 188 Liberty Blvd., \$510,792. Michael Zimmerman to Johanna Hutchison, 1275 Morgan Road, \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$211,712). Graziani Family LP. to Graziani Homes Inc., property, Network Drive, \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$121,797). Ryan Maruschak to Joseph John Nelson, 20 Ridgewood Drive, \$376,000. Maronda Homes LLC to Mihir Samel and Sneha Gothivarekar, 3054 Sir Charles Drive, \$349,589. Hawthorne Partners 2 LLC to James and Madlyn Trocchio, 4059 Sir James Drive, \$369,310. Ian Evans to William Graziani and Hannah Reidenbaugh, 1368 State Route 980, \$155,000. Estate of Dona Sylvia Morgan to Richard Lucas and Lois Ann Miller, property, Sylvan Drive, \$58,000. Bradley Wemicki to Michael Zelman III and Jessica Zelman, 1004 Windance Drive, \$435,000.

### North Strabane

David Allen Helinski to Melissa Kiray, 591 Chesnic Drive, \$274,900. Charles Rile to William and Jamie Sarris, property, Christy Road, \$200,000. Brandon Insana to R Ethan and Cassandra Sanders, 307 Christy Road, \$419,900. NVR Inc. to Richard Dachille and Andrea Morrison, 113 Greystone Drive, \$559,700. Maronda Homes LLC to Carlos Diaz, 202 Lily Ridge Drive, \$490,924. NVR Inc. to Ryan and Penny Jarecki, 101 Marquis Drive, \$408,190. Muirfield Land Partners LLC to NVR Inc., property, 105 Marquis Drive, \$84,563. NVR Inc. to Benjamin Louis Martik and Abigail Nichole Tirpak, 107 Marquis Drive, \$392,000. Metz Development Inc. to NVR Inc., property, Palomino Ct, \$100,000. NVR Inc. to Thomas and Louise Valancius, 122 Palomino Ct, \$595,875. Estate of William Booth Jr. to Blake Wiltrout, 151 Pearl Drive, \$246,000. Neil Kochosky to Jeffrey Tho-

mas and Caroline Madeline DeMao, 118 Rifgon Drive, \$270,000. NVR Inc. to Paige and Rachele Haight, 210 Sierra Drive, \$327,685. Herschel Kirker to Matthew and Michelle Ann Wheatley, 1046 Woodridge Drive, \$491,500.

### Peters

Bartholomew Blystone to Anthony Vesovi and Abigail Marks, 179 Friar Ln, \$422,500. Estate of William Patrizio to Alonzo and Lori Tomabene, 613 Glen Drive, \$365,000. 271 Art Land LLC to NVR Inc., property, 345 Juniper Way, \$137,500. 271 Art Land LLC to NVR Inc., property, 350 Juniper Way, \$137,500. Crossings Development LLC to Christopher and Christine Musuneggi, 324 Maid Marion Ln, \$540,839. Theodore Taylor III to Brandon and Tiffany Greiner, 404 Rockledge Drive, \$675,000. Michael Bleda to Peter and Jessica Leehan, 108 Scenic Ridge Drive, \$724,900. James Carmichael to John Joon Yung and Peggy Lin Lee, 265 Springdale Road, \$1,325,000. Anne Marie Davadick Panewich to Justin Girouard, 957 Venetia Road, \$167,875.

### South Strabane

Edward Belfoure to James Emery III, property, E Beau St., \$20,000. Claude Cormick to SFR3 LLC, 1753 N Main St., \$51,500. Robert Ethan Sanders to Melanie White, 413 Quarry Road, \$229,900.

### Washington

Estate of Dorothy Ardeno to Patel Real Estate Holdings LLC, 1045 Allison Ave., \$70,000. Estate of Michael Sonson to SFR3 020 LLC, 145 Hall Ave., \$60,000. Kenneth Reynolds to Bryan Dodson, 14 Murland Ave., \$82,500. Glen Dean to Aaron Sapp, 194 Rural Ave., \$189,900. Lisa Kirchel to John Santonastasso, 510 W Chestnut St., \$85,000. 500 Wilson Avenue LLC to SFR3 020 LLC, 500 Wilson Ave., \$98,700. Kathryn Weiss to JY Real Estate LLC, 60 Wilson Ave., \$74,000. Christopher Popeck to Anabel Ramirez, 112 Woodland Ave., \$25,000.

## Westmoreland County

### Arnold

Ardelia Grden Secosky to Bonnie Greenwald, 1608 Third Ave., \$13,000. Raquael Williams to Tree Roots Management LLC, 1337 Fourth Ave., by sheriff's deed \$5,447 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$71,493). James Robertson to 1715 5th Ave LLC, commercial property, 1813 Fourth Ave., by sheriff's deed \$18,533 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$117,880). Adam Rayburg to Danielle Mains, 1818 Fourth Ave., \$10,000. Alle Kiski Learning Center Inc. to 1715 5th Ave LLC, commercial property, 1707-1711 Fifth Ave., by sheriff's deed \$15,739 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$157,560). Estate of Antonio Nicastro to Nicastro Enterprises, commercial property, 1714-1718 Fifth Ave., \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$652,747). Lary Nicastro to Nicastro Enterprises, commercial property, Sixth Ave., \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$33,114). Lary Nicastro trustee to Nicastro Enterprises, commercial property, 1725 Sixth Ave., \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$767,578). Eric Wissner to Steven Karafa and Lisa Robbins, 1601 Alcoa Drive, \$151,000. TM REO Fund LLC to Jonathan Black, 1612 Constitution Blvd., by sheriff's deed \$1,396 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$57,607). James Werley Jr. to Gealy Properties LLC, 1944 Leishman Ave., \$89,000.

### Export

Alex Speer to Peter and Amelis Von Geis, 5701 Lincoln Ave., \$120,000. D & B Developers to Cozy Knapp Time LLC, 5810-5816 Lincoln Ave., \$85,000.

### Greensburg

Kristen Varoli to Samantha Aloom, commercial property, 228 Arch Ave., \$150,000. Kaysi Dahlstrom to Denise Mallett, 410 Bach Ave., \$95,000. Estate of Margaret Keracher to Jennifer Wayne, 409 Concord Ave., \$105,000. Barbara Genter to Anthony and Allison DiMauro, 3 Glencove Road, \$390,000. Kelly Nicely to Colton Robert and Holly Allison Plumbo, 727 Jeffrey St., \$255,000. Arthur Rodgers to David and Charlotte Stubbort, 661 Lee St., \$180,000. Hugh Burkett to Luke and Jessica Graham, 404 N Maple Ave., \$317,500. Sonia Rivera to Eric Grab and Kathleen Burke, 131A Park Ln, \$294,000. Jay Kilpatrick to Lakeshia Jones, 410 W Third St., \$109,000.

### Hempfield

Justin Trumbetta to Kathleen Wood, 1132 Brookside Drive, \$155,000. Andrew Messer to Thomas William and Michelle Marie Valkanas, 611 Buckingham Drive, \$315,000. Jeffrey Long to Alex Leonard, 101 Caitlin Ct, \$220,000. Alice Kranz to Mark and Kiera Malmquist, 121 Crestview Drive, \$232,000. Kevin Lewis to Ryan and Heather Fatch, 500 Donatello Drive, \$435,000. B & K Quicklube Co. to Hoods Up Quick Lube 3 LLC, car dealership or parking garage or car wash, 901 E Pittsburgh St., \$320,000. Jaime Hidalgo to Triple Alpha Heights LLC, property, 305 Gaelic Drive, \$29,900. James Uncapher to Michael and Kimberly Ross, property, Henry Road, \$33,000. Xuri Zhang to Kayla Merich, mobile home site, 2380 Hunter Road, \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$67,373). Jason Welty to Lance Mettger, 234 Iowa St., \$175,000. Cody Allen Swartz to Andrew Robert Brown and Breanna Joan Hawkins, 124 Janyce Drive, \$272,500. Jayson Martin to Cody Swartz and Nathan Stouffer, 2013 Meadow Lane Drive, \$360,000. Daniel D'Amato to Sheffield Drive LLC, 206 Penn Manor Road, by sheriff's deed \$31,706 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$109,262). Edna Drap to Nicholas Jay Reed, 363 Price St., \$50,000. Lynn Martin trustee to Invision Development LLC, 811 Seton View Drive, \$165,000. Christopher James Childress to Nicholas Paul McKnight, 119 Sheffield Drive, \$208,000. Paulette Hood to Michael Donofrio, 723 Terrace View Drive, \$175,000. Amy Dana to Origin Holdings LLC, commercial property, 145 Tollgate Hill Road, \$330,000. David Allen Yonhouse III to Brian and Stefanie Elliott, property, 316 Victoria Ln, \$15,500. Mark Dlugos to Dan & Angela Ellis Family Trust, 126 Waycross Road, \$90,000.

### Hyde Park

Randy Stull to Bryce Ward and Kaitlyn Tresco, 527 Murphy St., \$160,000.

### Jeanette

Camen Masciantonio trustee to Mark and Deborah Skidenar, 311 Agnew Road, \$165,000. Drayport LLC to Philly Fashions LLC, commercial property, 410 Clay Ave., \$19,000. Linda Gombach to Andrew Hill, 1008 Frank Ave., \$129,900. Joseph Michael Weimer to Paula Uncapher, mobile home site, 1810 Harrison Ave., \$7,000. Ronald Ray to Jack Allen Chappell Jr., 1 Magee Ave., \$130,000. Vincent Vitolo to Margaret Petruska, 1019 Ohio Ave., \$155,000. Housing & Urban Development to Scalzitti Properties LLC, 613-615 Pittcain Ave., \$65,500.

### Lower Burrell

LB School Trust to Thomas Caldwell, commercial property, 2675 Chestnut St., \$150,000. Phyllis Lalama to Justin Shemski et al. and Nadine Schmitt, 3198 Coulson Drive, \$111,000. James Tallarico to David Fumier Jr. and Stephanie Thompson Fumier, 2737 Harvey Ave., \$160,000. Catherine Davidson to William and Sara Cole, 2769 Hastings Drive,

\$115,000.

### Manor

Dale Pfeil to Glenn Zaucha, 15 Penn St., by sheriff's deed \$2,166 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$47,230).

### Mt. Pleasant Borough

Carlo Frank Pernelli to Bruce Weyandt II and Ashlee Weyandt, 402 E Sycamore St., \$125,000. Daniel Filer to Robert Warner Jr. and Amy Warner, 748 Orchard Ave., \$200,000. Donald Elsbury to FOE Property Development LLC, property, Orchard Hill Drive, \$23,000. Debra Newill to Catherine Wheeler and Eileen Mae Kray, 414 Spruce St., \$103,900. Marie Macaluso to Lary Kulick JCL Bishop, 225 Summit St., \$49,500. Judith Keyser to Robert Quinn, 770 W Smithfield St., \$95,000.

### Mt. Pleasant Township

Estate of Jamie Hoppe to Kelsey Casoni, 503 Hecla Road, \$104,000. Norma Brodak to H Brooks White et al. and Nancy White, 379 Mt. Joy Road, \$370,000. Marie Fisher trustee to Titus Conrad and Sheryn Diane Burkholder, 2032 Mt. Pleasant Road, \$150,000. Gerald Hixson to Keefer Trucking LLC, car dealership or parking garage or car wash, 1858 Route 982, \$140,000. Darlene Schultz to Elam and Barbara Belier, 3187 SR 982, \$400,000. Cheryl Wood Development LLC to E & W Real Estate Holdings LLC, property, 440 Shannon Drive, \$50,000. Donald Paul Davis to Charles Hunter, 225 Water St., by sheriff's deed \$18,946 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$42,194).

### Murrysville

Acres Development Group L.P. to Robert and Erin Morris, property, 4015 Acres Ct, \$279,000. Rohan Naik to Walter Rosado Filho and Flavia Rosado, 3903 Chris Ct, \$699,000. Natalya Goreva to Param Sit Saini, 2016 High Pointe Ct, \$455,000. Vincent Esposito to Ebone K and Greg Lockyer, 5272 Lakemont Ct, \$675,000. Richard Heil to Domenico Riga, 2763 Laurel Drive, \$229,500. Roots Property Solutions Inc. to Robert and Rita Lazzaro, 4623 Northridge Ct, \$422,500. Estate of Michael Genchur to Mark and Claudia Wolfson, agricultural land, 125 Patty Ln, \$180,000. Joseph Steven Karas to Jesse and Sarah Weiland, 4015 Pin Oak Ct, \$390,000. Rishi Kad to Satpal Singh and Manpreet Kaur, property, 3510 Regent Ct, \$175,000. Frank Lodovico et al. to Dana Sylvester, 6916 Spring Valley Ln, \$150,000. Husam Hameed to David Reesman and Cheryl Petersen, 2963 Sunset Cir, \$225,500.

### New Florence

Michael Bailey to Casey Jordan Lee, 132 15th St., \$143,500.

### New Kensington

Rosemarie Szymczak to Shailesh and Nirajben Shailesh Patel, 724 Seventh St., \$5,000. Dreux Priore to Dreux Priore and Matthew Bevins, 269 Deepath Road, \$0 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$129,329). Timothy Brown to Lawrence Russo Jr. and Dina Russo, 2520 Elcor Drive, \$147,500. Damian Kenneth Schantz to Shane Swigart and Katie Pallone, 272 Elmtree Road, \$203,000. Estate of Anthony Veltri to Brian Edward Gill, 108 Highland Ave., \$190,000. Terrance McClain Jr. to Christopher Shurina, 44 Robinson St., \$10,000. John Gentile to Jennifer Toney, 1340 Taylor Ave., by sheriff's deed \$14,870 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$101,021).

### North Belle Vernon

Max Schlessinger to Carson Jones, 918 Broad Ave., \$128,865. Jacob Alvarez to Christa Grillo, 833 Graham St., \$145,000.

### North Huntingdon

Edward Martin Jr. to Jessica Elizabeth and Debra Urban, property, 1050 Third St., \$17,000. Zachary Andrew Pennington to James Edward Roney Jr., 851 Castleview Drive, \$375,000. Donato Pasquarelli to NVR Inc., property, 7017 Gio Drive, \$90,000. Brian Carlton to Joseph Contenta and Angela Kovachik, property, Guffey Road, \$60,000. R. William Stoves Jr. to Tiffany Bertetto, 12241 Haywood Road, by sheriff's deed \$31,790 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$55,013). Luke Potter to RP2ALL LLC, 12470 Herold Drive, \$187,000. F & H Property Development LLC to Maronda Homes LLC, property, 7833 Isabella Drive, \$150,000. Estate of Jennie Shirley to Shirley Property Management LLC, commercial property, 231 Jennie Drive, \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$726,071). Joseph Giacobbi to James Laffey, 600 Lime St., \$147,000. Ryan Thompson to Nancy Miller, 11151 Mockingbird Drive, \$277,600. F & H Property Development LLC to Maronda Homes LLC, property, 1071 New Hope Drive, \$225,000. Lois DiIettuso to Evan Campbell, 14070 Oakview Drive, \$175,000. David Frank to Blaine Lynn, 13740 Ormsby Drive, \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$124,140). John Fennell to Jerry and Cathy Blagg, 7727 Pennsylvania Ave., \$220,000. Estate of Judy Glaser to Mary Crawford, 620 Pettigrew Road, \$170,000. Alice Beard to Justin Eibel, 720 Pettigrew Road, \$155,000. Cynthia Wheeler to Chad Baker, 2060 Pierce St., \$148,000.

### North Irwin

John Sandstrom to Nancy Pohl, 43 Second St., \$65,000.

### Oklahoma

John Kohnen to Roger Christopher Schwarz, 1525 Hancock Ave., by sheriff's deed \$109,454.

### Penn Township

NVR Inc. to Dominic Romito and Regina Regola, 2000 Ashley Ct, \$482,785. Joshua Kohl to Frank Menges, 16 Cambridge Drive, \$275,000. Sandra Szymid to Daniel Corey and Laura Mureck, 707 Cora St., \$427,500. Joseph Steitz to Riley and Eliana Jorgensen, 2 Evelyn Ct, \$370,900. Roy Popovich to Joshua and Brittany Kohl, 125 Harvest Ln, \$405,000. NVR Inc. to Bert Krushinski, 1058 Moria Ct, \$307,895. All Washed Up Auto Spa Inc. to Mr Shine Auto Wash LLC, commercial property, 831 Route 130, \$550,000. Kenneth Tamm to Rod McWilliams, 998 State Route 130, \$1 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$139,019). Joan Anne Shullo to Howard and Nadine Donnelly, 99 Stella Drive, \$120,000. Suncrest Homes Inc. to Bradley Franklin and Christina Mary Marcus, 116 Sterling Oaks Drive, \$469,000. John Mochan to Mark Pernick, 129 Terrace Ct, \$67,000. Chad Show to Vito Morrow, 106 Thomas St., \$250,000. Blackthorn Investors LLC to NVR Inc., property, Wedgewood Drive, \$73,844. NVR Inc. to Ryan Blair and Madoka Kobayashi, 1084 Wedgewood Drive, \$491,950.

### Rostraver

Daniel Blackwell to Richard and Betsy Aldridge, 302 Dogwood Drive, \$410,000. Housing & Urban Development to Francis and Mary Barton, 117 Jakes Ln, \$30,000. Lindsey DeCurtis to Jessica Smith, 130-132 Main St., \$52,000. Brook Brocius to Craig and Brooke Clark, 460 Matty Drive, \$370,000. RWS Land Co. Inc. to Samuel and Donna Marie Reed, property, 132 Municipal Drive, \$71,000. RWS Land Co. Inc. to Dhan Chhetri et al. and Kumari Ghimirey, property, 164 Municipal Drive, \$82,000. Richard Aldridge to John and Jacqueline Janos, 776 Sandstone Way, \$279,900.

### Salem

Seth Dean to Debra Suienveld and John Showalter, 306 Black Walnut Drive, \$350,000. Karen Stinelli to Joseph and Darlene Felice, 319 Jaclyn Ct, \$313,000. Travis Latshaw to Jeff and Alea Varner, 3035 Route 119, \$170,000.

### Sewickley

Estate of Paul Kowalchuk to Alan John Carney, 216 Almond St., \$144,000. Terry Sensus to Frank and Salva Adair, 154 Wendel Road, \$122,000.

### South Greensburg

Brian King to 424 Investors LLC, 1315 Broad St., \$55,000. Dolores Ferrett to Joshua and Joella Dobbins, 321-909 Skidmore Drive, \$153,000.

### South Huntingdon

Raymond Krenn Jr. to Donna Hoadwonic, 106 June St., \$80,000. Ronald Rhodes to Solesource Properties LLC, 115 June St., \$30,000. Daryl Luciani to Junior and Staci Marquina Cantor, 1008 Mt. Pleasant Road, \$299,900. John Conrad to Nathan Fiala and Sarah Jolley, 199 Waltz Mill Road, \$234,000.

### Southwest Greensburg

Jacob Mock to Jesse Beckwith, 716 Mace St., \$151,000.

### Sutersville

William Rieger Jr. et al. to Thomas Mimidis, property, 229 Fourth Ave., \$7,500.

### Trafford

Kenneth Renchko to Jerzy and Olivia Kalp Hajdukiewicz, 673 Sixth St., \$150,000.

### Unity

Ashley Frederick to Michael Suocheralli, 1418 Anthony Way, \$160,000. Connie Arnel to Michael Cooper and Karin Yaremko, 124 Arnel Road, \$380,000. James Brown trustee to Alexander Myant, 1637 Bethel Church Road, \$90,000. Jeffrey Nolan to Mark Jackson, commercial property, 369 Charles Houck Road, by sheriff's deed \$12,189 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$135,051). Francis Keough to Peter Kettering and Cassidea Stevenson, mobile home site, 780 Donohoe Road, \$87,500. James Faris to Gregory and Marlene Hay, 5004 Havenwood Drive, \$427,000. Dominic Demangone to Terrell Eberhardt and Kristin Schadel, 130 Magnolia Drive, \$440,000. Peter Piazza to David and Kristine Dongilla, 316 Marigold Drive, \$440,000. William D'Angelo to John Owen Depree, 48-50 Middle Row, by sheriff's deed \$14,693 (state deed transfer stamps indicate a value of \$57,835). William Tod Winslow to Linhua Zou and Rong Wang, 405 Primrose Drive, \$410,000. Tobie Kyle to Pamela Fowler Kacsuta, 74 Quail Run, \$320,470. Bernadine Morrah to Nick Blazowich, 4329 Route 30, \$75,000.

### Upper Burrell

Thomas Dugita to Shereen Durrani, 404 Chapeldale Drive, \$380,000.

### Vandergrift

Cable & Cibik Properties Inc. to Darren Ralph, 403 Emerson St., \$68,000. Veronica Salvio to SFR3 030 LLC, 1008 Hancock Ave., \$35,000. Mauria Matthews to Kiski Valley Properties LLC, 817 Holland St., \$39,900.

### Washington

Jeffery Quade to Joseph and Brandi Figueroa, 759 Grange Drive, \$133,700. Margaret Earley to TJH Ventures LLC, 4757 Route 66, \$50,000.

### West Leechburg

Marianne Pecus to Karyn Kromka and Meagan Martin, 1723 South Ave., \$160,000.

rateSeeker.com

## Mortgage Guide

Institution	30 yr APR	30 yr Fixed	Product	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR	Phone Number / Website	NMLS # / License #
<b>Westmoreland Federal Savings &amp; Loan</b>	<b>3.134%</b> 30yr Fixed APR	Rate: 3.125	15 yr fixed	2.375	0.000	\$191	20%	2.391	<b>724-539-9755</b> www.wfsavings.com	NMLS# 518302
		Points: 0.000	10 yr fixed	2.250	0.000	\$191	20%	2.274		
		Fees: \$191	15 yr jumbo	2.375	0.000	\$191	25%	2.380		
		% Down: 20%	3% DOWN WITH PMI. WE DO NOT SELL OUR LOANS! 10YR JUMBO 2.257% APR							
<b>Sky Financial Services Inc.</b>	<b>2.520%</b> 30yr Fixed APR	Rate: 2.500	15 yr fixed	1.875	0.000	\$25	20%	1.878	<b>610-282-3000</b> www.skyfinancialloans.com	NMLS# 141744
		Points: 0.000	10 yr fixed	1.875	0.000	\$25	20%	1.878		
		Fees: \$275	20 yr fixed	2.375	0.000	\$475	20%	2.418		
		% Down: 20%	Consistent Rate Leader. Great Rates. Quality Service.							
<b>West View Savings Bank</b>	<b>2.886%</b> 30yr Fixed APR	Rate: 2.790	15 yr fixed	2.190	0.000	\$495	20%	2.358	<b>724-935-7400</b> www.wvsbank.com	NMLS# 662375
		Points: 0.000	20 yr fixed	2.590	0.000	\$495	20%	2.724		
		Fees: \$495	15 yr jumbo	2.190	0.000	\$495	20%	2.258		
		% Down: 20%	30 yr jumbo	2.790	0.000	\$495	20%	2.831		

Rate Criteria: The rates and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 08/03/21. 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 \$510,401. 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](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org). To appear in this table, call 773-320-8492.







Ben Braun/Post-Gazette

Fragasso Financial Advisors Chairman and CEO Robert Fragasso, in his office in Bethel Park. The firm affiliates with smaller financial planners to share resources and services.

## Working relationships

Consolidation in the financial planning industry leads small firms to affiliate with larger companies



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Newlin Archinal, left, and Jodi Amos, were able to launch their 4Rivers Wealth Management last year by affiliating with investment firm Commonwealth Financial Network.

By Tim Grant  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**R**obert Fragasso is expanding his Downtown investment firm in a way that's aimed at keeping smaller wealth management firms around during the massive shift in the financial advising industry where smaller firms are being eaten by bigger ones or forced to compete at a disadvantage.

"A lot of these smaller practices won't be around five or 10 years from now unless they can marshal larger resources. We can offer that to them for a fair share," said Mr. Fragasso, chairman and CEO of Fragasso Financial Advisors, an independent wealth management firm with \$2 billion in assets under management.

The financial planning universe has been undergoing a dramatic change both nationally and locally in the past few years due to consolidations that have taken the form of outright purchases, partnerships, and affiliated financial adviser arrangements such as the one Mr. Fragasso has put in place.

His firm will let smaller independent advisers plug into its resources so that Fragasso handles many of the small firm's back office duties like client investment portfolio management and compliance, which can be a drain on time and capital and doesn't generate revenue.

"An independent practitioner runs like a hunted animal," Mr. Fragasso said. "He is chased by his administrative duties. He's chased by his clients. He is chased by regu-

latory agencies, where he has to handle all of the reporting. He has to figure out the software. He has to come up with capital to put new and improved resources to play in his practice.

"That's a pretty big lift for one or two or even four people in an office," he said.

Green Tree advisers Jodi Amos and Newlin Archinal would not have been able to launch their independent firm in March 2020 if they hadn't affiliated with Commonwealth Financial Network, a Waltham, Mass.-based investment firm with \$130 billion in assets under management.

"We wanted to have the resources of a major financial institution like a BNY Mellon trust

SEE **ADVISERS**, PAGE F-3

Ask me about ...

## ... 'entrepreneurial spirit' and sustainable business

Nuñez helps company founders get their start

By Lauren Rosenblatt  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Nadyli Nuñez got her first taste of entrepreneurship in sixth grade.

Her class was divided into two groups, each of which had to come up with a product and compete to bring in the most money.

The opposing team designed a whiteboard for lockers. Ms. Nuñez's team came up with a customized dog tag.

The team's selling point? Similar whiteboards were available at Target, but this dog tag came with an exclusive engraving of a monkey, and students could only get it from one class of entrepreneurs.

Ms. Nuñez doesn't remember who won the competition, but she

likes to imagine it was her team.

Now the executive director of the East Liberty startup incubator, Ascender, Ms. Nuñez, 28, still sees her role as helping entrepreneurs fine-tune their product and their pitch to turn an idea into a sustainable business. She talked with the Post-Gazette about Pittsburgh's tech ecosystem, making space for different types of businesses and founders, and the "entrepreneurial spirit."

*This interview has been edited for space and clarity.*

**What can you tell me about the inner workings of Ascender? How do you make decisions about founders?**

Founders are really different, but for us, at its core, we think about a few things. One, are they resourceful? So when you're an entrepreneur, you're creating something out of nothing many times, and so you need to be resourceful because we can't hold your hand the whole entire time. When someone comes in

with an idea, it needs to be a researched idea.

[In no particular order, second,] are they in love? Is this founder in love with their product, or are they in love with the problem? That really impacts the success of a company. When we're coaching a founder and they just don't want the product to change ... that's going to limit them a lot.

The other thing that we look into is, obviously, coachability. If you aren't coachable, go do your thing, then you don't need us.

[And] self-awareness ... so I like to think that I'm a better leader after I've worked through a lot of my own stuff, and that impacts the way I'm able to approach difficult conversations with a team member, with a stakeholder, difficult decisions, difficult situations — and an entrepreneur is going to face all of that all the time.

The way you interact or manage those times are a reflection of your own biases, your own traumas, your



Nadyli Nuñez

Nadyli Nunez, executive director of the East Liberty startup incubator,

own belief of your value system. An entrepreneur who is very self-aware is able to better navigate the complexities of relationships in business and the decisions that creating a

startup involves.

And then lastly, the one thing that you really can't teach is that

SEE **NADYLI**, PAGE F-2



**Dateline Pittsburgh**

NATALIE HILL

*People on the move*

**Accounting**

Goff Backa Alfera & Co. LLC promoted **Charles R. Dotchin** to partner.



**Dotchin** — Accounting



**DeMaio** — Law

**Biotechnology**

Peptilogics announced the following appointments: **Nikhil (Nik) Bhide** as chief business officer; **Marc Lesnick**, senior vice president of regulatory and quality; **Jodie Gillon**, senior vice president of corporate affairs and patient advocacy; **Albert Fonticella**, vice president of people; and **Steve Kul**, vice president of operations.



**Czekanski** — Military



**Lebel** — Nonprofit

**Law**

**Matthew J. DeMaio** joined Robb Leonard Mulvihill LLP as an associate. Mr. DeMaio focuses on commercial litigation, complex insurance coverage and litigation, contractual insurance and litigations, and general civil litigation.



**Hadley** — Awards

counseling psychology doctorate degree programs. The Carlow Under-served and Rural Engagement program

**Military**

At the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District, **Col. Andrew Short**, commander of the district since July 2018, transferred command to **Col. Adam Czekanski** during a traditional military ceremony.

**Nonprofit**

The Pittsburgh Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition named **Ena Lebel** executive director.

**Awards and Honors**

Koppers announced that **Melissa Hadley**, manager, business planning, was recognized by The Manufacturing Institute with the 2021 STEP Ahead Award. The annual award celebrates women from across the manufacturing industry who demonstrate excellence and leadership.

Larson Design Group announced that team member **Jason Hursh** was honored as “Member of the Year” by the American Society of Highway Engineers.

**Business Notes**

Carlow University is the recipient of a \$1.9 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to enable hands-on, interprofessional, interdisciplinary training for students in Carlow’s master’s in social work and

will provide stipend support for a behavioral workforce with experience in serving vulnerable populations in rural and underserved areas.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Services changed its name to Coldwell Banker Realty in Pittsburgh for all 12 of its local real estate offices. It also rebranded its logo. The change aligns Coldwell Banker Realty in Pittsburgh with 700 company-owned Coldwell Banker offices across the U.S.

Pittsburgh Faison Elementary received a Learn-to-Ride program, including Strider Learn-to-Ride bikes, helmets and curriculum from All Kids Bike. The program will help about 2,500 kindergarten students learn to ride over the next five years.

*Dateline Pittsburgh appears on Sundays. To propose an item, send information to Natalie Hill, Dateline Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 358 North Shore Drive, Pittsburgh 15212; or email to nhill@post-gazette.com.*

*Photos submitted for the print edition version of this column may be sent via email in JPEG format, 170 DPI, to photos@post-gazette.com. Photo size should be an 8-by-10-inch or 4-by-5-inch head shot at 170 dpi.*



Steven Senne/Associated Press

Mortgage rates remain near historic lows, dropping recently to their lowest levels since last winter. But things can change quickly for better or worse. So what’s a mortgage-seeker’s best strategy — lock in now or see where rates stand several calendar pages away? That will depend on your goals, timetable and financial outlook.

# Will mortgage rates finally start going up?

By Erik J. Martin  
Bankrate.com

The dog days of summer have officially arrived. But while temperatures are likely to soar higher across much of the country in the coming weeks, mortgage interest rates probably won’t. That’s good news for many buyer candidates and homeowners seeking a purchase loan or refi, of course.

Mortgage rates remain near historic lows, dropping recently to their lowest levels since last winter. The benchmark 30-year fixed-rate mortgage hovered at 3% near the end of July, and 15-year fixed rates were around 2.3%.

So what’s a mortgage-seeker’s best strategy — lock in now or see where rates stand several calendar pages away? That will depend on your goals, timetable and financial outlook.

“Mortgage rates are more likely to rise in the following months. Nevertheless, don’t expect any sharp spikes in August,” says Nadia Evangelou, senior economist and director of forecasting for the National Association of Realtors in Washington, D.C. “I expect mortgage rates to show little change in August, hovering around 3% as most economic indicators will start to normalize.”

Chuck Biskobing, a senior real estate attorney with Cook & James, agrees.

“I expect rates to more or less hold steady for the next month in the 3% range for a 30-year mortgage. Given recent unexpectedly high jobless claims, I think a major move upward in rates is unlikely,” he notes. “Monthly

inflation numbers are a bit of a wildcard, but overall I think rates will remain around current levels for the time being.”

Indeed, inflation and economic growth are the variables most at play right now, says Greg McBride, chief financial analyst for Bankrate.

“Ironically, they have both led to lower long-term rates. However, any hints of tapering bond purchases from the Federal Reserve would push mortgage rates up this month,” Mr. McBride adds. “How the debate about whether inflation is transitory or more sustained ends up being resolved is not yet known. But if these temporary factors yield to evidence that indicates higher inflation is embedded, we’ll see rates jump.”

George Raitu, senior economist for Realtor.com, said in a recent statement that homebuyers “remain boxed in by high prices, tight inventory and escalating inflation, which is taking a bigger bite out of their monthly paychecks. At today’s rate, the monthly mortgage payment for a median-priced home is \$109 higher than the same time in 2020.”

**Rates for fall 2021**

Industry experts predict a few major fluctuations in mortgage interest rates between today and the end of the year. Fannie Mae foresees the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaging 3% by late 2021, close to Freddie Mac’s prediction of 3.1%. The Mortgage Bankers Association foresees a 3.4% average rate across the year, once 2021 draws to a close.

“Modestly higher mortgage rates are the most likely outcome, particularly as the persistence of inflation becomes a greater concern. But the good news is that mortgage rates in the low 3’s, on average, and below 3% for those shopping around, will still prevail,” says Mr. McBride.

If we DO see continued inflation, the Fed may be forced to pull back on asset purchase programs and rates could jump faster than expected, Mr. Biskobing cautions.

“However, I think there’s a good chance the inflation we’ve been seeing is tied closely to supply chain issues related to COVID shutdowns. I think these issues should resolve themselves over the next few months. Nevertheless, I think the 30-year mortgage rate will trend higher and may approach 3.5% by year-end,” he says.

Slowing vaccination progress and increasing coronavirus numbers may tip rates a bit lower in future months, too.

“Concerns about rising delta variant cases could drift down both 10-year Treasury yields and mortgage rates,” says Ms. Evangelou. The Treasury rate and mortgage rates track each other closely.

On the other hand, additional spending from Congress could lead to higher mortgage rates as the market bids up rates in advance of any Fed move.

“Congressional infrastructure spending will add fuel to the fire of inflation, but whether it is enough to force the Fed to act is yet to be seen,” Mr. Biskobing says.

**Now’s time to buy**

Now is a fantastic time to take advantage of comparatively low mortgage rates. Problem is, can your wallet withstand the monthly payments required to afford the average home asking price?

“Many first-time buyers are being priced out, despite these historically low rates. While inventory is especially limited in the price range of a starter home — \$270,500 — the affordability gap between first-time purchasers and all buyers is 34%, making it even more difficult for them to purchase a home,” says Ms. Evangelou.

Mr. Biskobing says there are no easy answers.

“Purchasing a home right now is a tough choice. Rates are likely going to move higher in the future, so getting a cheap mortgage now seems to make sense. Still, home prices are at or near all-time highs, and building costs are still elevated,” he says. “The question becomes, do you want to wait for home prices and material costs to come down, which risks getting a higher-rate mortgage, or do you want to lock in now and not worry so much about purchase price?”

As for a refi, however, experts give the green light.

“The golden refinancing opportunity has stuck around much longer than expected, but don’t tempt fate. Lock in a sub-3% fixed rate while you can,” says Mr. McBride. “Reducing mortgage payments in a meaningful way is especially valuable with the cost of so many other items in the household budget on the rise.”

**Weekly check of the numbers**

**Market pulse**

These rates are as of close of markets Thursday.

PRIME RATE	TREASURY BILL	TREASURY BILL
3.25%	3-month 0.05	6-month 0.06

Commodities		
CRUDE OIL	NATURAL GAS	GASOLINE
\$69.98	\$4.13	\$3.292
+\$0.89	-\$0.01	+\$0.013

Precious metals		
GOLD	PLATINUM	SILVER
\$1,801.40	\$991.00	\$25.07
-\$7.50	-\$14.70	-\$0.22

## Falling ‘in love with the problem’

NADYLI, FROM F-1

entrepreneurial spirit. And it’s hard to really describe. It’s like love — you know it when you see it. You can’t really describe it. It’s just that person who when they’re talking about what they’re doing in a product, you know, like there’s just something in them.

**Is that spirit contagious? Do you feel like you caught it?**

Will I start a startup? You know, I have to fall in love with the problem first. I’ve got to figure out which problem I’m willing to talk about 24/7. That’s what happens with an entrepreneur — you’re selling that problem 24/7.

**Are there any common missteps that can get in**

**the way of an entrepreneur being successful?**

So, a few things: One is a founder who creates something that no one actually buys. ... The nuance in there too is are people willing to buy it at a price point that can lead to a sustainable business? There’s Five Below, there’s the Dollar Store, but can your company thrive and live off of that?

For us, we don’t define success as being a global brand or needing to make millions of billions of dollars. For us it’s how do you define success? Do you want to be a global company? All right, we’ll help you with that. Do you want to be a regional store? All right, we’ll help you with that. Our minimum is this is a business that you can live off of, solely.

The other thing that we notice a lot is that someone wants the product to be perfect before even piloting it or having someone else use it. And it’s never going to be perfect. You know why? Because you’re not piloting it, you’re not letting other people use it. You need that kind of feedback.

**What have you noticed**

**about Pittsburgh’s ecosystem? How has it changed since you’ve been involved?**

There are a lot of organizations that have existed, but they’re also new [ones] that are popping up. I think the new ones that are popping up tell me that there’s something we’re missing. Either it’s a group, it’s a way we’re approaching entrepreneurship, there’s something that was not embedded by other organizations.

I think there should be a lot of different programs because by having different programs, every organization has a different personality, a different way to approach things. It’s dating, it’s a personality fit.

I think there are people who maybe didn’t find room for themselves in the current ecosystem have created their own table, and they’ve done a good job.

Recently, there was a cohort of entrepreneurs that went to Detroit. And one thing I heard about the entrepreneurship scene there is that people who are looking to make a bakery business are pitching in the same way that someone’s

doing an SaaS software company, and it’s expanding what entrepreneurship means.

And that’s at least what I’m trying to do at Ascender, where entrepreneurship does take many forms, and it includes all kinds of people and all kinds of businesses.

I think we’re starting to expand what we’re thinking. ... There are people speaking up to say, “OK we’ve done this, we can do better. We do way better.”

My whole job is about seeing potential — in the founder, in the possibility of this company to grow. And so I asked myself, what is Pittsburgh’s potential and is it possible? Is there a product market fit?

**What is that potential and how do we get there?**

I don’t have a map. I don’t think anyone has a map. One of the important things is what are we trying to get to.

[Such as, looking at that] report — Pittsburgh is listed as one of the most diverse tech hubs — and I get weary of celebrating that kind of listing because the bar is very low. I’m not impressed.

On top of that, when we celebrate these kinds of listings I don’t want it to encourage complacency. Like, oh we’re good, we’re at the top. [But] is the scorecard even right? And historically it hasn’t been.

I think we can do a better job of centering some of the voices that we’re trying to elevate and thinking about whether it’s women, people who are differently abled, people in the LGBTQ community, the Black community, minority community. It’s not just inviting them into the room. Do they feel belonging? I think we can do a better job of trying to step out of our own comfort zones.

[One example,] for me, even on YouTube, I listen to content creators who are unlike me. How are they seeing the world? What words do they use? What are they thinking about? What’s on their mind?

**Now that you’ve been involved in the startup world for a few years, do you see startup ideas everywhere you go?**

So I recently was cleaning out my home office, found this mini moleskin

that I had purchased after I started my first entrepreneurship class at CMU ... and I had gotten it where I started to write ideas — no, I would notice problems or inefficiencies, and I would think, OK, a service or product that would help. Nine times out of 10, probably 10 times out of 10, it already existed. But I’m always looking to optimize, automate and improve.

What I love about it most is the people. That’s what I think about all the time. It’s people and their personality and their growth. I mean, my favorite part is when I’m working with entrepreneurs at the beginning of a program, especially if I’m coaching them on a weekly basis, and at the end I see their pitch presentation differently ... and even the way they carried themselves is different, and that it’s truly the most fulfilling part. They don’t realize how much they can grow, what they can accomplish, and they just need that push.

Lauren Rosenblatt:  
lrosen-blatt@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1565.



# Is it worth stretching your budget for TV, soundbar?

**Sound advice**  
DON LINDICH

**Q.** I recently went to look at 65-inch TVs and really liked the Samsung 65-inch QN90A TV and the Sonos ARC soundbar with Beam subwoofer. (Of course this is what the salesman recommended, and I felt he made some good points.) The combination is about \$3,500. The TV is \$2,299, on sale from \$2,600. This is more than I wanted to spend, but after thinking about it I feel that it might be better to stretch the budget a bit more for a better TV and soundbar. We have a glare problem in our living room, and I felt the Samsung had less glare than many of the other TVs. I also feel it might be better to get a good 4K TV rather than a lower-line 8K TV.

Your thoughts? Are

there any other combinations for about \$3,500 that would be a better option and value?

— J.S., Lafayette, Calif.

**A.** Most lower-line 8K TVs are better than the top-of-the-line 4K TVs from the same manufacturer, so I'm not sure if your feelings about 4K versus 8K are correct in this instance. More relevant to me is the lack of 8K programming and the smallish (for 8K) 65-inch screen size. These points incline me to recommend a 4K TV for you. That seems to be the direction you are leaning, and so far you are doing great with your choices though I am going to recommend a different soundbar.

The Samsung QN90A is my favorite top-of-the-line TV from any manufacturer, save for perhaps the top Samsung 8K models that cost significantly more. I am an extremely satisfied owner of a 75-inch Samsung Q90R, the 2019 predecessor of the QN90A, and the new

model is even better. I tested a QN90A this spring and the color, deep black level, great shadow detail, and improved response from the television operating system are a noticeable step up.

The QN90A is thinner, has a narrower bezel, and on the test bench shows improved technical performance in every parameter. As you have already noticed, the top Samsung televisions have an anti-reflective coating that makes them extremely easy to place even in rooms with a lot of ambient light. With the Neo QLED panel you never have to worry about burn-in so you can watch whatever you want for as long as you want, with the confidence you won't have any image retention staring you in the face later.

One piece of advice I have for all purchasers of new televisions is to make sure the color temperature is set to warm and any motion processing settings are



samsung.com

The Samsung QN90A television is worth the price.

turned completely off. You'll get a more accurate, more natural picture with the warm color temperature, and pretty much every motion processing system I have seen in a modern TV makes everything look artificial, like it is CGI. Turn off that motion processing for every source connected to the television; you will be glad that you did!

The Sonos soundbars are popular recommendations, but I think the real benefit in buying anything Sonos is using it for whole-home audio. You aren't doing that here, and you are definitely paying a premium for the Sonos name. A better choice in all respects would be the Samsung HW-Q950A, which not only includes a wireless subwoofer, it also includes wire-

less Atmos surround speakers for true multichannel surround sound from a soundbar. The 65-inch QN90A and HW-Q950A combo currently sells for \$3,599, just \$99 more than your \$3,500 budget. It is \$99 very well spent!

Read columns and product reviews by Don Lindich at [soundadvicenews.com](http://soundadvicenews.com).

# Consolidations on rise in financial planning

**ADVISERS**, FROM F-1

department or a PNC wealth management department, and the only way to do that was to partner with a larger firm like Commonwealth," said Ms. Amos. She said their company — 4Rivers Wealth Management — has \$90 million in assets under management after 16 months.

While they own the firm, they pay a fee to Commonwealth for access to its resources, which include 30 investment analysts and a dozen lawyers who come in handy with complicated and time-consuming jobs like investment research and advanced tax and estate planning. Commonwealth also provides their email, cybersecurity and website hosting.

"We love that we spend less time fixing tech issues and managing vendors and more time in front of our clients helping them reach their goals," Ms. Archinal said.

In May, Franklin Park-based asset manager Snow Capital joined

Snow Capital, with \$1.6 billion in assets under management, will maintain autonomy in how it operates. But after 30 years in business, its founder, Edward Snow, 64, felt it was time to let a larger company provide back office systems and support while its staff focuses on clients.

Not all of the big firms have smaller firms on their radar. Hefren-Tillotson, the largest independent financial planning firm in the Pittsburgh region with \$17 billion in assets under management, has no merger and acquisitions plans in the works.

"Hefren-Tillotson's growth has been primarily driven by internal development of our people. We have not been active in local consolidation," said Kimberly Fleming, chairperson.

## 'Record consolidation'

In the first half of this year alone, there has been a record 101 mergers and acquisitions across the country involving financial advisory firms, according to DeVoe & Co., a San Francisco-based consulting firm and investment bank specializing in wealth management companies.

"A few short years ago, 100 transactions had not occurred in an entire year," the company said in its second-quarter report.

In May, Franklin Park-based asset manager Snow Capital joined forces with a Boston wealth management company — Easterly Investment Partners — to handle all of the local firm's back office operations, as well as its sales and marketing in a 50-50 revenue-sharing arrangement.



Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Paul Brahim rolled his company, BPU Investment Management, into Downtown-based Wealth Enhancement Group, where he now serves as managing director and senior vice president.

Another major driving force behind all the deals has to do with the aging population of advisers. The average age of a financial adviser is 57, and many owners of small firms are using consolidation as a retirement and succession plan.

But private equity investors are providing a significant amount of the capital that's fueling the M&A activity in the wealth management industry.

"Private equity wants in this industry because of all that steady predictable income. They love those asset-based fees. It's like a giant high-paying passbook savings account for these guys," said Jeff Benjamin, a columnist at InvestmentNews, a New York-based investment industry trade publication.

He said the affiliated adviser trend is growing because financial advisers don't have enough hours in the day to deal with clients and all of the back office issues.

"You can still be your own brand, but you are getting support from the bigger firm," Mr. Benjamin said. "They help with the smaller firms' custody relationship. They help with marketing and make the small firm look a bit sharper. In return, the smaller firm gives the big firm a little something for that."

"The trends on all the data are saying the same thing," he said. "It's just screaming record consolidation from here to break-fast. There's nothing really standing in the way of this. The thing I'm waiting for right now is consolidation among the consolidators."

## The 'roll-up' model

Paul Brahim, former CEO of Downtown-based BPU Investment Manage-

ment, chose the "roll-up" model. In other words, he rolled his company, which had \$1 billion in assets, into the larger Wealth Enhancement Group, a company with \$45 billion in assets under management.

BPU was the private equity firm's first \$1 billion firm acquisition in March 2020. Mr. Brahim bought an ownership stake in Wealth Enhancement Group with some of the sales proceeds and continues to work for the company advising clients. But he's no longer responsible for running a company.

"At BPU, I only had two arms and two legs and 24 hours in a day," Mr. Brahim said. "It was a capacity issue. All I do is take care of clients now. I don't have to worry about any of that other stuff."

"We started BPU as a small firm, and it grew," he said. "By the time I made the transition to Wealth Enhancement Group, the C-suite had expanded to a CEO, a COO, a CFO, a CIO and a chief compliance officer."

Mr. Brahim said he considered going the affiliated route, but he chose to do the roll-up sale because he could eliminate the administrative duties altogether that way.

## 'Betting on ourselves'

When David Root started his wealth management company in 1994, he affiliated with Commonwealth Financial Network. Commonwealth handled all of his back office operations up until six years ago when his firm, DBR & Co., severed the tie and began using individual vendors to provide the resources necessary to run the company.

He contracted with Charles Schwab to handle the buying and selling of securi-

ties on behalf of his clients, and he sought out vendors for the other services that make the business run, such as compliance, accounting, legal, payroll, human resources, all the various insurances and record-keeping services.

"We were betting on ourselves," Mr. Root said.

Mr. Root said DBR & Co. has continued growing at a double-digit rate since the split with Commonwealth. The firm has \$1.1 billion in assets under management with individual clients and another \$6.5 billion in assets under advisement with 401(k) and other corporate and nonprofit retirement plans.

The company acquired



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette

David Root used to have Commonwealth Financial Network handle the back office operations for his DBR & Co. Now he uses individual vendors for such resources.

two more firms — in 2018 and 2017 — and although it hasn't started an affiliated adviser unit, Mr. Root said he is in discussions with two small firms that are interested in affiliating with DBR & Co.

After six years working as a senior vice president at Fragasso Financial Advisors, Robert Yelenovsky struck out on his own in September 2019 and started a financial advising firm called The Investment Advisory Group, which is an affiliate of Fragasso Financial Advisors.

"I wanted the freedom to run my own company and still have the great tools available at Fragasso," said Mr. Yelenovsky.

His firm, headquartered in Foster Plaza in Green Tree, is building a niche with individual investors who aren't starting with

large amounts of cash.

That means his clients' portfolios are designed by a professional portfolio manager at Fragasso Financial Advisors even if their account balance is lower than the minimum required for an account handled by financial advisers at Fragasso.

Fragasso provides him with all the software he needs to run his practice for a fee, which frees him from making a capital investment that could amount to about \$150,000 annually.

"They're not employees of ours," Mr. Fragasso said. "They are simply plugging into all of our resources so that they can run their business effectively, paying attention to the most important things."

Tim Grant: [tgrant@post-gazette.com](mailto:tgrant@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1591.



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# 2021 Bronco Sport needs more Bronco

**Driver's seat**  
SCOTT STURGIS

**2021 Ford Bronco Sport Badlands 4x4:** Hoping to conjure thoughts of the original Bronco.

**Price:** \$35,745 as tested. Co-Pilot 360+, \$795; gray 17-inch aluminum wheels, \$795.

**Conventional wisdom:** Edmunds.com says, "The Ford Bronco Sport is one small crossover that can tackle off-road terrain and look good doing it. But it struggles to meet expectations..."

**Marketer's pitch:** "Always onward."

**Reality:** This is more like the Bronco II. (And Edmunds put it 10th out of 10 for the category.)

Curses! I contacted Ford in hopes of testing out the new Bronco. It sure looks sweet, with the doors and roof off.

"We don't have those yet," explained the nice fleet manager from Ford.

"Do you know who I am?" I replied.

She said she did, and then she hung up. Well, not before offering the Bronco Sport.

**What's new:** The Bronco Sport is all new for 2021, and it reminds me of a tarted-up Escape.

The Bronco Sport expands what Ford calls the Bronco family of 4x4 vehicles. Of course, the big Bronco is like the brother who shows up for the family barbecue two hours late and smelling of whiskey and hard living — its entrance to the market finally upon us this summer.

After a few days of driving the Sport, I realized this — the Bronco Sport is to the Bronco as the Jeep Renegade is to the Wrangler.

**Outside:** I don't comment much on the exterior styling of vehicles — I'm forever recommending Toyotas and Lexuses, so obviously I prefer a good personality — but the Bronco Sport styling and



The 2021 Ford Bronco Sport is a small SUV with a big helping of off-road ability. (Preproduction model is pictured.)

gray wheels evoke less an old Bronco than a miniature version of the old International Travelall SUV. Ewww. If I squint hard, maaaaybe a Scout, but mostly the Travelall.

**Up to speed:** The 2.0-liter EcoBoost engine offers strong performance. Motor Trend reports it gets to 60 mph in just 6.5 seconds. Be careful which model you order; the small 1.5-liter, 181-horsepower EcoBoost takes a full two seconds longer, MT says.

**Shifty:** The 8-speed shiftable automatic transmission features unfortunate jerkiness and hesitation. It seemed like a cold operating temperature problem at first, but it continued on our last trip all morning. Shifting doesn't relieve the issue.

The dial PRND control annoys.

**On the road:** The Bronco Sport handles nicely, direct

and straightforward. The little SUV has lots of lean on curves and will easily leap over country road humps. That's some stiff suspension.

It actually handles and enhances bumps a lot like the Lovely Mrs. Passenger Seat's Kia Soul.

It also means rutted roads shake up passengers pretty thoroughly.

The Go on any Terrain dial mixes up the performance for off-road adventure, which we didn't get to try on this test.

**Driver's Seat:** The cloth seats are soft and cushiony. They're not unsupportive, but they're just alright. A little hot, though, and they don't feel built to last, or at least to age well.

The steering wheel has a touch of cushioning, but not much. It might get tiresome after awhile. Whether Ford does this because of price point or indifference, I'm not



The interior of the 2021 Ford Bronco Sport can be optioned up with leather and other amenities.

sure. An upgrade to leather might be nice, but we're already at \$35,000 here.

The dashboard feels very — Fordy. It looks like rubber and feels like hard plastic, as do the materials on the door sills and throughout the vehicle.

In the gaugepod, the ro-

bot-style numerals in the digital readouts are not enticing, and neither are the fonts used in the rest of the display.

**Friends and stuff:** The rear seat is not as livable as the front. Rather than soft it feels hard and foamy, like I'm sitting on a board cov-

ered with a thin layer of padding. It's also a little pushy in the kidney area.

The seat sits upright, though, and legroom, headroom and foot room are all nice. Large zippered pouches in the seatbacks and a small storage spot under one seat are a nice touch. Ford press materials note it can carry mountain bikes upright, so that's a good thing.

Cloth seats in the test model grab hold of pet hair and won't let go.

Cargo space is 29.4 cubic feet behind the rear seat and 60.6 with the second row folded.

**Play some tunes:** The Sync3 stereo system operates nicely, with volume and tuning knobs, and a small old-fashioned-looking but fairly intuitive touchscreen that make most operations simple.

Sound from the system is very good, about an A-minus.

**Keeping warm and cool:** Dials control temperature and fan speed, and little diagrammed buttons direct the air source.

**Night shift:** The map lights up front are too strong to see by. Small overhead lights work better when needed.

**Fuel economy:** I averaged just under 25 mpg in a typical pandemic week of highway and suburban driving. Feed the Bronco Sport whatever.

**Where it's built:** Hermosillo, Mexico.

**How it's built:** Consumer Reports predicts the Bronco Sport reliability to be a 2 out of 5.

**In the end:** The Bronco Sport is tough but rough and outclassed by much of the competition. And definitely don't expect the cool new Bronco — or, at least, one presumes that the Bronco will be much better.

Scott Sturgis is a freelance auto writer; mrdriversseat@gmail.com.

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Fax resume to 724-941-3511 or mail to 211 Thompsonville Road McMurray, PA 15317.</p> <p>Operations Research Scientist I with FedEx Ground Package System, Inc. in Moon Township, PA. Analyzes existing busi. sys. &amp; designs busi. models &amp; sw apps. Multiple positions available. Go to www.fedex.com/careers, enter Job ID 287390BR under Keywords and follow prompts to apply. EOE M/F/D/V.</p> <p><b>MAKE THE SEARCH EASY!</b> Find exactly what you are looking for and more in the <b>Post-Gazette Classifieds</b></p>	<p><b>General Help Wanted</b></p> <p><b>KITCHEN / BATH INSTALLER</b> Shadyside Mgt Co needs experienced person w/ drivers license &amp; transportation to install kitchens &amp; baths and do minor carpentry repairs in area apts. \$18/hr - FT position, with quality but affordable employee benefits offered. Signing bonus range: \$1,500-3,000. MOZART - 412-682-7003</p> <p><b>MAINTENANCE</b> Shadyside Mgt. 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Apply online at: https://www.applitrack.com/Highlands/onlineapp. Highlands is an EOE.</p> <p><b>Carlynton School District Immediate Opening CHILD ACCOUNTING/ REGISTRAR / PIMS ADMIN</b> 12 mos - \$37,891 w/exc benefits Computer, data entry &amp; communication skills/strong work ethic required Send letter of interest, resume, references &amp; clearances to kristen.butler@carlynton.k12.pa.us Position open until filled</p> <p><b>Carlynton School District Immediate Opening SECRETARY SPECIAL EDUCATION</b> DEPT 12 mos - \$37,891 w/exc benefits Computer, data entry &amp; communication skills/file management/strong work ethic required Send letter of interest, resume, references &amp; clearances to kristen.butler@carlynton.k12.pa.us Position open until filled</p>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <p>South Park School District is seeking candidates for the following positions: Special Education Teacher, MS Intervention Teacher, Part-time HS Business Education Teacher, MS Teacher, Paraprofessionals, Custodians, Food Services, and Substitutes in all Departments. 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Please contact Heather Gaudet 800-438-8931 Email resume to gaudeth@jspaluch.com</p> <p><b>Business Opportunities</b></p> <p>Need to hire a retired Police Detective to review a Police misconduct court case and write an affidavit regarding correct police detective procedures. Possible hire as an expert witness at the November trial. 208-430-3206</p>	<p><b>Lost</b></p> <p><b>FOUND</b>  <b>LOST BLACK AND WHITE CAT-VERONA 15147</b> Zoey went missing Thanksgiving weekend 2020. She was last seen on Peridot Drive, 15147. She is an indoor/outdoor cat, black and white markings and no collar. She is a friendly cat, please call if you have seen her. 412-607-7001 412-607-7001</p> <p><b>Lost Dog</b> Update: &lt;br /&gt; Roxie has been missing since Saturday 6/12 evening. I am offering a 2000 reward for safe return. A bigger dog went after her pull her harness off of her. She was scare and took off running. I believe she might be in survival mood. Roxie is very small 4.0 pounds chinuahea she is not chip due to her size and other health issues. She was last seen at the Harsbergers Mobile Park off of county route 151 Aliquippa, PA . Not sure if she was pick up, please help me bring my baby home call 304-373-4571 not sure if someone sold her. I want my baby back</p> <p><b>GET GREAT RESULTS</b> With over a million readers every week, the Post-Gazette Classifieds are a great place to advertise. Just Call 412-263-1201</p>
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**Lost**



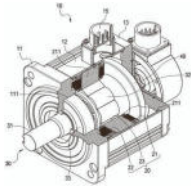
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**Shih tzu Yorkie mix still missing** Piper is still missing since 2/6/21 from castle Shannon. Large cash reward for any information leading to her safe return. She is small, around 8 lbs. dark ears and tail, blonde body. She is microchipped. She was wearing a gold collar. If you know something please call us. Her family wants her back. 412-853-4522

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GRACE, SR., Dewayne C., a/k/a Dewayne C. Grace, deceased, of Carnegie, PA. No. 05545 of 2021. Anthony E. Grace, Extr., 812 Library Avenue, Carnegie, PA 15106, or to Matthew T. Kikta, Esquire, Julian Gray Associates, 954 Greentree Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

**Bids and Proposals**

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFBS) FOR DIRECT OPPORTUNITIES CENTER REHAB PROJECT AMP-39 HACP CONTRACT NO. 600-25-21


THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH will receive sealed bids for the Direct Opportunities Center Rehabilitation Project, AMP-39. The construction work is estimated to begin in December of 2021.

**Bids and Proposals**

8:00 AM until the closing of 10:00 AM on September 9, 2021 at the HACP Procurement Department, 100 Ross Street, Suite 200, Pittsburgh PA 15219 Attn: Kim Detrick, Chief Procurement Officer. Due to COVID, the bid opening on September 9, 2021 at 10:00AM will be conducted virtually via Zoom. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93279548797?pwd=S21VS21S1FFSKjQmVHv3BYNUJmQ09> Copies of bid documents are not available for in person pickup. Bid Documents, including the Bid Forms, Project Manual, and Drawings, may be obtained from the Business Opportunities Section of the HACP website, [www.hacp.org](http://www.hacp.org). Prospective Bidders may register as a vendor on the website and download the documents free of charge.

**Bids and Proposals**

CITY OF PITTSBURGH HACP conducts business in accordance with all federal, state, and local civil rights laws, including but not limited to Title VII, the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, etc. and does not discriminate against any individuals protected by these statutes.



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**Bids and Proposals**

Resources, Inc. to the attention of Dave Hohman, PLA ([dhohman@kuresources.com](mailto:dhohman@kuresources.com)) QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE RESPONDED TO AFTER 4:00 PM. On August 23, 2021. Contract documents, including drawings and specification, will be on file and available for viewing (hard copy) only during normal business hours, at the following office location: KU Resources, Inc. (Hard Copy Only) c/o Dave Hohman, PLA 22 South Linden, Street Duquesne, PA 15110 (412) 469-9331

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**NOTICE OF CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR THE POSITION OF PATROL POLICE OFFICER**

Applications for the position of patrol police officer are being accepted on behalf of the following municipalities or their Civil Service Commissions:

**Edgewood Borough  
Forest Hills Borough  
North Versailles Township  
Pitcairn Borough**


until 1:00 PM on Friday, September 3, 2021 at the offices of the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments (TCVCOG), 2700 Monroeville Boulevard, Monroeville, PA 15146, 412.858.5115.

A single application to take the test and a single testing process will be utilized by the listed municipalities. All appointments, if any, will be made by the individual municipalities. Information concerning eligibility requirements for each police department is contained in the application package.

Applications and instructions are available at the TCVCOG office, at the TCVCOG website ([www.tcvco.com](http://www.tcvco.com)), and at the Police Departments of the listed municipalities. Completed applications are to be returned with a non-refundable fee of \$55.00 payable to the TCVCOG office. A physical agility test is scheduled for the morning of September 14, 2021 with a written test to follow at 1:00pm that same afternoon at the Park Building, 557 Broadway Blvd, Pitcairn, PA 15140 for those who pass the physical agility test.

*The listed municipalities are equal opportunity employers.*

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**2021 Steeler (home game) Season tickets** Four season tickets - Club Seats East, section 213, Row F. Includes option to purchase any playoff tickets or Super Bowl if team advances. Must be bought in pairs. Price \$3,750 per season ticket. See picture for view from seat. \$3,750 412-216-1322

**Tickets**

PSL and or Steelers Season Tickets Section 131 724-288-5198

3 SEASON TICKETS & SEAT LICENSES Section 508, Row J, Seats 1-3, Call Warren 412-241-2612

**2021 Steeler (home game) Season tickets** Four season tickets - Club Seats East, section 213, Row F. Includes option to purchase any playoff tickets or Super Bowl if team advances. Must be bought in pairs. Price \$3,750 per season ticket. See picture for view from seat. \$3,750 412-216-1322

**EMPLOYMENT**

**MAGNELLI, Francis P.**, deceased, of Kennedy Township, PA. No. 05347 of 2021. Gerard Magnelli, Extr., c/o Timothy J. Giltinan, Esq., c/o John W. Giltinan, Esq., P.C., 401 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1460, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

**KUGLER, Gertrude U.**, deceased, of Pittsburgh, PA. No. 05548 of 2021. John A. Kugler, Extr., 127 Meadow Drive, Bridgeville, PA 15107, or to Thomas M. Junker, Esq., 615 Washington Road, Ste. 201, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

**CAMPBELL, John H.**, a/k/a John Herman Campbell, deceased, of Imperial, PA. No. 04185 of 2019. Terry L. Cain, Admrx., 263 Moody Road, Suite 208C, Drive, PA 15126, or to George C. Entenmann, Atty., 300 Mt. Lebanon Blvd, Suite 208C, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15234.

**RAY, Lillian Jean, a/k/a Jean Ray**, deceased, Pittsburgh, PA. No. 06804 of 2018. Lisa Kelly, Admrx., 363 Old Clairton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236, or to Sean Audley, Atty., 51 Clairton Blvd., Ste. 100, Pittsburgh, PA 15236.

**SOMERHALDER, Jack E.**, deceased, of Pittsburgh, PA. No. 05087 of 2021. Frances Arlene Somerhalder, Extr., 233 Rockingham Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

**ROSE, Alana R.**, deceased, of Heidelberg, PA. No. 05781 of 2021. David W. Adams, Jr., Extr., 546 Lincoln Avenue, Heidelberg, PA 15106, or to Fiscus & Ball, P.C., 1605 Carmody Court, Suite 102, Sewickley, PA 15143.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**Bids and Proposals**

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFBS) FOR DIRECT OPPORTUNITIES CENTER REHAB PROJECT AMP-39 HACP CONTRACT NO. 600-25-21

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF PITTSBURGH will receive sealed bids for the Direct Opportunities Center Rehabilitation Project, AMP-39. The construction work is estimated to begin in December of 2021.

**SMITH, Bernard H.**, deceased, of Bradford Woods, PA. No. 00717 of 2021. Caitlin Smith, Co-Admrx., 5741 Blackbirch Street, Las Vegas, NV 89148 and Ashley Smith-Hixon, Co-Admrx., 208 Bellford Drive, Cranberry, PA 16066, or to Brooke B. McMorrow, Esq., 10475 Perry Highway, Suite 204, Wexford, PA 15090.

**KUGLER, Gertrude U.**, deceased, of Pittsburgh, PA. No. 05548 of 2021. John A. Kugler, Extr., 127 Meadow Drive, Bridgeville, PA 15107, or to Thomas M. Junker, Esq., 615 Washington Road, Ste. 201, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

**CAMPBELL, John H.**, a/k/a John Herman Campbell, deceased, of Imperial, PA. No. 04185 of 2019. Terry L. Cain, Admrx., 263 Moody Road, Suite 208C, Drive, PA 15126, or to George C. Entenmann, Atty., 300 Mt. Lebanon Blvd, Suite 208C, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15234.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT** has teaching position openings for the **2021/2022 SCHOOL YEAR IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

**ELEMENTARY  
ENGLISH  
MIDDLE LEVEL SCIENCE  
MUSIC  
READING SPECIALIST  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR  
SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST  
SPANISH  
SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Applicants must submit cover letter, resume, standard PA teaching application, valid PA teaching certification, transcripts, 3 letters of reference and any other supporting documentation by August 9, 2021 to:

**Suzanne Turner, Human Resource Supervisor  
WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345-3406  
FAX: (814) 757-8529**



**Manheim**

**Now Hiring** in Cranberry Township

*Make your mark.*

CAREERS AT COX

Manheim, a part of the Cox family of businesses, is North America's leading provider of end-to-end wholesale vehicle solutions, connecting buyers and sellers to the largest used vehicle marketplace. Our team members make us who we are. View our job openings and apply today!

We are now hiring for:  
**Automotive Technicians**  
Benefits start day 1!

Connect with us today and find a great career: [ApplyAtManheim.com](http://ApplyAtManheim.com)

Manheim is an Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F/D/V

**AMERICAN TEXTILE Co.** **HIRING TODAY!**

Full-time pay, working 14 days per month!  
**\$500 Sign-on Bonus**

Valuable training, growth & opportunity, bonuses, holiday, insurance & vacation time!

**SEWING TECHNICIAN**

- Monitor machine operation to detect problems such as defective stitching, breaks in thread, or machine malfunctions.
- Place spools of thread, cord, or other materials on spindles, insert bobbins, and thread ends through machine guides and components.
- Position items under needles, using marks on machines, clamps, templates, or cloth as guides.
- Guide pillows or parts under machine needles and presser feet to sew parts together.
- Remove holding devices and finished items from machines.

**ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Basic Math Skills
- Previous industrial sewing experience preferred
- Ability to occasionally carry, push or pull objects weighing up to and including 35 pounds
- Ability to Ambulate or stand twelve hours a day
- Ability to sit or stand and sew for a full shift

**Apply Today!**  
Call 412-460-1249 OR VISIT: [americantextile.com/careers](http://americantextile.com/careers)

**USB UNION SAVINGS BANK**

**MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICER**

Have you ever had to tell your client "no" or "we can't do that"? At Union Savings Bank you don't have to tell your clients no. Our tool box is bigger than any other bank in Pittsburgh and allow you to sell more loans and ultimately, make more money!

Every other bank in Pittsburgh offers the same Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac products; conventional, FHA, USDA and VA. At Union Savings Bank in addition to those products, we offer commercial loans, lot loans, spec home loans, blanket loans, and the lowest cost refinance loans in the Pittsburgh market. Blanket loans and low cost refinance loans can be offered with no title insurance. Our programs are robust and creative and allow the salesman to sell. These are just a portion of the products that we offer.

Our compensation options are salary plus commission or full commission. Most loan officers go full commission after 6-12 months of salary plus commission because our products allow you to sell more, make more, and tell the client yes. The average loan officer who closes 10 million at another bank will close 20-25 million with Union Savings Bank. Sales experience preferred if new to the mortgage industry.

Our system is as follows: you sell the product and structure the loan and the operation team closes the loan. Our in-house processing, underwriting, and closing teams are accessible and good at what they do.

**We have two offices in Pittsburgh:**

**5556 William Flynn Highway  
Gibsonia, PA 15044  
P: 724-443-3700**

**1614 Washington Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
P: 412-835-4600**

To be considered for this exciting opportunity, please email resumes and contact information to **Justin Rosenal** at [jrosenal@usavingsbank.com](mailto:jrosenal@usavingsbank.com)



**Bids and Proposals**

under suspension or debarment by the Commonwealth, any state or the federal government.  
6. Contractor and its subcontractors shall furnish progress reports, status reports, project account statements, certificates, approvals, etc.  
Note that the Project includes Prevailing Wage Rates as required by the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Funding provided for the project.  
The Castle Shannon Borough reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities to the bidding, or to advertise for new proposals, if in the judgment of the borough, it is in their best interest.  
No bidder may withdraw a bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of opening thereof. Should there be reasons why the Contract cannot be awarded within the specified period, the time may be extended by mutual agreement between KU Resources and the Bidder.

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT INVITATION FOR BID Contract No. ACHA-1654, Tree Removal & Trimming Services**

The Allegheny County Housing Authority is requesting Bids from qualified Contractors to provide Tree Removal & Trimming Services throughout ACHA jurisdiction.  
Invitation for Bids and Contract Documents are on file and may be obtained at no charge from the Allegheny County Housing Authority, 301 Charters Ave., McKees Rocks, PA 15136, or by contacting Guy Phillips @ gphilips@achsgn.com, 412-402-2435.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held in the Authority's Boardroom on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Bid submittals are due no later than 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 301 Charters Ave., McKees Rocks, PA 15136.  
The Authority encourages responses from \$3 business concerns, small firms, minority firms and firms that have not previously performed work for the ACHA. The Allegheny County Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY Frank Aggazio, Executive Director**



**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT Port Authority of Allegheny County REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. 21-12**

Port Authority of Allegheny County (Authority) is requesting proposals for the performance of the following service ("Contract Services"): **MANAGED CARE PROGRAM SERVICES**  
The work under the proposed Agreement consists of program development and implantation services, treatment facilities services, on-site medical case management services, resource case management services, field medical and vocational case management services, claims management/program support services and litigation support services.  
The Agreement will be for a 5-year period with the option to extend the term of the Agreement up to 2 additional years at the sole discretion of Authority.  
A copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) will be available on or after August 5, 2021 and can be obtained by registering at the Port Authority eBusiness website: <http://ebusiness.portauthority.org> and following the directions listed on the website. Please note that Proposers must register under the business category(ies) of PSMC - Pro Workers Comp/Medical Management, and PSMCM - Pro Med/Voc Case Management for this RFP. Proposers may also register in other categories for any future RFPs issued by Port Authority. If you have specific questions regarding this RFP, please contact Catherine Terrill at (412) 566-5188 or via

**Administrative/Office**

**Paralegal**  
Small plaintiff's firm looking for an experienced paralegal to assist in both personal injury and workers' compensation cases. Cover letter and resume can be sent to mcgrathleslie6@gmail.com

**Computer / IT**

Zoll Manufacturing Corp. Pittsburgh, PA. Advisory Web Development Engineer - Design, build, deploy, & support machine learning infrastructure for large medical datasets containing ECG & other medical data. Telecommuting allowed 2x/week. Submit resume to Leslie.CunninghamMFG@zoll.com referencing AWDE-0011

**Engineering / Technical**

TeleTracking Technologies, Inc. seeks a Biotechnology Science & Engineering Advisor to the Co-CEOs & President in Pittsburgh, PA to oversee highly prioritized projects and programs. Req. MS + 2 or BS + 5 yrs exp. To apply must mail resume to: TeleTracking Technologies, Inc., Attn: Lindsey Plistner, 336 Fourth Ave., Floor 2, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Must reference Job Title & Code: 000001. EOE

**Computer / IT**

System Analyst, Titan Technologies, Bethel Park, PA. Use Microsoft technologies to develop technical solutions for creating services in an environment agnostic platform. The position is located in Bethel Park, PA, but employee will need to travel to client locations for extended periods as needed. (Travel up to 90%; Mostly East Coast and South East/Mid- west locations; International travel possible). Apply with resume through <http://www.titan-techs.com/careers.aspx>, Reference Req# TT-PIT-2021-07-01. EOE

Info Technology Manager (Cheswick, PA) Rev diagnostics & assess functionality & efficiency of systems; implem secur measures; Monitor secur certs & company compliance of reqs; Offer tech support to company staff & troubleshoot comp problems; Install & update company software & hardware as needed; & Anticip & rep cost of replac or updat comp items. Reqmt: Master's in Comp Sci or Comp Info Systems, 40hrs/wk. Send Resume & diploma to: Porto Exim USA LLC (dba: Armina Stone), 780 Route 910 Suite 100, Cheswick, PA 15024

**Bids and Proposals**

email cterrill@PortAuthority.org. An Information Meeting for interested parties will be held at 9:30 a.m., prevailing time, August 17, 2021 via Microsoft Teams video conference and/or conference call to answer any questions regarding this RFP.

**To join by Microsoft Team video conference:**  
• [https://bit.ly/RFP21-12\\_Info\\_Mtg](https://bit.ly/RFP21-12_Info_Mtg)  
**To join by Microsoft Teams call-in number:**

• (412) 927-0245 (United State, Pittsburgh Toll)  
• Conference ID: 158 017 365#  
Electronic proposals must be both received, and time stamped by a representative of the Purchasing and Materials Management Department through Authority's eBusiness website at or before 2:00 p.m., prevailing time, September 7, 2021, at <http://ebusiness.portauthority.org>. Proposals received or time stamped by a Purchasing and Materials Management Department representative through Authority's eBusiness website after the advertised time for the submission of proposals shall be non-responsive and therefore ineligible for award. Each Proposer shall be solely responsible for assuring that its proposal is timely received and time stamped in accordance with the requirements herein.

This Contract Services may be funded, in part, by, and subject to certain requirements of, the County of Allegheny and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The proposal process and the performance of the requested services will be in accordance with guidelines and regulations of the FTA "Third Party Contracting Guidelines", FTA Circular 4220.1F, as amended, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Port Authority of Allegheny County, in compliance with 49 C.F.R., Part 26, as amended, implements positive affirmative action procedures to ensure that all Disadvantaged Business Enterprises ("DBEs") have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts financed, in whole or in part, with federal funds or any provided under or for the proposed Agreement. In this regard, all recipients or contractors shall take all necessary and reasonable steps in accordance with 49 C.F.R., Part 26, to ensure that DBEs have the maximum opportunity to compete for, and perform contracts and subcontracts for, the Contract Services.

Port Authority of Allegheny County, in compliance with 74 Pa.C.S. § 303, as may be amended, also requires that certified Diverse Businesses, ("DBs") have the maximum opportunity to compete for, and perform contracts and subcontract for, the Contract Services. In this regard, all Proposers, and the Contractor, shall make good faith efforts, in accordance with 74 Pa.C.S. § 303, to ensure that DBs have the maximum opportunity to compete for, and perform contracts and subcontracts for, the Contract Services. Further, proposers and the Contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, age, disability, national origin, sex, sexual origin, gender identity or status as a parent in the award and performance of contracts or subcontracts for these Contract Services.

Port Authority of Allegheny County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

**LEGAL NOTICE PROJECT NUMBER 21TG03 (GENERAL) CURTAINWALL PACAKGE at PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ATTENTION: DELAY OF BID OPENING DATE TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:**

Notice is hereby given that the bid opening date for the aforementioned project that was scheduled AUGUST 11, 2021, has been changed so

**Administrative/Office**

**Bids and Proposals**

that the bid opening date for this project will now be SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. Electronic Bids will be received by the Allegheny County Airport Authority (via Building Connected) until 1:00 P.M. prevailing local time, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. Plan holders will have until eight (8) days prior to bid opening to submit in writing any questions related to the project. Any bids for the referenced project received on AUGUST 11, 2021, will be returned unopened to the bidding party.

**LEGAL NOTICE PROJECT NUMBER 21TG04 (GENERAL) BUILDING ENVELOPE PACKAGE at PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ATTENTION: DELAY OF BID OPENING DATE TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:**

Notice is hereby given that the bid opening date for the aforementioned project that was scheduled AUGUST 11, 2021, has been changed so that the bid opening date for this project will now be SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. Electronic Bids will be received by the Allegheny County Airport Authority (via Building Connected) until 1:00 P.M. prevailing local time, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. Plan holders will have until eight (8) days prior to bid opening to submit in writing any questions related to the project. Any bids for the referenced project received on AUGUST 11, 2021, will be returned unopened to the bidding party.

**LEGAL NOTICE PROJECT NUMBER 21TG04 (GENERAL) BUILDING ENVELOPE PACKAGE at PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ATTENTION: DELAY OF BID OPENING DATE TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:**

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**LEGAL NOTICE PROJECT NUMBER 21TG04 (GENERAL) BUILDING ENVELOPE PACKAGE at PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ATTENTION: DELAY OF BID OPENING DATE TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:**

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**OFFICIAL ADVERTISEMENT THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION of the SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSBURGH ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed proposals shall be deposited at the Administration Building, Bellefield Entrance Lobby, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15213, until 2:00 P.M., local prevailing time for: Pittsburgh Grandview Pre-K-5 Window/Curtainwall Replacement and Masonry Restoration General, Mechanical,

**General Help Wanted**

Deloitte Consulting LLP seeks a Manager, Strategy & Analytics, Analytics & Cognitive in Pittsburgh, PA & various unannounced Deloitte office locations & client sites nationally to manage advisory & implementation information technology projects within large-scale data ecosystems including data management, governance and the integration of structured & unstructured data to generate insights leveraging on-premise, web, and/or cloud-based platforms to help companies unlock the value of big technology investments. 80% travel required nationally. Telecommuting permitted. To apply visit [apply.deloitte.com](http://apply.deloitte.com). Enter XBA122FC0721PIT7276 in "Search jobs" field. EOE, including disability/veterans.

**Auctions**

**Online Moving Auction**

Lots Begin to Close @ 6p 8/18 NO IN-PERSON PREVIEW Pick-up: 12n-6p on 8/20

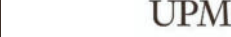
Items located @ 134 N Main St, Houston, PA  
Lionel Train Sets  
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Cast Iron Horse & Buggy Advertising Pieces  
Pitt Memorabilia - Sports Team Gear  
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Wicker Outdoor Furniture  
Golf Clubs, Outdoor Items, Lawn & Garden

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**Engineering / Technical**

**SOFTWARE ENGINEER - SENIOR** - UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside seeks multiple Software Engineers - Senior to work in Pittsburgh, PA (Allegheny County). Responsible for development, maintenance and systems administration of UPMC Health Plan's applications, including the MC400 software system. Master's degree or equivalent in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology or related field, plus two (2) years of software development, software engineering, analysis, or related experience, including one (1) year of experience analyzing user needs and providing solutions/estimates; designing and developing applications; testing software applications; correcting errors and/or bugs; working with DB2 databases; and utilizing the following tools and technologies: AS/400, RPGLE/RPG ILE, CLLE, RPG-Free/Free Format, and X-Analysis. In lieu of Master's degree plus two (2) years of experience, will accept Bachelor's degree or equivalent in one of the noted fields, plus five (5) years of progressive SW development, SW engineering, analysis, or related experience, including one (1) year of experience in the specific experiences as specified above. Telecommuting permissible. Apply by following these steps; visit <http://careers.upmc.com> and enter 210002M3 in the "Search Keyword/Job ID" field and click Go. EOE/Disability/Veteran.



**Bids and Proposals**

Electrical, and Asbestos Abatement Primes Project Manual and Drawings will be available for purchase on August 2, 2021 at Modern Reproductions (412-488-7700), 127 McKean Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15219 between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. The cost of the Project Manual Documents is non-refundable. Project details and dates are described in each project manual.

**PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS**

Public Notice is hereby given that City of Clairton will accept sealed bids for the following demolition, removal and clean-up job

**CITY WIDE DEMOLITIONS - 2021**

Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., prevailing time on Thursday, August 26th, 2021 in the Clairton City Hall Administrative / Finance Office, 551 Ravensburg Blvd, Clairton, Pa. 15025. All bids received will be publicly opened at or about 10:00 a.m., prevailing time in the Council Chambers of Clairton City Hall. Copies of the Request for Bid specifications are available Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the City Administrative / Finance Office. Arrangements for other days can be made by calling 412-233-8113 - Option #8. All bids must be accompanied by a ten percent (10%) bid security. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the time of the opening of the bids. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any formalities in the bidding. Bidders must insure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex or nation of origin.

**LEGAL NOTICE PROJECT NUMBER 21TG04 (GENERAL) BUILDING ENVELOPE PACKAGE at PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ATTENTION: DELAY OF BID OPENING DATE TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:**

Notice is hereby given that the bid opening date for the aforementioned project that was scheduled AUGUST 11, 2021, has been changed so that the bid opening date for this project will now be SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. Electronic Bids will be received by the Allegheny County Airport Authority (via Building Connected) until 1:00 P.M. prevailing local time, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021. Plan holders will have until eight (8) days prior to bid opening to submit in writing any questions related to the project. Any bids for the referenced project received on AUGUST 11, 2021, will be returned unopened to the bidding party.

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**General Help Wanted**

The Environmental Charter School will hold board meetings for the 2021-22 School Year on the following dates. All meetings begin at 6:30 and are held at the ECS Middle School, 5525 Columbo, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.  
August 18, 2021  
September 15, 2021  
October 20, 2021  
November 17, 2021  
December 15, 2021  
January 19, 2022  
February 16, 2022  
March 16, 2022  
April 20, 2022  
May 18, 2022  
June 15, 2022

**Auctions**

**Online Moving Auction**

Lots Begin to Close @ 6p 8/18 NO IN-PERSON PREVIEW Pick-up: 12n-6p on 8/20

Items located @ 134 N Main St, Houston, PA  
Lionel Train Sets  
Mobil Advertising Signs & Metal Signs  
Cast Iron Horse & Buggy Advertising Pieces  
Pitt Memorabilia - Sports Team Gear  
Modern Furniture & Sofas  
Wicker Outdoor Furniture  
Golf Clubs, Outdoor Items, Lawn & Garden

Terms: 15% BP. Full terms online.

Joe R Pyle Auction Service PA AU 001708 304-592-6000 [www.JOERPYLEAUCTIONS.com](http://www.JOERPYLEAUCTIONS.com)

**Engineering / Technical**

**SOFTWARE ENGINEER - SENIOR** - UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside seeks multiple Software Engineers - Senior to work in Pittsburgh, PA (Allegheny County). Responsible for development, maintenance and systems administration of UPMC Health Plan's applications, including the MC400 software system. Master's degree or equivalent in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology or related field, plus two (2) years of software development, software engineering, analysis, or related experience, including one (1) year of experience analyzing user needs and providing solutions/estimates; designing and developing applications; testing software applications; correcting errors and/or bugs; working with DB2 databases; and utilizing the following tools and technologies: AS/400, RPGLE/RPG ILE, CLLE, RPG-Free/Free Format, and X-Analysis. In lieu of Master's degree plus two (2) years of experience, will accept Bachelor's degree or equivalent in one of the noted fields, plus five (5) years of progressive SW development, SW engineering, analysis, or related experience, including one (1) year of experience in the specific experiences as specified above. Telecommuting permissible. Apply by following these steps; visit <http://careers.upmc.com> and enter 210002M3 in the "Search Keyword/Job ID" field and click Go. EOE/Disability/Veteran.



**Legal Notices**

the West Deer Township Building located at 109 East Union Road, Cheswick, PA 15024, to consider an application for conditional use approval for a Wireless Communications Tower filed by the Applicant, Elevated Properties, LLC, to construct a 152-foot tall monopole cell tower and associated structures and equipment on a leased portion of the property located at 41 A Blue Row Street, Russellton PA 15076 (Block and Lot No. 1361-M-27).

**PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS**

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Cast Iron Horse & Buggy Advertising Pieces  
Pitt Memorabilia - Sports Team Gear  
Modern Furniture & Sofas  
Wicker Outdoor Furniture  
Golf Clubs, Outdoor Items, Lawn & Garden

Terms: 15% BP. Full terms online.

Joe R Pyle Auction Service PA AU 001708 304-592-6000 [www.JOERPYLEAUCTIONS.com](http://www.JOERPYLEAUCTIONS.com)

**Engineering / Technical**

**SOFTWARE ENGINEER - SENIOR** - UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside seeks multiple Software Engineers - Senior to work in Pittsburgh, PA (Allegheny County). Responsible for development, maintenance and systems administration of UPMC Health Plan's applications, including the MC400 software system. Master's degree or equivalent in Computer Science, Software Engineering, Information Technology or related field, plus two (2) years of software development, software engineering, analysis, or related experience, including one (1) year of experience analyzing user needs and providing solutions/estimates; designing and developing applications; testing software applications; correcting errors and/or bugs; working with DB2 databases; and utilizing the following tools and technologies: AS/400, RPGLE/RPG ILE, CLLE, RPG-Free/Free Format, and X-Analysis. In lieu of Master's degree plus two (2) years of experience, will accept Bachelor's degree or equivalent in one of the noted fields, plus five (5) years of progressive SW development, SW engineering, analysis, or related experience, including one (1) year of experience in the specific experiences as specified above. Telecommuting permissible. Apply by following these steps; visit <http://careers.upmc.com> and enter 210002M3 in the "Search Keyword/Job ID" field and click Go. EOE/Disability/Veteran.



**Legal Notices**

reserves the right to bid. For further information or to inspect the personal property prior to the sale, please contact Michael Davied at 817-490-6816.

**BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SCHEDULE CHANGES**

The Board of School Directors of the Bethel Park School District announces the following changes to its Meeting schedule:  
The Regular Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021 will now be held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 beginning at 7:00 pm. The location remains the same and will be held in the Community Room of the Administration Building, 301 Church Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

**FINDLAY TOWNSHIP ZONING HEARING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

The Findlay Township Zoning Hearing Board will consider the following petition at their meeting on August 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Findlay Township Municipal Building, 1271 Route 30, Clinton, Pennsylvania.  
\*Hearing No. 21-16: Chapman Commerce Center is requesting a Setback Variance from Section 117.409.6 of the Zoning Ordinance to construct a solar array at 1301-1661 Westport Road, Imperial, PA within the Light Industrial (LI) Zoning District.

Anyone wishing to be heard is invited. Any person with a disability requiring a special accommodation to attend a meeting should notify Christopher Caruso at 724-695-0500. The facility is wheelchair accessible.  
Tony Patterson, Chairman

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO INVOLUNTARILY TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS**

**In Re: Azzayah Joseph Volpe a/k/a Azzayah Volpe a/k/a Azzayah J. Volpe, a minor, No. CP-02-AP-133-2021**, in the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.  
**To: Samantha Marie Volpe a/k/a Samantha M. Volpe, mother of Azzayah Joseph Volpe a/k/a Azzayah J. Volpe, a minor born on July 19, 2014, in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.**  
A Petition has been filed asking the court to put an end

**Health Care**

**HOSPITALISTS** - University of Pittsburgh Physicians seeks Hospitalists to provide and direct inpatient medical care for




**Legal Notices**

Currently, the 1-bedroom waiting list is open only to persons/families that require the features of a wheelchair accessible unit. No pre-applications will be accepted for these waiting lists after the closing date and time. Pre-applications for these waiting lists can only be obtained from the HACP web site (www.hacp.org), by emailing a request to Occupancy@hacp.org or by calling 412-456-5030. Site selection charts for these waiting lists can only be obtained by emailing a request to Occupancy@hacp.org or by calling 412-456-5030. Completed pre-applications with site selection chart can only be submitted using one of the following methods:

\*Email to: Occupancy@hacp.org  
\*Fax to: 412-456-5182  
\*Mail to: HACP Occupancy Department, 100 Ross Street, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
\*Utilize the document drop box located at: HACP Occupancy Department, 100 Ross Street, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Position on the waiting list/s will be determined based upon bedroom size needed, preference, and Sequence Date/Time (the date and time of receipt of your pre-application). For information about obtaining a pre-application for the HACP Low Income Public Housing Program, please contact the Occupancy Department at 412-456-5030; TDD: 412-201-5384 or visit our website at www.hacp.org.

The Housing Authority of the City Of Pittsburgh Occupancy Department 100 Ross Street - 4th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219



**PUBLIC NOTICE CLOSING OF WAITING LISTS**

Effective Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 12:00 p.m., the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) will close the waiting lists for the following Low Income Public Housing Site:

- Northview Heights High Rise - (1 and 2 bedroom) - Currently, the 1-bedroom waiting list is open only to persons/families that require the features of a wheelchair accessible unit. No pre-applications will be accepted for these waiting lists after the closing date and time. Pre-applications for these waiting lists can only be obtained from the HACP web site (www.hacp.org), by emailing a request to Occupancy@hacp.org or by calling 412-456-5030. Site selection charts for these

These units require the head of household, spouse or co-head of household to be at least 62 years of age or disabled. Pre-applications with a site selection chart for these waiting lists can only be obtained from the HACP web site (www.hacp.org), by

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Legal Notices**

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\*Utilize the document drop box located at: HACP Occupancy Department, 100 Ross Street, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

No pre-applications will be accepted for these waiting lists after the closing date and time. Public Notice will be provided when the HACP determines to re-open specific waiting lists.

**OPENING OF WAITING LISTS**

Effective at the start of the business day Monday, August 16, 2021, the HACP will open the waiting lists for the following Low Income Public Housing Sites:

- Caliguri High Rise
- Carrick Regency
- Finello Pavilion
- Gualtieri Manor
- Frank Mazza Pavilion
- Morse Gardens
- Murray Towers
- Pennsylvania Bidwell - (1 bedroom)
- Pressley Street High Rise - (1 bedroom)

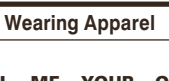
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**EMPLOYMENT**

**Legal Notices**

Ross Street, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Position on the waiting list/s will be determined based upon bedroom size needed, preference, and Sequence Date/Time (the date and time of receipt of your pre-application). For information about obtaining a pre-application for the HACP Low Income Public Housing Program, please contact the Occupancy Department at 412-456-5030; TDD: 412-201-5384 or visit our website at www.hacp.org.

The Housing Authority of the City Of Pittsburgh Occupancy Department 100 Ross Street - 4th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219



**Miscellaneous**

**Zoglmann Handyman Service** Any jobs you need done!!!! Don't waste your time, call today! \$0 412-715-3445

**Wearing Apparel**

**SELL ME YOUR OLD CLOTHES!** Looking to BUY your old clothes! 1990s or earlier. Band T-Shirts, Sports T-Shirts, Jerseys, NASCAR, MLB, NBA, NHL, NFL, WWF. Call me! 412-818-7089

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**Legal Notices**

Pull-Out Sofa & Recliner (Blue) \$100. Secretary Glass Door w/ 2 Shelves Bottom Opens to Desk w/ 2 Drawers \$50 Both Excellent Cond. Call 412-491-7090 or 412-462-0847

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**WANTED:** MAGAZINE, NEWSPAPER, TOYS & COMIC BOOK COLLECTIONS 412-420-9969

**HANNA'S TOWN** Antique Market Aug. 8th 809 Forbes Trail Rd., Greensburg westmorelandhistory.org

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**PPG PAINTS ARENA**

**JOB FAIR**

**August 11, 2021 2:00pm – 7:00pm**  
PPG PAINTS ARENA F.N.B. Gate  
(Located off of Centre Avenue)

**ASM Global is hiring for:**

- Usher
- Elevator Usher
- Greeter
- Housekeeping
- Event Security
- Casual Utility

**Aramark is hiring for:**

- Catering Service Worker
- Runner
- Stand Worker
- Warehouse Worker
- Concession Supervisor
- Grill Cook
- Retail Sales Worker

**Please bring photo identification.**

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**Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

**ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE**

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette is seeking an energetic, sales-minded professional to develop, service, and maintain new and existing advertising accounts. If you have a winning attitude and are highly motivated, we would like to speak with you!

**This exciting opportunity will focus on selling integrated, multi-media advertising plans.**

The successful candidate will be responsible for generating revenue through the sale of our print and digital advertising products including The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, post-gazette.com, PG NewsSlide, and additional digital marketing solutions such as paid search, paid social, targeted display, and email marketing.

The successful candidate will enhance relationships with current accounts and target potential advertisers to acquire new accounts. A wide degree of creativity and latitude is expected to develop advertising programs that address client needs and grow revenue.

Well-developed organization and planning skills are necessary to ensure your success in servicing the account. Account management includes processing the order, complying with Company deadlines for ad copy, handling the credit and billing processes, and preparing layout and artwork specifications for advertisements. This is a collaborative team based position that requires a solid knowledge of competing media, marketing and industry practices.

**Please visit:**  
[www.post-gazette.com/careers](http://www.post-gazette.com/careers)  
to apply and view all available positions and requirements.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All applicants will be given equal consideration regardless of their race, sex, age, color, religion, national origin, marital status, veteran status, non-job related physical or mental disability or sexual/affectional orientation. Also, we will not hire individuals that use nicotine products, and will conduct a pre-employment screen to test for the use of nicotine products. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

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**WANTED: COLLECTOR** SEEKS vintage **JUKE-BOXES**, pinballs, **ANTI-QUE ARCADE** games, **old NEON CLOCKS** and **NEON BUSINESS** signs, **wall THERMOMETERS**, **OLD GAS STATION** items. **AMUSEMENT PARK ITEMS- OLD porcelain SIGNS.** **CHRIS 716-912-4311 S1 716-912-4311**



**Wanted sealed vintage bourbons and whiskey** Paying cash for sealed vintage bourbons and whiskey. I am a collector of vintage spir-its. \$1,000 614-499-6589

**Machinery & Tools**

**STORAGE TRAILERS** 1970 short trailer box, NFW128460 & NFW128402 \$350 each, 724-929-2172

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**Lawn & Garden**

**CUB CADET** Diesel, 26HP, 60 inch mower deck, books & maintenance records, 4WD, series 5000, Model 5264D, \$3600.

**1947 FARMALL A TRACTOR** w/ brush cutter, \$2500. 724-929-2172

**Trains/Accessories**

**WE BUY TRAINS!** **LIONEL, MTH, LGB, ATLAS & MANY OTHERS!!** Top prices! Ready funds! **724-327-6468**

**AMERICAN FLYER & LIONEL TRAINS** Cash paid to \$100,000. 412-486-9141

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**1986 Minnie Winnie** 20 ft. Class C, 5.7L engine, sleep 4-6 pers, 81k miles, info at cerypa@mailnrc.com, very clean inside and out. 412-508-2871

**Motorcycles**

**2008 Harley-Davidson FLHTCU** Electra Glide Ultra Classic, 103 c.i., 27836 miles, black, adult owned, info at palehe@erfmail.com, asking \$2,000 610-840-2003

**Trailers**



**2021 Floe Cargo Max trailer** Trailer has limited & full tilt dump mode. Great for hauling quads, Ski Doo's, bikes, Also mulch, Dirt & wood. \$2,200.00 412-916-8042

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**Antique & Classic Cars**

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**Cars, SUVs, Vans**

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**Cars, SUVs, Vans**

**Audi '11 A8 4.2 quattro** Audi A8L 4.2 Quattro-Pearl Black-Loaded options-Tinted Windows-Premium Sound Package-Driver Assist --Panorama Sunroof-Cold weather Package--New Tires--161000 miles Excellent Condition, \$15,750 412-699-4022

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**Cars, SUVs, Vans**

**Toyota '12 Camry SE** silver with suede interior.135000 miles.all options including sunroof and heated seats, \$10,500 412-951-5249

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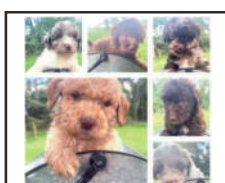
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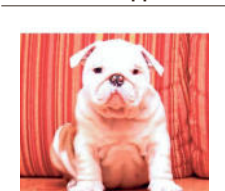
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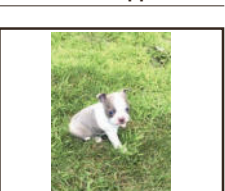


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**Pets & Supplies**



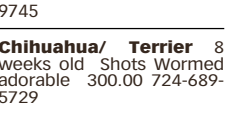
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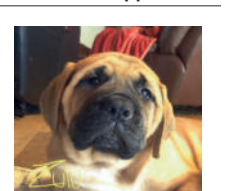
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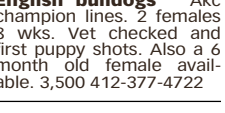
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**English Mastiff Pups** AKC Huge, fawn, brindle, family-raised, parents on premises, vetchecked, ready July 20, 412-398-0198

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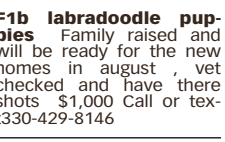
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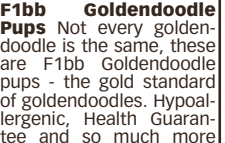
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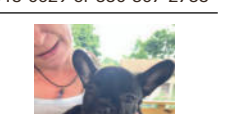
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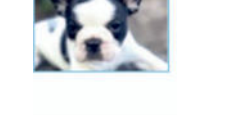
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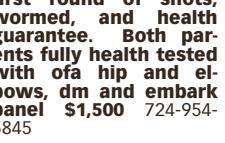
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**German Shepherd Puppies** AKC registered, 11 weeks old. Males and females available. Up to date on shots and dewormings. Call for more information. \$450 724-783-6533

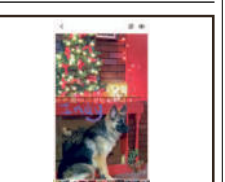


**German Shepherd Puppies** AKC. Raised indoors underfoot with other animals. SINCE 1996. Health, Temperment, Structure.Vet Checked.Shots, Wormed,Ready 7/22. FB page TWO RIVERS VUE \$1,000 412-527-7792

**German Shepherd Puppies** AKC registered, 11 weeks old. Males and females available. Up to date on shots and dewormings. Call for more information. \$450 724-783-6533

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**Labrador Retriever** These cuties are sure to steal your heart





Section  
**g**

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# goodness

Celebrating all that's good.

By Hannah Wyman  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**B**etween the giant clam and the queen conch, which one do you think is more self-aware?"

Holding a shimmering pink queen conch shell, Tim Pearce grins widely, poised to deliver the punchline.

"I think it's the queen conch because clams are not conch-scious," he says, eyes lighting up behind a pair of round bifocals.

As the head of mollusks at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, an affinity for snail jokes is almost second nature as Mr. Pearce works to catalog the collection of almost 2 million shells, the 10th largest collection in the country.

With his infectious enthusiasm and expressive sincerity, one can't help but laugh when Mr. Pearce drops his invertebrate-centric one-liners. So, it came as no surprise when the curator took off on TikTok.

The Carnegie Museum of Natural History began posting TikTok videos in January 2020. Today, the museum, which has garnered over 320,200 followers and 4.6 million likes, posts a variety of content ranging from botany lessons on local foliage to answering questions about amphibians and reptiles.

Mr. Pearce's #molluskMonday joke series is by far a fan favorite.

## SnailTok

According to Sloan MacRae, the museum's director of marketing, Mr. Pearce's videos receive the bulk of the museum's engagement with well over 5 million likes.

"He is who he is, and it shines through," Mr. MacRae said. "People have compared him to Bob Ross on TikTok. It's not just authenticity ... but it's also very wholesome, good authenticity. You want to hear the joke, and you want to hear the next one."

Mr. MacRae called Mr. Pearce "one of the greatest people in Pittsburgh," and it seems he's not the only one to think so.

"I would take a bullet for this man, he deserves life more than me," TikTok user @atkinsruby commented.

"Tim, you are my favorite person on this app. Mondays are better with you," another user, @juliateve95, wrote.

Nearly 2 million views strong, Mr. Pearce's most popular TikTok entry also happens to be his favorite snail joke.

"Barack Obama was going to a



Tim Pearce, head of the Section of Mollusks at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, shows some of the collection. Andrew Rush/Post-Gazette

'very wholesome, good authenticity'

## Out of his shell

Carnegie Museum's mollusk man Tim Pearce takes off on TikTok

costume party," Mr. Pearce tells the camera, outfitted in his usual button-down and khakis. "He was giving his wife a piggyback ride and the host of the party said, 'Welcome, Mr. President. What are you dressed up as? And Barack Obama said, 'I'm a snail. That's Michelle

on my back.'"

Yet Mr. Pearce himself doesn't have the app.

"I don't even subscribe, so I cannot read the comments," said the curator, although he said he is aware of users asking him to "be my grandfather" in the comments.

"I don't know of social media, but the museum has that figured out. I just like jokes."

Mr. Pearce said that Mr. MacRae originally asked him to come up with 30 snail jokes for 30 videos in 2019. Intended for Facebook, these weekly #molluskMon-

day recordings ended up finding a more suitable home on TikTok.

Mr. MacRae noticed that Mr. Pearce has a cult following from his monthly mollusk collection tours where "it's never the same story twice. It's never the same jokes twice. His excitement is just very contagious and palpable."

From this, Mr. MacRae thought Mr. Pearce and his snail jokes would be a hit online.

"It's sort of organic, and it's fun, and it works," Mr. MacRae of #molluskMonday. "We just thought this might be like a breath of fresh air, and so it kind of was, and he took off beyond our expectations."

Mr. Pearce said he has experienced a small level of fame since his TikTok appearances. He's been asked to be in a selfie while getting off a bus in Squirrel Hill and for a signed photo in the mail. More recently, while in Washington, D.C., last month, a grocery store attendant recognized Mr. Pearce from his voice alone.

## A soft spot for snails

According to Mr. Pearce, it seems he's always liked snails. His mom tells him that at age 3 he was collecting mollusks and saving them in a cottage cheese carton.

"I would take them to the doctor's visit sometimes, and the nurses didn't like it, but the doctor ... she would engage with me about my snails that I collected," he said.

Born in Hawaii and raised in Seattle, Mr. Pearce has been a lifetime lover of nature. He pursued a bachelor's degree (1979) in marine biology at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. During his second year of undergrad, he decided to do his forensics term project on slugs as the rainy climate meant "there were a lot of slugs out there in the college campus."

While studying slugs, he also began collecting snails again.

"And then I noticed these really tiny little snails, and I thought, 'Are they babies?'" he said. "And I thought 'No, there's no way that this can be a baby of this.' So that had opened up the world of the small to me, and a lot of my research has been on the small scale and the small snails."

Mr. Pearce continued his education to receive a master's degree ('88) in paleontology from the University of California, Berkeley. He obtained his Ph.D. ('94) and M.S. ('91) in biology at the University of Michigan and completed his post-doctoral work on Madagascar's

SEE **MOLLUSK**, PAGE G-2

## How three sisters created a special needs triathlon

By Andrew Destin  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**T**o some high school athletes, the most coveted piece of paper is a national letter of intent.

But for the three Fishell sisters, there's another: an advertisement they spotted in 2018 in front of Bethel Park's Spencer Family YMCA. The promotional poster told of a triathlon for adults with special needs at the Emmaus House, which caught the attention of Ally Fishell and two of her siblings, Gabrielle and Jillian.

Their brother, Christian, was born with Down syndrome and

had never competed in a three-part event as his older sisters had.

"[Christian] always wanted to do a triathlon himself," Ally said. "We saw the flyer and we had been doing triathlons ourselves, and we wanted to make it available for children with special needs, so people like our brother could do it as well."

With the help of Mike Lloyd, the Spencer Family YMCA's director of mission advancement, Ally, Gabrielle and Jillian held the inaugural My Turn to Tri Special Needs Triathlon at the Y in the summer of 2019. Mr. Lloyd, whose work with the YMCA entails managing outreach programming for under-



Kristine Fishell  
Upper St. Clair's Christian Fishell is a triathlete, thanks to his family.

## one good turn

served groups like the special needs population, was more than happy to assist the Fishell sisters after their mother, Kristine, reached out to him.

"It was a great idea. They're a great family, and I was pleased to be a part of it," Mr. Lloyd said. "Kristine and I and her family, we work together on building the event. We get the support, the volunteers and the staff at the [YMCA] involved as we put it together."

Ally and Jillian, a senior and a junior in high school, respectively, run cross-country at Upper St. Clair and have been competing in triathlons since elementary school. At their high school, Ally is

SEE **SISTERS**, PAGE G-4





## Mollusk man has taken off on TikTok

**MOLLUSK**, FROM G-1

land snails at State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1996.

"It was pretty awesome," he said of his work in Madagascar. "I was there for a year studying tiny snails. We came back with 680 species of snails, and 600 of them were new to science."

Mr. Pearce said his interest in snails may be due to his fondness for underdogs.

"People don't really appreciate them," he said. "I'm not sure why. People just ignore snails. They're not very well paid attention to."

He also likes collecting things but not killing things.

"A butterfly collection would be really beautiful, but you have to kill them to get the wings off," he explained. "So snail shells — if you find an empty snail shell, you can collect it, and you don't have to kill anything, so I think that that really attracted me to snails."



Andrew Rush/Post-Gazette photos

Tim Pearce shows off a spiny oyster. The head of mollusks at Carnegie Museum of Natural History and his jokes have become a hit on TikTok.

Currently, his snail research through the museum looks at the decline of the tiger snail, a species of small land snail, in Pennsylvania. Additional projects include the effect of tornado blowdown on meadow and forest snails and surveys and DNA characterization of land snails on California Islands.

### TikTok mollusk lessons

In between caring for and promoting the use of the museum's mollusk collection, plus analyzing and writing

about his ongoing snail research, Mr. Pearce makes time at work to amuse his TikTok fan base.

"Sometimes, I just come up with them and other ones, I adapt them," he said of his jokes. "Like, it's pretty easy to adapt a turtle joke, or sometimes I look through word lists, like words that contain things that sound like 'shell.'"

The marketing team tells him that the TikTok videos with facts perform the best.

"There are so many things that people don't know about snails, and so I



A sampling of the vast Section of Mollusks collection at Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

feel like the TikTok is really helping me to get the word out because I sneak in facts," he said.

This ultimately helps him further his "hidden agenda" of "getting the word out on snails." In fact, he said one of his secret

goals is to make snails as popular as football.

"I wonder, how can people be so interested in football?" he said. "Why can't they be interested in science? ... The more people we can get interested in science, I think the better

chance we have of solving our future problems. So, this is my one one-person campaign to try and get people interested in mollusks."

Hannah Wyman: [hwyma@post-gazette.com](mailto:hwyma@post-gazette.com), 412-263-1255

## At 86, twins from Twin Cities share identical lifestyles

By Richard Chin  
Star Tribune (TNS)

MINNEAPOLIS Janet and Janice Robidoux haven't lived the kind of life that people would expect of women of their generation.

The 86-year-old identical twins studied electrical engineering and worked for pioneering computer companies at a time when few women had careers in STEM fields.

They didn't marry or have children. But they built canoes and raced them, became competitive bowlers, and tramped through all of the state parks in Minnesota, searching for and photographing 600 varieties of wildflowers and 43 orchid types, almost all known orchids native to the state.

If living a full, long life means having a variety of interests and being actively engaged in the world, the Robidouxes are good role models.

They've traveled the world via the airwaves as avid ham radio operators, a hobby they took up in their teens. They've also traveled the world in real life, driving a series of RVs to every state (except Hawaii) and taking volunteer trips to places like Tonga and Indonesia.

When they retired from their jobs, acquaintances wondered if they were going to move out of the family home in Fridley, Minn., and downsize to a condo or a retirement community. Instead, they built a new home on the Mississippi River on a 1.5-acre lot in Coon Rapids, Minn., and tackled an ambitious 20-year gardening plan that included an English garden, a 30-foot-wide, boulder-edged pond full of goldfish and frogs, terraced flower beds, a prairie plant habitat, statues, and a footbridge painted in a shade of green inspired by a Monet painting.

That was nearly 30 years ago, and the garden is still going strong.

At an age when some peo-

ple give up their driver's licenses, the twins are steadfast volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels, sometimes driving up to three times a week, often delivering meals to people younger than they are.

The sisters don't just have a wide variety of interests, whether it's photography, ham radio or bowling. They like to compete. "We're goal-oriented," said Janet.

They win prizes for wildlife photography, and they like collecting rankings and certificates from amateur radio competitions. They exchange Morse code transmissions at 20 words a minute to other amateur radio operators in all 50 states and contact ham radio operators located in as many national parks as possible.

They've contacted people over the airwaves in about 200 countries, but "we always want to get more countries," Janet said.

"Morse code is almost a lost art, but the twins are expert Morse operators," said Lyle Koehler, a ham radio operator friend from Shoreview, Minn.

On her 85th birthday, Janet bowled a 600 series, or three games in a row with a score of 200 or better for each game.

"She was obnoxious," Janet said of her sister's feat.

"They're awesome ladies, that's for sure," said a bowling friend, Londa Kroone. "I think they've always wanted to be busy. They like people and they've enjoyed meeting people all over the world."

The sisters were born in Minneapolis (Janet is the older twin), the youngest of the five kids in their family. Their mom was a teacher, and their dad was a receiving clerk and an avid reader.

They grew up in Columbia Heights. In high school, they had to beg to get into the physics class and lobbied, unsuccessfully, to take shop class. They also pursued interests that few girls did, joining the ham radio



Antranik Tavitian

Twins Janice, left, and Janet Robidoux, 86, trim flowers and pull weeds from their garden.

### good goals

club at a time when getting an amateur radio license meant you had to know how to build an antenna and understand how a radio tube worked.

At the University of Minnesota, they designed their own major to train themselves to be technical writers, taking engineering as well as journalism courses.

After college, they both got jobs at supercomputing company Control Data Corp., working in what was cutting-edge technology in the late 1950s. Janet did technical writing for software, while Janice specialized in hardware manuals.

After retirement, they built their home on the river, partly because of their interest in canoeing.

Charter members of the Minnesota Canoe Association, they built their own woodstrip canoe and paddled with local racing greats like Gene Jensen and Buzz Peterson.

"We canoed with the best in the state," Janet said.

Back then they did a lot of tent camping, too, because that's what canoers did. But after 20 years of that, "you got tired of cooking in the rain," Janet said.

So they upgraded to a series of Class C RVs — 26 feet, then 28 feet, then 32 feet — that they drove all over the country, taking their bowling buddies along. They've also been to Australia and New Zealand three times, visiting fellow ham radio operators there.

The sisters say they don't regret staying single.

"We had each other," Janet said, "and I think we felt that was enough."

"It was never a big deal to us to raise kids," Janet said.

But the Robidoux sisters admit they have slowed down in recent years.

COVID-19 concerns put a hold on competitive bowling. Problems with balance mean they've given up ice skating, snowshoeing and mountain biking. Friends with whom they used to go botanizing have died, and they recently sold their RV.

They've cut back in the garden, too, planting only 400 annuals this year, not the 1,000 they used to.

It's also been a while since they've climbed the 65-foot steel tower near their front steps. That's what holds the antenna they can rotate to send a 1,000-watt radio transmission soaring toward Europe or Africa or over the North Pole. (They like to say that their elaborate garden was created to distract people

from the structure.)

"I stopped climbing it when I got to 75," Janet said.

But they're holding on to their canoe.

The deaths of friends over the years have made the twins more appreciative that they still have each other.

"They've basically remained together as each other's support group," said friend Lyle Koehler.

The sisters have met other twins at a convention called the Twins Day Festival held every year in Twinsburg, Ohio. They're planning to go again in August.

They know how rare it is for twins to make it to their age together and still be healthy and active.

"We're wondering about our end game," Janet said.

"We're just grateful we've been able to do it this long," Janet said.

### good attitude

## These friends show her what 'courage' means

By Eileen Colianni

Ernest Hemingway defines courage as "grace under pressure." Psychiatrist M. Scott Peck, in his blockbuster bestseller "The Road Less Traveled," de-

scribes it as "being afraid but acting anyway."

I have a third perspective to suggest after witnessing the amazing ways two friends moved through their horrendous cancer journeys, all the while sustaining their ability to notice

bright shining moments and rejoice therein.

I'm thinking of the way Dawn, 59, after nine years of suffering from four kinds of cancer, still lights up when she tells me how much fun she and her husband had when they took their grandkids for ice cream. She was beaming as she described this simple life pleasure. I sat listening in awe, and wondering if I would be able to transcend what Dawn has, month after month, year after year.

A younger friend, Marie, 41, was diagnosed with a rare form of uterine cancer of which only 400 cases exist

globally, and which eventually ended her life. She never lamented, "Why me?" Instead of complaining about the rigors of wig shopping, for one example, she described the experience, chuckling at some of the weird wigs she tried on. Marie exuded the same radiance, maybe even more, as she did pre-cancer.

She also never failed to inquire about my life and continued to bring me, when she visited, bags of her homemade nut-studded chocolate.

When I ruminate on this pair of unvanquished women, the word courage keeps coming up, eventually

giving rise to my definition: Courage is the capacity to suffer consciously without losing sight of and while even celebrating the gifts of the present moment.

Looking back on my cancer journey 19 years ago, quite mild in comparison (actually a Stage 0 cancer in which the intruder cells remain in the ducts yet must be destroyed before they meander out), I sure could've benefited from an infusion of my friends' sparkling spirit.

Their attitude and responses to major life challenges call to mind psychiatrist Viktor Frankl's words

about how he and others survived years in a concentration camp:

"Everything can be taken from a person but one thing: the last of the human freedoms — to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

Clearly Dawn and Marie each chose their own uncommon ways. I am grateful to have witnessed their courage.

Eileen Colianni is an Oakmont counselor and writer: [eileencolianni@gmail.com](mailto:eileencolianni@gmail.com). (She changed names to protect privacy.)



# Pittsburgh culture anchors local Merchant Marine Academy grads

By Abby Mackey  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Julie Jarbeck Walko sat in the football stadium's stands, feeling nothing but relief. It was the summer of 2017, and her son, Nathaniel, had just completed the United States Merchant Marine Academy's two- to three-week indoctrination period known as INDOC. It's an intentionally sudden shift toward the military lifestyle, a "quasi boot camp," where the plebe candidates receive haircuts, uniforms, physical training and more, all while having almost no contact with their loved ones.

For Mrs. Walko's family, and many others, it was the longest they'd ever gone without a word from their children. That's why they excitedly traveled from their Ohio Township home to the academy, in Kings Point, N.Y., to take part in the ceremonies that mark the end of that period.

The only comfort she expected — all she thought she needed — was a hug from Nathaniel. Then, she started chatting with the man sitting behind her.

Andy Mesaros' son, Alex, had also just completed INDOC. There was some small talk: Alex would play baseball for the academy, and Nathaniel planned to work with the boats at the waterfront. "Where are you from?" was the natural next question, but no one had to ask "Where's that?" By complete chance, the family behind the Walkos lives only 10 miles away from them, in McCandless.

"When you think about that nationally, you have under 300 kids, and you get two from Pittsburgh, 10 miles apart." Mrs. Walko said. "It's pretty crazy to think that happened."

The Walko and Mesaros family members became Facebook friends and joined the same regional USMMA family Facebook group, which includes par-

ents from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. But despite the small class size, the Pittsburgh "kids" spent years having only a theoretical knowledge of one another due to the pull of their extracurriculars.

Nathaniel grew up loving the water. Family vacations to Chincoteague, Va., included days spent on rented boats and time at the helm before he could spell the island's name. At 15 years old, he started working at Washington's Landing Marina, and by 16, he'd saved enough money to buy his own 15½-foot boat and trailer.

He excelled at Avonworth High School, participating in a few technical clubs and the Three Rivers Rowing Club. When looking at colleges, he cared most about the ability to major in marine engineering. He worked through the application processes for the U.S. Naval and Coast Guard academies — like the USMMA, they require congressional nominations — and several colleges with Navy ROTC programs.

When his family visited the USMMA, there were no tours available. So, they walked around on their own. He'd never seen or even heard of a school with dozens of ships available, tied up right at the edge of campus and included in the curriculum. "It just fit," he remembers thinking.

"It's the only one of the federal service academies that really throws you right out into the shipping industry and gets you out on the water in a professional way," Nathaniel said.

Alex was an accomplished two-sport athlete at North Allegheny High School and no slouch in the classroom, either. While at a U.S. Naval Academy baseball camp, he spoke to the USMMA baseball coach and was wowed by the options available to USMMA midshipmen: They're Navy reservists while there, but at the end of their schooling, they can choose to enter any



Courtesy of Julie Jarbeck Walko

From his youth, Nathaniel Walko loved being on water. By 16, he had bought a 15½-foot boat and trailer with money he earned at Washington's Landing Marina.

## good connection

of the five U.S. military branches or work a civilian maritime job.

With Nathaniel working at the waterfront and Alex on the baseball team, they were assigned to different "splits," meaning opposite class schedules and times out at sea.

That changed during senior year, and the timing couldn't have been better.

Coincidentally, they shared a major, marine engineering systems, which Alex describes as "basically mechanical engineering, just geared to boats." Finally, that placed them in the same company of midshipmen and only two doors down from one another in the barracks.

Due to COVID-19 precau-

tions, they were "locked down" from the time they arrived in summer 2020 until November, meaning no visits home. But luckily, a little bit of home was just a couple of doors down.

"I could really go for a Primanti's and an I.C. Light right about now," one would say to the other periodically through the lockdown. They'd swap stories from home in the hall, relaying what their parents said on the phone about "crazy" weather and any other slice of life that made the 400-mile distance feel a little shorter.

"You get a little homesick," Alex said. "It was nice to have that person there."

Thanksgiving break was their first opportunity to visit home. They made the drive together, which was over six hours of getting-to-know-you time.

"It was funny because we had these three years of experiencing the same thing,

just separately," Alex said.

They talked about their futures. They both decided to go active duty in the U.S. Navy, although Alex would select the civil engineering corps versus Nathaniel's interest in nuclear submarines.

Then, they moved onto more important topics, such as their mutual love for Sheetz. As soon as they drove far enough into Pennsylvania, their top priority was "Sheetz staples," and they bonded over chicken tender snack wraps and mac 'n' cheese bites.

About six hours into the drive, Nathaniel asked Alex how to get to his house. "Get off the Mt. Nebo exit on 279," he said. "Have you ever heard of that?" Nathaniel knew it well because it's the same one he takes to his own house.

Coming off two sea terms where they saw the vastness of our planet from ships sailing near Europe

and the Middle East, the proximity of their homes seemed especially "weird," as Nathaniel put it.

Another thing they have in common: Pittsburgh pride. Nathaniel credits Pittsburgh's ethnic diversity for a feeling of comfort while traveling the world. Alex comes from a long line of coal miners, whose blue-collar work ethic makes gritty tasks on ships, such as scraping out boilers, come naturally. And then there's that Pittsburgh enthusiasm.

"Pittsburghers are pretty well known to have a lot of pride in our city, sometimes to a fault," Nathaniel said. "It's definitely an asset because anything we've done at school, any activity we were involved in, we just have so much pride in it that we take it to the next level of intensity."

They graduated from the USMMA in June. Their families were again piled into the football stadium, although this time they were socially distanced. As a COVID-19 safety measure, the graduates and families were ushered out of the stadium as soon as the ceremony ended, meaning the Walkos and Mesaros missed each other altogether.

Now officers in the U.S. Navy, Ensigns Walko and Mesaros know they'll cross paths again, maybe even for an I.C. Light and a Primanti Bros. sandwich when they both make it home for a holiday. And, just as they have over the past four years, their parents will keep track of their own with the help of the USMMA parents and alumni group.

"It takes a village," Mr. Mesaros said. "To know that Julie and Nathaniel's family was keeping an eye on them as well as we were, to have that kind of connection, it's really important."

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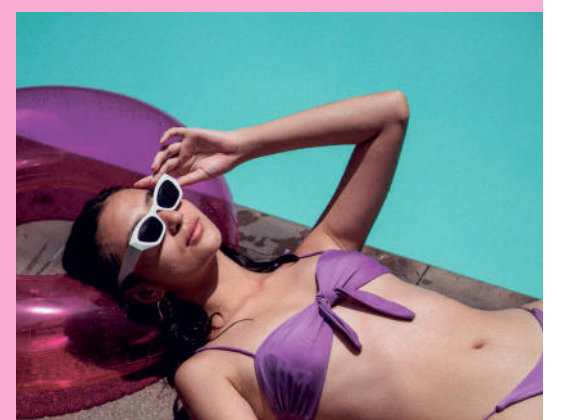
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## ‘we always look for the good in people’

# He’s recognized for teaching video skills to individuals with intellectual disabilities

By Joshua Axelrod  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**G**eno Blair’s journey to becoming a life-long film nerd began with Oliver Stone’s 1986 Vietnam War epic “Platoon.”

“I never saw my dad show any emotion,” Mr. Blair, 42, of Sharon, said of his Vietnam veteran father. “So here I am, it’s 1987, the first time I saw my dad cry was when he saw the movie ‘Platoon.’ And something triggered in me. What was it about this movie that brought this?”

He started researching the works and careers of cinematic legends such as Mr. Stone, Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese and Stanley Kubrick. When DVDs first became popular, he would watch the behind-the-scenes featurettes before devouring the films to learn about the technical side of the moviemaking process. You can see his love of cinema on the adult Mr. Blair in the form of a giant tattoo inspired by Mr. Scorsese’s 1980 boxing drama, “Raging Bull.”

The only thing that matches Mr. Blair’s passion for movies is his dedication to his job of 16 years as a direct support professional with Whole Life Services, a Hermitage, Mercer County-based organization that provides community-based services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Mr. Blair combined his two greatest loves four years ago into Get 2 Work Productions, where he teaches his clients communication and video production skills.

Get 2 Work has been churning out videos via Whole Life Services’ website and its own YouTube channel. They range from corporate advertisements to fundraising efforts to fun experiments like the short film “Michael Smells Cookies” about the titular “Halloween” villain realizing not all is what it seems with that delectable fragrance.

For his efforts, Mr. Blair was recently named direct support professional of the year in Pennsylvania by the American Network of Community Options and Resources, a nationwide network of organizations that support folks with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their own communities. ANCOR held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Mr. Blair on July 29 in

Sharon, where he was formally recognized for everything he has done to improve the lives of the individuals he serves.

“I honestly couldn’t picture myself doing anything else other than making films and working with these people,” he said. “They’ve become such a huge part of my life. The people I’ve met have almost rewritten narratives for me in a way that they’ve put life in a perspective where I feel it’s now my responsibility to do whatever I can to help them get their stories out and live better lives. I just feel like I’m where I’m supposed to be.”

An honor like this reflects the success of Whole Life Services’ mission and the work of people such as Mr. Blair and Cindy Vogan, its founder and CEO. She’s the one who first gave Mr. Blair an opportunity to join Whole Life Services after he answered a newspaper ad for a job opening. He spent the first 10 years of his direct support professional career working at an adult training facility and driving transport vans before adding on that extra responsibility of building Get 2 Work from the ground up.

Ms. Vogan said Get 2 Work was originally conceived as a news program to help individuals struggling with their verbal skills become more confident when it comes to expressing themselves. It turned out she wasn’t thinking big enough, and she’s been delighted to see how much good this makeshift production company has done for everyone involved.

“I want to thank him for the great job he does with our individuals, for believing in them and being with us for so long,” she said. “The fact that he does his basic DSP work, thank you for doing that, and on top of that, creating this wonderful program for them.”

Mr. Blair’s commitment to all facets of his work caught the attention of ANCOR, which for the past 15 years has awarded a direct support professional of the year in every state in addition to naming one nationally and giving out a few special accolades. Pennsylvania happens to be the state with the highest number of ANCOR members, according to senior director of communications Sean Luechtefeld.

Whole Life Services isn’t an ANCOR member, al-



Laura Kahl

Geno Blair, right, teaches Brian Jordan the ins and outs of film production. Mr. Blair is the founder of Get 2 Work Productions, a film studio associated with Whole Life Services in Hermitage that trains individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities how to put together film projects.



Laura Kahl

Brian Jordan, center left, cuts the ribbon during a July 29 ceremony in Sharon recognizing Geno Blair, center right, as the American Network of Community Options and Resources’ 2021 direct support professional of the year in Pennsylvania.

though Mr. Luechtefeld said his organization “hopes to rectify that” soon. It first got on ANCOR’s radar by nominating Mr. Blair for Keystone State 2021 DSP of the year honors. Mr. Luechtefeld said he was impressed by how Get 2 Work Productions creates jobs out of nothing and

helps individuals “build the skills they need to excel in the workplace and helps build a spirit of entrepreneurship.”

“The work that we do as a community of providers can be hard and is often underappreciated,” he continued. “I want them to know that there are a whole slew

of folks in the commonwealth and across the country who are deeply appreciative of the contributions people like Geno make to their communities.”

For Ms. Vogan, an honor like this is all about proving how people with intellectual and developmental disabilities should not be underesti-

mated in terms of their professional capabilities.

“People think our folks are just going to earn minimum wage at a low-demanding job in their community,” she said. “Not all our folks want to do that. I’m proud of the program that we have, and I’m very honored it was recognized and he was given recognition for the wonderful things that he does.”

And Mr. Blair is all about giving these individuals the tools they need to speak their truths through Get 2 Work Productions.

“We always look for the good in people,” he said. “I think with something like what we’ve got going here, this is a great way for the world to kind of begin to see things from a different perspective, which in turn should produce empathy, which is something there’s not enough of.”

“I think that if the individuals we serve are given the opportunity to share their life how they see it, there will be a natural swing in how the system itself is geared.”

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# Sisters create ‘special’ event

**SISTERS.** FROM G-1

involved in the international baccalaureate program and does volunteer work at her church.

Christian’s organized athletic experiences before My Turn to Tri were limited to Miracle League baseball and observing competitions of the other Fishells. Presented with the Spencer Family YMCA’s resources and Mr. Lloyd’s assistance, the Fishell sisters took something they know best and applied it in a way that would benefit and support Christian.

“It’s a very special family because they are so athletic and it would be very easy for them to just focus on their own competitions,” said Mr. Lloyd, who will be working at the triathlon again this year. “For them to take the time out to devote so much time for their brother and others, to make sure that

other people get a chance to compete and to feel that sense of accomplishment, it’s a real tribute to that whole family.”

But getting the event off the ground was not entirely seamless. The hardest components of putting on the triathlon for Ally were spreading the idea around the community and securing partnerships with sponsors.

Despite initial funding concerns, staffing was hardly an issue two years ago because several Upper St. Clair students volunteered, and Mr. Lloyd helped to provide YMCA personnel. Ally noted how “supportive” her classmates were in 2019 and how she received positive responses from community members.

“I think it went better than we expected,” Ally said. “Your first year, you’re not sure how it’s going to turn out exactly, what you’re get-

ting into. Everything ran very smoothly.”

The triathlon, which consists of biking, swimming and a running/walking segment, has a unique component to it. Instead of being distance based, the first special needs triathlon was timed. That will be the case again in 2021.

Regardless, Mr. Lloyd called the My Turn to Tri Special Needs Triathlon “inspirational” due to the accomplishments of the athletes involved. As somebody who participates in triathlons during his free time, he is keenly aware of the intensive training that goes into preparing for one.

Christian’s mother has witnessed that dedication firsthand this summer in anticipation of the Aug. 15 contest.

“He’s been working and training, taking swimming lessons, and he has a bike now that he’s been riding on,” she said. “He always talks about needing to train for his triathlon.”

This summer’s triathlon will be only the second. Like countless other in-person events in 2020, the triathlon was canceled due to health concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Lloyd was disappointed by the cancellation but fully understood that keeping the athletes safe was of the utmost importance, and that there “really was no other answer.” Similarly, Ally was concerned about what kind of lasting impacts the lack of a follow-up to the initial triathlon would have.

“That was definitely a big hurdle, and it was pretty upsetting because usually the first year is kind of like your test,” she said. “In the second year, you’re expecting it to be bigger and better, just keep growing each year. But having an event the first year and then not getting the next year, you’re kind of worried like ‘Will it be able to succeed? Will it be able to keep going?’”

Yet Ally believes the triathlon will be “really successful” this year. With the Spencer YMCA serving as the location of the meet once more and its staffers involved again, the expectation is for a smooth affair during the dog days of summer.

And given the support Christian has provided his three sisters over the year, it’s only logical that Ally and company would look to

match their brother’s backing.

“Christian is very active, very outgoing. We’re all very close with him,” Ally said. “We all take care of him a lot, especially now that both of our parents work.”

“We really enjoy it, spending time with him. He’s always been very supportive of us. He would always cheer for us at our triathlons, and we just really wanted to give him a chance to do something like this.”

The sisters’ dedication to Christian has drawn the admiration of their mother, who believes what they’re doing stretches further than caring for their younger brother. Instead, Kristine’s children have worked within the community, seeking to affect change and positively impact the lives of those with conditions similar to Christian’s.

“I think it’s awesome, I’m so proud of them,” Kristine said. “They’re fabulous sisters, and I hope that them seeing the difference they make within the event encourages them to continue being as service-oriented as they are now at such a young age.”

“I think it’s just an awesome thing. By putting some

effort in and moving with an idea, you can really make a difference in people’s lives.”

The 2021 My Turn to Tri Special Needs Triathlon is open to registration for those who want to compete alongside Christian (visit [www.pittsburghymca.org/mytri](http://www.pittsburghymca.org/mytri)). Like two years ago, each competitor will have a buddy alongside throughout the triathlon.

In advance of Aug. 15, Christian has continued to train and tell friends, family members and strangers on the street alike all about his upcoming triathlon. That level of genuine excitement from her brother alone is enough to make Ally realize that providing opportunities that often escape people with special needs is not only uplifting and rewarding but also essential.

“I know for my little brother, he would always watch us, and I always thought, ‘Well, I hope one day he has the opportunity to do something like this,’” Ally said.

“Now, seeing this actually happen, it really means a lot to me.”

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## a good sign

# She kept up board of community bulletins, and now modern sign is dedicated to her

By Tyler Dague  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**M**arianne Muraska usually knows everything that's going on in her neighborhood, but this event surprised her.

She was attending the unveiling of a new digital sign in front of Pittsburgh Langley K-8 in Sheraden, a neighborhood she has lived in nearly all her life.

That spot between brick columns previously held a traditional bulletin board, which she faithfully updated for 20 years with colorful posters announcing upcoming events.

But for folks driving through the busy intersection at Hillsboro Street and Sheraden Boulevard, it was impossible to read the flyers, especially in the evening.

A group of members of the Kiwanis Club of Sheraden and the Sheraden Community Council (there is a lot of overlap) came together to debut a more modern sign at an event on July 20. So they had Ms. Muraska push the button to light it up.

The sign displayed "Muraska Community Message Board." The groups had dedicated it in her honor after decades of service to the neighborhood and the city both as a volunteer and as a teacher in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

"Overwhelmed and humbled," she said of the gesture. "A lot of these people volunteer and do a lot for the community. It's just not a one-man, one-woman show."

The idea for the electronic sign came from Aimee Wysocki, a Sheraden mother involved in Kiwanis and the Community Council as well as Sheraden Neighbors, a grassroots trash cleanup group.

Ms. Wysocki's son is home-schooled, and she realized she didn't hear about the events coming up for children and families in the neighborhood. She noted that when the Jasmine Nyree Campus, an education and community center, had handed out turkeys last

year, the police had to get involved to knock on doors and tell people the birds were available.

Joining the community council, Ms. Wysocki advocated for a more visible LED sign that could be easily updated and keep many more residents in the loop.

Shawn Smith, immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club and the lieutenant governor for the region for Kiwanis, helped the club apply for a community development block grant, which it received. He installed and programmed the sign.

Several folks assembled for the dedication ceremony with food and music. Mr. Smith gave a short speech, and once the surprise was out, he said the sign will have a plaque commemorating the day and Ms. Muraska's efforts.

"It was just natural that we named it after Marianne because it's just all the work she does for us," Mr. Smith said. "We'll be out at random restaurants or out shopping, and people will come up to her and say, 'Ms. Muraska, you helped me out in this year, in 197-whatever.' There's something special there. We had to honor her."

Pittsburgh City Council President Theresa Kail-Smith was on hand to commemorate the occasion. The city proclamation recounted Ms. Muraska's life of service as a math tutor at Holy Innocence High School; her devotion to her church as a Eucharistic minister, cantor and lector at St. Vincent de Paul Church and as a Eucharistic minister at Holy Innocence; and as a teacher at several very different schools throughout Pittsburgh for 34 years until her retirement in 2012.

Ms. Kail-Smith also mentioned her countless hours of service as a member and now secretary of the Kiwanis Club. For these reasons, Ms. Kail-Smith said, the city council declared July 20, 2021, as Marianne Muraska Day in Pittsburgh.

"A proclamation is not enough space for everything you've done for this community," Ms. Kail-Smith said, noting that Ms. Muraska



Steve Mellon/Post-Gazette photos

Marianne Muraska is overcome by emotion while being honored for her contributions to the Sheraden neighborhood during the unveiling of a new LED community message sign there. The Sheraden native has for years created homemade signs to announce community events on a bulletin board in this same spot.



Tracy Smith hugs Marianne Muraska, right, at the unveiling.

had donated to her sister during the pandemic and provided valuable notes as secretary.

Debra James Bailey, vice president of the Sheraden Community Council, took the mic and said a former student was inspired by Ms. Muraska to become a teacher.

"This woman, ever since I moved to Sheraden, has been so nice to me," Ms. Bailey said. "She treats everyone how we all wish someone would treat us."

After the ceremony, Ms. Muraska talked about the importance of the sign and spreading the word about upcoming events.

"We try to advertise everything that's good in the community," Ms. Muraska said. "It's not just holiday events but safety and health. We have partnerships with the police and all of those service providers who help our community. Anything to help children and families come together and feel more

sense of responsibility for where we live and service to others."

She credited her work as a teacher and remaining active in the community as key to making friends and connections along the way to help others. For example, she said a woman she had never met contacted her and dropped off six boxes of brand-new winter hats, gloves and scarves for children.

"I guess people know me, and I know them," she said. "It's really a wonderful honor."

Ms. Muraska said her parents instilled in her a passion for giving back. Her mother, Olga, also had a day in the city dedicated to her for work she did with other local advocates to get a senior community center built.

She referred to service as "a unique calling" and said she was not looking to be recognized. She noted that the pandemic restricted the activities of the Kiwanis Club, but it did not stop them.

"We couldn't meet as a club, but our people helped out with Meals on Wheels, taking people to doctor's appointments, picking up groceries for those who didn't want to go out to do their own shopping or prescriptions," she said. "It's just what we do."

Tyler Dague: rda-gue@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1569 and on Twitter @rt-dague.

## random acts of kindness

### Hoping others will hear of this good deed

On July 2, I drove my wife to UPMC Shadyside hospital. As we all well know, hospitals require everyone to wear a mask. I have a hearing aid and glasses.

When I arrived home and noticed my hearing aid was gone, I assumed the hearing aid came out when I removed my mask when I entered my car in the parking garage.

I called hospital security and reported it. I called again the next day, and lo and behold, the hearing aid was turned in.

I surely hope the person who found it reads this and knows I'm overjoyed to have my hearing aid back.

Kudos to that person.

**JOHN ERARIO**  
Lawrenceville

### Extra effort lauded for credit card return

I am so grateful to the person who found my credit card and turned it in to the security desk at UPMC St. Margaret hospital on June 19.

After my doctor's appointment, I was paying my parking ticket when I mistakenly put my credit card in the slot where my money would go. What a sinking feeling.

I went to the service



Ed Yozwick/Post-Gazette

desk, and they dispatched someone to my aid very quickly. After discovering that the card was not in the machine, the security guard checked the items he brought with him and — there was my credit card. The machine had spit out my parking ticket, which I retrieved from the ground, and my credit card as well.

My utmost thanks to the person who found and turned in my card, as well as to the prompt and kind help from the security desk and security guard.

**CAROLE MAPEL**  
Verona

### 'Angels' make day after fall in parking lot

I'm a senior citizen, and my plan was to have lunch at Panera in McMurray. But when I got out of my car in the parking lot, I fell on the concrete and injured my left side.

I did not notice anyone in the parking lot when I pulled in, but after I fell there were four wonderful angels immediately at my side offering help.

My arm and leg were bleeding, and I could not get up without their help. I am OK now, but I will never forget their kindness and the looks on their faces.

They really cared and did not leave me until they were sure I was OK.

My thanks to these wonderful people.

**ROBERT SOBEK**  
McMurray

The Post-Gazette's Kevin Flowers coordinates Random Acts of Kindness. If someone has done you or someone else right, please tell him about it at kflowers@post-gazette.com. You also can write Random Acts of Kindness at the Post-Gazette, 358 North Shore Drive, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15212.

## Pepper proponent pelts Pittsburgh

By Bob Batz Jr.  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**Y**ou could say that Dale Fallon is bouncing around the country.

The Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, man works at his company, The Communications Gym, but he loves playing volleyball, and he's using that sport to help another one of his passions: Special Olympics Pennsylvania.

Specifically, he's raising fun and funds by playing pepper, a volleyball drill where two or more players hit the ball back and forth, without a net, trying to keep a rally going by working together as long as they can. (You can even do this solo with a wall.) And he's peppering with people across the U.S., with a goal of making 1 million hits while raising \$1 million for Special Olympics Pennsylvania (having already raised \$10,000 for his local program last year).

He started a "My Pepper Challenge" road trip at the end of July in Western Pennsylvania. He peppered in Forest Hills Park, South Strabane Park and South



Ben Braun/Post-Gazette

Dale Fallon, in sunglasses, plays the volleyball drill pepper with Special Olympics athletes at South Strabane Park.

## good bounce

Park Fairgrounds, where he and Pittsburgh Grass Volleyball gave \$3,200 raised to Special Olympics. He has reached the 100,000-hits mark so far this year and has raised a total of \$8,903. He also hit the new Ellen Toy Grass Volleyball Court at Vandergriff's Kennedy Park, which honors the late local volleyball star player and teacher.

Then he headed west, planning to spice things up while attending volleyball competitions and connecting those athletes with Special Olympics athletes. This past week, he peppered in Chicago. Later this month he planned to pepper in Oklahoma City, Okla., Al-

buquerque, N.M., and Denver.

You can follow and support his yearlong journey on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. Learn more at mypepperchallenge.com, where he notes, "Our mission is to promote the game of Pepper as a way to learn physical flexibility, strength, fluidity and stamina while promoting healthy movement. Pepper is accessible to anyone, anywhere. All it takes to get you moving is a ball and a wall."

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



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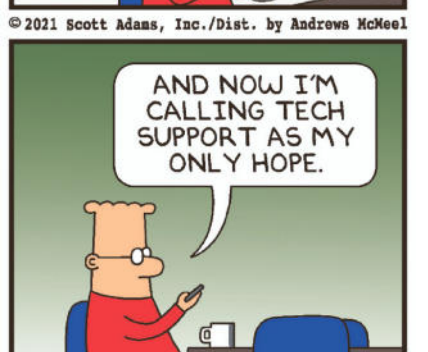
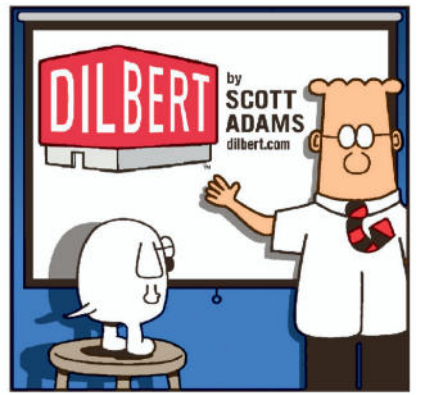


# COMICS & PUZZLES

Sunday, August 8 - Saturday, August 14, 2021

### CLASSIC PEANUTS

BY CHARLES SCHULZ



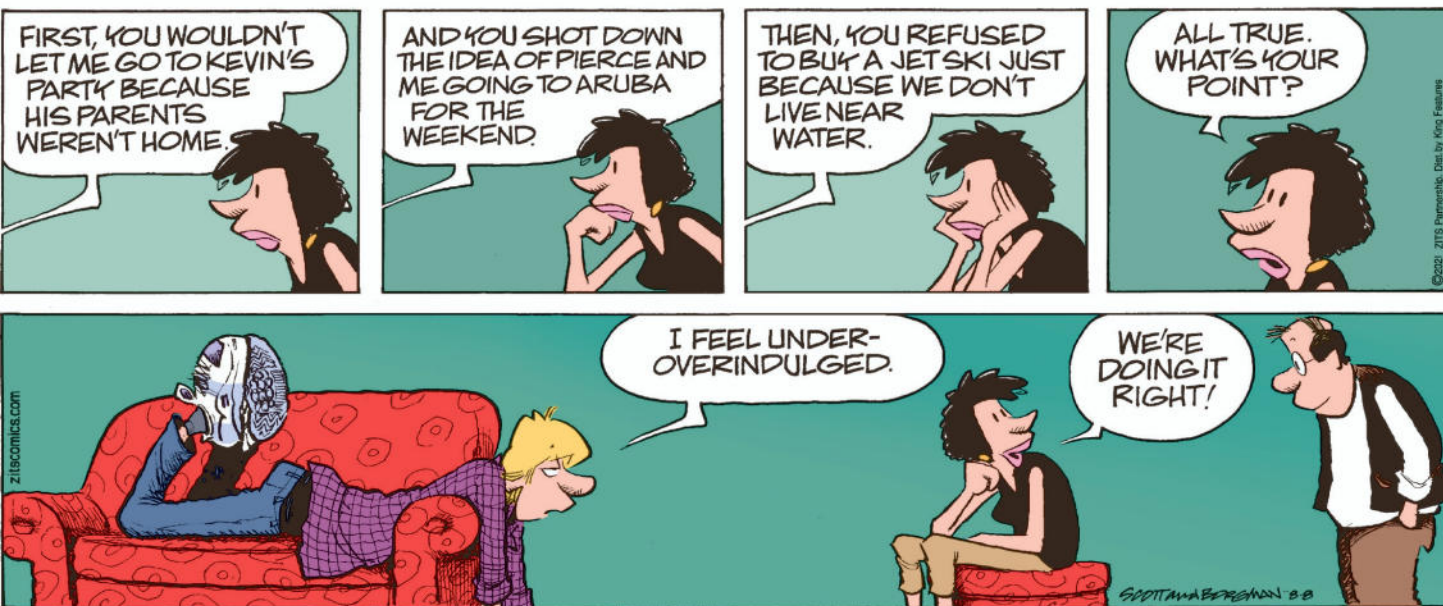
### BABY BLUES

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



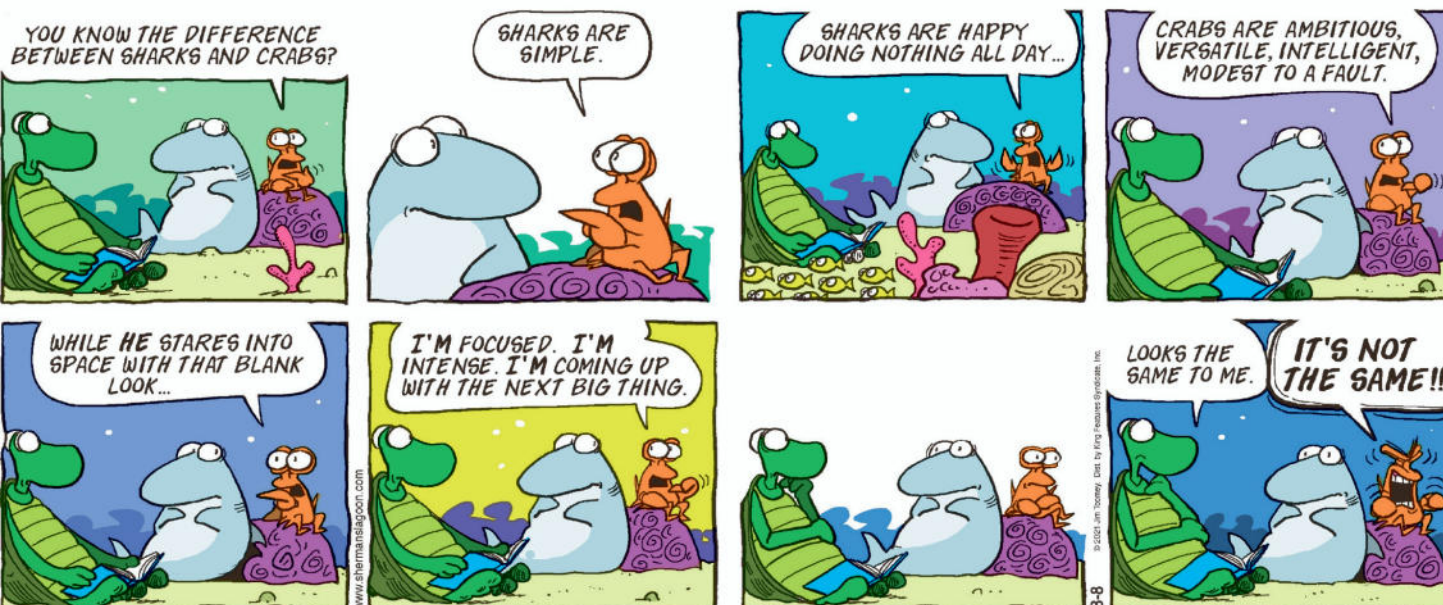
### ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



### SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



Twitter: @scottadamssays

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**BLONDIE**  
BY DEAN BROWN & JOHN MARSHALL

**ZOOM**

**BUMSTEAD!!**  
IN A MINUTE, BOSS!

**BUMSTEAD!!**  
ONE SECOND, BOSS!

I'LL BE WITH YOU AS SOON AS THE DOUGHNUT CART GETS HERE, BOSS!

**ZOOM**

**ZOOM**

**ZOOM**

**ZOOM**

**ZOOM**

**ZOOM**

**ZOOM**

**ZOOM**

**HÄGAR**  
THE HORRIBLE  
BY DIK BROWNE

HÄGAR, TAKE A HIKE!

WELL, THAT'S RUDE!  
MY STOMACH SEEMS TO BE UPSET!

NO, NO, NO... JUST WALK INTO THE KITCHEN!

AHA! PARDON MY MISUNDERSTANDING!

**HÄGAR!**

I PLANNED ON SERVING THAT CAKE AT OUR DINNER PARTY TONIGHT!

DO YOU KNOW HOW EMBARRASSING IT WOULD BE IF OUR GUESTS SEE A CAKE WITH A MISSING SLICE?!

PROBLEM SOLVED!

HAL FOSTER'S  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

4409  
Yeates  
8/8/21

INEXPLICABLY CAST INTO A MAD WORLD TEEMING WITH FANTASTICAL CREATURES, VAL FLEES FROM THE ATTACK OF THREE WEIRD WARRIORS.

SUDDENLY, ALL HERE SEEM TO TURN ON THE BEWILDERED PRINCE, THINGS THAT THE LEGENDS CALL SPRITES AND FAIRIES PRICK AT HIM WITH THORNY LANCES...

...AND THEN THE TREES THEMSELVES HEAVE, AND BEND THEIR BOUGHS TO THE FLEEING MAN...

...TO TWISTING ROOTS AND INTO THE EARTH ITSELF!  
NEXT: Friends in high places

...CLUTCHING HIM AND HIS STEED, AND DRAGGING THEM DOWN...

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**NON SEQUITUR**  
by Wiley

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUM...?

CARPE DIEM

BY NIKLAS ERIKSSON

EVERY TIME I BUMP INTO SOMETHING IT FEELS LIKE A LION.

A MISTY MORNING IN THE SERENGETI.

©2021 NIKLAS ERIKSSON/BULLS, DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC. Niklas Eriksson 8/8

**FAW-WUMP**

WHOA... WHAT THE...  
WAIT... IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?

GRRP...  
YES! THAT MEANS...  
I'M A CHOSEN ONE!

SALLY FORTH

BY FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE

UUUUUUUGH!  
IT IS SO HOT OUT TODAY! JUST LIKE YESTERDAY, AND THE DAY BEFORE.

OF COURSE, THERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WOULD SAY, "IT'S AUGUST. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?" THEN I'D SAY, "THERE'S AUGUST HOT AND THEN THERE'S THIS HOT."

THEN THEY'D SAY, "IF IT'S SO HOT THEN WHY DON'T YOU SIT INSIDE WITH THE AC?" THEN I'D SAY, "BECAUSE I'M SICK OF SITTING INSIDE AND I JUST WANT SOME FRESH AIR."

THEN THEY'D GO, "YOU JUST WANT A REASON TO COMPLAIN." THEN I'D GO, "WHY CAN'T I COMPLAIN AND WHAT IS IT TO YOU?"

THEN THEY'D GO, "YOU'LL BE MISSING THIS HEAT COME WINTER."

THEN I'D GO, "NO, NO, I WILL NOT. WHO ON EARTH MISSES HAVING THEIR HEAD IN A BLAST FURNACE?"

THEN THEY'D GO, "BUT IN WINTER YOU'RE JUST GONNA BE COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW COLD IT IS."

THEN I'D GO, "AGAIN, WHAT IS IT TO YOU?" THEN THEY'D GO, "I'M JUST SAYING."

THEN I'D TRIP THEM.

THAT HAPPENED. THAT WHOLE THING JUST HAPPENED OUT LOUD.

HORRIBLE PEOPLE ANNOY ME EVEN MORE DURING HEAT WAVES.

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**FAW-WUMP**

CHOOSE YOUR ENTREE

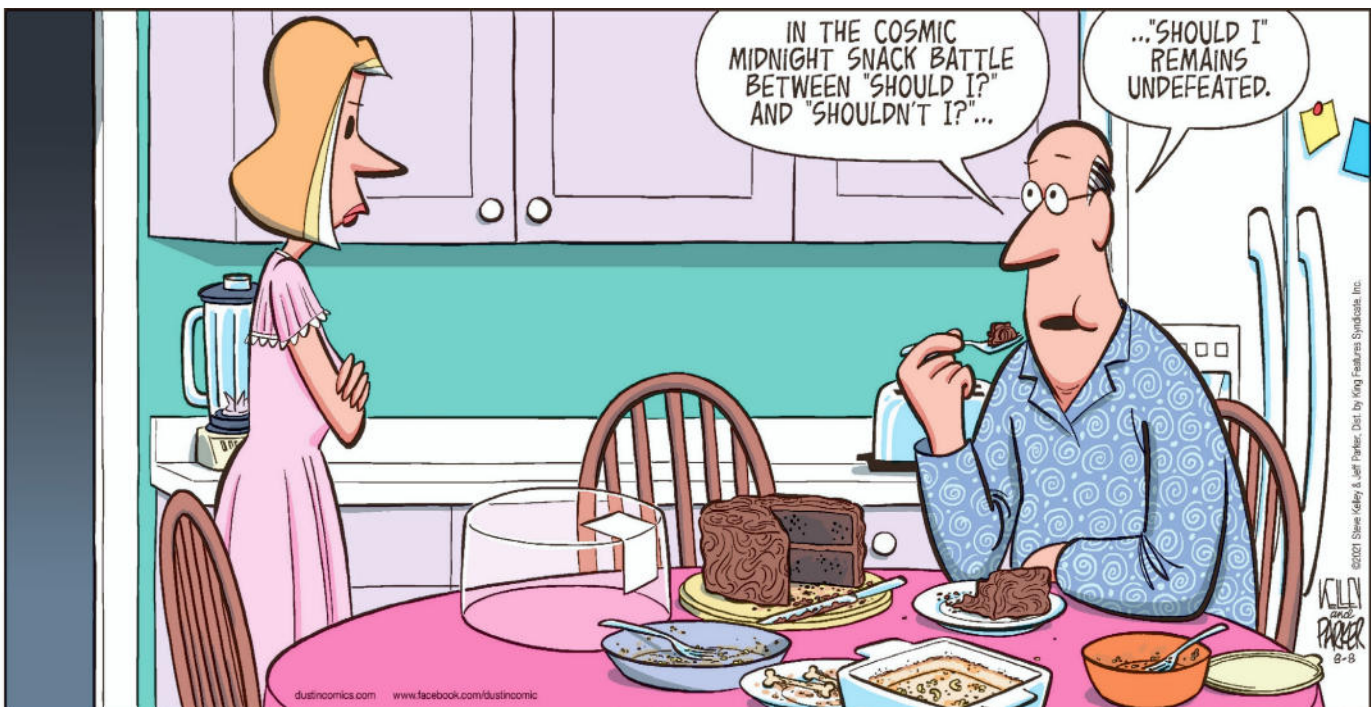
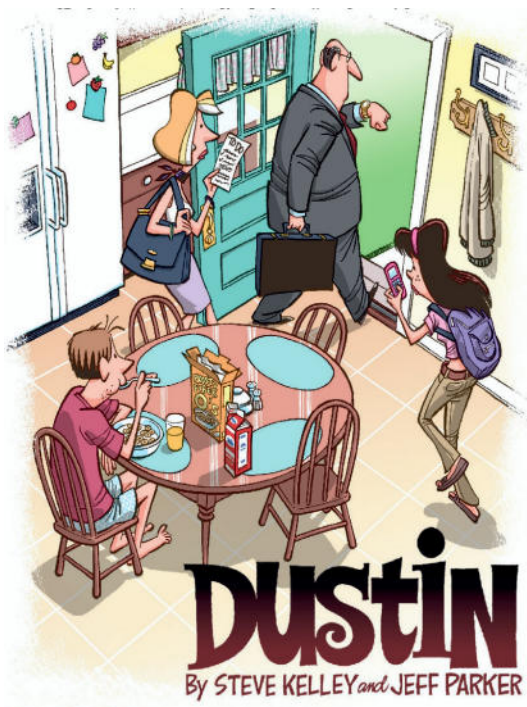
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MACANUDO

BY LINIERS

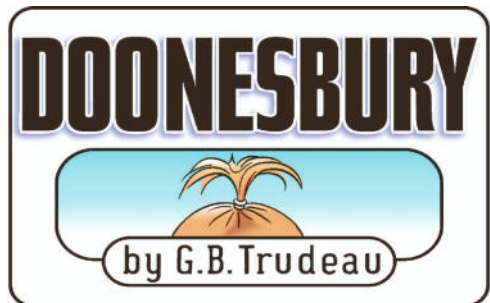
A SMALL KINDNESS IS A BIG THING.





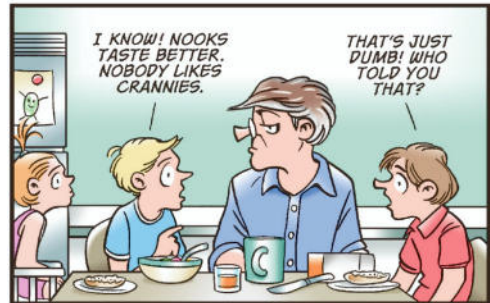
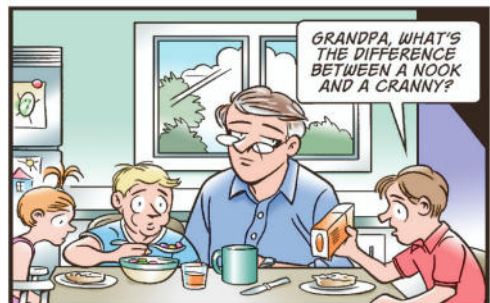
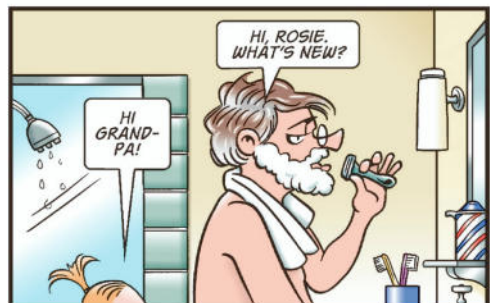
CURTIS

BY RAY BILLINGSLEY



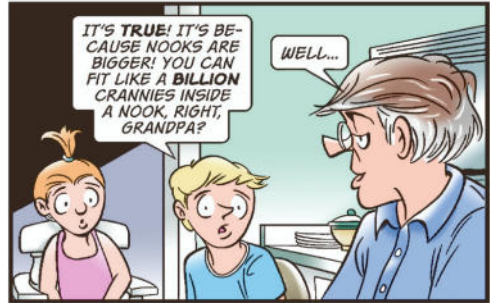
MUTTS

BY PATRICK MCDONNELL



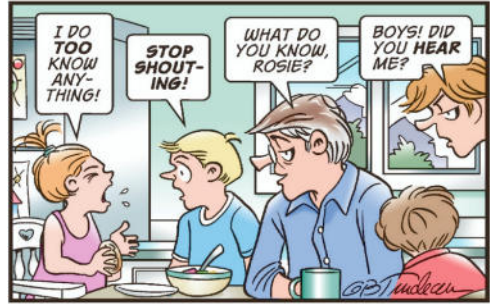
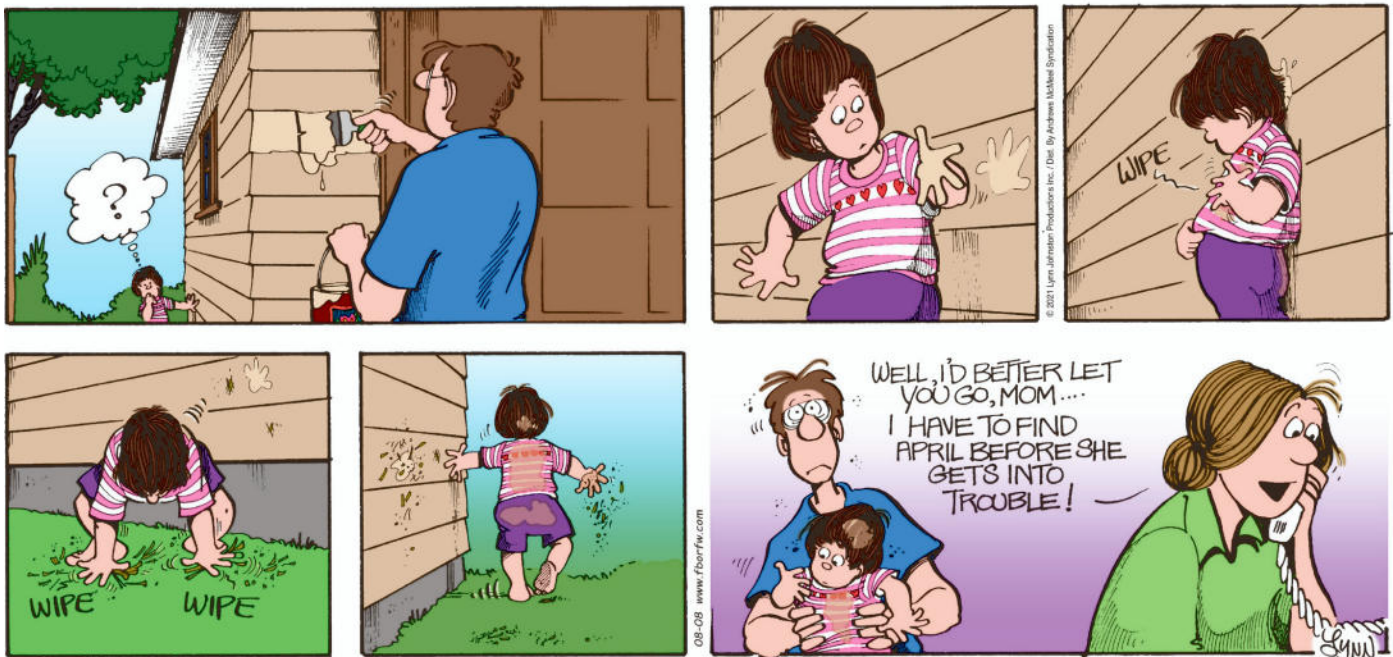
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

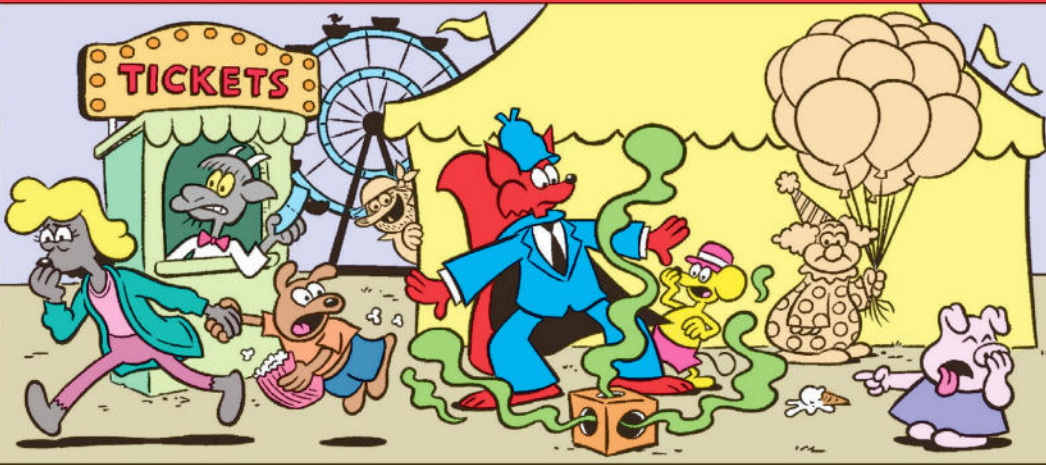
BY LYNN JOHNSTON





Shady Shrew slipped a stink bomb into a box at the circus. The smell is driving away customers. Slylock Fox used some quick thinking to rid the area of the pungent package. What did Slylock do?

Solution -- Slylock tied the clown's helium balloons to the box. The stench sailed skyward and away from the area.



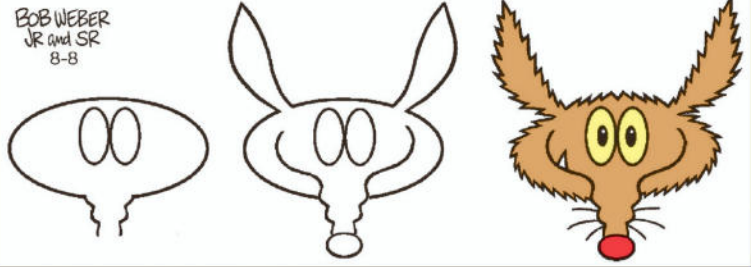
Spot six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Leaves, tree, belly button, mouse, moon and tent.

HOW TO DRAW a coyote

BOB WEBER JR and SR 8-8



YOUR DRAWING



Submit your drawing to www.slylockfox.com

The scrambled words are animals that have a strong sense of smell. How many can you unscramble?

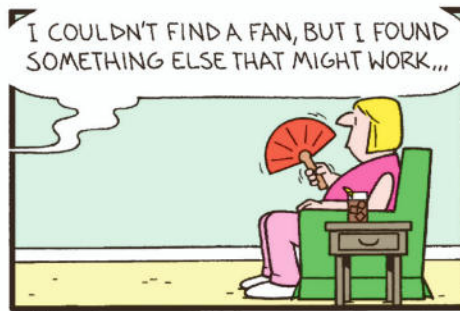
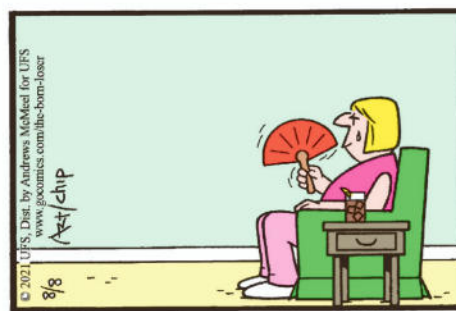
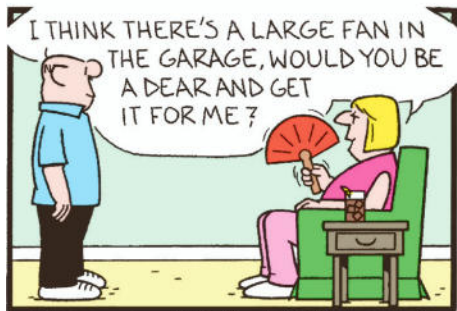
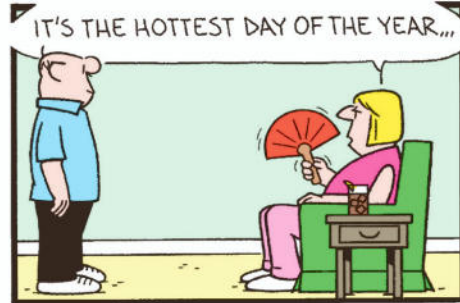
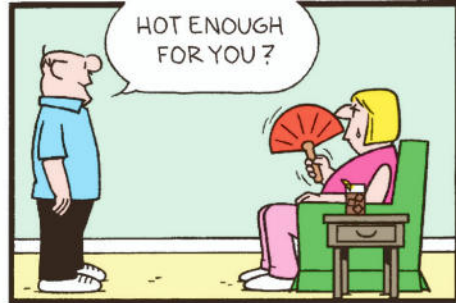
- 1) AREB
- 2) ESANK
- 3) NETPALHE

Answer -- (1) Bear (2) Snake (3) Elephant

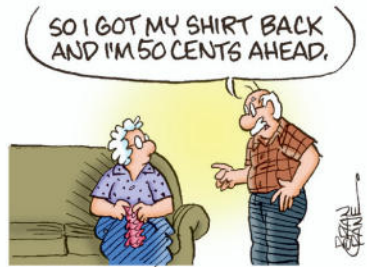
THE BORN LOSER



by Art & Chip Sansom



PICKLES BY BRIAN CRANE



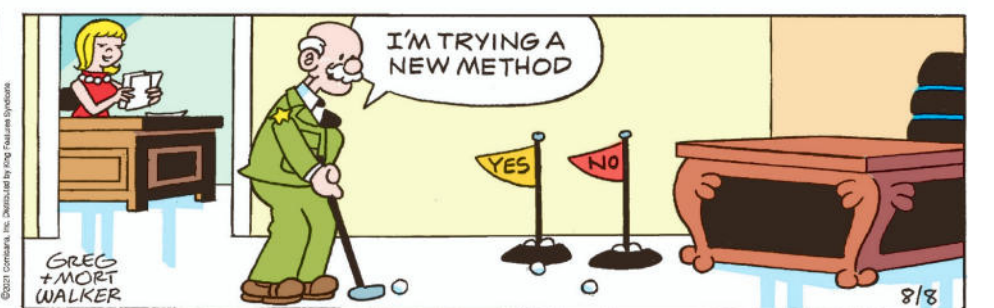
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Phil Keane



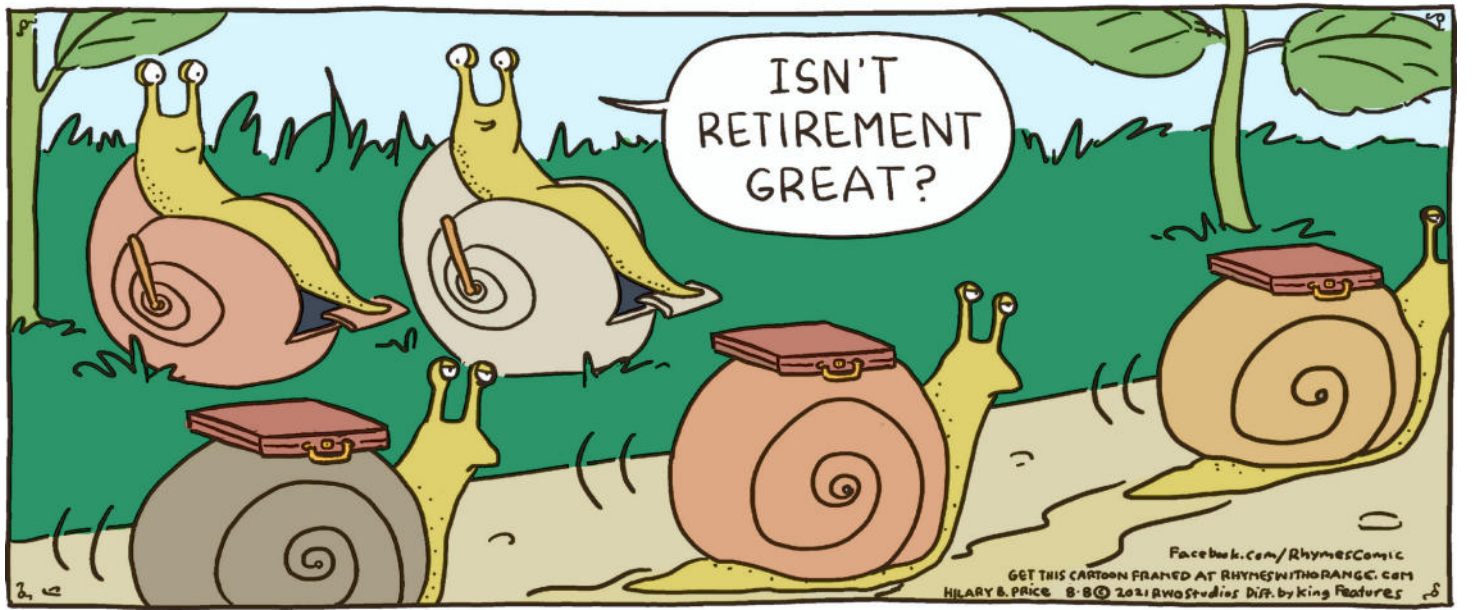
BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT, GREG & BRIAN WALKER



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

BY HILARY B. PRICE



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