



**GAME PLAN - 2025**  
A comprehensive guide to U.S. football season

**POWER 4**  
DIVISION-I BOUND AREA SENIORS  
SHARE BONDS, GOALS - PAGES 18-19

**CALL THE PICKLE!**  
T ROOFING • SIDING • GUTTERS  
GERKEN 724-515-5551

## H.S. FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Game Plan 2025 has predictions, schedules, rosters, class breakdowns and more **INSIDE**



## K.I.T.T. LIVES ON

Butler County is home to 2 of 5 surviving cars of "Knight Rider" fame **C1**

GET BREAKING NEWS AT TRIBLIVE.COM

AUGUST 17, 2025

WESTMORELAND EDITION

**“Clairton Coke Works might be one of the most dangerous places on Earth. It’s a bomb. It’s essentially a bomb.”**

BRIAN DOYLE

THE FORMER U.S. STEEL WORKER WAS INJURED IN A WORKPLACE ACCIDENT IN 2010



SEAN STIPP | TRIBLIVE

U.S. Steel’s Clairton Coke Works has been the site of several explosions, some fatal, over the past 15 years.

# RISKY BUSINESS

*Clairton Coke Works, site of deadly explosions, stirs both pride and pain*

BY JUSTIN VELLUCCI

Brian Doyle remembers the explosion that hurled him to the coke plant’s floor — but little else from that day.

It was a Wednesday — July 14, 2010 — and Doyle, a steam-fitters union member and contractor for Power Piping, was inside the Clairton Coke Works getting ready to repair pipes near the coke ovens.

The gas lines were supposed to be shut down. But something went wrong that morning. A blast tore through an array of ovens inside the sprawling U.S. Steel plant.

After the explosion — one of several at the plant in the past 15 years — paramedics rushed Doyle to UPMC McKeesport hospital with a back injury, lots of bruises and a lump on his head that remains today.



SHANE DUNLAP | TRIBLIVE

Retired Clairton Coke Works laborer Andrew Miklos, 75, lowered the American flag to half-staff in the front yard of his Elizabeth Borough home after hearing about the explosion Monday at the plant.

First-degree burns covered 40% of his body.

All these years later, he has

still not forgiven the place — and certainly not forgotten what happened to him there.

## INSIDE

» “Inherent dangers” seen as ever-present in steel industry. **A8**

“Clairton Coke Works might be one of the most dangerous places on Earth,” Doyle, 56, told TribLive last week. “It’s a bomb. It’s essentially a bomb.”

On Monday, that “bomb” went off again.

At 10:47 a.m., an explosion ripped through the works’ batteries — the clusters of ovens that superheat coal — and shot plumes of black smoke and soot into the sky above the 392-acre industrial site along the banks of the Monongahela River. The blast left two dead and 10 injured.

On Friday, U.S. Steel said a preliminary investigation

**CLAIRTON PLANT · A8**

# Ward: Transit ‘crisis’ not real

*SEPTA’s talk of ‘death spiral’ an attempt to hold taxpayers hostage, Pa. senate leader says*

BY TOM FONTAINE

The highest-ranking Republican in the state Senate described the looming service cuts and fare hikes at Pennsylvania’s largest transit agency as a “manufactured crisis” that doesn’t need to happen.

“This is (the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority) wanting exactly what they want and holding everyone hostage,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward, R-Hempfield.

After Republican and Democratic proposals to provide more funding for transit agencies stalled last week in Harrisburg, SEPTA said it would begin making major cuts starting Aug. 24.

The agency, which had been facing a \$213 million budget deficit going into this fiscal year, said it will ultimately eliminate 45% of its bus and train service and raise fares by 21.5% — moves that SEPTA officials have said could begin a “death spiral” at the agency.

“There is no reason for any lines to be cut right now. There is no reason for it except they are manufacturing a crisis to try to get what they want,” Ward said.

Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa, D-Forest Hills, called Ward’s comments “insulting,” noting the first round of cuts will take effect a day before Philadelphia children return to school and impact commuters across a five-county region that is home to 4.2 million people.

“This is a crisis,” Costa said.

SEPTA did not respond to questions.

**TRANSIT · A5**

# Derry Area on edge over budget delay

*Officials say school district may have to deplete reserves if funding impasse continues*

BY QUINCEY REESE

As Pennsylvania’s budget impasse approaches the two-month mark, Derry Area School District is missing out on vital state funding just days out from the start of the academic year.

More than half — 55% — of the district’s \$43 million budget is supported by state funding, said Business Manager Scott Chappell.

About 15% of that funding is supposed to be delivered to the district in July and August.

But without an approved state budget, Derry Area may have to deplete

**BUDGET · A9**

# Trump reverses on the need for ceasefire

*President says he’ll meet with Zelenskyy after summit with Putin yields little progress*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — U.S. President Donald Trump reversed course in the wake of his meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to say an overall peace agreement — not the ceasefire that he has long

championed — is the next step in ending the 3½-year war in Ukraine.

In talks with European allies after Friday’s summit in Alaska, Trump said Putin reiterated that he wants the key Donetsk and Luhansk regions that

make up the Donbas. But Putin appeared open to the possibility of halting the stalemate in two other regions, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, with a freeze along the front lines.

That is according to European officials familiar with the calls who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the talks at a U.S. military base between

the American and Russian presidents. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has previously rejected giving up the territory in the Donbas.

The aftermath of the summit offered little clarity about the next steps, other than Trump’s commitment for more meetings, including with Zelenskyy at the White House

on Monday. It was unclear among those briefed on the exchanges whether Trump saw Putin’s desire for the Donbas as acceptable, with Trump’s blunt but elliptical way of speaking only adding to a sense of confusion.

The White House had yet to provide a public

**UKRAINE · A6**

**WEATHER 86 • 66**  
Afternoon and early evening thunderstorms  
**Details, A2**

**INDEX**  
Vol. 137 · No. 187  
Six sections  
74 pages

Automotive D4  
Bridge C4  
Business C5  
Classified D1

Crossword C4, D4  
Financial C5  
Local A3  
Living C1

Lotteries A2  
Nation/World B7  
Obituaries B8  
Opinion A10

Real Estate C6, D2  
Sports B1  
Sudoku C4  
Television C3

6 47397 22222 8

**\$2.50** PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE PRIMARY MARKET  
© TRIBLIVE TOTAL MEDIA 2025

**Seton Hill UNIVERSITY** Find Your Path **FORWARD** at Seton Hill

**Career/Grad School Placement**  
VS. THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

**A MacBook Air**  
FOR TRADITIONAL FULL-TIME BACHELOR'S DEGREE STUDENTS

SETON HILL IS **Less Expensive** THAN SOME STATE SCHOOLS!

**EXPLORE OUR CAMPUS VISIT OPPORTUNITIES: setonhill.edu/visitSHU**

FORECAST Updated continuously at www.TribLIVE.com

Weather forecast table with columns for TODAY, TONIGHT, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY. Includes high/low temperatures, wind speeds, and POP (Probability of Precipitation).

Heat index today. An indication of how hot it feels based on the humidity and temperature. Includes a thermometer graphic showing 91 and a table of heat index values for different times of day.

Almanac Statistics for Pittsburgh through 5 p.m. Saturday. Table with columns for Temperatures (High/Low, Normal, Record) and Precipitation (24 hours, Month to date, etc.).

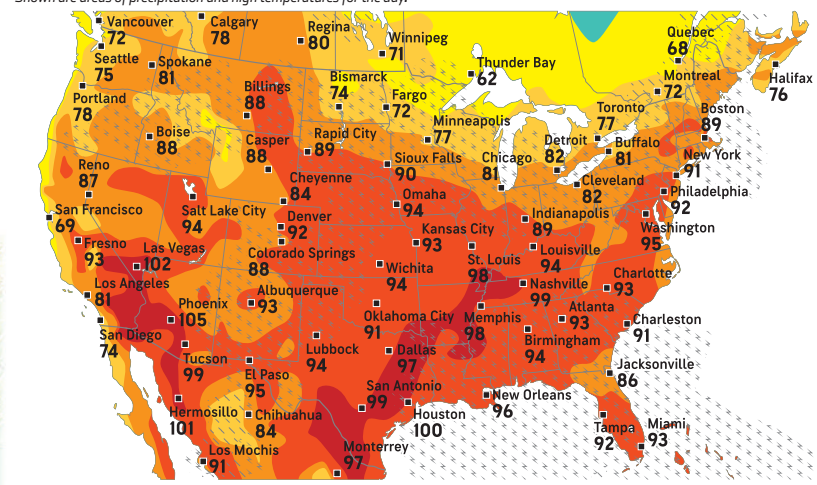
Today in Weather History. Hurricane Camille roared across Mississippi on Aug. 17, 1969. The storm had 172-mph winds and a low barometer reading of 25.73 inches.

Lake Erie forecast. Wind from the west at 7-14 knots today. Seas 2 feet or less. Visibility less than 2 miles in a thunderstorm. Includes a map of Lake Erie with weather icons for various locations.

River stages as of 7 a.m. Saturday. Table listing river names (Allegheny, Monongahela, etc.), flood stage, stage at saturation, and 24-hour change.

Regional forecast. Humid today with partial sunshine. A thunderstorm; any time in northern parts of the area, in the afternoon elsewhere.

National weather today AccuWeather. Visit AccuWeather.com



Air Quality Index, Sun & Moon, and Weather Trivia. Includes AQI color scale, sunrise/sunset times, moon phases, and a trivia question about the hottest summer ever recorded in the U.S.

STEVE NEWMAN'S EARTH WEEK

Pre-Earth meteorite

A meteorite that crashed through the roof of a Georgia home June 26 is estimated to be 4.56 billion years old, making it older than Earth. Researchers at the University of Georgia confirmed the age of the cherry tomato-size rock using microscopic analysis of 23 grams of fragments recovered from the site in McDonough.

The meteorite, part of a group of asteroids believed to have originated from a breakup event 470 million years ago, rattled homes and was widely visible as it fell.

The homeowner, who asked to remain anonymous, claims space dust is still being found around the house.

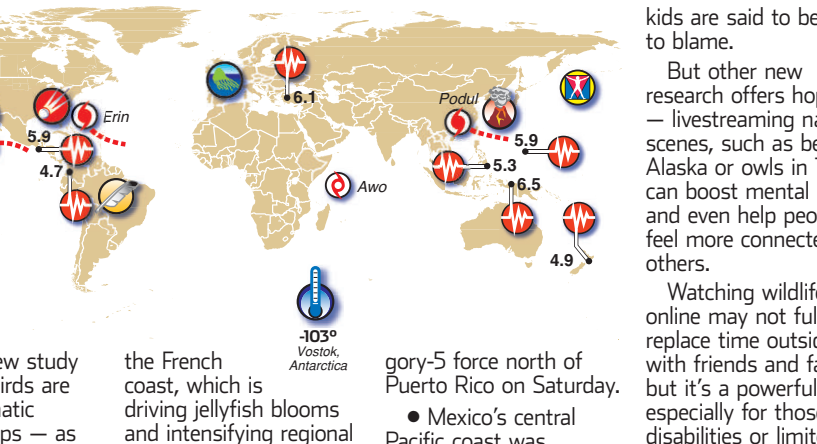
Earthquakes

Much of western Turkey was jolted by a tremor that killed one person and caused more than a dozen buildings to collapse in Balikesir province.

Earth movements also were felt in New Zealand's North Island, Indonesia's West Papua province, the far Southern Philippines, Guam, western Colombia and western Guatemala.

Heat victims

Tropical birds are disappearing fast, and scientists now say extreme heat from climate change is largely to blame.



to blame. A new study shows these birds are suffering dramatic population drops — as much as 38% since 1950 — due to more frequent and intense heat waves.

Birds in places such as the Amazon now face about 30 days of dangerous heat per year, compared with just three in the mid-20th century.

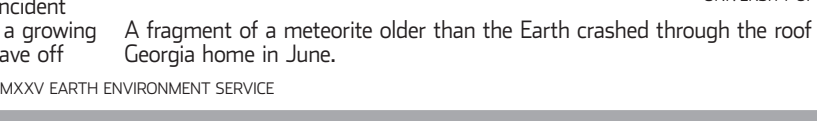
While habitat loss is also a major threat to the birds' survival, researchers warn that climate change is a bigger driver of declines in the tropics.

Many species are already near their heat limits and may not survive if warming continues unchecked.

Jellyfish jam

A swarm of jellyfish forced Electricite de France (EDF) to shut down four of six reactors at the Gravelines nuclear plant in northern France.

The marine creatures clogged the facility's seawater intake filters, disabling a system essential for cooling the reactors. The incident occurred amid a growing marine heat wave off



A fragment of a meteorite older than the Earth crashed through the roof of a Georgia home in June.

Tropical cyclones

Southern Taiwan was lashed by Category-2 Typhoon Podul, which weakened over the island before striking China's Fujian and Guangdong provinces.

Hurricane Erin strengthened to Category-5 force north of Puerto Rico on Saturday.

Mexico's central Pacific coast was brushed by passing Tropical Storm Ivo.

Tropical Storm Awo formed briefly near Seychelles.

Human connection

A study published in the journal "Earth" warns that people's bond with nature has fallen by more than 60% since 1800, and it could keep declining without changes.

Urban sprawl and fewer parents sharing nature with their kids are said to be partly to blame.

But other new research offers hope — livestreaming nature scenes, such as bears in Alaska or owls in Texas, can boost mental health and even help people feel more connected to others.

Watching wildlife online may not fully replace time outside with friends and family, but it's a powerful tool, especially for those with disabilities or limited access to green space.

LOTTERIES

Lottery results for Saturday, August 16 and Wednesday, August 13. Lists various lottery games like Pick 2, Pick 3, Treasure Hunt, etc., with winning numbers and prize amounts.

Treasure Hunt payout table for Saturday, August 16. Shows prize amounts for different match combinations.

Cash 5 payout table for Saturday, August 16. Shows prize amounts for different match combinations.

Powerball drawing results for Saturday, August 16. Shows winning numbers and prize amounts.

Friday, August 15 lottery results. Lists winning numbers for various lottery games.

Thursday, August 14 lottery results. Lists winning numbers for various lottery games.

Sunday, August 10 lottery results. Lists winning numbers for various lottery games.

FAA closes latest SpaceX investigations, opens door for next Starship launch

ORLANDO, Fla. — SpaceX has had a tough year with its Starship program, but the Federal Aviation Administration has cleared the path for the next-generation rocket's 10th suborbital launch attempt as early as next weekend.

The FAA on Friday closed investigations into mishaps sustained on the ninth launch in May that saw the Super Heavy booster, the first ever flown for a second time, get destroyed on its reentry attempt while the upper stage was lost over the Indian Ocean.

"There are no reports of public injury or damage to public property. The FAA oversaw and accepted the findings of the SpaceX-led investigation," reads a statement from the FAA. "The final mishap report cites the probable root cause for the loss of the Starship vehicle as a failure of a fuel component. SpaceX identified corrective actions to prevent a reoccurrence of the event."

The loss of the upper stage before its planned landing attempt marked the third flight-related mission failure for Starship in 2025 after launches in January and March ended with the upper stage exploding and lighting up the skies across South Florida, the Bahamas and Caribbean. The company also lost a Starship upper stage during a static fire test that destroyed one of its test stands.

Despite the setbacks, and with the FAA's clearance, SpaceX has slated Starship Flight 10 for as early as Aug. 24 launching from its test site Starbase in Texas during a window that runs from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The company on Friday detailed its findings for the Flight 9 issues as well as the test pad explosion on its website.

The angle with which the Super Heavy booster came back in for a landing was more severe than previous landing attempts. Because it was the first reuse of the booster, SpaceX opted not to try and recapture it like it had on two previous Starship flights using its "chopsticks" feature on the launch tower. Instead, it broke up during an "energetic event" at an altitude of about 3,200 feet.

SpaceX said the debris had no obvious detrimental effect on marine life. "SpaceX works with an experienced global response provider to retrieve any debris that may wash up in South Texas and/or Mexico as a result of Starship flight test operations," the company stated.

Fay-West Dental advertisement. Features a smiling woman's face and text: "LIGHT UP THE FAIR WITH A Thrill-Worthy SMILE. Longest Established Denture Practice in Western PA. Economy Denture \$325. 1-800-442-6805 or 724-887-3060."

## Greensburg fire station No. 2 going solar

Fire chief says grant-funded project has potential to lower city utility costs

BY RENATTA SIGNORINI

Greensburg Fire Department's Truck Company No. 2 will be the first city-owned building to have solar panels installed on it.

Officials say the move will result in energy savings for

the station that could spill over to other city properties. "That is going to take care of Fire Co. 2 and then some," fire Chief Tom Bell said.

City council on Monday approved a \$135,000 agreement with Energy Independent Solutions for the engineering,

purchase and installation of solar panels for the building. The project will be paid for by grant funding from the state Local Share Account, which takes a portion of Live Casino Pittsburgh's revenue and distributes it to the state and local communities.

The North Pennsylvania Avenue building had its shingle roof replaced this year after issues with leaks, becoming the first city-owned building with a metal roof. Council approved that \$480,000 project in March, which also was funded through an LSA grant.

The solar panels will be installed on the side of the roof that faces south. Councilman

Greg Mertz said city officials saw the panels as an opportunity to lower costs and make sure the building would be accessible as a shelter to the public in the event of an emergency.

"We're always looking at ways to save taxpayer dollars," he said.

If the panels generate extra electricity as expected, that can be sold back to West Penn Pow-

er as credits on bills for other city-owned properties, Bell said. He hopes to replicate the project on the roof over the hall at Engine/Rescue Company No. 7 on East Pittsburgh Street. "That's my next objective," he said.

Renatta Signorini is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at rsignorini@triblive.com.

## Detours ahead around the area

Changes expected on Hunker-Waltz Mill Road, I-70 ramps at North Belle Vernon

BY JEFF HIMLER

Detours are expected beginning Monday for motorists driving on Hunker-Waltz Mill Road just outside Hunker and for those intending to use westbound on- and off-ramps on Interstate 70 at the North Belle Vernon exit.

Hunker-Waltz Mill Road will be closed between Penn Valley and New Stanton-Ruffs Dale roads in Hempfield while crews from Gulisek Construction conduct preservation work on the bridge that carries the road over Sewickley Creek.

A posted detour will divert traffic along portions of I-70, Buttermore Avenue/New Stanton-Ruffs Dale Road and Hunker Road/Hunker-Waltz Mill Road.

The detour is expected to continue through late September while workers apply a latex overlay on the concrete deck, repair drainage structures and concrete, seal cracks and joints and mill and pave the bridge approaches.

The work is part of a \$3.03 million project meant to preserve eight bridges in Westmoreland and Fayette counties.

The I-70 ramps at North Belle Vernon's Exit 42 will close from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

Golden Triangle Construction Co. will patch concrete pavement, repair drainage and replace barriers as part of a larger \$9.69 million effort to preserve pavement on a stretch of the interstate between the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway and Route 906 (Belle Vernon-Monessen Road/Main Street). The work is expected to continue through late fall.

During the work, those intending to enter westbound I-70 at North Belle Vernon instead will head east on the interstate and then will reverse direction by taking Exit 43 (Donora/Fayette City). They will head north a short distance on Route 201, crossing I-70 and then entering the interstate's westbound lanes.

Westbound drivers who want to exit at North Belle Vernon instead will continue west on I-70. They'll take the off-ramp at Exit 41 (Belle Vernon/Monessen) and make two immediate lefts to return east on the interstate, to Exit 42.

### Route 981 detour slated in Smithton

A section of Route 981 in Smithton will be closed to traffic as crews from CSX Transportation perform maintenance tasks at a rail crossing.

The closure, between Smithton Beach Road and Skyline Drive, is expected to be in place from 7 a.m. Thursday through 5 p.m. Saturday.

A detour will use portions of routes 981 and 51, I-70 and Dutch Hollow Road.

### More road work planned

Meanwhile, PennDOT is also planning additional work on roads in Westmoreland

ROADWORK · A12



PHOTOS: SHANE DUNLAP | TRIBLIVE

Ella Ciesielski of Unity, the 2025 Westmoreland Fair Queen, stands in one of the barns at the fairgrounds.

## Royal role

Greater Latrobe grad captures crown with 2nd entry in Westmoreland Fair queen competition

SNAPSHOTS

BY JEFF HIMLER



**Above:** Nevada Hutter of Kecksburg prepares slices of a pie for judging.



**Below:** Sophia Cecchini, 7, of New Alexandria watches the preparations.



**Above:** Judges Luke (left) and his father, John Ament, of Latrobe rated pies on appearance, creativity, filling flavors and crust texture.

The second time was the charm for Ella Ciesielski when she donned the Westmoreland Fair Queen crown on opening day of the annual agricultural exhibition in Mt. Pleasant Township.

It didn't hurt to have some experience in competing for the title — and performing the duties that go with it, including presenting ribbons to those who capture prizes during the festive event that continues through Saturday.

A veteran 4-H member and Unity resident, Ciesielski finished in third place when she initially entered the queen contest in 2023.

"I did not prepare for the impromptu speech at all," she recalled. "I kind of stood up there and completely froze. I just blurted some stuff out as much as I could."

Things were different this time around for the 19-year-old. With help from her mother, Melissa, Ciesielski devoted many hours to perfecting a prearranged speech. She also prepared responses for various topics that might come up during the impromptu portion of the contest.

"I did a lot more to prepare, to make sure I was really ready," Ciesielski said. That included rehearsing her primary speech, which covered reasons why people should attend the fair.

She set out to hook her listeners, and the contest judges, by relating some of her favorite fair experiences: "hearing the roar of the truck pulls" and "getting covered in powdered sugar while you share a funnel cake with your friends."

"I made a recording of my speech, and I would listen to it when I was in the car or while I was cleaning horse stalls," she said.

FAIR · A4

## City Hall's time as trolley station to be marked

Building served streetcar riders from 1927-51

BY RENATTA SIGNORINI

Greensburg City Hall's previous life as a trolley station will be commemorated in a sign along South Main Street.

Planning director Alec Italiano said he applied for and received a \$2,500 grant to buy the marker after learning about the opportunity through the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

"It just sort of popped into my head because I knew city hall had always been a trolley station," he said.

The building was opened in 1927 by West Penn Railways Co. as a station and headquarters, according to a Sept. 27, 1927, article in The Daily Courier. Residents then relied on electric-powered trolleys, or streetcars, to get around to nearby towns.

West Penn Railways had numerous local stops for the trolley, including Latrobe, Mammoth and Jeannette, as shown in a map included with the news report.

Trolley ridership surged when the area home front mobilized for World War II. But afterwards, more people bought cars, rendering the trolley obsolete. West Penn Railways saw its last profit, slightly more than \$25,000, in 1949. The company was authorized to abandon its service in Westmoreland County in late 1951, according to news accounts.

By 1954, Greensburg had bought the South Main Street building for \$280,000 and made \$70,000 worth of renovations, according to an article that year in The Saltsburg Press.

Decades later, paving work at the city hall parking lot this spring revealed old trolley tracks hidden beneath the street.

"We see the historical significance of the trolley system in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and we're really excited that Greensburg forever can be a marker toward that as times change," Councilman Greg Mertz said.

The sign will be installed at a later date.

Renatta Signorini is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at rsignorini@triblive.com.

## Monroeville artist's work featured at Murrysville library

BY PATRICK VARINE

Cathy Kernan's paintings, made with pastels and watercolors, showcase the beauty of landscapes, from sweeping snow-covered mountain vistas to intimate woodlands.

Kernan, 72, of Monroeville is a member of the East Suburban Artists League and joins fellow ESAL member Fred Threlfall as the featured artists in ESAL's gallery at the Murrysville Community Library.

Their work will be on display through the end of August at the library, 4130 Sardis Road in Murrysville.

Kernan spoke with TribLive recently about her pursuit of art.

**Q: What first drew you to art and what subjects captured your attention?**

**A:** Probably the very first would be coloring books, then art classes in elementary school. I mostly liked drawing with pencils for a long time. Landscapes and architecture initially captured my imagination. It was easy to work with pencil in those two categories.



PATRICK VARINE | TRIBLIVE

Cathy Kernan, 72, of Monroeville joins Fred Threlfall as the featured artists in August at the East Suburban Artists League gallery in the Murrysville Community Library.

**Q: Did you experiment with different artistic media before settling on your preferred**

**medium?**

**A:** Yes, I took art classes at Boyce Community College for two years

after winning an art scholarship. Plus, pastel painting class, which was a medium I really enjoyed, wasn't one that was offered at Boyce.

**Q: What is your favorite of the pieces on exhibit at the library?**

**A:** There is a watercolor featuring different flags flying from a tour boat in Florida. It's my favorite because I loved working in watercolors and I loved the look of the flags all furled out over the boat.

**Q: What do you find the most challenging about working with watercolors?**

**A:** Mixing good colors. Sometimes you can overwork them and get a muddy color.

**Q: Is there a theme that unites the pieces in the exhibit?**

**A:** I would have to say the colors. There are several pieces that feature almost the same colors throughout.

Patrick Varine is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at pvarine@triblive.com.

# 'The fair is a great way to get youths involved'

FAIR · FROM A3

Ciesielski's mother said the time spent helping her daughter prepare for the queen contest was well worth it.

"This is probably the greatest honor that she's received here," she said. "She worked really hard."

The 2024 Greater Latrobe Senior High graduate benefited from taking a public speaking course at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

She also got some helpful advice from Emma Heeter of Clarksburg, Indiana County, a 4-H alumna and lifelong friend who won the fair queen contest in 2022.

Ciesielski heeded her friend's tip to "take your time and breathe. It's OK to take it slow and not rush through it."

While she got encouragement from friends and family, there was a more basic impulse that caused her to seek the queen crown again.

"I just love this fair so much," she said. "Coming here for so many years, I just wanted the opportunity to give back to this fair that has given me so much."

Ciesielski's parents met at the fair. And it's where she has met many like-minded friends, including members of the Heeter family.

Ciesielski said she's enjoyed cheering on friends who have sought ribbons at the fair as



PHOTOS: SHANE DUNLAP | TRIBLIVE

Ella Ciesielski of Unity, the 2025 Westmoreland Fair Queen, talks to rider Kerriann Sawinsky of Greensburg, while she waits to compete in equestrian event with her horse, Penny, on Saturday at the Westmoreland Fair.

much as taking part in competitions herself.

"I love being able to spend time with my friends at the fair and seeing them accomplish their goals," she said.

President of the Mavericks 4-H Club, Ciesielski has two lambs entered in a market show set for Tuesday evening at the fair. Over the past 11 years, she's raised and shown

many other animals there, including goats, pigs and steers.

She and fellow Mavericks members won Best in Show honors this year and last year, with joint scrapbooks documenting their club activities.

In 2019, she claimed a first-place photography prize at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, with an image she captured of her pet cat.



A goat enjoys a bath of sunlight while onlookers visit the goat barn Saturday.

in Scottsdale and New Alexandria.

Her \$500 queen scholarship will help as she enters a welding program at Westmoreland County Community College, after spending a semester as a psychology major at Pitt-Greensburg.

"I decided that just wasn't the route I wanted to take," she said. "I wanted to work with my hands and get dirty."

"I knew that I wanted to learn a trade. Welding sounded like it was fun, and there's a good bit of money in it."

After this year, Ciesielski will be too old to continue as a 4-H member, but she's planning to continue with the Mavericks as a mentor and leader.

"They already recruited me to be the lamb leader for our club," she said, adding she'll mentor younger 4-H'ers who will pursue scrapbook projects.

Ciesielski is encouraged by the enthusiasm and dedication she sees among younger 4-H members who participate in the county fair.

"I think the fair is a great way to get youths involved," she said. "I witness it every day. All these kids are really passionate about what they do, and they're really hard-working."

"I have no doubt that they're going to keep 'ag' going."

Jeff Himler is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at [jhimler@triblive.com](mailto:jhimler@triblive.com).

## kitchen tune·up

Greater Pittsburgh East's Local Choice for Trusted Kitchen Transformations

**Save up to \$1000 in FREE storage accessories!**

Mention this ad

Refacing | Redooring | New Cabinets | Original Tune-Up | Cabinet Painting

Schedule your FREE consultation today!  
412-484-5021

Ask About Our Finance Options!

**Doug & Cherie Peters**  
Local Owners  
[kitchentuneup.com](http://kitchentuneup.com)

At participating franchises only. © 2025 HFC KTU LLC. All Rights Reserved. Kitchen Tune-Up is a trademark of HFC KTU LLC and a Home Franchise Concepts Brand. Each franchise independently owned and operated. Valid through 8/31, add any storage accessory to your project. Maxed at 10% of purchase price. Not to exceed \$1000 in free storage accessories. Cannot be combined with other offers or promotions. Must be mentioned at time of consultation.

## MYERS TOURS

2001 BALL PARK RD., EXPORT, PA 15632 • PUC#00116476

724-733-1045

www.myerscoachlines.com

<b>BILTMORE CHRISTMAS</b> DEC. 5-8.....	<b>\$2,200 PP DBL</b>
Accom. On site at Village Hotel on Biltmore Estate close to winery, shopping, dining, exhibits. Includes breakfast at hotel, 1 Holiday Lunch Buffet at Grove Park Inn & 3 dinners-Stone Ridge Tavern, Café' on the Veranda, Stable Café', self guided audio day tour & Candlelight Tour at night, spans 3 floors & basement. Tour of Nashville, and "A Flat Rock Playhouse Christmas" show.	
<b>MULTI-DAY TOURS</b>	
<b>MT. RUSHMORE BLACKHILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA</b> SEPT. 18-26 ...	<b>\$2,070 PP DBL</b>
Overnight Chicago first night, Guided tour of Chicago, Wisconsin Dells Cruise, tour Badlands National Park, Custer State Park, guide two days in Black Hills, Mt. Rushmore National Memorial, Crazy Horse Mountain Carving, Museum of American Indian, Journey Museum, Black Hills Gold Factory, Historic Deadwood, Mt. Moriah Tour, stop at Walls Drive, Al's Oasis, Corn Palace, a Riverfront Casino, 16 Meals	
<b>ANNAPOLIS, ST. MICHAEL'S, GETTYSBURG</b> SEP. 23-25 .....	<b>\$715 PP DBL</b>
Full day guided tour of Historic Annapolis, tour US Naval Academy, cruise across Chesapeake Bay to St. Michael's Island, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, Gettysburg Museum, guided tour of Battlefield, Cyclorama & Film, 2 Breakfasts, 2 Eastern Shore Dinners, deluxe accommodations.	
<b>LANCASTER "NOAH"</b> OCT. 29-30 .....	<b>\$569 PP DBL</b>
Overnight accom. Eden Resort with hotel breakfast, "A CHORUS LINE" dinner show at Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre, "NOAH" at Sight 'n Sound Theatre, Smorgasbord dinner at Shady Maple Smorgasbord, shopping Kitchen Kettle Village.	
<b>NEW YORK AT CHRISTMAS</b> DEC. 2-4 .....	<b>\$1,129 PP DBL</b>
Two nights accom., 3 amazing Broadway shows- CHICAGO, LION KING, & ROCKETTES CHRISTMAS SHOW, 2 Holiday dinners inc. Carmines NYC, Bryant Christmas Village, tour Times Square, Rockefeller Centre Christmas Tree, Guided tour St. Patrick's Cathedral, Guided tour of NYC, visit 911 Memorial, Eataly Italian Market, 2 Holiday Breakfasts.	
<b>CAPE MAY CHRISTMAS</b> DEC. 2-5 .....	<b>\$939 PP DBL</b>
Overnight accom. Oceanfront hotel, Night of Special Entertainment, Holiday Lights, Trolley Ride, visit Winter Wonderland at Congress Hall, wine tasting at Cape May Winery, Old Fashioned Christmas Exhibit at the Carroll Gallery, visit famed Winterwood Christmas Shoppe Flagship store, free time on Washington St. Mall decked out for the holidays! Visit Historic Smithville. Four Meals.	
<b>DAY TOURS</b>	
<b>TRAIN WINE &amp; CHOCOLATES</b> SEPT 25 .....	<b>\$175</b>
Two hour Historic train ride on Cuyahoga National Park Train, longest and oldest tourist excursion railway. A Park Ranger will provide history, Nauti Vine Winery wine tastings, London's Chocolates featuring gourmet chocolates, Szalay's Farm Market, offering a variety of fruits and veggies fresh from the fields, and delicious homemade goodies, includes lunch at Papa Joe's Italian Eatery.	
<b>THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS</b> OCT. 2 .....	<b>\$179</b>
Spectacular show brought to life to take you back in time. Breathtaking live animals, captivating lighting, the story of Saul, known as Paul, from zealous persecutor of Christians to devoted follower of Christ. Buffet lunch and shopping included. Sugar Creek, OH.	
<b>CAPTURE THE FALL</b> OCT. 23 .....	<b>\$169</b>
Relax & enjoy a hayride thru the fields and fall foliage, take a pumpkin home, visit one room Amish School House, Greenhouse & Nursery, receive a mum plant, stop at West Wood Nature Center, chef prepared Fall Harvest Feast included at Punderson Manor House, hayride & apples from Eddie Fruit Farm.	
<b>"WICKED"</b> JAN. 24 .....	<b>\$255</b>
Broadway's biggest blockbuster, and American Musical fantasy. Benedum Matinee includes lunch at Grand Concourse.	
<b>CASINO TOURS</b>	
<b>ROCKY GAP</b> Aug 21, Sept 17, Oct 30 .....	<b>\$35</b>
<b>RIVERS CASINO</b> Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12 • Bonus: \$20 Slots .....	<b>\$30</b>
<b>MEADOWS</b> Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 11 • Bonus: \$20 FREE SLOTS .....	<b>\$35</b>
<b>LADY LUCK CASINO-NEMACOLIN</b> Aug 20, Sept 18, Oct 15 • Bonus: \$20 Slots .....	<b>\$35</b>
<b>WHEELING</b> Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 23 • Bonus: \$25 Free Play After 50 Points .....	<b>\$35</b>
<b>SENECA NIAGARA &amp; BUFFALO CREEK CASINO</b> Sept 14-16, \$339 PP DBL .....	<b>\$329 PP DBL</b>
BONUS: \$100 SLOTS & \$40 FOOD - Optional trip to Buffalo Creek Casino \$25 Slots & \$5 Food additional. (Min 20 must attend to get bonus).	
<b>MGM CASINO NORTHFIELD PARK OH</b> Aug 28, Sept 23, Oct 28, Nov 25 .....	<b>\$40</b>

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

# Q&A

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ASK THE EXPERTS!

### ATTORNEY

**Jon M. Lewis, Esq.**  
Mears, Smith, Houser & Boyle, P.C.  
127 N. Main St.  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-836-4730

**Q:** Should a person whose spouse has early stages of Alzheimer's disease get separate bank accounts and credit cards in only their name?

**A:** It depends. You should speak to your attorney. There are many issues such as: Can she make a Will? Can she make a Power of Attorney? Is she able to sign legal papers? Does she know what assets she has and what obligations she has? There are lots of issues that you should discuss with your attorney. Are you enabling her to do something that is not legal? I think you should also consider your obligations if you are enabling her to do something that might be questionable. Your attorney should be able to help.

### CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

**L. Christian DeDiana**  
724-864-6840  
Certified by National Elder Law Foundation  
[lcd@bumbaughgeorge.com](http://lcd@bumbaughgeorge.com)

**Q:** Should I keep my Will and Powers of Attorney in my safe deposit box?

**A:** These documents should be kept in a safe place and a safe deposit box can be used. The safe deposit box is frozen on the death of a single person, but can be opened for a Will search. If original powers of attorney are kept in a safe deposit box, it is prudent to name the agent in the power of attorney as a deputy on the box, so he or she can have access to it if the need arises.

### SENIOR CARE

**Tim Beckes**  
Owner/President  
Senior Helpers  
724-834-5720

**Q:** This is our first holiday season without my dad and when visiting my mom I could sense her sadness. She said she is lonely and did not even get to decorate. How can I help my mom continue to do the things she enjoys when I live so far away?

**A:** Losing a spouse is extremely difficult, especially around the holidays. Home Care agencies are designed to provide companionship to seniors. Your mom could have a Helper come to her home to help her decorate for the holidays, make her favorite recipe, or assist her in getting out of the house to visit friends or run errands. Please call Senior Helpers to learn more.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

**Michael Noppe**  
Licensed Insurance Agent  
Insurance Services LLC  
1255 South Main, Greensburg  
800-800-1999 ext. 65  
[mroppeinsurance.com](http://mroppeinsurance.com)  
Facebook.com/michaelnoppes

**Q:** Mr. Noppe, I recently got started in Medicare and I have a Medigap Plan N. My doctor said she never heard of my Medigap company and is concerned that it might not pay all my Medical bills.

**A:** Your doctor will be billing Medicare, not your supplement company. Medicare will then direct your Medigap company to pay whatever balance is still due after Medicare pays its share. Medicare dictates who to pay and how much. Your supplement company has no say in the matter.

(Not connected with or endorsed by the U S government or the federal Medicare program.) We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

### RETIREMENT & IRA TAX PLANNING

**Sam White CPA**  
member ED SLOTT'S Master Elite IRA Advisor Group<sup>SM</sup>  
101 North Main, Greensburg, PA  
724-634-2255

**Q:** My wife has a large required distribution she normally takes in December. She called her advisor and asked him to liquidate enough holdings now to be sure the funds are available now while the market is high. He told her he wasn't doing it since the market will continue to grow between now and year end. She's not happy. Do you agree with her or the planner?

**A:** I know if my lovely wife asked her planner to liquidate some funds and he did not do it, I know where I would be sleeping for quite some time. There's so much wrong with this I'll just pick a couple of topics. From what you've indicated, all the assets are exposed to market risk which does not seem to coincide with your wife's suitability or risk tolerance. The money is hers not his and she can do what she wants. He made an absolute statement "the market will continue to grow." Who is this guy, Carnac the Magnificent?

### COMMUNITY BANKING

**Donald Graham, VP**  
Regional Banking Manager  
[grahamd@firstbank.com](http://grahamd@firstbank.com)  
Cell: (724) 388-1163  
NMLS #508952

**Q:** What are the four signs that indicate you may be possibly be a victim of a scam.

**A:** Scammers pretend to be from an organization such as Social Security, IRS, Medicare, or some other official sounding organization. They may use technology to change their phone number to look official or they may contact you by text or email asking you to click on a link. NEVER click on unknown links.

Scammers mention there is a problem or a prize.

Scammers pressure you to act immediately. They create a sense of urgency.

Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way such as MoneyGram, Western Union, gift cards, etc. Or they may send you a check and ask you to return a portion of the money. Later their check turns out to be a fake.

Before you do anything, tell someone you trust such as your banker, the police, or even a trusted family member. Talk it over to see if it makes sense. Report any suspected scams to the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) at [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov).

# Both parties open to taxing skill games

TRANSIT · FROM A1

“There is money just sitting there. Checks could be going out today and none of these cuts would be necessary,” Ward said, alluding to the \$1.2 billion proposal in the GOP-controlled Senate, which was shot down by two committees in the Democrat-led House.

It would have dedicated more than \$292 million to transit agencies and another \$292 million to roads and bridges this fiscal year and increased those amounts to \$300 million next fiscal year. It would have used about \$750 million from the Pennsylvania Public Transit Trust Fund.

Democrats and SEPTA and PennDOT officials argued against taking money from the trust fund, which provides essential money for capital projects such as replacing buses and trains, upgrading rail lines and signals, and improving facilities. They also were seeking a long-term funding plan instead of the two-year stopgap proposed by GOP senators.

“Two years is not the sustainable solution we were hoping for. We need something that’s going to carry us into the future so we can do all the things that people want us to do to be more efficient and more cost-conscious,” Scott Sauer, general manager of SEPTA, said during a committee hearing last week.

The House proposal would have increased the share of sales tax revenue going to transit agencies, providing more than \$292 million in new annual funding for transit agencies in perpetuity. The bill also would have included money for highway projects and improvements to smaller, rural roads.

After the bill passed the House, the Senate did not bring it up for a vote.

Republicans expressed concerns about permanently dedicating a bigger share of sales tax revenues to transit, result-



AP

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority is facing a \$213 million budget deficit going into this fiscal year and said it will need to eliminate 45% of its bus and train service and raise fares by 21.5%.

ing in less money available for other programs as lawmakers are still trying to reach a deal on the larger state budget and address a multibillion-dollar structural deficit.

The budget impasse reached 48 days Sunday.

So now what?

Both Ward and Costa suggested a source of long-term funding could come from taxing skill games that have become ubiquitous at bars, convenience stores, fraternal clubs and elsewhere.

Finding a consensus on how to regulate and tax the machines has been part of the ongoing budget negotiations. Projected revenues vary widely, but it could generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for the state.

“We have been talking about that money going to mass transit—that’s what the conversation has been, and to transportation in general. I’m just wondering why it’s not part of the conversation right now,” Ward said. “It makes so much sense to me. The time to be discussing this is now if we’re looking for recurring revenue for mass transit and roads and bridges.”

“We agree with that,” Costa said. “We’ve said, ‘We’re OK with that, let’s move that.’”

“(Republicans have) had the ball in their court, but they don’t move these (proposals). They can’t come to a consensus in their own caucus,” Costa said.

“We have a consensus in our caucus,” Costa said of the Democrats. “We stand ready to be able to support a skill-games program that allows for a generation of revenue to pay for transit and to pay for roads and bridges. We just need to act on it, and (Republicans) haven’t been able to put it on the table.”

Costa said lawmakers may need to come up with a stopgap to provide transit funding for six months to a year until money starts flowing in from a would-be skill games tax.

“We may need something to bridge that gap. We’ve been looking at (other) gaming funds and at the trust fund, as long as the trust fund would be paid back,” Costa said.

“The top of my list is to get this done,” Ward said. “It’s really to get the entire budget done, and this mass transit issue is part of the entire budget. We have to worry about all of that.”

*Tom Fontaine is director of politics and editorial standards at TribLive. He can be reached at tfontaine@triblive.com.*

# DollarBank®

## Smart Savings

Balances up to \$10,000

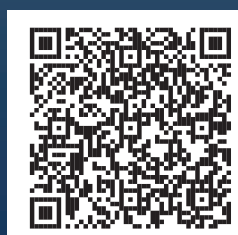
# 4.25%\*

APY

## Platinum Savings

Balances of \$100,000 to \$5 million

\$25,000 new money minimum



## Open Now

### SMART SAVINGS

\*4.25% Annual Percentage Yield on Smart Savings balances up to \$10,000. Balances between \$10,000.01 and \$25,000 will earn an APY ranging from 4.25% to 3.50% based on a rate of 3.00%. Balances above \$25,000 will earn an APY ranging from 3.50% to 1.00% based on a rate of 1.00%. Rates may change after an account is opened. All rates are accurate as of 2/19/25 and are subject to change without notice. Fees may reduce earnings. Ask for an Account Information Schedule for deposit account details. \$50 minimum to open. A valid Everything Checking Account is required to open and maintain a Smart Savings Account and the rates for Smart Savings require Everything Checking with eight qualifying monthly posted payments. Limit one Smart Savings Account per customer. For Dollar Bank’s market areas only.

### PLATINUM SAVINGS

\*3.00% Annual Percentage Yield on Platinum Savings balances up to \$25,000. Balances between \$25,000.01 and \$99,999.99 earn 4.00% APY, balances between \$100,000 and \$5,000,000 earn 4.25% APY and balances \$5,000,000.01 and above earn 3.00% APY. Rates may change after an account is opened. All rates are accurate as of 6/4/25 and are subject to change without notice. Platinum Savings must include a minimum new money increase of \$25,000 based on the savings owner(s) average daily balances during the past 30 days. Fees may reduce earnings. Ask for Account Information Schedule for deposit account details. \$50 minimum to open. The rates for Platinum Savings require a linked qualifying checking account with eight qualifying monthly posted payments. Limit one Platinum Savings Account per customer. For Dollar Bank’s Pennsylvania and Maryland markets only.

Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC. Copyright © 2025, Dollar Bank, Federal Savings Bank.

SAV244\_25



## CASA OF WESTMORELAND, INC.

# WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Children in Westmoreland County are waiting for an advocate

### Become a CASA Volunteer

Serve as a consistent and caring adult in the life of a deserving child in foster care.

### 2025 Training Date

September 30th  
Hybrid Learning Schedule



724-850-6874

casaoftwestmoreland.org

# Trump: Ceasefires 'often times do not hold up'

UKRAINE · FROM A1

summary of the calls as Trump golfed Saturday with his special envoy Steve Witkoff and Fox News anchor Bret Baier at his Virginia golf club. The most transparent takeaway was Trump's abrupt reversal on a ceasefire, raising questions of how peace talks can proceed if attacks continue.

Trump's abandoning a ceasefire as a requirement for further negotiations aligns him with a position held by Putin. The Russian leader has long said Moscow is not interested in a temporary truce and is seeking a long-term settlement that takes the Kremlin's interests into account.

## Trump shifts focus to peace accord

After the calls with Zelenskyy and European leaders, Trump said Saturday on social media that "it was determined by all that the best way to end the horrific war between Russia and Ukraine is to go directly to a Peace Agreement, which would end the war, and not a mere Ceasefire Agreement, which often times do not hold up."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told ZDF television that Trump said "Russia seems to be prepared to conduct the negotiations based on the so-called line of contact and not the administrative boundaries." It was unclear from the comments how issues pertaining to the Donbas had been resolved.

Zelenskyy previously has refused to withdraw from the remaining 30% of the Donetsk region that Ukraine controls. He says that would be unconstitutional and the territory could be used as a staging ground for later Russian attacks.

In a statement after the Trump call, major European leaders did not address whether a peace deal is preferable to a ceasefire, saying they "welcomed President Trump's efforts to stop the killing in Ukraine, end Russia's war of aggression, and achieve just and lasting peace."

## Putin's view on his summit with Trump

Putin on Saturday described



President Donald Trump meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (left) and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio (second from right) also are in attendance.

his talks with Trump as "very frank."

"We, of course, respect the position of the American administration, which sees the need for a speedy end to military actions," he said at the follow-up meeting at the Kremlin, a clip of which was posted to the Kremlin's Telegram channel. "We would like to move to resolving all issues by peaceful means."

Putin has "broken out of international isolation" and "wasn't in the least challenged" by Trump, who also ignored an arrest warrant issued for Putin by the International Criminal Court, said Laurie Bristow, who was British ambassador to Russia from 2016 to 2020. But the U.S. isn't a member of the court and thus doesn't have an obligation to arrest him.

## Zelenskyy gears up for White House meeting

Zelenskyy, who was not invited to Alaska for the summit, said he had a "long and substantive" conversation with Trump early Saturday and that they would "discuss all of the details regarding ending the killing and the war" on Monday.

It will be Zelenskyy's first visit to the United States since Trump berated him publicly for being "disrespectful" during an extraordinary Oval Office meeting in February.

Trump confirmed the White House meeting and said that "if all works out, we will then schedule a meeting with President Putin."

Zelenskyy reiterated the importance of involving European leaders, who also were not at the summit, "to ensure reliable security guarantees together with America."

"We also discussed positive signals from the American side regarding participation in guaranteeing Ukraine's security," he said.

The Ukrainian leader did not elaborate, but he previously has said European partners put on hold a proposal to establish a foreign troop presence in Ukraine to deter Russian aggression because it lacked an American backstop.

In an apparent effort to bolster Zelenskyy's hand before the White House meeting, France, the United Kingdom and Germany will co-host a video call Sunday of "coalition of the willing" nations that could help monitor and uphold any deal to end fighting, French President Emmanuel Macron's office said.

## Europeans urge security guarantees for Ukraine

The French, German, Italian, British, Finnish, Polish and European Union leaders said "Ukraine must have ironclad security guarantees," and they welcomed U.S. readiness to provide them.

"It will be up to Ukraine to make decisions on its territory," their statement said. "International borders must not be changed by force."

During an interview with Fox News Channel before returning to Washington, Trump insisted the onus

might be on Zelenskyy "to get it done," but that there also would be some involvement from European nations.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said "the harsh reality is that Russia has no intention of ending this war

anytime soon," noting that Moscow launched new attacks on Ukraine even as the delegations met.

"Putin continues to drag out negotiations and hopes he gets away with it. He left Anchorage without making any commitments to end the killing," she said.

Ukrainian and Russian forces are fighting along a 620-mile front line. Since spring, Russian troops have accelerated their gains, capturing the most territory since the opening stages of the war.

## Questions on a trilateral meeting

Zelenskyy voiced support for Trump's proposal for a meeting with the U.S. and Russia. He said that "key issues can be discussed at the level of leaders, and a trilateral format is suitable for this."

But Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, told

Russian state television Saturday that a possible three-way meeting "has not been touched upon yet" in U.S.-Russia discussions.

Zelenskyy wrote on X that he told Trump "sanctions should be strengthened if there is no trilateral meeting or if Russia tries to evade an honest end to the war."

Fiona Hill, Trump's former senior adviser on Russia, told the Associated Press that the U.S. president has met his match because "Putin is a much bigger bully than Trump is."

"He's run out of his persuasive powers with Putin," said Hill, adding that Trump has "plenty" of coercive powers to use against the Russian leader but "he doesn't want to use them."

"Ukrainians want peace for sure, and Putin wants pieces of Ukraine," she said. "Very large pieces."

**Robindale**  
**GREAT AMERICAN BANANA SPLIT CELEBRATION**  
 LATROBE, PA

**Dale** **giant eagle**

**-5K RUN**  
**-VENDORS AND FOOD TRUCKS**  
**-CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**  
**-CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT**  
**-FREE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**-A BUNCH MORE**

**August 23 & 24, 2025**

**Scan here!**

**more info at bananasplitfest.com**

**Summer Savings**

**Fall Flower Buy-Out**  
**In Stock & Ready To Rock**

**Pittsburgh Steelers 22 oz. Plastic Cup**  
**2/\$1.00**

**Catnapper 3 Pc. Reclining Living Room Group**  
 Compare \$2949  
**Starting at \$1499.99**

**Sounds of Summer, Electric Daisy, Pink Crystal or Go Bananas**  
**\$3.99 each**

**Insulated Lunch Bag**  
 3 Styles  
**\$1.99**

**Halloween Costumes at Outlet Prices**  
**100's To Choose**  
**Shop Early For Best Selection**

**EXPERIENCE** Sale runs Aug. 17- Aug. 27, 2025

**WORLD of VALUES OUTLET**  
 Sunday 11am - 5pm, Monday - Saturday 9:30am - 6pm

TO GET OUR AD ELECTRONICALLY, SUBSCRIBE AT [www.worldofvalues.net](http://www.worldofvalues.net)

adno=383675

**12th Annual Yellow Tie Gala!**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22**  
**6:00 - 9:00 P.M.**  
**LATROBE ART CENTER**

Toast the Great American Banana Split Celebration in style at Latrobe Art Center's 12th annual Yellow Tie Gala!

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 15TH!**

**LATROBEARTCENTER.ORG**

**LATROBE art CENTER**

ENJOY LIVE MUSIC BY MIKE URICK AND THE MODELAIRES, LIVE ART PORTRAITS, HORS D'OEUVRES BY RICOLITA'S CAFE, AND MORE!

**GREAT AMERICAN BANANA SPLIT CELEBRATION**  
 LATROBE, PA



# Introducing *Family* **Freedom**

Switch to T-Mobile

## we'll pay off 4 phones

Via virtual pre-paid card. New device, qual'g. credit, service & port-in req'd. Card typically takes 15 days.

up to \$3,200 and give you

## 4 new phones *on us*

With 24 monthly bill credits; 4 eligible trade-ins, 4 new lines. For well-qualified customers; plus tax and fees. \$35 device connection charge.

[T-Mobile.com/FamilyFreedom](https://T-Mobile.com/FamilyFreedom)

Limited time; subject to change. May not be combined with some offers or discounts. **Phone Payoff:** New financed smartphone, qualifying credit, port-in from eligible postpaid carrier (AT&T, Verizon, Spectrum, Claro, Liberty, Xfinity, USCellular, or C Spire), and qualifying service required. Carrier's Early Termination Fee and remaining device balance, including lease purchase option, up to \$500, paid via virtual prepaid Mastercard\* (no cash access & expires in 6 months) typically within 15 days. Submit proof of balance & 90+ days in good standing w/ carrier within 30 days of port-in and be active and in good standing when processed. We might ask for more information. Up to 4 lines. One offer per subscriber. T-Mobile virtual prepaid Mastercard is rebate/reimbursement or exchange on new device, service, or port-in; for any tax implications, consult a tax advisor. No money has been paid by you for the card. Cards issued by Sunrise Banks N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Mastercard International Incorporated. Mastercard is a registered trademark of Mastercard International Incorporated. Some limitations for virtual cards. Cards will not have cash access and can be used everywhere MasterCard debit cards are accepted. Use of this card constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions stated in the Cardholder Agreement. **Free Phone:** Contact us before cancelling entire account to continue remaining bill credits, or credits stop & balance on required finance agreement is due (e.g., \$829.99 - Apple iPhone 16 128GB). Bill credits end if you pay off device early. Tax on pre-credit price due at sale. Qualifying credit, service, and trade-in (e.g. Save \$830 iPhone 12; Save \$415: iPhone 6) required. Trade-in terms and conditions apply. If you have cancelled lines in past 90 days, you may need to reactivate them first. Up to \$830 via bill credits; line with promo must be active and in good standing to receive credits; allow 2 bill cycles. **Fastest:** Based on analysis by Ookla\* of Speedtest Intelligence\* data of national Speed Score results incorporating 5G download and upload speeds for 2H 2024. See 5G device, coverage, & access details at T-Mobile.com.

# Technology has dramatically reduced fatalities

CLAIRTON PLANT · FROM A1

showed coke oven gas ignited when a valve failed because of a pressure buildup as it was being flushed for planned maintenance.

U.S. Steel maintains that its facilities are safe, and that the company is dedicated to making them even safer. Now, after a nearly \$15 billion merger this summer with Japan's Nippon Steel, the responsibility to back up that responsibility will be shared and the pressure heightened in the aftermath of last week's disaster.

"From our mines to our mills, producing the steel America relies on each day is a demanding job, and the men and women of U.S. Steel take their roles in that process very seriously," Andrew Fulton, a company spokesman, said in a prepared statement in response to questions from TribLive. "U.S. Steel makes safety its top priority every step of the way."

## A terrible cost

The year Doyle was hurt, he retired and went on permanent disability. In 2014, U.S. Steel capped four years of legal wrangling by paying Doyle an undisclosed sum to settle a lawsuit he filed over his devastating injuries.

"It was not enough for what they did to me and how they changed my life," Doyle said. "I support my family and everything. But it's not enough for everything I went through and still go through."

Doyle said more than 100 people called to check on him Monday after news broke of the explosion. He said he's pretty sure he's OK.

Pittsburgh steel built modern America, but sometimes at a terrible cost.

During World War II, Pennsylvania's second-largest city produced half of the steel made nationwide. A decade later, Pittsburgh boasted nearly 100,000 steelworkers. The very name of its professional football team was minted by the mills. The Steelers' tricolor logo — the "steelmark" — was created by U.S. Steel and the American Iron and Steel Institute.

The mammoth plants that consumed the banks of Pittsburgh's three rivers exuded strength. Steelworkers' grit, determination and a salt-of-the-earth work ethic became one with the region's identity. But beneath that tough identity is a shared understanding of the prospect of injury, death and loss.

"It is dangerous work that they do," Gov. Josh Shapiro



Employees leave U.S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works on Friday at the end of a deadly week.

MOSSOUD HOSSAINI | TRIBLIVE

said during a visit to the coke works after the blast.

That was illustrated Monday by the two men who joined the roster of lives lost at the Clairton Coke Works. Westmoreland County residents Timothy Quinn, 39, a heater-foreman and single father of three, and Steven Menefee, 52, were killed in the blast.

"I have the deepest sympathy for those workers and their families," said Andrew Miklos, 75, of Elizabeth Borough, a retired Clairton Coke Works laborer and the former president of its steelworkers union.

"I'll tell you, mill life is a lot like family life," Miklos said. "And when something like this happens and somebody gets hurt, they all hurt."

Pittsburgh lawyer John Gismondi has seen it all before. He represented the family of Nicholas Revetta, killed in a 2009 explosion at the coke works. And he sued on behalf of workers injured in the blast that hurt Doyle. Gismondi was sitting in his Grant Street office Monday morning when his cellphone buzzed with news of the latest disaster.

"The initial reaction was 'Gee whiz, here we go again,'" Gismondi told TribLive. "Three major explosions in 15 years sort of strikes me as a lot. I don't know what the future may hold. But, three explosions? I don't think that's

something to chalk up as the cost of doing business."

Gismondi said few would argue that the Clairton facility comes loaded with danger.

Coal is pulverized before workers in Clairton push it into narrow brick-lined ovens, or batteries. They bake the coal at 2,000 degrees, producing coke, an essential component to making steel. The process also produces gas, tar, ammonia and other chemicals.

"If you were to list all of the hazards at Clairton Coke Works, you would have to say that safe handling of gas is near the top," Gismondi said. "When you make coke, you're generating gas every day, and it's in huge volumes. It's like how water is an integral part of a car wash."

## 'Adrenaline rush'

A century ago, an estimated 500 to 800 men died in steel-mill accidents nationwide each year, a rate of nearly two workers a day, historians say.

Those who survived "were worn out by 40 and dead at 50," Doug Styles, who guided tours of U.S. Steel's historic Carrie Furnace site in Swissvale, told TribLive in 2019.

Over the decades, fatalities in the industry dropped dramatically — to six dead in 2023, according to the most recent federal Bureau of Labor Statistics data. That same year, 1,075

construction workers died on the job, making that the most dangerous sector.

Technology has helped steel mills become safer places, experts say.

Today's cranes operate remotely, and control rooms have been enclosed to keep workers away from molten metal that flows past them at temperatures nearing 2,700 degrees. Sensors measure gas leaks and temperatures. The sophistication of advanced personal protective equipment grows each year.

"Safety culture" also has changed the mill landscape, officials say. Training, both before and during work, is constant. Committees staffed by mill workers regularly review safety measures.

Despite all that, risk remains pervasive. Some steelworkers told TribLive last week there's a flip side to the daunting nature of mill work: the allure of being gutsy enough to work in a hazardous business.

Chad Cramer, a 42-year-old steelworker from Hunker, has many family members who toiled in the mills. Cramer, who started on a blast furnace, epitomizes the split nature of the job, acknowledging the dangers while embracing the challenges.

"All things aside from what just happened at Clairton,

being around things like this, you'd think there'd be more injuries. But, there's not," Cramer said. "The element of danger? Yeah, it's still there. There's definitely an adrenaline rush you can get while going to work."

The spirit driving Pittsburghers to work those jobs helped define the city in the 20th century as a scrappy underdog.

"Pittsburgh is a place to read up for, to unpack your trunk and settle down at," James Parton famously wrote in an 1868 article about Pittsburgh in *The Atlantic* magazine. "If anyone would enjoy a spectacle as striking as Niagara, he may do so by simply walking up a long hill to Cliff Street in Pittsburgh and looking over into — hell with the lid taken off."

Anyone touched by the brute force of explosions at the coke works, from survivors to workers' widows to investigators, understands that analogy all too well.

"When you have that much power, that much heat and gas, that much molten metal, it's always inherently dangerous," said Ron Baraff, a Pittsburgh-based steel historian with the nonprofit group Rivers of Steel.

"You are taking very, very volatile gases and dirt and adding a human element," Baraff said. "And, with all those things, you're always

running a real danger something could happen. You can only 'safety out' so much."

Miklos, the retiree, knows the routine well.

He worked in Clairton Coke Works for 44 years, often handling odd jobs — say, lugging 100-pound bags of soda ash to a water treatment plant — on what he called the "labor gang." He still remembers his hiring date: April 30, 1974.

When Miklos became president in 2009 of Steelworkers Local 1557, he kept working on the plant floor to stay connected to those who kept things running.

Miklos, who grew up in sparsely populated McKean County in northern Pennsylvania, remembered the first time he entered the coke plant, the entire mill seeming to chug along on a different scale.

"I was in awe," Miklos told TribLive. "I had never seen anything like that. I'm not from around here. I didn't even know what a mill was."

"But I got to Clairton Coke Works, and I learned fast."

## Steel industry widows

Monday's explosion triggered bad memories for Sherri Novak.

Her husband, Jeff Novak, a heater foreman, was one of 17 people hurt in the 2010 blast at the coke works.

"When I heard, at first, I didn't think about it, I tried not to think about it, but later it hit me," Sherri Novak, 64, of Perryopolis, Fayette County, said of the most recent Clairton calamity. "It brought back a lot of memories."

Her husband was hospitalized in a burn unit for a month. His skull fractured, he was placed in a medically induced coma. Multiple graft surgeries later repaired scorched skin.

Jeff Novak survived his workplace injuries but couldn't beat cancer. He died a couple of years ago at age 64.

His widow knows firsthand that precautions can take you only so far.

"Even with all the safety rules," Novak said, "it's still dangerous, no matter how you look at it."

Maureen Revetta's two children have grown up not knowing their father.

Her son was 4 and her daughter barely a year old on Sept. 3, 2009, when a fatal explosion at Clairton Coke Works killed their father, Nicholas Revetta. He was one of 4,551 people to die across the nation that year due to their work.

Paramedics rushed the contractor and Laborers Local 373 union member to Jefferson

CLAIRTON PLANT · A9

# 'Inherent dangers' seen as ever-present in steel industry

Rich Lattanzi knows all about safety in U.S. Steel's Mon Valley facilities.

At age 26, decades before he was elected in 2010 as mayor of Clairton — a city built, largely, to run the coke works — the former plumber started a three-decade U.S. Steel career by toiling in the hot strip mill at Irvin Works,

a hilltop steel processing plant in West Mifflin.

To Lattanzi, steelmaking seemed magical. The excitement showed in his work.

"I was kind of fast, wanted to really get things done. And some of the older guys, they'd say, 'Hey, you know, always

take it slow,'" Lattanzi, now 61, told TribLive. "I was fortunate that nothing serious ever happened to me."

Lattanzi still sounds mesmerized by those early years, recalling how 8-inch-thick steel slabs forged at U.S. Steel's Edgar Thomson plant in Braddock would cross the Monongahela River, then be heated to 2,400 degrees in West Mifflin and flattened to sheets less than a half-inch thick.

He soon took heed of what he called Irvin Works' increasingly "stringent" focus on safety. He worked for several years in a safety capacity for the union.

Lattanzi said safety remained central to many of the jobs at the mill through his retirement in 2021, which followed bouts of neck, throat and colon cancers.

"You'd talk about safety for two, three hours at a time,"

Lattanzi said. "Then, you do the job. And half an hour later, you're done."

Putting aside all the training and all the attention to standard operating procedures, people who enter the mill know what they're being hired to do, Lattanzi said.

"Workers, they know there's inherent dangers," he said. "You know what you're going into."

JoJo Burgess agreed. The mayor of Washington, Pa., Burgess has been employed in heavy industry for more than two decades. He's worked for six years now at Clairton Coke Works, preparing some byproducts of the coke-making process

to be used outside U.S. Steel's walls.

"There's always dangers when you get a job at a steel mill," said Burgess, 55.

Burgess remembers hearing about injuries on the job. Monday, however, marked the first time for him that a co-worker died on the clock. Coming in to work the next morning, Burgess said, felt a little different.

"It was somber inside," he told TribLive.

But steelworkers are pragmatic. Even in the face of tragedy, they arrive to work the next shift.

"Work must go on," Burgess said. "On Tuesday, people showed up — and they did their jobs ... we try to get updates on the people still in the hospital. But, we're still trying to do our jobs. The plant is still running."

— Justin Vellucci



Lattanzi



Burgess

**IF YOUR PHARMACY IS CLOSING GIVE US A TRY!**  
 Very Easy to Transfer!  
 Just give us a call and we will do the rest

As your local independent pharmacy for over 25 years, we take care of our patients while delivering a personalized experience. We take time to answer ALL your questions, get to know you, understand your needs, and make you feel like part of our family. We can assist you by offering free delivery, med sync and specialized packing if needed. With Precision Care's help, all you need to do is focus on staying healthy. Give us a try. We will earn your business and serve you well.

**Better Service-Better Pricing-Better Pharmacy**

**MEDS READY IN LESS THAN 15 MIN.**

**FREE DELIVERY** to Greensburg, Latrobe, Jeannette, Youngwood and surrounding areas

**EASY TRANSFERS** **precisionCARE PHARMACY** **CALL TODAY!**

434 E. Pittsburgh St., Greensburg PA 15601 • 724-834-5113

**IN FIRST BANK LAND LOANS**  
 Repayment terms UP TO 20 YEARS!  
 Stop in or call us for more details.

**IN FIRST BANK**  
 Serving you locally at:  
 1007 GEORGES STATION RD; GREENSBURG  
 340 WAUGAMAN RD; HARRISON CITY  
**INFIRSTBANK.BANK • (800)349-2814 • FDIC**

**Write On. TRIBUNE**

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC, INC.**

**CARING FOR YOUR HEALTH**

- ✓ Adult Primary Care
- ✓ Pediatric Primary Care
- ✓ COPD and Asthma
- ✓ Adult & Pediatric Dentistry
- ✓ Behavioral Health Counseling
- ✓ Addiction Treatment
- ✓ Women's Health Care
- ✓ Immunizations & Onsite Labs
- ✓ Medication Assisted Treatment
- ✓ Hepatitis C Treatment
- ✓ Employment & School Physicals
- ✓ Evening & Urgent Care On-Call
- ✓ Accepting All Major Insurances
- ✓ Free STI Testing and Treatment
- ✓ Pregnancy Testing & Birth Control

**DIABETES CARE & MANAGEMENT**  
 DISCOUNT RX PROGRAM & INCOME-BASED FEES  
 ONSITE LABS, PODIATRY, PHYSICIANS

**NEW PATIENTS REGISTER HERE**

724.204.1801  
 218 South Maple Ave, Suite 102, Greensburg  
 CommunityHealthClinic.org

# Official: Impasse has already cost Derry Area \$30K

BUDGET · FROM A1

about \$3.5 million to \$4 million from its reserves to get by, he said.

The district has enough in its reserves to operate until late this year, Chappell said. "But there are certain obligations that we as districts just cannot simply put off," he said. "You cannot delay payroll and benefits."

Transportation costs, a \$2.6 million debt service payment due Oct. 1 and allocations to the Westmoreland Career and Technology Center also can't be put on hold, he said.

"We prepare and submit our budgets by June 30 of each year because we're required to do so," Chappell said. "We do so in thinking that we're going to be having our state monies come in. And so our local revenues for interest are dependent upon us having reserves and looking at cash flow."

"And now with the impasse heading into two months, I ran our figures. And the impasse has cost us over \$30,000 just in interest revenue over the first couple of months."

## 'We just can't keep draining our reserves'

If the impasse extends past

September, Clairton City School District may be forced to pause critical student programs, said Superintendent Tamara Allen-Thomas.

State and federal funding makes up 70% of the district's budget, she said. About \$150,000 in state funding, for example, supports the district's "Chill Space," a mental health program run by Allegheny Health Network staff.

"We have chronic absenteeism," Allen-Thomas said, "and so (AHN staff) partner with us to be able to continue that work, but not for free."

All of the district's students are eligible for free and reduced lunches and 30% are special education students, she said.

"We're talking about high-need students and communities that are in need of an educational experience that should be true, free and accessible for all," Allen-Thomas said.

"But at this time, when we get into September, October, (the budget impasse) will have a greater impact on our being able to deal with our salaries, as well as some of the programs that we have."

The budget impasse is further complicated by delays or

decreases in districts' federal funding, said Forest Area School District Superintendent Amanda Hetrick. The district spans Forest County and part of Venango and Elk counties.

Forest Area's Title 2 and Title 3 funding — used for tutoring, student programs and professional development — has been delayed. The \$500,000 the district previously received through the federal Secure Rural Schools program was not renewed last academic year, Hetrick said.

"We just can't keep draining our reserves without jeopardizing the district's future," Hetrick said.

## Educators back release of guaranteed funding

Matt Vannoy, board director for Sharon City School District in Mercer County, would like to at least see the state release districts' guaranteed funds, such as the homestead/farmstead exclusion dollars.

The exclusion provides a reduced property tax assessment to most primary residences. Sharon is expected to receive \$1.2 million through the exclusion this year, Vannoy said.

"We're fortunate that we have enough cash in the fund balance to kind of manage in the short term, but we are a district that relies heavily on state funding," Vannoy said, noting \$33 million of the district's \$49 million budget comes from the state.

"We could potentially have to do a tax revenue anticipation note or defer purchases as this continues."

Chappell cautiously supports a stopgap budget to help districts maintain operations — as long as it does not come at the loss of cyber charter tuition reform.

Pennsylvania's 500 public schools pay for students in their area to attend one of the state's 14 public cyber charters — a funding system that was developed in 2002.

Tuition rates vary throughout the state, ranging from \$7,600 per student to nearly \$29,000 per student, according to the state Department of Education. It is determined by a formula based on the school district's budgeted expenses from the year prior.

Gov. Josh Shapiro suggested in his proposed state budget setting an \$8,000 cyber charter tuition rate for regular education students.

The motion was pushed forward in late April by a bill out of the state House education committee. It has sat in the Senate since June.


Cyber charter leaders fear the move would enact significant funding cuts to the virtual schools, potentially forcing some of them to close.

But brick-and-mortar public school educators, including Chappell, see cyber charter costs as a burden to districts' budgets.

"If cyber charter reform is something that we hold near and dear and it has any chance of getting into this budget, and that prolongs this impasse a little bit," Chappell said, "I think it might be in the best interests of everybody if that (the budget) were to be delayed."

Quincey Reese is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at [qreese@triblive.com](mailto:qreese@triblive.com).

**Daniel A. Henry  
Elizabeth  
& Sedunov  
Henry**



Celebrating their  
69th Wedding  
Anniversary on  
August 18

Married in the  
S.S. Cyril & Methodius  
Orthodox Church in Jeannette

Blessed with 2 children,  
5 grandchildren &  
4 great grandchildren

adno=382972

# Widow skeptical of investigation

CLAIRTON PLANT · FROM A8

Regional Hospital. They were too late.

Revetta, another Power Piping employee like Doyle, was killed in the city where he grew up. He was 32.

His widow, still frustrated nearly 16 years after the explosion, told TribLive it took U.S. Steel administrators three days after the blast to call her.

A monthslong investigation followed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, a federal watchdog for American workplaces. OSHA has fined U.S. Steel at least three times since 2009 for unsafe working conditions at the 124-year-old coke plant, records show. But regulators did not cite or fine U.S. Steel for the blast that killed Revetta.

His family later settled a lawsuit with the company for an undisclosed sum.

Gismondi, the lawyer who represented Revetta, said aging equipment and bad monitoring devices triggered the 2009 explosion. He would not comment on what might have happened Monday.

Neither would U.S. Steel President David B. Burritt, who pledged the steelmaking giant will cooperate with a transparent, thorough investigation.

"We're not going to speculate. We're going to let the people do their work and support them," Burritt said in a prepared statement. "And we will take every step necessary to keep our people safe. Safety is and always will be our No. 1

priority — every shift, every day, every facility, always."

Revetta learned of the latest explosion through a Facebook post. One emotion dominated.

"It's the anger. The anger comes back — and all the fighting I had to do with U.S. Steel," said Revetta, 48, a public school teacher.

She questions what has changed or improved at the coke works since her husband's death.

"I'm hurting, just knowing what those families are going through," Revetta said. "(U.S. Steel is) saying now they're going to get to the bottom of this. But are they?"

Justin Vellucci is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at [jvellucci@triblive.com](mailto:jvellucci@triblive.com).



## GRAND OPENING

**AUGUST 20  
4:30-9:00PM**

Live music with The String Theory.



**3NATIVES.COM**  
@3NATIVESGREENSBURG

127 South Pennsylvania Avenue  
Downtown Greensburg

Hours starting August 21: 7am-9pm



**MT. PLEASANT  
WINDOW &  
REMODELING CO.**

**We Care!**

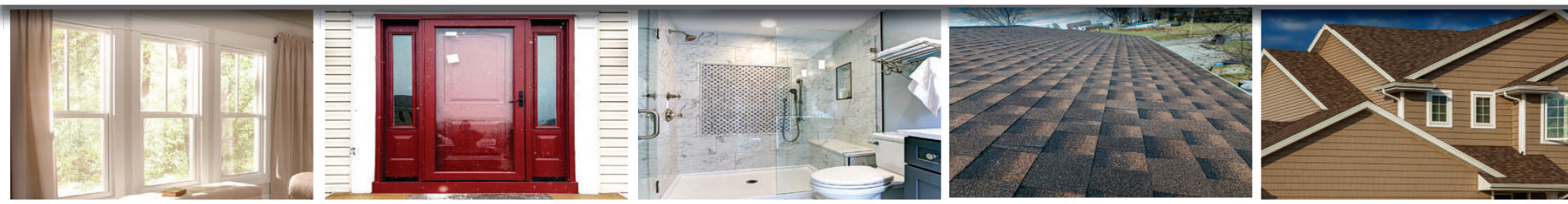
A+ rating  
PA#003495  
Google 4.8

We are Proud Partners!  
Central Westmoreland  
Habitat for Humanity

## 50 Years of Quality, Built on Trust, Driven by Satisfaction!



**See For Yourself Why So Many Satisfied Customers Choose Us!**  
Dedicated Customer Service • Certified Installers • Factory Direct



**Windows • Doors • Baths • Roofing • Siding**



**Ask Us About Our Affordable Financing Options!**

- No Interest Loans
- 100% Financing
- Easy Payments

**LIMITED TIME OFFER**

**10% off**

**Your Next Home Project**

Some restrictions apply. Valid on initial visit only. Not valid on prior sales or quotes. May not be used in conjunction with other offers/discounts. One discount per customer. **Expires 9/30/2025.**

**MTPLEASANTWINDOW.COM**

**Call Today 724-547-5445 For a FREE In-Home Consultation**

Tribune-Review

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA, LLC PUBLISHER  
 RICHARD M. SCAIFE (1932-2014) OWNER  
 LUIS FÁBREGAS EXECUTIVE EDITOR  
 ROB AMEN MANAGING EDITOR  
 KATIE GREEN BEN SCHMITT DEPUTY MANAGING EDITORS  
 TOM FONTAINE DIRECTOR OF POLITICS AND EDITORIAL STANDARDS  
 BILL HARTLEP SPORTS EDITOR

OVERFLOW CAPACITY

# Why are Pittsburgh college students staying in hotels and not dorms?

College students can take the dorm experience seriously.

You can't walk into Walmart or Target without hitting a wall of ready-for-campus furnishings and accessories. For many, the must-haves range from comforters and clothes baskets to microwaves and mini fridges. Social media is thick with inspiration pictures and decorating videos.

**This keeps happening even as universities face falling enrollment rates.**

But not every student gets that experience. Some universities are treating the school year like a plane bound for Vegas: they're overbooking.

That means alternative accommodations are being brought into service. Students are being housed in makeshift dormitories made by drafting unconventional spaces into service.

In Pittsburgh, it means checking in to a hotel room.

The University of Pittsburgh is overflowing with freshmen after a record number of applications. As a result, Pitt has leased space to put 400 of them in other locations. Some will be in apartments on Dithridge Street. Others will be staying at the Hampton Inn on Hamlet Street.

On top of that, Pitt is converting its own existing facilities to accommodate another 300 beds.

But Pitt's not alone. Point Park University is placing up to 90 freshmen at the Wyndham Grand hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh.

How does this happen? Students apply to more than one university and then weigh their options, picking the one that is the best fit. In turn, schools select more students than they need, knowing not every offer will be an admission. The problem? Sometimes more students than expected take the offer.

This keeps happening even as universities face falling enrollment rates.

In 2023, TribLive reported on huge declines in enrollment at Pitt and Penn State's branch campuses. The numbers were contrasted by increases at the flagships. At Pitt, branch enrollment was down 36% in 2022 from 2010, about 2,500 students. Penn State's branch enrollment was down by more than 10,000 students, about 30%.

Penn State may have addressed that this year by announcing the 2027 shuttering of several Commonwealth Campuses, including New Kensington and Fayette.

Point Park obviously doesn't have the alternative locations, but it also hasn't overshot the mark by the same margin as Pitt. It gives the impression that universities with broad, multi-campus reach are poaching from their own branches by overaccepting applications for their main campuses.

Maybe the solution to these overflow problems is better advertising the virtues of going to school in Greensburg or Johnstown.



©Taylor Jones - El Nuevo Dia

caglecartoons.com

LETTERS

## Raising minimum wage

In his op-ed "One Big Beautiful Bill a game-changer for Western Pa." (July 5, TribLive), U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly stated, "tax cuts were a boost for families who have been crushed by years of inflation." Yet, if you widen the lens a little, the average inflation rate over the past 25 years has been about 2.53%, not far from the Federal Reserve's recommended 2% target.

However, when examining wages, a different story emerges. Since 1979, wages for the top 1% have increased by 138% while wages for the bottom 90% have risen only 15%. For the majority of us, families have been hurt more by years of wage stagnation than inflation.

Multiple factors contribute to wage stagnation. One factor is government policies that favor corporate interests, such as deregulation, weak enforcement of labor laws, tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, limiting access to social safety net programs, non-compete clauses and a minimum wage that does not keep pace with inflation.

Our minimum wage has stayed at \$7.25 for 16 years. Kelly has con-

sistently voted against raising it. Increasing the minimum wage tends to have a ripple effect on other workers. Brookings reports that a minimum wage hike could boost the pay of up to 29.4% of our workforce.

Let's vote for government officials who will fight to raise the minimum wage and support the interests of working Americans.

Gloria Gralewski  
Manor

**Brookings reports that a minimum wage hike could boost the pay of up to 29.4% of our workforce.**

## Rifles in Pittsburgh parks an accident waiting to happen

Pittsburgh officials approved a major expansion of bow hunting in city parks ("Pittsburgh expands limited archery season in various city parks," July 15, TribLIVE). This expansion includes the use of high-powered rifles in some parks: "USDA-contracted marksmen conducted limited hunts in Frick and Riverview parks . . ." City officials have now approved the use of high-powered rifles in additional parks this year: "USDA-contracted shooters will cull (kill) additional deer in Schenley and Emerald View parks during overnight hours after the archery season wraps up."

The rifle typically used in these deer-killing programs is the .223 caliber bolt-action rifle with 55-grain bullets (some vendors use the AR-15 semi-

automatic assault rifle). The maximum range of the .223/55-grain ammunition is 2.20 miles. So, if there's a misfire, missed shot or ricochet, anyone within a 2.20-mile radius is in lethal danger.

The city calls this its "deer management program." I don't think there were any objective deer population studies, browsing impact studies or any studies showing a deer problem, nor established base lines, and so they can't assess the success or failure of this "program." It cost taxpayers \$100,000.

The use of high-powered rifles in Frick and other city parks is a serious safety threat and an accident waiting to happen.

George Nagle  
Mt. Lebanon

## DUI drivers who kill deserve life in jail

Jeffrey Glowatski, 65, who allegedly killed Roxanne Bonnoni, should spend the remainder of his life in jail ("Driver faces DUI, but not homicide charges in Natrona girl's death; family attorney reacts," Aug. 13, TribLive). Glowatski had no business on the road, but Roxanne did. Her life ended at 11 years but the person who killed her will live, maybe to keep on drinking and maybe to kill again.

This man needs to spend the rest of his life in jail and be buried in the jail's graveyard. Everyone in Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala's office who believes Glowatski should not be charged with DUI should also spend time in jail and be fired from their jobs. I'm sure they would not feel this way if Roxanne was their child.

Carl Felton  
Columbus, Ohio

The writer is a Seward native.

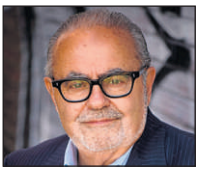
# Pittsburgh steel families built a nation

If you grew up in Pittsburgh or in one of the nearby steel towns, the deadly explosion at U.S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works last week — killing two workers and hospitalizing 10 — struck home. There are fewer mills now, but this tragedy is a reminder of the values and sacrifices that once were a part of all of our daily lives here and that still exist wherever steel is made.

JoJo Burgess, who works at the Clairton mill and is also the mayor of Washington, Pa., said, "We all know that we work in a dangerous environment, but people are devastated. Your work family is just as close as your own family and two of our union brothers didn't make it home that day." Steelmaking has always been hard and dangerous work. When I was boy, as

grandfathers and fathers and uncles and sons headed out the door with their lunch pails in hand, there were unspoken prayers that they would return in one piece. When they did return, they would wash up in the basement, have a good meal, catch some sleep and start over again the next day.

Inside the mill, men wore asbestos clothing and strapped thick wooden blocks to their shoes to keep the hot floor from melting their feet. Getting splashed with molten steel was not uncommon and nearly always deadly. A grandfather I never met was hit in the head by the swinging hook of an overhead crane and carried home to die. Few people are left who remember a "Braddock Sunrise," when the sky



JOSEPH SABINO MISTICK

above the Edgar Thomson Works turned bright orange — day or night — as molten steel poured from giant ladles. In the winter, the heat from that pour would warm you on the front stoop of my baba's Talbot Avenue rowhouse a block from the mill.

It is getting harder to find someone who had his first sip of beer with his grandfather at a steelworkers' bar like Carl's Corner Café on Braddock Avenue. A shot of harsh rye whiskey and a fishbowl of beer was one way to cut through the mill

dust after a shift. Some men stopped for a quick one before their shifts to brace themselves for the grind ahead.

Like many college students from our valley, I was lucky to get a summer job in a mill along the creek in the Hays neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The pay was good. The lessons from that summer were better. I doubled down on my studies after that and, most importantly, I gained a life-long respect for people who work real jobs, who work hard and dangerous jobs — people who make steel.

Making steel was important for our country. In the days after Pearl Harbor, steel production soared here and Pittsburgh became known as the "Arsenal of the Allegheny," playing a critical role in the victory of the Allies over

the Axis powers. Pittsburgh produced 95 million tons of steel for the war effort.

During the Cold War, when it was reported that Pittsburgh was one of the first targets for a Soviet Union nuclear strike, we were proud schoolkids. Steel was that important for freedom and liberty. And our families made steel.

Thomas Bell, in his 1941 novel "Out of This Furnace," described the struggles of three generations of a Slovak immigrant family of steelworkers that settled in Braddock. Just like today's immigrants, they were willing to do the toughest jobs. And just like today's steelworkers — men and women now — they built a nation.

Joseph Sabino Mistick can be reached at misticklaw@gmail.com.

LISA JARVIS

# Jump in colon cancer cases could actually be hopeful

New data shows a rise in colon cancer among adults ages 45-49. That's wonderful news.

Celebrating an increase in cancer rates might seem counterintuitive, but it comes amid a push for more screening of adults in this age group. And the result is more tumors are being caught in the early stages when the chances of survival are much higher — around 91%. The data is also validation of the importance of preventive care, which unfortunately is increasingly at risk in the Trump administration.

In the last decade, doctors have observed, with growing frequency, patients in their 30s and 40s showing up in their offices with colon cancer — and too often, it is being diagnosed only after the disease had already spread. In 2021, the troubling trend led the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force — an independent group that issues recommendations on preventive care — to lower the recommended screening age for average-risk individuals from 50 to 45.

New analyses from the American Cancer Society suggest that this change is already having an impact. Among people in their mid-to late 40s, colon cancer cases rose sharply between 2019 and 2022, following a modest, steady increase over the previous 15 years. The uptick was driven largely by a surge in early-stage tumors — a promising sign that the updated screening guidelines are working as intended.

The hope is to save lives — and also improve them. Early detection might spare patients from some of the worst side effects of treatment, which can be invasive for advanced stages of the disease.

Bringing those benefits to more people remains a work in progress. Although screening rates among 45- to 49-year-olds increased after the guidelines changed, only about a third of this group was up to date on screening by 2023. The medical community is now grappling with how best to encourage more people to begin testing at a younger age.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force plays an important role in Americans' health. The panel of volunteer experts in primary care has significant influence over the practice of medicine and access to care in the U.S.

Under the Affordable Care Act, any service the panel finds to have reasonable value must be covered by insurers without requiring a co-pay — a factor that can influence behavior. For example, even though the American Cancer Society in 2018 suggested colon cancer screening begin at 45, screening rates didn't markedly rise until the Preventive Services recommendation in 2021.

Yet Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is said to be planning to dismiss the task force, a move that public health experts fear could set back preventive care across the country.

The push to encourage more people to begin screening for colon cancer as soon as they are eligible faces additional obstacles. Although screening rates rose across all demographic groups by 2023, fewer than 14% of uninsured people in their mid-to-late 40s were up to date — a figure that's not surprising given that a colonoscopy costs, on average, more than \$2,400. Yet some 17 million Americans are expected to lose health insurance under President Donald Trump's new tax law.

Sensible policy changes have produced real gains in the fight against colon cancer. It's a shame that shortsighted, harmful decisions threaten to undermine that progress.

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry.



Baker Poole, 6, of Vintondale laughs with other kids while watching the Doc Magic Variety Show on July 17 at the Derry Township Agricultural Fair in New Derry.

SHANE DUNLAP TRIBLIVE

POINT

COUNTERPOINT

# How summer vacation became a burden, not a break

BY RANDALL BLOOMQUIST

Contrary to a widely held perception, public school summer vacations are not getting shorter. And that's a shame.

Despite some movement toward "balanced schedules" that include more breaks during the school year, summer vacations still average 10 weeks, unchanged from 20 years ago. Trimming back this mind-numbing break would improve our kids' scholastic performance and take an onerous burden off middle- and lower-income families.

The notion of the shrinking summer break stems from a growing shift in its timing. When I was a kid, summer vacation ran from early June to the day after Labor Day. This year, my daughter started school Aug. 4. A neighboring school district resumed classes July 31. School officials say the early start allows them to complete the semester and conduct final exams before the winter holiday. I suspect they also want to get their students prepped for the standardized testing that often takes place in the fall and can affect the school system's federal funding.

There is ample evidence lengthy summer breaks adversely affect learning. This "summer slide" may cost elementary school students 20 percent of their reading ability and 27% of their math skills, according to a 2020 study by educational consultants NWEA.

Another study found that kids from lower-income households slip further behind than their classmates from more affluent homes. Nine out of 10 teachers surveyed said they routinely had to re-teach material from the previous school year at the start of the new year.

In this era of global competition, it's worth noting summer breaks are among the longest in the world. In keeping with its grinder

culture, South Korea gives kids four weeks off. Students in the United Kingdom get six weeks, and there is some pressure to reduce that. Even the notoriously indolent French keep summer break to eight weeks. Our 10 weeks puts us in the company of such economic powerhouses as Italy, Portugal, Australia and Russia.

Proponents of the status quo often argue that these lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer give children a chance to "learn alternatively." This is a fancy way of saying today's youngsters will do all the things earlier generations of kids did to kill summer boredom — build tree forts and go-karts, ride bikes to a friend's house to play kick the can, and get into BB gun battles. That's nostalgia at its worst.

It's a struggle to get many of today's suburban kids off the sofa, let alone outside. The following is a 100% accurate non-ironic quote from my high school-age son: "Well, what am I supposed to do if I can't be on my phone? I honestly have no idea."

When children do leave the house, it's often under the ridiculous strictures and surveillance of hyper-vigilant and hyperventilating moms and dads. Thus, for most parents, summer has become an endless, exhausting, expensive exercise in providing enough supervised structure to keep kids off their digital devices and out of trouble.

For families with financial means, that typically means a week or two of vacation travel and several weeks of summer camp. Even with that level of investment, these parents will still be engaged in endless, losing, low-intensity warfare over screen time.

Interestingly, the affluent parents of an earlier generation gave us the current summer vacation model. While the labor needs of small farmers were a factor, it was early

20th-century urban dwellers with enough money to leave the sweltering cities for the summer who ultimately drove the implementation of a long break. By the time air conditioning became common in homes and schools, summer vacation was inextricably woven into American life.

Now, as then, families with fewer resources often struggle to find summer child care, relying on a patchwork of family members, babysitters, low-cost camps and missed workdays.

Sadly, we are unlikely to make the common-sense move to shorten summer break. The Vacation Industrial Complex is just too powerful. Resorts, camp operators, amusement parks, airlines and tour operators contribute mightily to the economy and have commensurate political juice. Example: three Maryland governors have attempted to ban pre-Labor Day school starts to protect businesses in the state's seaside tourist towns.

Of course, what happens at your house is always more important than what happens at the statehouse. Resolve next summer to create a "stop the slide" effort by scheduling time for reading and a few math worksheets. Students will still have plenty of time to complain about boredom and video game limits, and when school starts, they won't be quite so far behind those South Korean kids.

Randall Bloomquist, owner of Bloomquist Media, a writing and editorial services firm, wrote this for InsideSources.com.

# Save the summer break

BY JILL EPSTEIN

Who can forget George Gershwin's memorable song "Summer-time and the Living is Easy"? Summers meant picnics in the park, vacations, camping, lounging at the pool, jumping in the lake and reading favorite books.

That was then, this is now. Now, we have children attending academically focused summer programs or athletic camps designed to turn kids into elite athletes and everything in between.

Within the U.S. public school system, 15 percent of students participate in summer academic programs. Add to this, a whopping 97% of elite universities offer summer programs for high school and middle school students.

So began the dismantling of summer as we knew it. By sending kids to space camp, robotics camp and the like, we hope we are setting them up for the most successful life imaginable.

But are we? What is the cost of having too much structure, leaving less opportunity for downtime and family fun time? We may want to right the ship when, for example, covid-19 left significant damage to children's education. It is commonly understood that we now have a growing math crisis. We also know there is a decline in teen interest in STEM. Left unfixed, these deficiencies may have profound implications for technological innovation and the economy.

Changing the pace and tenor of historically relaxing summers comes at a cost. In 2025, when we feel the pressure to be the most efficient and productive individuals possible, we are in deep need of a break. A majority of adults (66%) in the workforce feel burned out and overworked. College students report higher burnout (80%), which they attribute to insufficient sleep, fear of failure and an uncertain path ahead. Not to be left out, teens are affected, too (81%), feeling stress about their appearance, social life, fitting in, fear of missing out and navigating relationships.

This toxic brew of anxieties and fatigue within families needs attention.

Sadly, we are unlikely to make the common-sense move to shorten summer break. The Vacation Industrial Complex is just too powerful.

The freedom to unwind and connect with loved ones, enjoy hobbies and relax might be just what the doctor ordered. And not just for kids but for adults, too.

Allowing unstructured time over the summer may be part of the remedy. The freedom to unwind and connect with loved ones, enjoy hobbies and relax might be just what the doctor ordered. And not just for kids but for adults, too, who similarly need to rejuvenate their tired minds and bodies. After all, a majority of adults (55%) are often on their computers at night when they are supposedly off duty.

In my family, every summer we went to the shores of Lake Michigan, swam to the buoy marking deep water and then high-fived it. Competitive doubles tennis games often followed. We would return to the grandparents' home, where we would struggle through a crossword puzzle together. We had many traditions that marked our family and refilled our tank before heading back to school in the fall.

It is helpful to remember that summer vacation was initially designed to help suit the agrarian calendar, where the farmer's children were needed for the harvest. As industrialization began, the need for summer labor was no longer. Since then, new needs have emerged.

Now, we feel the need to focus on personal health and maintaining quality relationships that anchor us in turbulent waters. Many studies have documented the prevalence of anxiety and depression in society today. Unstructured time, especially within the confines of summer, is the chance to say it's about health-up, not catch-up. Let's use this time to shore up our core.

Classic wisdom is that it takes two weeks to decompress from an over-packed, overstressed life fully. This makes the recent trend for families taking longer vacations good indeed. Surveys show families most often vacation in July, with 35% of those surveyed planning to be gone for 10-21 days. Spending time as a family in an unscripted, relaxed way is the surest sign of a real vacation.

The benefit of returning to summer as leisure time is that we stand a better chance of feeling rejuvenated. This allows us to be better at almost everything — from rediscovering our creativity to having more patience for those around us, to believing in our ability to solve challenging problems.

With this mindset, hanging out with loved ones, preferably near a body of water or a nearby mountain, we might find that it really is summertime and the living is easy.

Jill Epstein, editor of the "At My Pace" series of books and the founder of Sized Right Marketing, wrote this for InsideSources.com.

# As in 1939, America needs to waken from military slumber

"There was a story about a woman who had been asked to christen a Portland yard ship but arrived too late; it had already been launched. 'Just keep standing there, ma'am,' she was told, 'there'll be another along in a minute.'"

— Arthur Herman, "Freedom's Forge"



GEORGE WILL

In February 1900, a 20-year-old immigrant from Denmark arrived in New York, destitute of everything except his ambition to build bicycles. In Linz, Austria, that day, the son of Alois and Klara Hitler was 10. He became an aspiring but untalented artist who would find another career.

The immigrant and the Austrian never met, but their lives intersected in a way pertinent to today. U.S. military aid for Ukraine has been inhibited by this: Our nation, which faces global challenges from two near-peer adversaries, has chosen to not have an adequate defense industrial base.

It was similarly unprepared in the late 1930s. Then it chose to be as serious as the darkening world was. In his exhilarating 2012 book, historian Herman, now at the Hudson Institute, tells how the nation magnificently marshaled its talents for making things, and saved civilization.

By 1937, the Danish immigrant, William Knudsen, had risen from the factory floor to the apex of the automobile industry as General Motors' president. On May 28, 1940, as France was falling, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called: "I want you to work on some production matters." That bland job description disguised Knudsen's

task of turning the Army, then barely larger than that of the Netherlands, and the rest of the U.S. military from a small, somnolent and technologically stagnant force into an emanation of U.S. industrial might.

When in 1940 FDR vowed production of 50,000 planes a year (the Army Air Corps then had about 1,700, most of them small and old), Hitler scoffed: "What is America but beauty queens, millionaires, stupid records, and Hollywood." "He was," Herman writes, "about to find out."

By 1945, American white-collar business executives and engineers, and properly valorized blue-collar workers, had produced two-thirds of all the Allies' war matériel: 86,000 tanks, 2.5 million trucks, 286,000 planes, 8,800 naval vessels, 5,600 merchant ships, 434 million tons of steel, 2.6 billion machine guns, 41 billion rounds of ammunition, etc. Working at frenzied paces,

often in hastily improvised workplaces with dangerous equipment and red-hot rivets, Herman writes, "workers in war-related industries in 1942-43 died or were injured in numbers twenty times greater than the American servicemen killed or wounded during those same years."

In 1939, the U.S. steel industry had its lowest capacity in 20 years, and the shipbuilding industry was producing four vessels a month. But in late 1939, a woman who had lived in Pittsburgh for most of a decade saw smoke billowing from nearby hills. She called the police, who said: "That's no fire lady. Them's the mills." The giant was awakening.

With the indefatigable Knudsen setting the tone and pace, in mere months, U.S. industrialists planted shipyards and steel mills on mudflats and empty fields. In four years, the Richmond yard near San Francisco launched 747 prefabricated ships.

Herman says this was the fruit of "spontaneous order": "It was the most powerful and flexible system of wartime production ever devised, because in the end no one devised it." This "industrial exuberance" sprang from the nimble adaptability of America's market economy.

Today, Vladimir Putin's aggression against Ukraine is rousing European nations from their military slumbers. For example, Germany now has the world's fourth-biggest defense budget and has loosened debt restraints for defense spending to become kriegstüchtig — war-ready, in the defense minister's terminology.

The United States is not ready. The Economist reports, "At current rates of procurement it will take seven years to bring America's ammunition stocks back to where they were before military aid to Ukraine began." In a Washington think tank's

2023 war game simulating a conflict with China over Taiwan, the U.S. inventory of long-range missiles was exhausted in three weeks.

The Economist also reports that in 2022, just after Russia attacked Ukraine, Poland ordered "a big batch" of U.S. Abrams tanks from the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Ohio, which since 1942 has been the main U.S. factory for armored vehicles. America no longer makes completely new Abrams tanks. Instead, the JSMC "refurbishes stripped-back hulls and turrets from old models, which are kept in storage in Alabama." Refitting one tank takes about two years. Poland has yet to receive most of the Abrams tanks it ordered three years ago.

Poland needs tanks. The United States needs a new Knudsen.

George Will is a columnist for The Washington Post and can be reached at georgewill@washpost.com.

# Smaller projects plentiful this week

ROADWORK · FROM A3

County during the week beginning Monday:

- Paving will take place on Donohoe and North Greengate roads in Hempfield.
- A pavement preservation surface treatment will be applied on Second Avenue and Lower, Mars Hill and Herminie-West Newton roads in Sewickley Township; Turner Valley and Guffey roads in North Huntingdon.
- An inlet will be repaired on North Greengate Road in Hempfield.
- Pipes and box culverts will be installed on Wilpen Road in Ligonier Township and Laughner Road in Fairfield.
- Parallel ditching will take place on Catalina Farm Road in East Huntingdon.
- Shoulder cutting will take place on Pellis, Slate Run, Willow Crossing and Bailey Farm-White School roads — all in Hempfield.

Crews will pick up litter, replace road signs and perform other tasks on various routes countywide. Motorists should anticipate potential detours, lane restrictions and flaggers in work areas. Residents can call PennDOT toll-free at 800-349-7623 to report road maintenance concerns and the locations of dead deer on state highways.

Jeff Himler is a TribLive staff writer.

# LEGACY TO ENDURE

Remembrance of Officer Shaw supports new generations of police

BY BRIAN C. RITTMAYER

An annual motorcycle ride held in memory of a New Kensington police officer is helping put new generations of officers on the street.

About 1,000 people with 600 motorcycles participated Saturday in the eighth annual Officer Brian Shaw Memorial Scholarship Ride, which funds scholarships for cadets attending the Allegheny County Police Academy.

Shaw was 25 when he was shot and killed during a traffic stop Nov. 17, 2017.

The 63-mile ride, beginning and ending at the Pittsburgh Shrine Center in Harmar, traveled through much of the Alle-Kiski Valley.

It went past New Kensington City Hall, where a memorial to Shaw stands. Riders passed under a flag held over 11th Street by ladder fire trucks from New Kensington and Arnold.

About 200 motorcycles were registered in advance, with



BRIAN C. RITTMAYER | TRIBLIVE

Participants in the eighth annual Officer Brian Shaw Memorial Scholarship Ride pass under a flag over 11th Street in New Kensington on Saturday.

another 400 showing up.

"It was a great ride. We loved to see the turnout," Jackie Shaw, Brian Shaw's sister-in-law, said to the crowd after the ride. "This is all in memory of Brian. We're grateful for every one of you."

The Shaw Foundation awards

two \$8,000 scholarships each year that fully cover the tuition and other costs for a cadet to attend each of the academy's two sessions, said Eric Felack, a spokesman for the ride.

The academy averages 25 to 45 cadets in each 23-week class,

which start in January and July, said Lt. Brett Whittenberger, academy director.

"I can't think of a better way to honor Brian and his sacrifice than to be here today and have this scholarship for a worthy cadet," Whittenberger said. "We don't ever want to forget Brian and what he did and what he gave, because he gave it all."

There are currently 44 cadets in the program, the most since 2013, Whittenberger said.

The ride raises \$35,000 to \$40,000 each year, Felack said.

Much of that money comes from the basket raffle, which this year included a jersey autographed by Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Paul Skenes, a football signed by former Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and a jersey autographed by hockey great Phil Esposito.

Brian C. Rittmeyer is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at btrittmeyer@triblive.com.

**THOMAS TOURS & TRAVEL** 1-800-473-1551 • 724-337-9000  
www.thomastours.com  
763 Carl Ave. New Kensington, PA 15068

M-F 9-5 • Sat 9-1

**Jan 27 - 29, 2026 Something New, Something Different, A Land Cruise-Berlins, OH-VIP Package.....\$777**  
All meals, snacks, Souvenir T-shirt, Unlimited non-alcoholic drinks, Shows, Entertainment and much more!!

**Sept 5 Flight 93 & Quecreek Mine, Shanksville** - Tour Memorial, Tower of Voices, Tour Quecreek Mine, Lunch.....\$127

**Oct 4 Franklin Apple Festival** - Over 350 food & craft vendors, farmer's market and entertainment..... \$60

**Oct 12 "Six" @ Benedum** The Six Wives of Henry VIII-Energetic, show with uplifting atmosphere. Great seats! Dinner .....\$257

**Oct 18 Gateway Clipper Fall Foliage** - Cruise the scenic view of fall colors, luncheon buffet & entertainment.....\$140

**Oct 18 Christmas in the Woods, Columbiana, OH** - An Old Fashion Festival. Quality crafters,holiday items, food ..... \$89

**Oct 23 Neil Diamond Tribute @ Palace Theater** - Will Chambers has been performing this concert since 2002. Dinner ..\$167

**Oct 30 Murder Mystery, Columbiana OH** - Das Dutch Haus, Solve the mystery - be part of the show. Luncheon Buffet.....\$167

**Nov 1 Holiday Tara, Sharon, PA** - Lunch & Tour of Tara-Old South style mansion. Wendal August Forge, Dafin's & Kraynak's...\$112

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNTS ON MULTIDAY TOURS BEFORE THEY ARE GONE!**

**Sept 8-11 Nashville, TN** - Downtown hotel, City Tour, Gen. Jackson Lunch Cruise/Show, Paula Deen's Kitchen.....\$1677  
Grand Ole Opry back stage tour & show, Country Music Hall of Fame, Studio B Tour, Ryman Auditorium & more! 7 Meals.

**Sept 12-14 New York City, Statue of Liberty/Ellis Isl.** - Manhattan, 911 Memorial, Little Italy & More, 4 Meals.....\$774

**Sept 21-27 Bar Harbor, ME** - Guided Sightseeing tours from York to Portland, Kennebunkport, Bar Harbor, .....\$2247  
Nature Cruise, Acadia National Park, L.L. Bean, 6 nights, 10 Meals including a lobster dinner.

**Sept 29-Oct 2 Hudson Valley Tour** - Fishkill, NY - Boscobel Home/Garder, Cruise on the Hudson, Vanderbilt Mansion .....\$1297  
Brotherhood Winery, FDR's Springwood Home/Garden, Library/Museum, Culinary Institute of America, West Point, 9 Meals.

**Oct 11-17 Cape Cod, MA** - Plymouth, Sandwich Village-Glass Museum & demo, Hyannis, Martha's Vineyard .....\$2297  
Nantucket Cruise & Island Tour, Whale Watching Cruise, Outer Cape & Provincetown, Mohegan Sun-\$40 food, 11 Meals (lobster dinner)

**Oct 26-28 Gettysburg** - Beyond the Battle, Farnsworth House Cellar-Ghostly Images Story Teller, Battlefield Tour.....\$627  
Schriver & Jennie Wade Houses, Ghostly Story Teller-Sachs Bldg/Gettysburg Campus, Hollabaugh Fruit Farm/Mkt, 4 Meals

**Nov 9-12 Turning Stone Resort & Casino, Verona, NY & Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino, Salamanca, NY** .....\$577  
Turning Stone - 2 nights, \$60 slot play / \$30 Food. Seneca - 1 night \$60 slot play / \$25 Food. \$175 Total Bonus Value

**MEADOWS CASINO - Wednesdays - Aug 20, Sept 17, Oct 15** - Bonus \$25 slot play.....\$33

**Aug 24-28 Atlantic City Resorts Casino** - End of Summer Fun - Beach & Boardwalk. Bonus \$40 Slot Play \$80 Food Voucher.....\$632

**Aug 27-29 or Sept 17-19 Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino** - Bonus \$100 Slot Play & \$40 Food Voucher.....\$347 or \$327

**Oct 5-8 Atlantic City Resorts Casino** - Autumn on the Boardwalk. Bonus \$30 Slot Play \$60 Food Voucher .....\$457

## Summer IS HERE!

**WILL YOUR SYSTEM MAKE IT THROUGH ANOTHER YEAR?**

**CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE AND FRIENDLY ESTIMATE!**

**Financing Available!**

**Mullen Refrigeration Service**  
HEATING COOLING SINCE 1959

**724-537-7203**  
**WWW.MULLENREFRIGERATION.COM**

adno=380233\_V3

SINCE 1950

PRICES GOOD: AUG 17TH - AUG 23RD, 2025

## Authentic Italian

— MARKETPLACE —

jeannette.delallo.com  
724.523.6577  
6390 Route 30, Jeannette, PA 15644

**STORE HOURS**  
Sunday - Saturday  
8 AM - 6 PM

# HALF PRICE SALE!

DELALLO

## GERMAN HARD SALAMI

OR

## GENOA SALAMI

ONLY

# \$4.99

LB.  
sliced or by the piece

SHREDDED CHEESE BLEND

## 50% PROVOLONE

## 50% MOZZARELLA

# \$2.98

lb.  
limit 5 lbs.

DELALLO PREMIUM

# PASTA SAUCE

1/2 PRICE SALE

# \$1.98

24 oz. jars  
Reg. \$3.99 ea.

Choose from 8 varieties!

**PIZZA PIZZA! LET'S MAKE PIZZA!**

OUR MADE FRESH DAILY HOMEMADE PIZZA SAUCE **\$2.98** 14 oz. cont.

DELALLO PIZZERIA STYLE PIZZA SAUCE **2/\$5** 14 oz. jars.

DELALLO SLICED PEPPERONI **\$2.98** 6 oz. pkg.

DELALLO PEPPER RINGS

SAVE \$2.00 → DELALLO HOT HONEY **\$5.98** 7.7 oz. btl. Reg. \$7.98 ea.

DELALLO IMPORTED ITALIAN PIZZA DOUGH KIT **\$3.99** MAKES 2 - 12" PIZZA SHELLS 17.6 oz. pkg.

DELALLO

## ITALIAN EGGS

EXTRA LARGE

# \$2.98

doz.

# \$3.69

doz.

JUMBO

DELALLO

## SALAD DRESSINGS

# \$3.98

12 oz. btl.

**NEW! NEW! NEW!**

DELALLO CHILI CRISP

# \$2.98

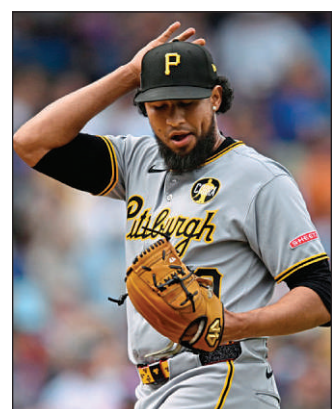
1 lb. pkg.

FRESH PIZZA DOUGH

adno=383499



Steelers defensive back Juan Thornhill (left) takes down Tampa Bay running back Bucky Irving for a loss in the first quarter Saturday.



Pirates reliever Yohan Ramirez reacts after giving up an RBI double during the eighth inning.

**CUBS 3, PIRATES 1**

## Pirates fail to come through

*Burrows limits Cubs to 1 run, but offense can't repeat late heroics*

BY KEVIN GORMAN

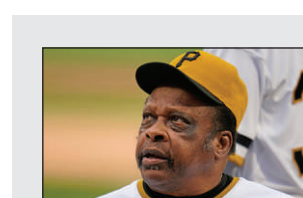
The Pittsburgh Pirates finally cracked the code against Chicago Cubs lefty Shota Imanaga, and rookie right-hander Mike Burrows rose to the moment by getting out of a bases-loaded jam to keep the score even.

But the Cubs came through in the clutch, breaking a tie by scoring two runs in the eighth inning against the Pirates' bullpen. This time, the Pirates had no ninth-inning magic.

A day after Jack Suwinski hit the game-winning home run to beat the Cubs, the Pirates stranded runners in each of the final four innings in a 3-1 loss Saturday afternoon before 40,062 at Wrigley Field.

The Pirates snapped a 22-inning scoreless streak against Imanaga, who retired the first 10 batters he faced before Tommy Pham sent a 1-0 splitter 428 feet to clear the left-field bleachers and land on Waveland Avenue for his sixth home run, a solo shot that gave the Pirates a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning.

PIRATES • B2



### Coming home

AI Oliver hopes induction into Pirates Hall of Fame opens doors to Cooperstown. **B2**

**PLUS**

» Week ahead, Q&A, prospect watch **B2**

# BIG POTENTIAL

BY JOE RUTTER

Roman Wilson provided optimism Saturday night that the Pittsburgh Steelers may have a capable No. 2 wide receiver this season.

The second-year wideout, who missed all but a handful of snaps last season, caught two passes for 72 yards in the Steelers' 17-14 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Acrisure Stadium.

Chase McLaughlin's 42-yard field goal as time expired snapped a 14-14 tie for the Bucs.

Wilson caught a 42-yard pass from Mason Rudolph on the third series, setting up the offense at the Tampa Bay 21. On the final play of the quarter, with backup Skylar Thompson in the game at quarterback, Wilson had a 30-yard catch.

It was a nice building block for Wilson, who had two catches for 20 yards in the preseason opener. And his contributions were welcomed for a team that had a glaring weakness at the No. 2 receiver spot last season and continued in the offseason when former top threat George Pickens was traded to the Dallas Cowboys.

## WR Wilson flashes playmaking ability in preseason loss to Bucs

With Calvin Austin III sitting out again with an abdominal injury, Wilson started for the second time in the preseason as top receiver DK Metcalf sat out again.

Among other players making their debuts at Acrisure Stadium, first-round pick Derrick Harmon had a sack in the first half, and third-rounder Kaleb Johnson broke off a 14-yard run in the second quarter and totaled 50 yards on 11 carries.

Johnson, though, didn't get a single carry in the first quarter when the first-team offensive line (minus Isaac Seumalo) was in the game.

Rudolph played three series, though he was on the field for just eight plays. He completed 3 of 5 attempts for 46 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

He also ran once for 7 yards.

The Bucs capitalized on Rudolph's interception on the first series to take a 7-0 lead.

Zyon McCollum stepped in front of Wilson and picked off Rudolph on the Steelers' second play from scrimmage. His return gave the Bucs the ball at the Steelers 48.

McLaughlin booted an apparent 43-yard field goal, but the Bucs were given a fresh set of downs when D'Shawn Jamison roughed the kicker.

Two plays later, Teddy Bridgewater lofted a 15-yard touchdown pass to running back Bucky Irving. Payton Wilson, cited as one of the team's best linebackers in coverage, was beaten on the play.

Another gaffe by the special teams set the stage for Tampa

### INSIDE

» Madden: Johnson should start at RB **B4**

» Herbig suffers injury **B4**

## Foote opines on hype of this year's 'D'



Former Steelers linebacker Larry Foote is a defensive assistant for Tampa Bay.

You could see the attempt at diplomacy oozing through Larry Foote's wry smile when he was posed with the question in the visitors' tunnel at Acrisure Stadium:

Could the 2025 Pittsburgh Steelers defense measure up to the great units you played on during the 2005, '08 and '10 Super Bowl runs? Could it even be "one of the best of all time?"

That's what new Steelers safety Juan Thornhill said during training camp. Coach Mike Tomlin didn't exactly throw water on



TIM BENZ

the notion a week later on 102.5 FM when he said this defense could end up doing "historic" things.

"They've definitely got talent. But I'm always going to say we were the best. I'm always arguing with people all the time about that, especially online. I always think we got overlooked because of the Steelers defenses in the '70s, '80s and even '90s," Foote said. "But they've got 17 games to go prove it."

Taking that quote to Foote as a player would've gotten a much different reaction. Now 45, as a linebackers coach for the

BENZ • B4

# LB Louis eager to spearhead Panthers' turnaround

Leader of Pitt's 'Sharks,' All-American among nation's top players at position

BY JUSTIN GUERRIERO

Kyle Louis enters his redshirt junior year at Pitt having been named to the preseason watch lists of just about every applicable defensive award in college football.

The Butkus Award, Bronko Nagurski Trophy, Walter Camp Player of the

Year, Chuck Bednarik Award, Lombardi Award — Louis will be in play for every one.

That's the stage Louis' 101-tackle (15.5 for loss), seven-sack campaign last fall set for himself heading into 2025.

Pitt has never had a Butkus Award winner, honoring the nation's top linebacker.

Being included on the award's watch list didn't surprise Louis,



who, when asked about making the cut, promptly shifted attention to the inclusion of his position mate, Rasheem Biles.

"It was already expected," Louis said. "I'm more so happy that me and (Biles)

were on the watch list. Now it's on the two of us — one of us has to bring it back to this team. That's probably the main mindset for me and (Biles). Outside

of just winning, as long as you win, the people that vote for that kind of stuff are going to be more likely to choose one of us."

Coach Pat Narduzzi has had Louis in his program going on four seasons.

In that time, Narduzzi has



"I know there's going to be a play where the offense has to change it up and come my way at some point, so I'm going to be ready."

PITT • B5

# BUCS BEAT



CHRISTOPHER HORNER | TRIBLIVE

Al Oliver acknowledges the crowd during a ceremony to recognize the 1971 World Series champions in 2016.

## 'I STAY READY' Oliver hopes induction into Pirates Hall opens doors to Cooperstown



### FULLCOUNT

Written by Kevin Gorman, Full Count is a weekly feature on the Pirates and MLB.

Al Oliver finally got the Hall call he was waiting for — not the one everyone talks about — and treated it with the same approach he did when a pitch he liked came across the plate.

Oliver knows if he's ever going to be elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, he first had to be inducted into the Pittsburgh Pirates Hall of Fame. That honor comes Friday in a 2025 class that includes KiKi Cuyler and Vernon Law, and Oliver hopes it's one that could open the door for him to get a plaque in Cooperstown.

"They asked me if I was ready. Of course, I am ready. I stay ready," Oliver told TribLive. "I've always been that way, to accept things as they are and, sometimes, not as you'd like for them to be. As it's gotten closer, I have become more into it now and what it really means. It means that I am where I should be — and that's a Pirate."

Oliver believes the Pirates were the perfect place for him to play the first 10 seasons of an 18-year major-league career, not just because of the talent that surrounded him but the blue-collar town he lived in. Where Portsmouth, Ohio, had the brickyards, Pittsburgh had the steel mills.

A seven-time All-Star and 1982 National League batting champion who won the World Series with the 1971 Pirates, Oliver was often overshadowed by his Hall of Fame teammates. There was Roberto Clemente, Bill Mazeroski, Willie Stargell and Dave Parker with the Pirates; Ferguson Jenkins and Gaylord Perry with the Texas Rangers; and Gary Carter, Andre Dawson and Tim Lincecum with the

Montreal Expos.

"I wasn't a publicized major leaguer, and people always wondered why," Oliver said. "It wasn't because I played with those guys. I was a guy that kept rallies going, was able to hit in the clutch and helped the Pirates win games. Usually when a guy does that — gets key hits — it shouldn't make any difference who I played with. It came down to those guys were publicized players — and should have been — but I feel and know at times that a lot of players got more publicity than I did but I was just important because I helped them win games. That's the thing that was overlooked."

Oliver's career slash line — .303/.344/.451 — is Hall-worthy. Not only did he have more hits (2,743) than Parker (2,712), but it's a bit surprising to see that "Scoop" also had more doubles (529-526) and triples (77-75) than the "Cobra" and the same OPS+ (121).

Oliver never got much of a chance from the Baseball Writers Association of America voters. In his first year of eligibility, he was one of 48 candidates on the ballot and received only 4.3% of the vote. That was it, a one-and-done. In 2008, he got another shot but received 14.1% of the vote from the Veterans Committee, far short of the 75% needed.

If Oliver had 3,000 hits to go with his .303 batting average, he would have received a rubber stamp. That his career ended 257 hits shy of the benchmark can be traced to the collusion that prevented him from playing in 1986. Oliver was awarded \$680,031.05 in damages, but that's not fair compensation for what it has cost him.

Former Pirates pitcher Jim Rooker believes Oliver was capable of hitting 300 home runs. Instead, he hit 219 while concentrating on chasing batting crowns. Rooker said Oliver hated hearing the baseball phrase "get 'em next time," preferring to get a hit every time. And if MLB tracked exit velocities back then, Rooker wonders how Oliver's would have compared to power hitters like Stargell and Parker.

"Nobody hit the ball harder day after day after day like Al did. It amazed me,"

Rooker said. "I loved to watch him hit. He had a short stride, lifted his leg up a little bit. He was so locked in. ... As a hitter, you just loved his approach, how he could lock in and hit the ball consistently so hard. He was more of a line-drive hitter. Had he wanted to be a home run hitter, he could have hit 30-40 a year. But I think the batting average was more important to him. He was just a damn good hitter."

From his days of Little League to the big leagues, Oliver always barreled the ball. The way he reasoned it, there weren't too many hits in the air. His style complemented those of Clemente, Stargell and Parker. And, somewhat surprisingly, Oliver had more stolen bases (84) than Clemente (83) even though he learned early on not to steal when hitting in front of Stargell because opponents would then walk the slugger. Stealing bases was stealing swings from Stargell, which was counterproductive.

"I never had to worry about .300. Hitting was a gift for me that I never had to work at," said Oliver, who topped that average in 11 of the 16 seasons in which he played 100 games or more. "Rook was right. I could have hit more home runs and still hit .300, but I enjoyed hitting those line drives. I always joked with the guys and said, 'The infielders need to put their chest protectors on, and the outfielders needed to put their track shoes on.' ... That was the style of hitting that was successful for me and the team, so I don't feel bad about it at all."

What Oliver feels good about is that his family — son Aaron, daughter Felisa and his grandchildren — will all be together for the first time in a long time to celebrate at PNC Park. If his Pirates Hall of Fame induction leads to another in Cooperstown, Oliver welcomes it. If not, he's still thrilled to be honored by the team with which he won a World Series.

"It all comes down to this: They're bringing me back to the city that I left that was known as the City of Champions," Oliver said. "That's what it means to me. I'm coming back home."

Kevin Gorman is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at kgorman@triblive.com.

## The week ahead



vs. Blue Jays

6:40 p.m. Monday (SN PIT)

6:40 p.m. Tuesday (SN PIT)

12:35 p.m. Wednesday (SN PIT)

• The Blue Jays arrive at PNC Park aiming to strengthen their first-place position atop the AL East. The club will likely have the help of designated hitter George Springer, who had been sidelined for all of August because of a concussion but cleared protocol late last week. Springer is in his fifth season with Toronto and is slashing .291/.383/.506 with 18 home runs and 57 RBIs. This season, Blue Jays pitchers have a 4.25 ERA, ranking 21st in baseball.



vs. Rockies

6:40 p.m. Friday (SN PIT)

6:40 p.m. Saturday (SN PIT)

12:05 p.m. Sunday (Roku)

• The Pirates will aim to secure some redemption against MLB's worst team after an embarrassing three-game series in Denver from Aug. 1-3. Game 1 of that series saw the Pirates take a 9-0 first-inning lead only for the Rockies to chip away, score seven runs in the eighth and ninth innings and win in walk-off fashion 17-16. Colorado owns an MLB-worst 6.00 team ERA, allowing the most hits (1,272) and batting average against (.300). A rare bright spot on the pitching staff has been 31-year-old reliever Jimmy Herget, who is 1-2 with a 2.81 ERA over 43 games and 64 innings.

## Bucs Q&A



CHRISTOPHER HORNER | TRIBLIVE

### Henry Davis, catcher

You deked Miguel Andujar on a 9-4-2 play at the plate against the Cincinnati Reds on Aug. 8. What's the key to selling a deke?

I don't know. My head coach in college (Dan McDonnell) told us to do it because there's no reason to react early. It doesn't help you field the ball better. There's even a highlight of it on YouTube, where a guy flipped over one of my teammates at Louisville. If you get them to slow up, you've got a better shot of getting them out.

What was it like to get that one against the Reds?

It was fun. Anytime you do that, you feel like that's the margin. Hustling down the line, making a clean relay, playing good fundamental baseball can help us win close games.

Did you think Liover Peguero's throw to you would be so perfect?

Not necessarily. Sometimes they'll long-hop it. Sometimes they'll throw it in the air. It's a lot easier to deke if it's in the air. It was a good throw. Two good throws. Jack (Suwinski) got to the ball really quickly and threw it in. Peggy made a seamless transition on his throw. I really thought Peggy did a great job getting it in with an absolute strike to the plate.

What is it like to see the runner's reaction?

It's funny. Sometimes you'll see them react like they had no idea. (Andujar) glanced at the throw, so I think he had an idea it was coming to the plate. Even just the timing of their slide can throw it off sometimes.

Is there a degree of difficulty to the deke?

It's not that hard. You just stand there. It's just what I've done for the last seven years of my career. I started learning it in 2018 when I got to campus. It's kind of about not rushing it. You feel him breathing down your neck, and you know it's a run. The game is on the line always. You never know what run is going to be the game. It's just a matter of not rushing it.

You still have to brace for a collision, right?

There's still contact. They're just not allowed to crush you.

Would you have liked to play in the days of home plate collisions?

I did. I got flipped in high school once. It's not fun. You're just wearing it.

How do you prioritize what to work on as a catcher?

There's work that goes into anything that can help the team win. You want to make an impact any way you can. Obviously, you have pitch calling, and then you work down from there. You've got to protect 90 feet. You can't let a guy steal. You can't let a ball get by you.

What area of your defense do you need to work on the most?

Probably game calling. Working with the pitchers, understanding how to help them succeed. I do feel like as I've consistently worked to have a good well-rounded game behind the plate, everything has steadily increased to where I'm consistent behind the plate.

— Kevin Gorman

## Triolo records 2 hits for Bucs in loss

PIRATES • FROM B1

It was the only run Imanaga allowed in seven innings after giving up three hits and two walks while striking out six. Leadoff batter Jared Triolo (2 for 4) was the only Pirates hitter to get multiple hits against the Cubs.

"You see the fastball. It doesn't show up on the radar gun as high, high velocity, but it plays up," Pirates manager Don Kelly said of Imanaga on the SportsNet Pittsburgh postgame show. "When he can pitch off of that and throw his split, location was really good. Then he throws you off big-time when he throws the slider. We had some decent at-bats. Tommy got him, Tri had some good swings. Just not enough."

The Cubs answered in the bottom of the fourth with the only run they scored against Burrows, who was removed after giving up five hits and two walks with four strikeouts on 68 pitches in five innings.

Kyle Tucker singled to right, advanced to second on Pete Crow-Armstrong's walk and scored on a single through the middle by Carson Kelly to tie it. With a full count, Burrows threw a changeup on the black in the lower-inside corner that was called a ball against Ian Happ to load the bases.

That brought a mound visit from pitching coach Oscar Marin before Burrows faced Nico Hoerner. With a big crowd and Thunderbirds flying overhead for an air show, there were plenty of distractions.

"It was just a big moment," Burrows said. "I knew where we were at in the game. It was a 1-1 game, so it was frustrating to not get the call."

CUBS 3, PIRATES 1									
	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.		
Pirates	4	0	2	0	0	1	.193		
Triolo ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.264		
Pham lf	3	1	1	1	1	0	.242		
Reynolds rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.274		
Gonzales 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.241		
McCutchen dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.243		
Bart c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.208		
Peguero 1b	3	0	1	0	0	2	.256		
a-Horwitz ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.195		
Canario cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.267		
Kiner-Falefa 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1			
Totals	32	1	5	1	2	11			
CHICAGO									
	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.		
Busch 1b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.265		
Tucker rf	4	2	2	0	0	1	.265		
Suzuki dh	4	1	2	1	0	0	.251		
Crow-Armstrong cf	1	0	0	0	1	1	.259		
Kelly c	4	0	1	1	0	1	.269		
Happ lf	2	0	0	0	2	0	.225		
Hoerner 2b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.294		
Swanson ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.248		
Shaw 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.229		
Totals	30	3	9	3	3	6			
Pirates	000	100	000	-	1	5	0		
Chicago	000	100	02x	-	3	9	0		

a-struck out for Peguero in the 9th.  
**LOB**—Pirates 6, Chicago 8. **2B**—Triolo (9), Hoerner (20).  
**HR**—Pham (6), off Imanaga. **RBI**s—Pham (34), Kelly (39), Suzuki (86), Hoerner (48). **SB**—Kelly (1), Triolo (7), Tucker (25). **S**—Crow-Armstrong. **Runners left in scoring position**—Pirates 4 (Horwitz, Reynolds 2, Canario); Chicago 5 (Swanson 2, Hoerner 3). **RISP**—Pirates 0 for 4; Chicago 3 for 9. **Runners moved up**—Pham. **GDP**—Shaw, Tucker. **DP**—Pirates 2 (Peguero, Triolo, Peguero; Kiner-Falefa, Gonzales, Peguero).  
**Pirates** IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA  
 Burrows 5 5 1 1 2 4 68 4.46  
 Nicolas 2 1 0 0 0 1 25 6.55  
 Sisk, L, 0-1 1/3 2 2 2 0 0 6 20.25  
 Ramirez 1/3 1 0 0 1 1 10 7.02  
**Chicago** IP H R ER BB SO NP ERA  
 Imanaga 7 3 1 1 2 6 85 3.06  
 Kirtledge, W, 1-1 1 1 0 0 0 2 15 6.00  
 B.Keller, S, 1-4 1 1 0 0 0 3 20 2.48  
**Inherited runners-scored**—Ramirez 1-1. **IBB**—off Ramirez (Happ). **HBP**—Nicolas (Crow-Armstrong).  
**Umpires**—Home, Tony Randazzo; First, Phil Cuzzi; Second, Clint Vondrak; Third, Brock Ballou.  
**T**—2:15. **A**—40,062 (41,363).

Problem was, the Pirates never got the lead back.

Imanaga stranded runners in scoring position in the sixth and seventh innings. Triolo hit a two-out double and Pham walked in the sixth, only for Bryan Reynolds to fly out to end the frame.

Joey Bart drew a full-count walk with two outs in the seventh, then raced to third on Liover Peguero's single to the left-field corner. But with the fans on their feet, Imanaga got Alexander Canario swinging at a 2-2 splitter at the bottom of the strike zone to escape unscathed again.

Andrew Kittredge kept the Pirates from scoring again in the eighth, when Triolo singled, advanced to second on Pham's groundout and stole third base. But Reynolds went down swinging to strand Triolo.

Following two scoreless innings by Kyle Nicolas, the Pirates turned to lefty Evan Sisk in the bottom of the eighth for a pair of lefty matchups. But Tucker singled to right, stole second and scored on a single to center Seiya Suzuki to give the Cubs a 2-1 lead.

After Crow-Armstrong's sacrifice bunt moved Suzuki to third, Yohan Ramirez relieved Sisk. After striking out Kelly and intentionally walking Ian Happ, Ramirez surrendered an RBI single through short to Hoerner that scored Suzuki for a 3-1 lead.

"We just have to find a way to get the big base hit," Kelly said. "Something we've talked about a lot — and finding ways to stay gap to gap, keep the line moving and come up with that big hit."

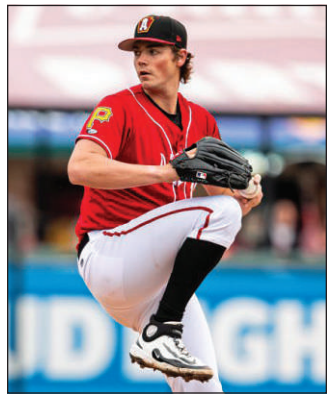
Kevin Gorman is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at kgorman@triblive.com.

## Prospect watch

### Hunter Barco

**Position:** LHP  
**Height:** 6-foot-4  
**Weight:** 235 pounds  
**Level:** Triple-A

• **Notable:** Ask any Pirates fan to name an up-and-coming prospect at Triple-A who's getting ready for an anticipated MLB debut, and just about every answer would be Bubba Chandler. Although Chandler's first MLB start seems a matter of when as opposed to if, the Pirates have another starting pitcher with Indianapolis who might not be too far behind: Barco. ... The 24-year-old lefty, was promoted to Triple-A from the Altoona Curve in early May. With the Indians, he has made 15 starts, going 2-1 with a 3.70 ERA, 67 strikeouts and 33 walks in 58 1/3 innings. Five of his outings at Indianapolis have been scoreless affairs, and opposing batters are hitting .207 off him. ... Barco had to overcome a shoulder ailment



ALTOONA CURVE

Hunter Barco, shown with the Curve, is 2-1 with a 3.70 ERA with Triple-A Indianapolis.

earlier in the year and has had his brush with injuries over his young career, including Tommy John surgery in 2022. He ranks as the Pirates' No. 4 overall prospect, per MLB Pipeline.

— Justin Guerriero

# Monessen's Taylor provides passion, leads

Senior confident his team possesses strong mindset

BY CHARLES CURTI

The clunking of dumbbells and iron plates in the Monessen weight room at 4 a.m. likely went unnoticed. Of course it did. Who is awake at that hour?

The source of the clatter was rising senior football player T.J. Taylor. Throughout the school year, he was in the weight room in the wee hours, getting in his reps before classes.

This is a season Taylor has been waiting for since he was a freshman. The two-way lineman is one of the leaders of the Greyhounds, and he is taking it on his broad shoulders — Taylor is 5-foot-11, 230 pounds — to point the way to success.

As a junior a year ago, Taylor earned All-Black Hills Conference honors as an offensive lineman, no mean feat in a conference that includes two-time reigning WPIAL Class A champion Fort Cherry.

But the respect Taylor has earned from his teammates and coach Wade Brown is more than a product of his accolades. It stems from his passion for the program and the effort he puts in away from the field to make it go.

After the weight room, Taylor would scan the hallways at school, always looking for students he thought could help the team. After all, there's no such thing as too much talent, and, in Monessen's case, numbers are crucial.

"I'm always asking them to come to practice," Taylor said. "At least come to try it out."

To players already in the football fold, he preaches the mental side of the game, urging teammates to study the playbook and break down film.

"That's how you become a better player," he said.

As the Greyhounds prepared to begin camp, Taylor took on yet another job: helping to mentor junior quarterback Kaier Payne. Payne is a converted offensive lineman who hasn't played quarterback since youth football, so Taylor has helped get him up to speed.



JENN CODELUPPI | MON VALLEY INDEPENDENT

Monessen's T.J. Taylor makes a tackle against Fort Cherry last season.

## CAMP countdown

Today: Monessen  
Coming next: Mt. Pleasant

He said the two talk every day and go over the playbook and watch film together.

"I know he's going to be able to lead us to wins week after week," Taylor said. "I know he knows the playbook in and out, and he's a very smart kid on the football field."

What has Taylor most juiced up is a chance to co-lead with his brother. Tavian Taylor, also a senior, will shoulder a much larger load on offense with 1,600-yard rusher TyVaughn Kershaw no longer on the team.

Like his brother, Tavian has been

hitting the weights hard in anticipation of a big finish.

"My brother is ready, and I trust him with everything in me," T.J. said. "He's got a different type of intensity in practices. ... My brother is a beast. I know he can handle it."

Taylor, perhaps, gets additional fuel from knowing how close Monessen came to being a great team last year.

The Greyhounds led Fort Cherry in the fourth quarter when the teams met in Week 4, but the Rangers pulled away to win 35-14.

Monessen responded the following week with a comeback win over South Side, a playoff team, but then faded with three consecutive losses to end the year, including in the first round of the playoffs to Greensburg

Central Catholic.

Taylor called the experience "humbling" but then allowed that it might have been what the team needed. He said the players needed the right mindset to go with the physical grit.

This team, he said, has both, and he is confident all of the work — on and off the field — will pay off.

"I look to my left, and I look to my right, and I see those boys sweating just how I'm sweating," he said. "I see them working as hard as I am, and I know I can trust them on the football field."

"We are going to surprise a lot of people. ... They're not expecting what they're going to see this year. I promise you that."

Chuck Curti is a TribLive copy editor. He can be reached at [ccurti@triblive.com](mailto:ccurti@triblive.com).

## HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

# Rosensteel watch list revealed

BY BILL BECKNER JR.

The watch list for the Moe Rosensteel Most Outstanding Player Award — the top girls soccer player in the WPIAL — came out last week.

Local players to make the list are Addison Ayres of Franklin Regional, Annalyse Bauer of Latrobe, Morgan Gesinski of Mt. Pleasant, Jiana Patterson of Hempfield and Kelsey Roskovich of Belle Vernon.



Ayres

This is the seventh year for the award.

Gesinski, a Robert Morris commit, was a finalist last year.

Finalists will be announced during the WPIAL playoffs, and the winner will be unveiled after the PIAA finals.

Peters Township's Molly Kubistek won the award last year and is back for her senior season. She is the first goalkeeper to win the award.

Past winners include Ellie Coffield of Mars (2019), Sarah Schupansky of North Allegheny (2020), Kelsey Salopek of Steel Valley (2021), Hailey Longwell of Moon (2022) and Lola Abraham of Riverview (2023).

## Rams win title

The Ligonier Valley boys golf team won the Class 2A title Monday at the Jerry Roman Memorial Chairman's Cup at Cedarbrook Golf Course in Rostraver.

The Rams shot 422 to win by 21 shots over Mt. Pleasant.

Tyler Jones led Ligonier Valley with a 77, which put him in a tie for seventh individually.

The Greensburg Central Catholic girls took second behind 2A winner Hickory. Alayna Stawovy led GCC with an 82 to tie for fourth.

## Keeping company

Central Catholic graduate Neal Shipley took his golf career to the next level last week when he earned a PGA Tour card.

The achievement is special because it is rare, with less than 1% of players accomplishing the feat. It is also an infrequent occurrence for players from Western Pennsylvania.

In fact, Shipley is the first WPIAL golf alum to earn a PGA Tour card since Steve Wheatcroft (Trinity) in 2014.

Others to do it have Westmoreland County roots. They include Rocco Mediate (Hempfield), Jim Simons (Knoch), Mike Nicolette (Southmoreland) and the great Arnold Palmer (Latrobe).

## Oslosky commits

Penn-Trafford soccer player Ava Oslosky, a senior this year, gave a verbal commitment to Seton Hill.

The midfielder and defender returned to Penn-Trafford this year after playing last season at The Kiski School.

## Fullman staying close

Mt. Pleasant senior multi-sport athlete Bella Fullman committed to play tennis at Seton Hill.

Fullman, a three-year captain, helped the Mt. Pleasant tennis team to an undefeated section title last season, playing No. 1 singles.

She also was a member of the school's WPIAL and PIAA champion swimming team.

## Recruiting

Norwin's Anna Rakvic will run cross country at Gannon.

Bill Beckner is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at [bbeckner@triblive.com](mailto:bbeckner@triblive.com).

# END OF THE LINE

BY CHRIS HARLAN

TribLive HSSN will break down the top players at one position per day until Week Zero. Here is a look at the top defensive ends for the 2025 season.

## 1. ASHTON BLATT

Central Catholic

Senior, 6-4, 230

Blatt is a dynamic pass rusher for a Central Catholic defense that celebrated a WPIAL Class 6A title last season. The North Carolina recruit had seven sacks among his 32 tackles and recovered a fumble for a touchdown.

Coaches voted him second-team all-conference at defensive end. A consensus three-star college prospect, Blatt was ranked 38th among edge rushers nationally in the 2026 class by 247Sports. He committed to the Tar Heels and new coach Bill Belichick over offers from Pitt, Penn State, West Virginia, Boston College, Duke, Eastern Michigan, Georgia Tech, Indiana, Michigan State, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Sacramento State, Syracuse, Toledo, UCLA, Virginia, Virginia Tech, Wake Forest and Wisconsin.

## 2. LUCAS SHANAFELT

Peters Township

Senior, 6-4, 235

Shanafelt earned second-team all-conference honors at defensive end last year with 27 tackles, five tackles for a loss and three sacks. His position will change this year as he slides over to outside linebacker, but he'll maybe have more chances to make stops in the backfield. Recruiting outlets rate the Stanford recruit as a three-



CHRISTOPHER HORNER | TRIBLIVE

Central Catholic's Ashton Blatt is considered the 38th best edge rusher in the 2026 class by 247Sports.

star prospect, and both Rivals and 247Sports rank him 96th among edge rushers nationally in the 2026 class.

Shanafelt chose Stanford over Power 4 offers from Pitt, West Virginia, Duke and Purdue, along with other FBS and FCS schools. On offense, he caught 16 passes for 135 yards and a touchdown.

## 3. ANTHONY CHARLES

South Fayette

Senior, 6-5, 197

Charles transferred from Bishop Canevin to South Fayette and experienced a breakout year with 24 tackles

and five sacks last season. He received more than a dozen college offers in the months since and committed to Minnesota in June. He chose the Golden Gophers over Power 4 offers from Penn State, West Virginia, Cincinnati, Michigan, Michigan State, Syracuse and Wisconsin. A consensus three-star prospect, Rivals (76th) and 247Sports (86th) ranked him among the top edge rushers nationally in the 2026 class.

## 4. JOE MALONE

Mt. Lebanon

Senior, 6-2, 235



The Ivy League recruit made 48 tackles, eight sacks and forced two fumbles a year ago. Coaches voted him second-team all-conference in Class 6A. He committed to Cornell over offers from Bucknell, Buffalo, Brown, Georgetown, Maine, New Hampshire, Lehigh, Richmond, Stony Brook and Toledo. He also caught nine passes and a touchdown.

## 5. AARON LORITTS

Seton LaSalle

Senior, 6-2, 200

Loritts helped Seton LaSalle reach the WPIAL Class 2A finals last year. The Monmouth commit earned first-team all-conference honors at defensive end with 31 tackles including 11 tackles for a loss, five sacks and one interception he returned for a score. Akron, Albany, Robert Morris and Toledo also offered him. He added 16 catches and a touchdown.

## ONE TO WATCH

JACKSON MICKENS

Southmoreland

Sophomore, 6-0, 215

Mickens emerged as one of the WPIAL's top freshmen a year ago. Class 3A Interstate coaches voted him as first-team all-conference at defensive line and tight end. As an edge rusher, he had 45 tackles, 11 sacks and three forced fumbles. He added 35 catches and six touchdowns. Akron, Miami (Ohio) and Sacramento State have offered scholarships.

Chris Harlan is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at [charlan@triblive.com](mailto:charlan@triblive.com).

## SPORTS BROADCASTS

### Auto racing

ARCA MENARDS SERIES

2 p.m. The Springfield

ARCA 100 at the Illinois State

Fairgrounds. FS1

MOTOGP

7:30 a.m. FIM The Grand

Prix of Austria, Red Bull Ring.

FS1

11 a.m. FIM Motocross

World championship: The

MXGP. CBSN

NHRA

3 p.m. The Lucas Oil

NHRA Nationals. FOX

### Baseball

LITTLE LEAGUE

WORLD SERIES

9 a.m. Bonney Lake

(Wash.) vs. TBD, U.S. Bracket.

ESPN

11 a.m. Vancouver (British

Columbia) vs. TBD, International

Bracket. ESPN

1 p.m. Honolulu vs. TBD,

U.S. Bracket. ABC

2 p.m. Arraijan (Panama)

vs. TBD, International Bracket.

ESPN

MLB

2:20 p.m. Pirates at Chi-

cago Cubs. SportsNet Pitts-

burgh/93.7 FM, 1480 AM,

Pirates Radio Network

4 p.m. San Diego at L.A.

Dodgers. MLB

7 p.m. Seattle vs. N.Y.

Mets, Williamsport, Pa. ESPN,

ESPN2 (KidsCast)

### Basketball

BIG3

3 p.m. Week 10: Celebrity

Game — Team Cube vs. Team

Clyde, Playoffs — Chicago

Triplets vs. L.A. Riot and Miami

305 vs. Dallas Power. CBS

WNBA

1 p.m. Indiana at Connecti-

cut. NBATV

3:30 p.m. Dallas at Las

Vegas. ABC

8:30 p.m. Atlanta at Gold-

en State. NBATV

### Football

NFL PRESEASON

1 p.m. Jacksonville at New

Orleans. NFLN

8 p.m. Buffalo at Chicago.

FOX

### Golf

DP WORLD TOUR

6 a.m. The Danish Golf

championship final round.

GOLF

### LIV

CHAMPIONS TOUR

2 p.m. The Rogers Charity

Classic final round. GOLF

10 a.m. Third round, The

Club at Chatham Hills. FS1

Noon Third round, The Club

at Chatham Hills. FOX

LPGA TOUR

4 p.m. The Standard Port-

land Classic third round. GOLF

PGA TOUR

Noon The BMW champion-

ship final round. GOLF

2 p.m. The BMW champi-

onship final round. NBC

USGA

7 p.m. The U.S. Amateur,

championship match. GOLF

Horse racing

THOROUGHBRED

9:30 a.m. Prix Jacques Le

Marois. FS2

1 p.m. NYRA: Saratoga

Live. FS1

2 p.m. NYRA: Saratoga

Live. FS2

4 p.m. NYRA: Saratoga

Live. FS1

### Rodeo

PBR

1:30 p.m. Camping World

Team Series. CW

### Rugby

WOMEN

4:10 a.m. Canterbury-

Bankstown at North

Queensland. FS2

### Sailing

SAIL GP

9:30 a.m. Germany Sail

Grand Prix Sannitz — Day 2.

CBSN

### Soccer

CANADIAN PREMIER

LEAGUE

4 p.m. Atletico Ottawa at

Forge FC. FS2

7 p.m. Vancouver FC at

Cavalry FC. FS2

COLLEGE WOMEN

1 p.m. LSU at Wake Forest.

ACCN

7:30 p.m. Notre Dame at

Arkansas. SECN

ENGLISH LEAGUE

CHAMPIONSHIP

6:55 a.m. Southampton at

Ipswich Town. CBSSN

THE ITALIAN CUP

12:30 p.m. Pescara at

Parma, first round. CBSN

PREMIER LEAGUE

9 a.m. English Crystal

Palace at Chelsea. USA

11:30 a.m. English Arsenal

at Manchester United. NBC

SPANISH LALIGA

3 p.m. Atletico Madrid at

Espanyol. ESPN2

### Tennis

ATP/WTA

6 p.m. Cincinnati Doubles

finals

IN BRIEF

# MacIntyre holds off Scheffler at BMW Championship

WIRE REPORTS

Robert MacIntyre shot a 2-under-par 68 and a four-shot lead over No. 1 Scottie Scheffler on Saturday going into the final round in the BMW Championship. Scheffler had an efficient 67 to trim a shot off the five-shot deficit he faced at the start.

Akshay Bhatia made an ace on the 17th hole, winning a car.

## Pro football

Starting San Francisco 49ers guard Dominick Puni suffered a knee injury while blocking on an opening-drive field goal against the Las Vegas Raiders.

Coach Kyle Shanahan said the second-year pro will miss "a few weeks."

Then rookie running back

Corey Kiner got carted off with a left ankle injury after a 19-yard run. Kiner had replaced Patrick Taylor Jr., who left with a dislocated shoulder.

Shanahan said Taylor dislocated his shoulder and Kiner suffered what was "most likely a high ankle" sprain, and both are expected to miss a couple of weeks.

- Indianapolis Colts offensive lineman Blake Freeland was carted off the field with a fractured right leg in the first half of a preseason game against the Green Bay Packers. The three-year veteran was expected to back up Braden Smith and possibly serve as swing tackle.
- Packers coach Matt LaFleur said safety Omar Brown was to spend night in an Indianapolis

hospital for further evaluation after suffering a chest contusion in the game against the Colts.

- Los Angeles Chargers receiver Quentin Johnston left the SoFi Stadium field on a cart after taking a big hit on the third play of a preseason game. Johnston eventually moved his arms and legs and sat up before standing under his own power and walking to the cart that took him off the field.
- The Washington Commanders activated Terry McLaurin off the physically unable to perform list amid lingering contract extension talks with the All-Pro wide receiver.
- Carolina Panthers rookie outside linebacker Nic Scourton is expected to miss some time

after he suffered a collapsed lung during a joint practice with the Houston Texans this week.

- The Jacksonville Jaguars plan to be cautious with two-way star Travis Hunter in their preseason game Sunday. Coach Liam Coen said starters would play, but the Jaguars declined to commit to getting Hunter on the field after he suffered an upper-body injury during a scrimmage Thursday.

after being diagnosed with a left capsule shoulder strain Friday.

- Astros All-Star shortstop Jeremy Peña was out of the lineup for the second straight game against the Baltimore Orioles because of illness. Astros manager Joe Espada said Peña was feeling better and at the ballpark.
- Infielder Marcus Semien missed the Texas Rangers' game at Toronto because of a sore right wrist after being hit by a fastball Friday. Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said after the game that X-rays did not reveal a fracture.
- Touted prospect Dylan Beavers made his major-league debut after the Baltimore Orioles selected the outfielder's contract from Triple-A Norfolk. Beavers was set to bat sixth and play right field against the Astros.

Beavers, rated Baltimore's No. 3 prospect by MLB.com, was the 33rd overall pick by the Orioles in the 2022 amateur draft.

## College basketball

Five former Wisconsin women's basketball players filed a lawsuit saying they received psychological abuse from ex-Badgers coach Marisa Mooney and that the university responded with "a policy of laissez-faire inaction."

## Hockey

A former public relations manager for the Chicago Blackhawks filed a discrimination lawsuit against the team this week, alleging he was wrongfully fired after sharing his experiences as a gay man in an article with Outsports, a site covering LGBTQ+ sports news.

# Rooney, Big Ben reflect on XL title

QB on Super Bowl: 'Can you write a better story?'

BY JOE RUTTER

Art Rooney II and Ben Roethlisberger took a trip down memory lane Saturday night when the Pittsburgh Steelers unveiled an exhibit commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Super Bowl XL season.

Two hours before the Steelers kicked off their second preseason game against Tampa Bay, the team's president and future Hall of Fame quarterback were on hand at the Hall of Honor Museum to talk about that championship season while introducing the exhibition.

Rooney called it a "very special journey" and "an unusual season in a lot of different ways."

Before the Steelers ended a 26-year drought by securing the One for the Thumb championship, they had to win their final four games just to make the playoffs as the No. 6 seed despite having an 11-5 record.

Then, the Steelers made history by going on the road to defeat Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Denver to reach Super Bowl XL in Detroit. There, Roethlisberger fulfilled a promise he made to running back Jerome Bettis a year earlier. In essence, if Bettis returned for one more season, the Steelers would find a way to win a Super Bowl for him.

In Bettis' hometown of Detroit, the Steelers defeated the Seattle Seahawks, 21-10, to complete the historic run.

"As I get older, I think what a silly, young, dumb thing it was," Roethlisberger said of his promise to Bettis following the 2004 AFC championship game loss to New England. "Looking back now, it's a great story."

The exhibit contains a timeline of the Steelers games that season. One wall of the corner display is devoted to the regular season, the other to the postseason. It will be open to the public starting Sunday and will be a part of the museum through the summer of 2026.

"We're proud of this place," Rooney said, "and we're looking forward to expanding it."

Rooney and Roethlisberger reminisced about the quarterback's game-saving tackle in the divisional playoffs at Indianapolis.

The Steelers were poised to add to their 21-18 lead with 1 minute, 20 seconds left. They had the ball at the Colts 1, and Bettis got the ball to seal the victory. Instead, it was knocked from his grasp, defensive back Nick Harper scooped up the ball and ran free down the field until Roethlisberger made an unlikely ankle tackle at the 42.

"There aren't too many seasons where one of the most famous plays is your quarterback making a tackle," Rooney said.

Added Roethlisberger: "As a quarterback, you don't usually want to be remembered for making a tackle. Luckily, it wasn't on an interception, so I can tease Jerome about that."

The Steelers had to sweat out Mike Vanderjagt's missed field goal before advancing to Denver for the AFC title game.

"At that point, (we thought), we can't be stopped now. It can't happen," Roethlisberger said.

The Steelers rolled to a 34-17 victory to return to the Super Bowl for the sixth time. In Bettis' hometown, the Steelers wrote the fairytale ending for the running back, who announced his retirement after the game.

"For it to be in Detroit," Roethlisberger said, "can you write a better story?"

Joe Rutter is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at jrutter@triblive.com.

## STEELERS NOTEBOOK



CHAZ PALLA | TRIBLIVE

Steelers linebacker Nick Herbig pressures Buccaneers quarterback Teddy Bridgewater on Saturday.

# LB Herbig leaves injured

BY CHRIS ADAMSKI

Despite coach Mike Tomlin's apparent attempts to shield him from injury, outside linebacker Nick Herbig was the first Pittsburgh Steelers player to leave Saturday's preseason game because of one.

Herbig left the game after the Steelers' second defensive series because of a hamstring injury.

There was no immediate update on the degree of severity of the injury.

Herbig was the only non-starter held out of the Steelers preseason opener last week in Jacksonville. Even against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Saturday, it appeared Herbig was limited initially to specific situations. During the first drive, Herbig came on only on a third-and-long — an indication Tomlin wanted him only taking part in pass-rush reps.

Another player to leave during the first quarter was long snapper Christian Kuntz, who suffered a chest injury during a punt. Kuntz was in pain on the sidelines and went into the medical tent briefly before retreating to the locker room.

With Kuntz out, defensive lineman Logan Lee handled long snapping duties. Lee did long snapping in high school and has been spotted practicing as a long snapper during training camp.

## Others out with injury

At least eight Steelers players did not suit up Saturday because of injury: outside linebacker Alex Highsmith (groin), receivers Calvin Austin III (abdominal) and Ben Skowronek (undisclosed), cornerbacks Donte Kent (foot/ankle) and Cory Trice (hamstring), offensive linemen Calvin Anderson (lower-body) and Ryan McCollum (undisclosed) and quarterback Will

Howard (hand).

Howard, a rookie sixth-round pick, was on the field before the game doing drills.

Healthy starters who were held out by Tomlin included quarterback Aaron Rodgers, receiver DK Metcalf, running back Jaylen Warren, tight ends Pat Freiermuth and Jonnu Smith, guard Isaac Seumalo, outside linebacker T.J. Watt, defensive tackle Cam Heyward, inside linebacker Patrick Queen, cornerbacks Darius Slay, Joey Porter Jr. and Jalen Ramsey and safety DeShon Elliott.

Mason Rudolph started at quarterback and played only two series. The starters on the offensive line — the regular first team, plus Spencer Anderson in at left guard for Seumalo — played until the end of the first quarter, which ended amidst the Steelers' third offensive possession.

Many of those who started on defense played deep into the second quarter, including veteran defensive backs Chuck Clark, Brandin Echols and James Pierre and rookies Derrick Harmon and Jack Sawyer.

Harmon had a sack late in the first quarter, bringing down Kyle Trask.

## Boz kicks

Unlike during the opener in Jacksonville, kicker Chris Boswell was in uniform and played Saturday. Boswell, who is reportedly staging a so-called "hold in," handled the opening kickoff.

Though Boswell has declined to comment, he reportedly is seeking a raise. He's been at practices daily throughout training camp, but typically it has been rookie Ben Sauls who was kicking after team portions of practice started each day.

Also "holding in" while seeking a sweetened contract, Heyward was not in uniform. He and Watt watched in street clothes but were

wearing communication headsets on the sidelines.

## Bucs WR injured on hard hit

Buccaneers receiver Jalen McMillan suffered what was termed a back injury and entered evaluation for a concussion after he was hit hard by Steelers rookie cornerback Daryl Porter early in the first quarter.

Porter made hard — but legal — contact on McMillan as he was thrown an incomplete pass by Teddy Bridgewater. Medical and training personnel attended to McMillan on the field for several moments before he walked off the field.

## Return man

While providing the disclaimer that reading too much into preseason reps is a perilous act, it could be interpreted as notable that rookie Ke'Shawn Williams again handled the punt return role throughout the first half.

A caveat exists that Austin and Kent did not play. They also did not play against the Jaguars last week, when Williams returned two punts.

Tomlin has said Austin will retain punt-return duties this season. The Steelers were rather open that Kent was drafted in the seventh round, in part, because of his return abilities. But Williams getting a look in game play could indicate the undrafted rookie has a shot at the season-opening roster.

Veterans Scotty Miller and Robert Woods and rookie Max Hurler also have been in the lines for punt returns when punts are practiced during training camp.

Williams totaled 32 yards on four returns in the first half Saturday. He had a touchdown reception in Jacksonville last week.

Chris Adamski is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at cadamski@triblive.com.

# Will Steelers force Johnson to wait?

True believers bleat loudly about the "Steeler way."

But some of that preferred method is stupid.

Like rewarding veterans who "wait their turn." Like making rookies "earn it."



MARK MADDEN

Those two notions may conspire to stifle the Steelers' running game.

Jaylen Warren isn't a No. 1 back. He's 5-foot-8. Played at three colleges. Went undrafted. Solid receiver. He's got a good yards-per-attempt at 4.8 over

his three NFL seasons, but that got compiled being the change-of-pace back. As Najee Harris' backup.

Warren doesn't have the size and power that best fits offensive coordinator Arthur Smith's offense. (See Henry, Derrick.)

But Warren will begin the season as the No. 1 back because he waited his turn.

Kaleb Johnson is 6-foot-1, 224 pounds. He didn't look great in the preseason opener. But he's got power. Johnson fits the description.

But Johnson is a rookie. The third-round pick has to earn it.

With Kenneth Gainwell likely to be the third-down back, Johnson could get lost in the shuffle altogether.

All that is OK. If it works.

But the Steelers have little wiggle room if they're going to make the playoffs. The weaker part of their schedule comes early. They need a good start.

I'd make Johnson the No. 1 back immediately. I'm probably in the minority.

I'm definitely in the minority when I say the Steelers will miss Harris.

Harris had four straight 1,000-yard seasons with the Steelers and never missed a game. Harris averaged only 3.9 yards per carry. But that's also Jerome Bettis' career mark. Harris ran with power.

Mark Madden hosts a radio show 2-6 p.m. weekdays on WXDX-FM (105.9).

# Foote: 2008 'D' might've been best

BENZ · FROM B1

Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Foote had a more measured response. He was calling defensive plays for the Bucs Saturday night when they played the Steelers in the second game of the preseason.

That's something head coach Todd Bowles likes to do in the preseason, so his assistants get the experience of calling plays in game action even though he usually has that job in the regular season.

"Anytime I step foot in here, no matter whether I'm a spectator or coaching, calling plays, it's awesome being back," Foote said.

And Foote will be back again in Week 9 when the 2005 team is honored for the 20th anniversary of its Super Bowl XL victory.

"I will be able to make it. That's our bye week. I just got the letter in the mail," Foote said. "I've been frustrated in previous years because all the alumni stuff is in November when I'm working. So I thank God, though, to come back to see the guys."

Remembering what that '05 defense did during its magical late-season push is what stands out to Foote about that group in particular.

"The run in 2005 was so, so special. We played against No. 1 (Indianapolis), No. 2 (Cincinnati), and No. 6 (Denver) offenses in the AFC. Then waiting on us in the Super Bowl with the No. 1 offense (Seattle)," Foote says. "So that run was special."

But Foote feels like the 2008 unit may have been the best assembled group of the era.

"We were just so dominant. We were so good. We really only felt a little pressure in the second half of the Super Bowl," Foote recalled in the win against Arizona. "But that '08 team was just all put together, and it was dominant. It was easy."

The defense finished ranked first in the league in total yards and passing yards allowed. It was also second in rushing yards and second in sacks. However, he can see why Tomlin is excited about the unit he has assembled this year, particularly at his old inside linebacker position.

"Very talented," Foote said. "Queen has been a Pro Bowler. Payton Wilson, I was trying to 'recruit' him. We hosted him for a visit to Tampa. He's good, a talented guy. I know he's fast. He can run. He's in a good place to learn ball."

Tim Benz is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at tbenz@triblive.com or via Twitter @TimBenzPGH.



Larry Foote (right) helps make a tackle on Jamal Lewis in 2008.

# LB looks like strong spot for Panthers

PITT • FROM B1

seen Louis ascend from a reserve redshirt freshman to partial contributor to All-American and All-ACC standout.

"He's got great instincts," Narduzzi said of Louis, who also led Pitt last year with four interceptions. "Every linebacker you ever look at, you've got to talk about instincts first. You can be elite athletically like he is — he's athletic, he can run, he can hit, he can tackle, he's a playmaker. He's going to make the play."

"He's got that heart and desire to go get the football because there's only one football at a time on the field. He finds the football, but it comes down to his instincts. He's got linebacker instincts to play at the next level and be a first-rounder."

As Louis prepares to follow up a stellar individual campaign, Narduzzi hasn't detected any changes in how he goes about his business.

"I don't think he's got a fat head — he's a worker," Narduzzi said. "Anybody can get a fat head. Coaches can get fat heads. Players can get fat heads. But Kyle, he wants to win. All those accolades are great. Win the Butkus Award, that's great. He wants to win an ACC championship. That's what we strive for."

Louis understands the challenges inherent to coming off such a solid year. Primarily, what's to stop opposing offenses from simply doing their utmost to avoid him?

The extent to which that'll be possible, or Louis' ability to circumvent those attempts, remains to be seen.

But Louis surely will be the highlight of many film sessions as teams prepare to play the Panthers.

"I'm not like a cornerback or nothing, so the ball is bound to come my way at some point," he said. "I won't be sleeping. I'm on edge, and I know there's going to be a play where the offense has to change it up and come my way at some point, so I'm going to be ready."

Additionally, Louis has a pair of proven playmakers next to him in Biles, who made 82 tackles (14.5 for loss) in 2024, along with 5.5 sacks, in earning second-team All-ACC honors.

Braylan Lovelace (Leechburg), who moved inside to the Mike linebacker spot, also returns and is set to start.

Together, the three are expected to anchor what might be considered Pitt's strongest position group on both sides of the ball: the linebackers, or "Sharks," as the position players have dubbed themselves.

"With me and Kyle returning, we've got Braylan returning — it's going to be an exciting season, definitely," Biles said. "We got older, more mature, more comfortable with the game — everything's going to flow a lot more. We're definitely going to have the Sharks on a whole different level this year. We can be the X-factors of the defense."

Louis and his teammates understand a new season is on hand. But it might be too much to suggest they've totally flushed the frustration from last year, when a shot at an ACC championship and College Football Playoff berth evaporated behind an 0-6 conclusion to the season.

Moving forward, starting with Duquesne on Aug. 30, Louis aims to get Pitt back to exactly where it was two months into last season.

Only from there, he hopes to maintain the momentum.

"You can't let history repeat itself," Louis said. "The goal is definitely (to) beat every team that comes across us. When we finally get to the same point where we're 7-0, we'll just carry that onto 8-0, 9-0 and 10-0. We'll stay focused on the team and not let the outside noise get into our heads."

Justin Guerriero is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at [jguerriero@triblive.com](mailto:jguerriero@triblive.com).

# PSU QB coach pleased with backups

Competition still tight between Grunkemeyer, Smolik for No. 2 spot

PENNLIVE.COM

STATE COLLEGE — Penn State is one of the nation's most veteran teams, a big reason the Nittany Lions are ranked No. 2 in the Associated Press Top 25 heading into the season. The quarterback position, manned by third-year starter Drew Allar, is a big part of that.

There are few schools in the country that, if given the opportunity, would pass on the chance to have Allar in their program.

But Penn State has some uncertainty behind its senior signal caller.

There's a rolling competition in training camp between redshirt sophomore Jaxon Smolik and redshirt freshman Ethan Grunkemeyer for the No. 2 job.

To this point, neither has separated himself to earn official backup quarterback designation. That doesn't mean there haven't been good moments, though, with the season opener against Nevada just over two weeks away.

"I've been pleased with how

they've shown up to compete every day. It's a very healthy competition," quarterbacks coach Danny O'Brien said after practice this week. "Our room is very tight-knit, but they both know what they're competing for and they have a ton of respect for each other and are supporting each other."

Smolik and Grunkemeyer have had a near-even split of reps in practice and have both gotten chances to work with the top group of receivers and tight ends. Grunkemeyer took the No. 2 reps behind Allar at this week's public practice portion, but that could change next week.

What Penn State is looking for, O'Brien said, is the guy who can be consistently really good, rather than occasionally great. O'Brien also deferred to James Franklin on whether the Nittany Lions would officially name a backup QB ahead of the season, which the head coach left open-ended at the start of camp.

Heck, Franklin said the competition could continue through the season.

"This thing is, I think, going

to go right down to the wire," Franklin said in early August. "If it finishes up like it did in the spring, it could continue throughout the entire year if it's close. If there's a gap, there's a gap. But if it's close, I think the competition could go throughout the year."

Whoever has the best week that week is going to be the backup quarterback type of deal."

As Smolik dealt with a significant lower-body injury last year, Grunkemeyer was next up in the College Football Playoff behind Allar thanks to Beau Pribula's untimely transfer. He saw action in just the opening-round blowout of SMU, throwing an interception on the first pass of his career. Grunkemeyer completed his only other attempt for 9 yards.

That made Grunkemeyer, a top-10 quarterback in his recruiting class, look like the clear-cut backup moving forward. But Smolik, a three-star prospect, looked strong in the Blue-White Game and quickly shook off any rust from the injury. Smolik additionally crushes playbook-related pop quizzes in the quarterback room.

Penn State should get the



# WVU faces numerous obstacles in Big 12

No. 11 Arizona St. seeks repeat as Rodriguez returns to sidelines

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona State was a big surprise debuting in the Big 12 with a conference championship and making the College Football Playoff after being picked to finish at the bottom of the 16-team league.

Kenny Dillingham, the 35-year-old coach now in his third season at his alma mater, bluntly told his Sun Devils they really didn't do anything special last year.

"The reality is there's been a lot of teams in college football who have done what we've done, who have won one year and then come back to reality," Dillingham said. "What would be special would be to continue to build off of that. The real challenge was how do we not become what normal teams in our situation do, which is fall back to where we've always been."



West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez: "Whatever head coaching spot, it takes you six to nine months to kind of get a lay of the land. Well, West Virginia took six to nine minutes. ... But, then again, there's also times of change."

chance to test out both gunslingers, if the staff wants to, within the first three weeks of the season. Games against lowly Nevada, FIU and Villanova leading up to Oregon should allow for young players to experience important live reps.

Smolik and Grunkemeyer can also learn plenty from those around them as they continue to soak up practice information, as Penn State's wide receiving corps consists of four seniors with a fifth-year tight end out there, too.

"I tell them all the time, a lot of those guys have played 1,000-plus plays. There's a lot of wisdom in that. We work our tail off in here, in the classroom, on the practice field, but there's no substitute for those live reps," O'Brien said. "So be a sponge with those guys, too, as much as they are with Drew."

"For two young, talented quarterbacks, which they both are, you have so many really cool resources: all the technology we have, all the coaches. But the players, how they see things and the things that they've experienced, what a blessing to have that around every day before you've played just to soak up and listen to them, because there's a lot of wisdom there."

After a CFP quarterfinal loss in double overtime to now-preseason No. 1 Texas, the No. 11 Sun Devils are the highest-ranked team from the unpredictable Big 12, even after the departure of do-everything running back Cam Skattebo to the NFL. They return quarterback Sam Leavitt (2,855 yards, 24 TDs passing), the preseason Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year, and receiver Jordyn Tyson (75 catches, 1,101 yards, 10 TDs) is healthy after missing the end of the last season with a collarbone injury.

The last time Arizona State was higher in the preseason Associated Press Top 25 was No. 8 in 1998, what turned into a 5-6 season.

The Big 12's other ranked teams are No. 17 Kansas State and league runner-up No. 22 Iowa State, which open against each other with a conference game

Aug. 23 in Ireland, along with No. 23 Texas Tech. All return quality starting quarterbacks.

Texas Tech transformed its program with big money through the transfer portal and made the preseason poll for the first time since 2008, six years before three-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Patrick Mahomes played a game for the Red Raiders.

Utah was the presumptive favorite last year to be the team to make its Big 12 debut with a title but had its first losing season (5-7, 2-7 Big 12) since 2013. Two-time Pac-12 champion quarterback Cam Rising had to "medically retire," but dual-threat QB Devon Dampier followed new offensive coordinator Jason Beck from New Mexico.

Oklahoma State was 3-9 and didn't win a conference game, its first losing season since Gundy's 4-7 debut in 2005. And there is still plenty of uncertainty with two new coordinators and a lot of transfers.

"The changes in how we go about rebuilding, whether it's financially or roster management, have been challenging but also intriguing," Gundy said. "It's different than it's ever been before."

After a CFP quarterfinal loss in double overtime to now-preseason No. 1 Texas, the No. 11 Sun Devils are the highest-ranked team from the unpredictable Big 12, even after the departure of do-everything running back Cam Skattebo to the NFL. They return quarterback Sam Leavitt (2,855 yards, 24 TDs passing), the preseason Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year, and receiver Jordyn Tyson (75 catches, 1,101 yards, 10 TDs) is healthy after missing the end of the last season with a collarbone injury.

Aug. 23 in Ireland, along with No. 23 Texas Tech. All return quality starting quarterbacks.

Utah was the presumptive favorite last year to be the team to make its Big 12 debut with a title but had its first losing season (5-7, 2-7 Big 12) since 2013. Two-time Pac-12 champion quarterback Cam Rising had to "medically retire," but dual-threat QB Devon Dampier followed new offensive coordinator Jason Beck from New Mexico.

## BASEBALL

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	70	53	569	—
New York	65	58	528	5
Miami	58	65	472	12
Atlanta	55	68	447	15
Washington	50	73	407	20

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	77	44	636	—
Chicago	69	53	566	8.5
Cincinnati	64	59	520	14
St. Louis	61	62	496	17
Pirates	52	72	419	26.5

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	73	51	589	—
Boston	68	56	548	5
New York	65	57	533	7
Tampa Bay	60	63	488	12.5
Baltimore	56	66	459	16

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	72	52	581	—
Cleveland	63	59	516	8
Kansas City	61	61	500	10
Minnesota	57	65	467	14
Chicago	44	78	361	27

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	68	54	557	—
Seattle	68	56	548	1
Texas	61	63	492	8
Los Angeles	59	63	484	9
Athletics	55	69	444	14

MLB RESULTS/SCHEDULE				
Saturday's games				
Chicago Cubs 3, Pirates 1	Washington 2, Philadelphia 0	Milwaukee at Cincinnati (n)	Arizona at Colorado (n)	San Diego at L.A. Dodgers (n)
<b>American League</b>				
Houston at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.	Baltimore at Boston, 7:10 p.m.	Chicago White Sox at Atlanta, 7:15 p.m.	Texas at Kansas City, 7:40 p.m.	
<b>National League</b>				
Toronto at Pirates, 6:40 p.m.	Seattle at Philadelphia, 6:45 p.m.	Chicago White Sox at Atlanta, 7:15 p.m.		

NFL PRESEASON TODAY'S GAMES				
Favorite	Points (O/U)	Underdog	Points (O/U)	Underdog
BLUE JAYS	-\$105 (8.5)	Rangers	-\$135 (8.5)	Orioles
ASTROS	-\$135 (8.5)	Orioles	-\$165 (9.5)	White Sox
ROYALS	-\$122 (8.5)	TWINS	-\$107 (10.0)	Angels

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit at Minnesota (n)				
L.A. Angels at Athletics (n)				
<b>Interleague</b>				
Boston 7, Miami 5	N.Y. Mets 3, Seattle 1	Atlanta 10, Cleveland 1	N.Y. Yankees at St. Louis (n)	Tampa Bay at San Francisco (n)
<b>National League</b>				
Philadelphia (Nola 1-7) at Washington (Parker 7-13), 11:35 a.m.	Milwaukee (Quintana 10-4) at Cincinnati (Abbott 8-3), 1:40 p.m.	Pirates (Mlodzinski 2-7) at Chicago Cubs (Assad 0-1), 2:20 p.m.	Arizona (TBD) at Colorado (Senzatela 4-14), 3:10 p.m.	San Diego (Darvish 2-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Glasnow 1-1), 4:10 p.m.
<b>American League</b>				
Texas (Eovaldi 10-3) at Toronto (Berrios 9-4), 1:37 p.m.	Baltimore (Kremer 8-9) at Houston (Javier 4-0), 2:10 p.m.	Chicago White Sox (Martin 4-9) at Kansas City (Bergert 1-1), 2:10 p.m.	Detroit (Paddack 4-10) at Minnesota (TBD), 2:10 p.m.	L.A. Angels (Soriano 8-9) at Athletics (Springs 10-8), 4:05 p.m.
<b>Interleague</b>				
Miami (Junk 6-2) at Boston (Crochet 13-5), 1:35 p.m.	Atlanta (Fedde 4-12) at Cleveland (Allen 7-9), 1:40 p.m.	N.Y. Yankees (Warren 7-5) at St. Louis (Mikolas 6-9), 2:15 p.m.	Tampa Bay (Peipolt 8-9) at San Francisco (Webb 10-9), 4:05 p.m.	Seattle (Kirby 8-5) at N.Y. Mets (Holmes 9-6), 7:10 p.m.
<b>Monday's games</b>				
Houston	Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m., 1st game	St. Louis at Miami, 6:40 p.m.	Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m., 2nd game	L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
San Francisco at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.	<b>American League</b>			
Houston at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.	Baltimore at Boston, 7:10 p.m.	Chicago White Sox at Atlanta, 7:15 p.m.	Texas at Kansas City, 7:40 p.m.	
<b>National League</b>				
Toronto at Pirates, 6:40 p.m.	Seattle at Philadelphia, 6:45 p.m.	Chicago White Sox at Atlanta, 7:15 p.m.		

NFL PRESEASON TODAY'S GAMES				
Favorite	Points (O/U)	Underdog	Points (O/U)	Underdog
Jaguars	3 (40.5)	SAINTS	2.5 (40.5)	Bills
Bengals	3 (43.5)	COMMANDERS		

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SATURDAY'S GAMES				
Favorite	Points (O/U)	Underdog	Points (O/U)	Underdog
KANSAS ST.	3.5 (49.5)	Iowa St	12.5 (52.5)	Fresno St
KANSAS	13.5 (50.5)	Fresno St	2.5 (52.5)	Stanford
HAWAII	2.5 (50.5)	Stanford		
<b>Aug. 28</b>				
Boise St.	7 (63.5)	USF	11.5 (59.5)	E Carolina
NC STATE	16.5 (52.5)	Jackville St	7.5 (50.5)	AKRON
WYOMING	13.5 (46.5)	Ohio U	6.5 (45.5)	Cincinnati
MINNESOTA	6.5 (45.5)	Buffalo	17.5 (39.5)	Miami-Ohio
<b>Aug. 29</b>				
App'chian St.	7.5 (53.5)	CHARLOTTE WAKE FOREST	17.5 (52.5)	Kennesaw St
Auburn	12.5 (57.5)	Baylor Univ.	12.5 (58.5)	HOUSTON ST
GEORGIA TECH	4.5 (54.5)	COLORADO	18.5 (49.5)	W Michigan
MINNICHIGAN ST.	12.5 (51.5)	C Michigan		
<b>Aug. 30</b>				
PENN ST.	44.5 (57.5)	Nevada	17.5 (50.5)	Bali St
INDIANA	23.5 (54.5)	Old Dominion	36.5 (50.5)	New Mexico
MICHIGAN	3.5 (49.5)	UMASS	14 (54.5)	Syracuse
MARYLAND	14.5 (57.5)	Fla Atlantic	12.5 (54.5)	Coastal Caro
OHIO ST.	2.5 (48.5)	Texas	38.5 (55.5)	Marshall
GEORGIA	38.5 (55.5)	Marshall	9.5 (48.5)	Toledo
KENTUCKY	9.5 (48.5)	Toledo	4 (60.5)	Utah
UTAH ST.	4 (60.5)	Utah	20.5 (52.5)	Colorado St

NFL PRESEASON TODAY'S GAMES				
Favorite	Points (O/U)	Underdog	Points (O/U)	Underdog
Jaguars	3 (40.5)	SAINTS	2.5 (40.5)	Bills
Bengals	3 (43.5)	COMMANDERS		

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SATURDAY'S GAMES				
Favorite	Points (O/U)	Underdog	Points (O/U)	Underdog
KANSAS ST.	3.5 (49.5)	Iowa St	12.5 (52.5)	Fresno St
KANSAS	13.5 (50.5)	Fresno St	2.5 (52.5)	Stanford
HAWAII	2.5 (50.5)	Stanford		
<b>Aug. 28</b>				
Boise St.	7 (63.5)	USF	11.5 (59.5)	E Carolina
NC STATE	16.5 (52.5)	Jackville St	7.5 (50.5)	AKRON
WYOMING	13.5 (46.5)	Ohio U	6.5 (45.5)	Cincinnati
MINNESOTA	6.5 (45.5)	Buffalo	17.5 (39.5)	Miami-Ohio
<b>Aug. 29</b>				
App'chian St.	7.5 (53.5)	CHARLOTTE WAKE FOREST	17.5 (52.5)	Kennesaw St
Auburn	12.5 (57.5)	Baylor Univ.	12.5 (58.5)	HOUSTON ST
GEORGIA TECH	4.5 (54.5)	COLORADO	18.5 (49.5)	W Michigan
MINNICHIGAN ST.	12.5 (51.5)	C Michigan		
<b>Aug. 30</b>				
PENN ST.	44.5 (57.5)	Nevada	17.5 (50.5)	Bali St
INDIANA	23.5 (54.5)	Old Dominion	36.5 (50.5)	New Mexico
MICHIGAN	3.5 (49.5)	UMASS	14 (54.5)	Syracuse
MARYLAND	14.5 (57.5)	Fla Atlantic	12.5 (54.5)	Coastal Caro
OHIO ST.	2.5 (48.5)	Texas	38.5 (55.5)	Marshall
GEORGIA	38.5 (55.5)	Marshall	9.5 (48.5)	Toledo
KENTUCKY	9.5 (48.5)	Toledo	4 (60.5)	Utah
UTAH ST.	4 (60.5)	Utah	20.5 (52.5)	Colorado St

NFL PRESEASON TODAY'S GAMES				
Favorite	Points (O/U)	Underdog	Points (O/U)	Underdog
Jaguars	3 (40.5)	SAINTS	2.5 (40.5)	Bills
Bengals	3 (43.5)	COMMANDERS		

COLLEGE FOOTBALL SATURDAY'S GAMES				
Favorite	Points (O/U)	Underdog	Points (O/U)	Underdog
KANSAS ST.	3.5 (49.5)	Iowa St	12.5 (52.5)	Fresno St
KANSAS	13.5 (50.5)	Fresno St	2.5 (52.5)	Stanford
HAWAII	2.5 (50.5)	Stanford		
<b>Aug. 28</b>				
Boise St.	7 (63.5)	USF	11.5 (59.5)	E Carolina
NC STATE	16.5 (52.5)	Jackville St	7.5 (50.5)	AKRON
WYOMING	13.5 (46.5)	Ohio U	6.5 (45.5)	Cincinnati
MINNESOTA	6.5 (45.5)	Buffalo	17.5 (39.5)	Miami-Ohio
<b>Aug. 29</b>				
App'chian St.	7.5 (53.5)	CHARLOTTE WAKE FOREST	17.5 (52.5)	Kennesaw St
Auburn	12.5 (57.5)	Baylor Univ.	12.5 (58.5)	HOUSTON ST
GEORGIA TECH	4.5 (54.5)	COLORADO	18.5 (49.5)	W Michigan
MINNICHIGAN ST.	12.5 (51.5)	C Michigan		
<b>Aug. 30</b>				
PENN ST.	44.5 (57.5)	Nevada	17.5 (50.5)	Bali St
INDIANA	23.5 (54.5)	Old Dominion	36.5 (50.5)	New Mexico
MICHIGAN	3.5 (49.5)	UMASS	14 (54.5)	Syracuse
MARYLAND	14.5 (57.5)	Fla Atlantic	12.5 (54.5)	Coastal Caro
OHIO ST.	2.5 (48.5)	Texas	38.5 (55.5)	Marshall
GEORGIA	38.5 (55.5)	Marshall	9.5 (48.5)	Toledo
KENTUCKY	9.5 (48.5)	Toledo	4 (60.5)	Utah
UTAH ST.	4 (60.5)	Utah	20.5 (52.5)	Colorado St

Baseball scores by AP. Football scores by AP. Soccer scores by AP. NFL scores by AP. College football scores by AP.



AP

Spencer Danielson's Boise State team is the two-time defending Mountain West champion.

# Boise State favored yet again

*Mustangs 1 of 5 schools in final Mountain West season*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Change is coming to the Mountain West, but this season will feel like so many others.

No. 25 Boise State was picked to win the conference.

For the 15th year in a row, Broncos coach Spencer Danielson pointed out that didn't equate to a conference title every time, but Boise State is the two-time defending champion. The program lost Heisman Trophy runner-up Ashton Jeanty and still received 35 of 39 first-place votes from the media.

"That's just the culture that we have," said left tackle Kage Casey, a potential first-round pick in next year's NFL Draft. "Everyone in the conference knows that we're putting in the work to be the best, and that's what we're going to show game by game, day by day."

Boise State and four other schools — Colorado State, Fresno State, San Diego State and Utah State — will be playing their final season in the Mountain West. Those five will depart for the Pac-12 in what has been a contentious divorce that saw UNLV turn down overtures from the Pac-12 to remain in the Mountain West.

The Rebels made the championship game the past two seasons before falling short against Boise State, and they were picked to finish second again this year. With first-year coach Dan Mullen, who previously coached Florida and Mississippi State, there is great optimism at UNLV of taking the next step and perhaps qualifying for the College Football Playoff.

Junior safety Jake Pope was recruited by Mullen coming out of high school in 2022 but chose Alabama over the Gators. He transferred to Georgia two years later and then to UNLV.

"A really, really great players' coach," Pope said. "He's always down to listen to what we have, positive and negative. ... It's pretty cool to be back here with him."

## Moving on from Jeanty

Jeanty had a season for the ages last year, leading the nation with 2,601 yards and 29 touchdowns rushing. He fell just 27 yards short of Barry Sanders' NCAA record.

It might take a committee to come close to making up such production.

Redshirt freshman Sire Gaines is back after missing nearly all of last season with an injury; in last year's opener against Georgia Southern, he rushed for 110 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries. Malik Sherrod is a sixth-year transfer from Fresno State who also had his season ended prematurely by injury, but in 2023 he rushed for 966 yards and nine TDs.

Whether the Broncos can make up the difference remains to be seen.

"Ashton is one of the top leaders I've ever been around in all my years coaching," Danielson said. "He had that innate sense that could grab a kid, have a one-on-one conversation. Could speak to the entire room. Would also lead by example."

## Taking the next step

Boise State appeared in the playoff last season for the first time. The Broncos, who received a first-round bye, were demolished by Penn State, 31-14, in the quarterfinals.

"We went to the playoffs, but we lost," Casey said. "That's the thing

that I always think about. We were the fourth team to go to the Fiesta Bowl; we were the first Boise State team to fall short. That is deep in our hearts and deep in our thoughts, that we are not going to let that be our legacy. We want to build off of something no Boise State team has ever done. We want to go on a run."

## SEC West at UNLV?

Mullen isn't the only one who gives UNLV an SEC feel as he replaces Barry Odom, who parlayed back-to-back Mountain West title game appearances into the Purdue job.

In addition to Pope, other new Rebels include cornerbacks Denver Harris (previously at LSU and Texas A&M) and Laterrance Welch (LSU).

Drawing players from one of the country's most dominant conference probably isn't the worst strategy.

"The more guys in the program that knows what it takes in an SEC program to win, it's going to translate over to here," Pope said.

## Spartans on the rise

San Jose State, like UNLV, for many years was at or near the bottom of the Mountain West until recently.

The Spartans posted four seven-win seasons in the past five years under two coaches. Brent Brennan built the program before leaving for Arizona after the 2023 season. Ken Niumatalolo — who went 109-83 over 16 years at Navy — took over and guided San Jose State to a 7-6 record last season.

San Jose State was picked third in the Mountain West.

"I think we're way more mature," Niumatalolo said. "I felt a little chaotic at this time last year implementing our culture, implementing what we do. I feel like that stuff's already in place."

# MAC boasts experienced quarterbacks

*Veteran passers will lead trio of conference's top squads*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quarterback Dequan Finn is returning to a very different Mid-American Conference than the one he left when he transferred to Baylor last year.

His biggest challenge now comes from quarterback Parker Navarro, who led Ohio to the 2024 league crown. Finn's backup at Toledo, Tucker Gleason, is now the incumbent starter for the preseason favorite. And Finn, the 2023 MAC Player of the Year, is back to prove he's still the best of the bunch, this time at Miami (Ohio).

Naturally, the league's three best quarterbacks also happen to be running the top three teams as each vies for a championship ring.

"When I got in the portal, that was just like a second chance for me, a second opportunity to showcase my skills," Finn said during last month's league media day in Detroit. "And having a second chance to be on the football field doing what I love the most."

It didn't take Finn long to find out how fleeting success can be. He lost the starting job after two games and only made one more appearance before opting to leave the Bears.

But with so many proven winners and big-name quarterbacks around the league and his starter leaving, Miami coach Chuck Martin waited for Finn to make his decision.

Can he help the RedHawks outduel Navarro, the star in Ohio's 38-3 rout of rival Miami in December's title game, Gleason or anyone else? Perhaps.

"I don't know if he was looking to come back to the MAC or even to Miami. I don't think that was the plan," Martin said. "You're losing your starter, we had a wide open door for somebody to come in and take the job. It



AP

Parker Navarro led Ohio to a Mid-American Conference championship last season.

worked out good for him and worked out good for us."

Other top QBs in the league include Akron incumbent Ben Finley, the brother of former NFL quarterback Ryan Finley, and Bowling Green's Drew Pyne, who played previously at Notre Dame, Arizona State and Missouri.

Each knows the journey will be challenging.

"It would be a display of dominance," Navarro said when asked what it would mean if Ohio won consecutive crowns after snapping a nearly six-decade title drought. "But we know there's a target on it, and we're excited about it."

## Hello and goodbye

In a college football era where change has become the norm, the MAC has been the most stable conference in the FBS.

It couldn't stay that way forever. The league has expanded to 13 teams this

season thanks to the return of UMass, which spent the last nine seasons as an independent after playing in the league from 2012-15.

This season also marks the final year of Northern Illinois' second MAC stint. The Huskies first played in the MAC from 1975-85 then returned in 1997 and pulled off last season's biggest upset, at Notre Dame. They're headed to the Mountain West next year.

## New faces

The 13-team MAC has five new coaches this season, and another — Kent State coach Mark Carney — dropped the interim tag despite a winless 2024.

The headliner is easy: Bowling Green coach Eddie George, the 1995 Heisman Trophy winner.

"It was going to take something special (to leave Tennessee State), and this is something special," George said. "This team's been knocking at the door the last three years, a game here or there and they're playing for a championship. And then a chance to come back to Ohio? Oh yeah."

The other new coaches are Brian Smith at Ohio, Mike Uremovich at Ball State, Joe Harasymiak at UMass and Mark Drinkall at Central Michigan.

## The Big question

With Big Ten teams playing nine league games and some schools adapting with new scheduling philosophies, there is some question whether the traditional Big Ten-MAC matchups will continue. Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher is convinced they will.

"It makes an awful lot of sense we continue to play each other," he said. "My conversation with Big Ten officials certainly leads me to conclude that (we will)."

Nine MAC schools will face Big Ten opponents this season, five on opening weekend.

## BATTERY 2, RIVERHOUNDS 1

# Hounds can't make lead stand in home loss

*Charleston rallies once again, sweeps season series against rival*

BY JOHN PHILLIPS

With an overflow crowd of 6,115 on hand, the second largest in Highmark Stadium history, the Pittsburgh Riverhounds came out fast and confident Saturday against their oldest rivals, the Charleston Battery.

The Palmetto 11 came into the game with the second-best record in the Eastern Conference of the USL Championship — and in the league — and left with a 2-1 win to sweep the season series.

Charleston beat the Hounds, 2-1, on April 12, coming back from being down 1-0 at the half.

An early Riverhounds goal Saturday sent the overflow crowd into a frenzy, but much like in their April encounter, Charleston knotted the score just before the half, then took the lead in the 55th minute.

Riverhounds manager Bob Lilley was not surprised by the Battery's resilient play.

"They are going to make chances. They move the ball, make a play on it. The reality is we should have had our midfielders back further. We're watching and wondering why we aren't coming back and dealing with it. We have to recover."

"We were up 1-0, and they pick up the ball and attack. We didn't react. We knew they would get chances. Let's give them credit."

The fast pace was set early by both teams, but it was the hosts who struck first.

In the 11th minute, team captain Danny Griffin won a ball just across on the Riverhounds (7-7-6) side of the midfield.

He launched it far down the left sideline, where it was won, then sent to defender Luke Biasi.

This was the start of a tick-tac-toe play with a cross from the far-left wing into the box that found teammate Beto Ydrach. Ydrach's header made its way to Griffin, who had raced all the way downfield.

Standing near the top of the 6-yard box, Griffin placed a shot that chipped off the far-right post but quickly made its way back to Griffin's right foot. He firmly rifled the ball past Battery goalkeeper Luis Zamudio for a 1-0 lead.

The clubs spent the next 35 minutes trading blows and balls back and forth between each other's attacking zones.

The visitors took advantage of the three minutes of extra time added.

Charleston (14-4-2) forward Rubio Ruben found a ball that got chipped deep into the box by teammate Matt Myers, who was diagonal of Ruben. His header found the back of the net past Hounds keeper Eric Dick, tying the game.

To begin the second half, each team made an effort to attack, but for the Riverhounds it was a lack of effort on the defensive side that led to the Battery taking the lead in the 51st minute.

Midfielder Arturo Rodriguez found a loose ball that several Riverhounds, including Dick, fought for. Garcia came clear from about 14 yards and placed a low rocket behind the keeper.

The Riverhounds' best chance to tie came in the 74th minute when a ball that got crossed to the far post of Charleston's found forward Augi Williams. But he was on the ground and could not find a foot to shoot, ending that threat.

The Hounds have been very good this season when they scored first, holding an 8-1 record. Both losses now have come at the hands of the Battery.

"You're playing a top team. You have to be at your best," Lilley said. "Both goals were bad goals. Maybe it all evens out, but we knew we had to make plays. We made a couple of mistakes that cost us. We can't be so wasteful when we get chances in the box like the one in the first half where Augi is deep in the box."

"He can't shoot that at the keeper, it has to be at his side. We had more misses inside 6 to 8 yards. Those have to be buried."

John Phillips is a TribLive contributing writer.

# Flashy neon bats catch on at LLWS

*Easton's Hype Fire giveaway thrills young players in Williamsport*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT** — It's not an ice-cream cone. It's not an Italian rainbow cookie. It's the baseball bat being used at the Little League World Series.

Easton's 2026 Hype Fire USA Bat with the neon green grip and the pink-and-neon yellow barrel is hard to miss at the plate. And the players love them.

"I left it up to them which bats they wanted to use. Most of them went with the bat they gave us," Pennsylvania manager Michael Shaw said. "You know, a great color for 12-year-old kids — sour gummy worms."

When Little League teams arrive in Williamsport, they get bright and colorful uniforms and hats at the Grove, the barracks where they live during the tournament. When they go to the batting cages for the first time, the rest of their gear is waiting for them. Bats, gloves, helmets, catching gear, you name it, the players are getting it.

"They were kids in a candy store, and as a coach, I got goose bumps walking in there and I'm 38 years old, so I can only imagine what the 12-year-olds are thinking about while walking through that door, seeing all the gear they got," said South Dakota's manager, Ryan Vavruska. "We're very fortunate to get here and to be blessed with all that gear."

Easton has partnered with Little League for more than 40 years, and in 2023 the partnership was extended through 2028. Rawlings merged with Easton in 2021 and is the

official glove used in the tournament.

"When they opened the roller door down to the batting cages, the stampede started," Australia manager Keith Land said. "These kids are going to be excited to go home and go, 'Look what I've got and look what you haven't got.' They'll rub it in, don't worry about that."

After aluminum bats were turning games into home run derbies, Little League in 2018 changed its bat rules to comply with the USABat Standard, which switched the material used to make the bats, so they now perform more like wooden bats. These bats, however, are lighter and easier to swing for 12-year-old players.

The standard was created to ensure the "long-term integrity of the game," according to USA Baseball. There are now fewer home runs each year at the LLWS, even if the ball sounds good off the bat.

But the players aren't talking about the home runs they may or not hit — they just love having the bat in their hands. Most of them couldn't believe what they were getting.

"It was pretty hype," South Dakota's Camden Tycz said. "When we saw the bat table, it was just astonishing."

Preston Ware's mouth dropped when his team from South Carolina got to the batting cages. He initially thought his whole team would get only one bat to share.

"Coach Dave (Bogan) tried to trick me and said, 'Yes,'" Preston said.

But quick to jump in was Joe Giulietti, who hit a grand slam in South Carolina's first game.

"Preston," he said, "this isn't like the 1960s. When Coach Dave grew up, they had one bat size."

## MAHA report draws attention to societal ills

Document lays out 4 problem areas: Bad diets, too many meds, no exercise, chemical exposure

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A report that U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has promised will improve the health of America's children does not call on the government to make significant changes to its food or farming policies, according to a draft document obtained by the Associated Press.

The "Make America Healthy Again" strategy report is supposed to be one of Kennedy's signature achievements as the

nation's health secretary, giving the government a roadmap to help its citizens lose weight, reduce chronic diseases and exercise more. Before coming to Washington, Kennedy had spent much of his career decrying the harms of chemicals sprayed on crops, prescription drugs, ultraprocessed foods and vaccines.

His coalition, then, has expected him to take bold action as the nation's top health leader. But a draft of the so-called "MAHA" report, first reported by The New York Times

Thursday night, mostly calls on the government to further study chronic diseases, bad air quality, Americans' diets and prescription drug use.

The report lays out four problem areas — poor diet, chemical exposure, lack of physical activity and overuse of medications — that are to blame for chronic diseases in the U.S.

The White House has held off on publicly releasing the report, which was submitted to President Donald Trump on Tuesday. The latest report is the policy companion to a "MAHA" report released in May, which was found to have several errors in it.

White House spokesman Kush Desai refused to confirm whether the copy obtained by the Associated Press was a final version, though HHS officials have insisted the report has been finalized since Tuesday.

"President Trump pledged to Make America Healthy Again, and the Administration is committed to delivering on that pledge with Gold Standard Science," Desai said. "Until officially released by the White House and MAHA Commission, however, any documents purporting to be the second MAHA Report should be considered as nothing more than speculative literature."

Some in the agricultural industry had warily anticipated the report, fearing it would call for bans or investigations into the use of pesticides and herbicides that farmers in the U.S. regularly spray on crops to control weeds and enhance yields. Other farmers were concerned about how the report may target the use of corn syrup, a common sweetener, in American foods. Both products have been a central talking point in Kennedy's "MAHA" movement, which has attracted a diverse coalition of suburban and rural moms, Trump supporters and liberals concerned about the nation's food supply.

Instead, the report calls for an "awareness" campaign to raise confidence in pesticides.

Concerns from the agricultural industry waned as the report hit the president's desk, with one of Kennedy's closest advisers, Calley Means, calling for MAHA supporters to work with major farm companies on Tuesday.

Means also acknowledged that the "pace of political change" can be frustrating.

"We need to build bridges," Means said, adding that: "We are not going to win if the soybean farmers and the corn growers are our enemy."

Means did not respond to a request for comment Friday.

## Erin ramps up quickly to major hurricane

Tropical storm reaches Category 5 strength over 24-hour period

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Hurricane Erin exploded in strength to a Category 5 storm in Atlantic waters just north of the Caribbean on Saturday, rapidly powering up from a tropical storm in a single day, the National Hurricane Center said.

While the compact hurricane's center was not expected to strike land, it threatened to dump flooding rains in the northeast Caribbean as it continued to grow larger.

The first Atlantic hurricane of 2025, Erin ramped up from a tropical storm to a Category 5 hurricane in a mere 24 hours. By late Saturday morning, its maximum sustained winds had more than doubled to 160 mph.

Mike Brennan, director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said Erin grew into a "very powerful hurricane," with its winds gaining 60 mph in about nine hours.

The Hurricane Center said Erin should begin to slowly weaken Monday as the storm encounters increased wind shear. However, forecasters predicted that it will remain a major hurricane until late in the week.

Erin close enough to land to trigger flooding, landslides

The hurricane remained a Category 5 storm Saturday evening, when it was 135 miles northwest of Anguilla and moving west at 15 mph. The storm's center was forecast to remain at sea, passing 145 miles north of Puerto Rico, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Tropical storm watches were issued for St. Martin, St. Barts and St. Maarten and the Hurricane Center warned that heavy rain in some areas could trigger flash flooding, landslides and mudslides. The Turks and Caicos Islands southeast of the Bahamas were also under a tropical storm watch.

Though compact, with hurricane-force winds extending 30 miles from its center, Erin is expected to double or even triple in size in the coming days.

Powerful rip currents could affect the U.S. East Coast from Florida to the mid-Atlantic next week, despite the eye of the storm forecast to remain far offshore, Brennan said.

Hurricane specialist and storm surge expert Michael Lowry said Erin gained strength at a pace that was "incredible for any time of year, let alone Aug. 16."

Lowry said only four other Category 5 hurricanes have been recorded in the Atlantic on or before Aug. 16.

The most powerful storms tend to form later in the year, with the hurricane season typically peaking in mid-September.

In October 2005, Hurricane Wilma rocketed from a tropical storm to a Category 5 in less than 24 hours, according to National Hurricane Center advisories from that time.



Pope Leo XIV tours St. Peter's Square on May 18 before the inaugural Mass of his pontificate.

## 100 days of Pope Leo

### Chicago native's calm papacy avoids polemics

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — When Pope Leo XIV surprised tens of thousands of young people at a recent Holy Year celebration with an impromptu popemobile romp around St. Peter's Square, it almost seemed as if some of the informal spontaneity that characterized Pope Francis' 12-year papacy had returned to the Vatican.

But the message Leo delivered that night was all his own: In seamless English, Spanish and Italian, Leo told the young people that they were the "salt of the Earth, the light of the world." He urged them to spread their hope, faith in Christ and cries of peace wherever they go.

As Robert Prevost marks his 100th day as Pope Leo this weekend, the contours of his pontificate have begun to come into relief, primarily where he shows continuity with Francis and where he signals change. Perhaps the biggest takeaway is that after 12 sometimes turbulent years under Francis,

**"Even those who really loved Pope Francis always kind of held their breath a little bit: You didn't know what was going to come out next or what he was going to do."**

KEVIN HUGHES

CHAIR OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

a certain calm and reserve have returned to the papacy.

Leo seems eager above all to avoid polemics or making the papacy about himself and wants instead to focus on Christ and peace.

"He's been very direct and forthright ... but he's not doing spontaneous press hits," said Kevin Hughes, chair of theology and religious studies at Leo's alma mater, Villanova University. Leo has a different style than Francis, and that has brought relief to many, Hughes said.

"Even those who really loved Pope Francis always kind of held

their breath a little bit: You didn't know what was going to come out next or what he was going to do," Hughes said.

Leo, a Chicago native and the first American pope, has certainly gone out of his way in his first 100 days to try to heal divisions that deepened during Francis' pontificate, offering messages of unity and avoiding controversy at almost every turn. Even his signature issue — confronting the promise and peril posed by artificial intelligence — is something that conservatives and progressives alike agree is important. Francis' emphasis on caring for the environment and migrants often alienated conservatives.

Closer to home, Leo offered the Holy See bureaucracy a reassuring, conciliatory message after Francis' occasionally authoritarian style rubbed some in the Vatican the wrong way.

"Popes come and go, but the Curia remains," Leo told Vatican officials soon after his May 8 election.

## Discovery puts whales in spotlight

Scientists say ancient specimen had a Pokémon face and a predator's bite

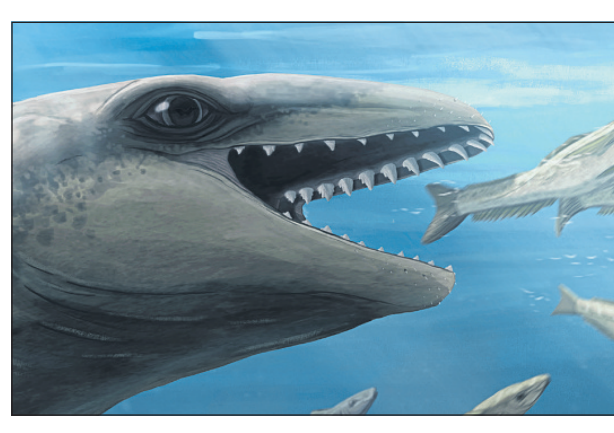
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Long before whales were majestic, gentle giants, some of their prehistoric ancestors were tiny, weird and feral. A chance discovery of a 25 million-year-old fossil on an Australian beach has allowed paleontologists to identify a rare, entirely new species that could unlock mysteries of whale evolution.

Researchers last week officially named Janjucetus dullardi, a cartoonish creature with bulging eyes the size of tennis balls, in the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society. Unlike today's whales, the juvenile specimen was small enough to fit in a single bed.

Boasting fiendish teeth and a shark-like snout, however, this oddball of the ocean was nasty, mean and built to hunt.

"It was, let's say, deceptively cute," said Erich Fitzgerald, senior curator of vertebrate paleontology at Museums Victoria Research Institute, and one of the



In this illustration provided by Ruairidh Duncan, a Janjucetus dullardi is depicted chasing a fish.

paper's authors.

"It might have looked for all the world like some weird kind of mash-up between a whale, a seal and a Pokémon."

The rare discovery of the partial skull, including ear bones and teeth, was made in 2019 on a fossil-rich stretch of coast along Australia's Victoria state. Jan Juc Beach, a cradle for some of the weirdest whales in history, is becoming a hotspot for understanding early whale evolution, Fitzgerald said.

Janjucetus dullardi, thought to have grown to 10 feet in length, was an early branch on the line

that led to today's great baleen whales, such as humpbacks, blues and minke. But the toothy ancestors with powerful jaws would have looked radically different to any modern species.

"They may have had tiny little nubbins of legs just projecting as stumps from the wall of the body," said Fitzgerald.

That mystery will remain tantalizingly unsolved unless a specimen is uncovered with more of its skeleton intact, which would be something of a miracle. Even the partial skull that allowed the initial identification this week was an astonishing discovery.

## 3 states sending Guard units to D.C.

Demonstrators protest federal crackdown as hundreds of troops deployed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Three states moved to deploy hundreds of members of their National Guard to the nation's capital as part of the Trump administration's effort to overhaul policing in Washington through a federal crackdown on crime and homelessness.

West Virginia said it was deploying 300 to 400 Guard troops, while South Carolina pledged 200 and Ohio says it will send 150 in the coming days.

The moves announced Saturday came as protesters pushed back on federal law enforcement and National Guard troops fanning out in the heavily Democratic city following President Donald Trump's executive order federalizing local police forces and activating about 800 District of Columbia National Guard members.

By adding outside troops to join the existing Guard deployment and federal law enforcement officers, Trump is exercising even tighter control over the city. It's a power play that the president has justified as an emergency response to crime and homelessness, even though city officials have noted that violent crime is lower than it was during Trump's first term in office.

So far, National Guard members have played a limited role in law enforcement in D.C., and it's unclear why additional troops are needed. They have been seen patrolling at landmarks like the National Mall and Union Station and assisting with crowd control.

A protest against Trump's intervention drew scores to Dupont Circle on Saturday before a march to the White House, about 1½ miles away. Demonstrators assembled behind a banner that said "No fascist takeover of D.C.," and some in the crowd held signs saying "No military occupation."

Trump was at his Virginia golf club after Friday's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

Morgan Taylor, one of the organizers who coordinated Saturday's protest, said they were hoping to spark enough backlash to Trump's actions that the administration would be forced to pull back on its crime and immigration agenda.



Activists march to the White House on Saturday to protest President Donald Trump's federal takeover of policing in Washington.

To place an obituary, call 844-523-4210 or email [obits@triblive.com](mailto:obits@triblive.com).

**George Henry "Pappy" Broadright Jr.**  
NORMANGEE, TX

On Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, George Henry Broadright Jr., aka Pappy, loving husband, father and brother, was received in the arms of his Lord and savior, Jesus Christ.

George was born Jan. 10, 1938, in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. He grew up in West Homestead. He was a 1955 graduate from Munhall High School, Munhall. George is also a graduate of Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics (PIA) in West Mifflin and was in the Air Force Reserve. George was preceded in death by his father, George Henry Broadright Sr.; mother, Catherine (Albrecht) Broadright; and son-in-law, Michael S. Solt. He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Barbara (Renfro) Broadright, of Normangee, TX, whom he married Nov. 13, 1981. He leaves behind his three children, his twins, Shawn Joel Broadright and Katrina (Broadright) Solt, and his youngest daughter, Tri-sha Danielle Broadright, all of Conroe, TX. George is also survived by his sister, Judy (Broadright) Angel of Pennsylvania. His nieces are Jodie (Angel) Banyas (Tim) of Pennsylvania and Shannon (Angel) Joyner (James) of North Carolina. George is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. George and Barb's passion for helping others extended to three individuals that became part of the family: Faith, Laura and Savannah Hill. George began his career at Becket Aviation in Allegheny County. Then on to a career in aircraft mechanics, working for Texas International, Continental, Delta and other airlines. He had a passion for airplanes and all things cowboy. His love for airplanes showed in his passion and involvement with the Confederate Air Force (Commemoration Air Force) and his crew of the PBV. He was honored by the Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration with the Charley Taylor "Master Mechanic" Award in October 2012. He loved to carve and make beautiful things from wood and his woodwork. **Services were held graveside only at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 16, 2025, at Camp Ruby Community Cemetery, officiated by Steve Mullins, 124 Camp Ruby Road, Livingston, TX 77351.** Flowers can be sent to COCHRAN FUNERAL HOME, 406 N. Yaupon Ave., Livingston, TX 77351.

**JoLane Brant Ceconi**  
RALEIGH, NC

JoLane Brant Ceconi, a woman of unwavering faith and boundless love, transitioned to heaven on April 3, 2025, after a nearly 20-year battle with Parkinson's disease a struggle that tested her resilience yet never diminished her spirit. Born April 25, 1940, in New Freeport, to Freda (Whipkey) Brant and Ronald E. Brant, JoLane lived a remarkable life defined by service, family and an unshakable commitment to her values. The youngest of two children, she attended a one-room schoolhouse before her family relocated to Penn Township. There, she excelled at Penn Joint High School as an honor student, head cheerleader, May Queen and spirited sock hopper. She continued her academic success at Mt. Mercy College (now Carlow University), graduating with honors and earning her RN degree. JoLane began her career as a public health nurse until the birth of her first child led her to embrace full-time motherhood, a role she excelled in naturally. JoLane met Peter Ceconi through mutual friends in Greensburg, and they married Oct. 6, 1962, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. It was well known that JoLane and Pete prioritized their marriage and referred to themselves as best friends. Together, they raised seven children: Dana Leech (Doug), Amanda Ceconi (Randy Thompson), Mira Tavera (Hector), Peter B. Ceconi (Jennifer), Samantha Shewalter (Paul), Marcus Ceconi (Jackie) and Dante

**Regional deaths**

**WESTMORELAND COUNTY**

Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Davis, Mary Ellen, 71*	Ruffsdale	Brooks, Mt. Pleasant
Donati, Janet*	Latrobe	Frederick, Latrobe
Johns, Esther, 92*	New Stanton	Beatty-Rich, Madison
Kobistek, Paul, 75*	Weltytown	Bacha, Pleasant Unity
Marsh, Florence, 94*	Latrobe	Kepple-Graft, Greensburg
Oravec, Sandra, 76*	Murrysville	Vaia, Delmont

An asterisk (\*) after a name indicates that a full death notice appears in these pages. (F) after a residence denotes "formerly." Friends of the deceased are invited to sign the online guest book at [www.TribLIVE.com](http://www.TribLIVE.com).

Ranieri, Thomas, 87*	Greensburg	Graziano, Jeannette
Varuolo, Dolores, 75*	Trafford	Dobrinick, Trafford
Welsh, William, 72*	Latrobe	Lopatich-Brinker, Latrobe

**ELSEWHERE**

Name, Age	Residence	Funeral home
Broadright Jr., George*	Normangee, TX	Cochran, Livingston, TX
Cecconi, JoLane*	Raleigh, NC	Brown-Wynne, Raleigh, NC
Smith, JoAnn, 85*	Chattanooga, TN	Hamilton, Hixson, TN

Ceconi (Hilary). Though capable of pursuing various careers, JoLane chose to invest her energy and love in her family and the causes she cherished, shaping the lives of her children, 18 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and countless community members. A devout Catholic, JoLane's faith was the cornerstone of her life. After her children started school, she attended daily Mass, served as a Eucharistic minister, delivered communion to the homebound, served on the Parish Council at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral and led numerous Bible studies. She raised her children to know Jesus and lived her faith through action. A fierce advocate for life, JoLane was a decades-long member of Pennsylvanians for Human Life (PHL), serving as president as well as leading bus trips to the March for Life in Washington, DC. She also founded Mom's House, a nonprofit daycare supporting single parents in completing their education and developing parenting skills. Starting from humble kitchen-table beginnings, she spent hours securing a facility and fundraising to realize the mission. JoLane remained its heart, inspiring board members and volunteers, and through these efforts, her legacy of love and service extended far beyond her family. Beyond her external work, JoLane tirelessly supported her husband's architectural firm, which grew from a home-based office with her love and encouragement. In recent years, she and Peter traveled the world, visiting family and touring with their children, eventually moving to Raleigh, NC, in 2020, to be near five of their seven children and many grandchildren. She delighted in being in close proximity to her grandchildren, who spoiled her with chocolate and other sweet treats. JoLane was preceded in death by her parents, Freda and Ronald E. Brant, and her brothers, Jerry and Jay Brant. She leaves behind her beloved husband of 62 years, Peter P. Ceconi Jr.; her seven children; 18 grandchildren: Joshua Zerkel (Morgan), Aaron Zerkel, Meghan Zerkel Fields (Will), Jacob Zerkel, Marinda Cauley, Fiona Cauley, Liam Cauley, Hector Tavera, Giovanna Tavera, Brant Ceconi, Amelia Ceconi, Frank Shewalter, Joseph Shewalter, Michael Shewalter, Mimi Ceconi, Maeve Ceconi, Luca Ceconi and Lina Ceconi; and three great-grandchildren, Adelaide Zerkel, Otto Zerkel, and Hadley Fields. **A memorial Mass will be celebrated at noon Saturday, Aug. 30, in the chapel at St. Emma Monastery, 1001 Harvey Ave., Greensburg, PA.** In lieu of flowers, donations may be made online at The National Christian Foundation/The JoLane Fund supporting pro-life causes. For full donation details, call 800-681-6223.

**Mary Ellen Davis**  
RUFFSDALE

Mary Ellen Davis, 71, of Ruffsdale, died Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025, in Independence Health System Frick Hospital. She was born July 24, 1954, in Stahlstown, a daughter of the late Quentin and Ruth Beer Baker. Mary Ellen was a graduate of Mt. Pleasant Area High School, and she later attended the Western School of Health and Business. Early in her life, she worked at the sewing factory in Norvelt and later at Sony and, after her schooling, she worked as a medical assistant for Allegheny Health System. She is survived by her husband, Doug Bryan Davis; her children, Keri Fosbrink and her husband, Todd, of Connellsville, Jonathan Musgrove of Armbrust and Bryan Davis and his wife, Jessica, of Unity; her grandchild, Madison Maye; her sister, Margaret Sanner of Stahlstown; her brothers, Roy Thomas Baker and his wife, Betty, of Scranton, Robert Baker of Stahlstown, Philip Baker and his wife, Samantha, of Mt. Pleasant, and William Baker and his wife, Valerie, of Champion; and numerous nieces and

nephews and their families. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by sisters, Jean Ann McInay, Margaret Etter and Karen Heffner; and a brother, Quentin A. Baker. **Family and friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, in BROOKS FUNERAL HOME INC., 406 E. Washington St., Mt. Pleasant, where services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, with her brother-in-law, the Rev. John Lloyd Davis, officiating. Interment will follow in the Stahlstown Cemetery.** To offer a condolence or remembrance, please visit [www.brooksfuneralhomes.com](http://www.brooksfuneralhomes.com).

**Janet Marie (Resnik) Donati**  
LATROBE

Janet Marie (Resnik) Donati, of Latrobe, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, with her loving husband by her side. Janet is survived by her devoted husband of 69 years, Richard (Dick) Donati; son Ric (Hope) Donati of Walkersville, MD; grandsons, Jason (Caitlin) Donati of Timonium, MD, and Justin Donati of Victor, NY; and great-granddaughters, Sloane and Emery Donati. She is preceded in death by her parents, John and Rose Resnik; brothers, Donald (Martha) Resnik and Larry (Sylvia) Resnik; daughter, Christi Donati Fischer; and granddaughter, Marie Donati. Born July 7, 1937, in Eldersville, she was raised on a farm with her parents and brothers in Eldersville. She is a graduate of Burgettstown High School and received her AA degree from Westmoreland County Community College in nursing. Janet worked as a nurse at Latrobe Hospital, Latrobe Pediatric Center and finally at Greensburg Junior/Senior High School. She was a founding member of the Latrobe Settlers Club, a member of the Latrobe Women's Club, and enjoyed playing bridge with her many friends. She was a member of the Latrobe Presbyterian Church, where she sang in the choir. For many years, Janet was also a volunteer at the Latrobe Hospital "Little Shop." The family would like to thank the Excelsior Hospice Care staff, especially Lisa, Amber and Ashley. Likewise, many thanks to the Loyalhanna Care Center staff for their compassionate care. **Funeral arrangements are being handled by FREDERICK FUNERAL HOME INC., 1543 Ligonier St., Latrobe, PA 15650. There will be no visitation. A memorial service will be held at Unity Chapel at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 29, with the Rev. Derek Campbell officiating.** In lieu of flowers, those wishing to honor Janet are encouraged to send their gift to the Latrobe Presbyterian Church/Choir Department, 428 Main St., Latrobe, PA 15650. To send condolences, please visit [www.FrederickFuneralHome.com](http://www.FrederickFuneralHome.com).

**Esther L. "Essy" (Hillier) Johns**  
NEW STANTON

Esther L. "Essy" (Hillier) Johns, 92, of New Stanton, passed away peacefully Sunday, July 27, 2025, at her home. She was born Dec. 7, 1932, in Huntingdon, a daughter of the late Ralph B. and Edith Pearl (Thompson) Hillier. She graduated from Irwin High School, Class of 1950. Essy was a member of Middletown United Methodist Church. She worked as a cashier for Sanson's in Irwin for 20 years, as well as a cashier for C&C Lumber for five years. Essy loved flowers and planted many around her home. Later in life, she worked at Hazuza's Greenhouse part-time. She was a .22 rifle champion, a fantastic quilter and had great sewing skills, making many clothing items for her children, including many Easter dresses. She grew vegetables in her garden every

year and canned and froze the produce. Essy enjoyed doing puzzles, crossword puzzles and jigsaw puzzles, and she made the best nut rolls. She loved to dance and go to drives with her husband. She enjoyed a wonderful trip to Hawaii for their 25th anniversary, as well as several beach trips to Myrtle Beach, SC, with family. She was preceded in death by both parents; daughter, Constance Elizabeth Richter; and brother, William F. Hillier. She is survived by her loving husband of 72 years, whom she married on Groundhog Day in 1951, John E. Johns of New Stanton; daughters, Sally (Phillip) Crow of Pittsburgh, and Cindy Ann (Duane) Wilkins of Mt. Pleasant; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sister, Judith A. (Carl W.) Hirst of Aiken, SC; sister-in-law, Bonnie G. Hillier; and special nieces, Carolyn and Diane. **Friends will be received from 1 to 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at BEATTY-RICH FUNERAL HOME INC., Route 136, Madison, PA 15663, Ronald A. Rich Jr., supervisor/FD. A memorial service will take place at 2 p.m. at the funeral home with the Rev. Robert Green officiating. Interment will be private.** To leave an online condolence, please visit [www.beatty-rich-funeralhome.com](http://www.beatty-rich-funeralhome.com).

**Paul L. "Skip" Kobistek**  
WELTYTOWN

Paul L. "Skip" Kobistek, 75, of Weltytown, died Thursday, Aug. 14, 2025, at Independence Health System Westmoreland Hospital, Greensburg. He was born April 20, 1950, in Latrobe, a son of the late Paul L. Sr. and Eva M. (Mizenko) Kobistek. Skip was the owner of the Pleasant Corner Inn in Pleasant Unity and was retired from Gulisek Construction. He also worked as a truck driver known by his handle, "Midnight Rider." In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Alice "Nina" (Corna) Kobistek. He is survived by his wife, Tina M. (Kritz) Kobistek; two sons, Paul L. Kobistek III of Mt. Pleasant Township and Brian Kobistek (April) of Greensburg; three grandchildren, Tristan of Mt. Pleasant Township, Justin of Pleasant Unity and Brooklyn Kobistek of Greensburg; his sister, Janice Wise (Jim) of Weltytown; sisters and brother-in-law, Jenny Kritz (Eric) of Mt. Pleasant, Joseph Kritz Jr. (Robin) of Norvelt and Ravin (Gary) of Kecksburg; and six nieces and nephews, Tristan, Misty and Derek (Nicole) Smith, Kendall and T.J. Throm and Mylyssa (Lace) Wilson. **Family and friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, 2025, at LEO M. BACHA FUNERAL HOME INC., 2072 Route 130, Pleasant Unity.** [www.bachafh.com](http://www.bachafh.com).

**Florence Lauffer Marsh**  
LATROBE

Florence Lauffer Marsh, 94, of Latrobe, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, Sunday, July 27, 2025. Flossie was born Jan. 5, 1931 in Paintertown, to the late Jessie and Marian Lauffer of Irwin. Her loving husband and family were the center of her life. She always had a smile on her face and a kind word to say to others, she and enjoyed spending time with relatives and friends. She was a member of Saint Vincent Basilica in Latrobe. Flossie's faith was the cornerstone of her life. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Thomas C. Marsh of Greensburg; her brother, Holmes Lauffer; and their son, Thomas A. Marsh. She is survived by her four children, Tara (George) Post from Clyde, NC, Mimi (Tom) Pitzer of Wake Forest, NC, Jenny (Steve) Pachesky of North Huntingdon and Mark

(Cheryl) Marsh of Mt. Juliet, TN. Her grandchildren: Alexis Pachesky, Sarah (Brian) Moeller, Stevie Pachesky, Tommy Pitzer, Abby Post (Cody Evans), Carli (Andy) Plemmons and Nathan (Jitra) Post; grandpup, Samantha "Sammi" Marsh. Great-grandchildren: Willow, Ripley, Summer and Jayden. **Relatives and friends of Flossie will be received from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 22, 2025, at KEPPLE-GRAFT FUNERAL HOME, 524 N. Main St., Greensburg, PA 15601. A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025, at Saint Vincent Basilica, Latrobe, PA 15650, followed by burial at Brush Creek Cemetery in Irwin.** In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to: The Union Mission, P.O. Box 271, Latrobe, PA 15650. The Marsh Family would like to thank Bernadette Lesko and her family for the wonderful care they gave to their mother. For online condolences, please visit [www.kepplegraft.com](http://www.kepplegraft.com).



**Sandra K. Oravec**  
MURRYSVILLE

Sandra K. Oravec, 76, of Murrysville, passed away Monday, Aug. 11, 2025. She was born March 19, 1949, in Johnstown, the daughter of the late George H. and Miriam C. (Knobloch) Clagett Sr. Sandra was a member of St. John Baptist de La Salle Church and the Secular Franciscan Order and was a faith formation teacher for 23 years. Prior to her retirement, Sandra was a pharmacy technician. In addition to her parents, Sandra was preceded in death by her brother, George H. Clagett Jr.; and sister, Vongale H. Clagett. Sandra will be deeply missed by her loving husband of 48 years, Alan J. Oravec; and daughters, Christina (Reuben) Smith and Laura (David) Sylvia. Sandra was a proud grandmother to Celeste Sylvia, whom she loved dearly. **Family and friends will be received from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, 2025, at VAIA FUNERAL HOME INC., 463 Athena Drive, Delmont, 724-468-1177. A Mass for Sandra will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025, at St. John Baptist de La Salle Church, Delmont. Everyone is to meet at the church.** To send online expressions of sympathy or obtain grief support information or directions, please visit [www.VaiaFuneralHome.com](http://www.VaiaFuneralHome.com).

**Thomas Charles Ranieri**  
GREENSBURG

Thomas Charles Ranieri, 87, of Greensburg, passed away Friday, Aug. 15, 2025, in Newhaven Court at Linwood, Greensburg. He was born July 19, 1938, in Plum Township, a son of the late James and Jane (Stevick) Ranieri. Tom was a graduate of Penn High School, Class of 1956, and a graduate of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Prior to his retirement, Tom was a salesman for Action Industries in Cheswick. He was a member of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg. Tom was a veteran, having served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He was a volunteer for the local Meals on Wheels organization and enjoyed golfing and traveling with his wife. In addition to his parents, Tom was predeceased by siblings, James Ranieri and Marsha Lovas. He is survived by his loving wife, Jaqueline Keener Ranieri; his sons, Michael Ranieri and wife, Diane, of Pittsburgh and Scott Ranieri of Greensburg. **Friends will be received 4 to 7 p.m. Monday in JOHN V. GRAZIANO FUNERAL HOME INC., 228 N. Second St., Jeannette. A blessing service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the funeral home chapel. Entombment will follow in the Twin Valley Memorial Park, Delmont.**

**JoAnn (Bussard) Smith**  
CHATTANOOGA, TN

JoAnn (Bussard) Smith, beloved wife, mother, teacher and friend, passed away peacefully at home Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at the age of 85, surrounded by the love and care of her devoted family and caregivers. Born Feb. 22, 1940, in Herminie, JoAnn grew up in West Newton. She graduated from Sewickley High School and then attended Indiana State Teachers College (now Indiana University of Pennsylvania), where she was a member of Theta Sigma Upsilon, earning a degree in elementary education. It was there she met her future husband, Alan C. Smith of Herminie. The two were married for 61 years, until Alan's death in 2023. JoAnn began her teaching career at H.W. Goode Elementary School in the Yough School District. After the birth of their daughter, Lisa Ann, she took time to focus on her family before returning to the classroom when Lisa was 4, teaching fourth grade at West Hempfield Elementary. Alan, who passed away in 2023, was a respected educator and administrator in the Yough School District. JoAnn was a talented seamstress and homemaker as well as a teacher, and she frequently accompanied Alan as he pursued his passions for fishing and hunting. When JoAnn was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1979, Alan took a sabbatical to be by her side, as he was until his last days. After her recovery, they spent summers at a cabin in Kane, a place they built and loved. They traveled the country in RVs, driving to Alaska and to most every state and provincial park in the U.S. and Canada. Alan and JoAnn moved to Chattanooga in 2011 to be close to their grandchildren; they attended every activity they could, from Bright School to Baylor. JoAnn was preceded in death by Alan; her brother-in-law, Welden C. Jones; and her parents, Ralph A. and Rose (Mikel) Bussard of West Newton. She is survived by her sister, Mary Lou (Bussard) Jones (Welden); her daughter, Lisa Ann, who attended Hempfield Area schools and is a pediatric surgeon in Chattanooga, TN; and Lisa's family, husband, W. David Bruce, MD; and her grandchildren, Camilla Zavala and Alana Zavala, William and Staci Bruce, and Henry Bruce, all of Chattanooga. Her last years were made safe and comfortable by her caregivers, including Elizabeth Chacon, Gloria Grady and others. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched through her teaching and in the strength and fortitude she shared with her family and friends. **A private service will be held to honor JoAnn's life and legacy. She will be buried beside Alan in West Newton Cemetery.** In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Jude Catholic Church in Chattanooga, TN, in JoAnn's memory. JoAnn's life was a testament to a life of kindness, dedication, and love. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Arrangements are by HAMILTON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES, 4506 Hixson Pike, Hixson, TN 37343, 423-531-3975.

**TRIB | TOTAL MEDIA**  
OBITUARY DEPARTMENT

How to reach us...

Sunday through Friday  
11:00 to 6:30 pm

Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Toll Free Phone: 1-844-523-4210

E-mail: [Obits@triblive.com](mailto:Obits@triblive.com)

Please contact your funeral home for deadlines and pricing.

**Dolores Varuolo**  
TRAFFORD

Dolores Varuolo, 75, of Trafford, passed away Friday, Aug. 15, 2025, at her home, surrounded by her family. Dolores was born June 10, 1950, the daughter of the late Theodore and Alice (Kraus) Novak. Dolores' life was filled with love and laughter, grounded in her faith and centered around her family. Her home was always full (sometimes overfull) of people. She especially enjoyed playing games around the dining room table with her family and sitting on her deck taking in the beauty of her garden. In addition to her parents, Dolores was preceded in death

by her husband, Michael J. Varuolo Jr.; and her siblings, Mary Ann "Mitzi" Pedder, Frances Ross and Theodore Novak Jr. Dolores is survived by her loving children, Lena Varuolo of Sterling, VA, Cynthia Carter-Gates of Murrells Inlet, SC, Barbara Tepke of Jeannette, Theresa DeMichiei of Rockville, MD, and Laura Varuolo of Trafford; her grandchildren, Alyscia Carter, Mickey Hartman and his wife, Florencia, Savannah Carter, Hannah Gates, Cassidy Tepke, Alexis Tepke, Nat Tepke, Caleb Tepke, Sophia Varuolo, Maxwell DeMichiei and Michael DeMichiei; her great-grandchildren, Olivia Lydick, Carson Dushack and James Werley Jr.; her siblings, Patricia Kuchna of Acme, Cathy Zieger of Homosassa, FL, and Richard Novak of Level Green; and numerous

nieces and nephews. **Family and friends will be received from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025, in JOHN M. DOBRINICK FUNERAL HOME INC., 702 Seventh St. (State Route 130), Trafford, 412-372-3111. Parting prayers of transfer will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in the funeral home, followed by a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. in St. Regis Church, Trafford, with Father Daniel Carr as celebrant. Interment will follow in the New St. Joseph Cemetery, North Versailles.** To leave a condolence, please visit [www.DobrinickFHInc.com](http://www.DobrinickFHInc.com).



**William Steven Welsh**  
William S. Welsh, a devoted husband, father and friend, passed away peacefully Aug. 15, 2025, at the age of 72. Born to Dolores and William Welsh in Follansbee, WV, he grew up with a strong sense of service and dedication. He proudly served his county in the United States Air Force before beginning a successful career in the cable and telecommunications industry, where he worked for over 30 years. He was a graduate of Greater Latrobe Senior High School, Class of 1971. Above all, "Big Bill" was a loving husband to Janet Welsh and a family man. It was love at first sight for Bill and his wife, who began their relationship as high school sweethearts. They were married for 53 years. He cherished the life he built

with Janet. He was a proud father of his three children, Natalie, Rachel and William. He was blessed with a daughter-in-law, Elyse Welsh, and a former son-in-law, David Renninger. He is survived by his wife, Janet; daughter, Rachel Welsh of Charles Town, WV; son, William (Elyse) Welsh of Sharpsburg; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Nancy Sandacz and Philip Saffer; nephew and niece, Michael (Chrissy) Sandacz and Nicole (Shawn) Baker; great-niece and great-nephew, Olivia Sandacz and Michael Stanley Baker; and his granddogg, Chewie Louie. He was preceded in death by his parents; his in-laws, Helen and Stanley Schalosky; and his daughter, Natalie. His memory will live on through those who loved him most. Bill will be remembered for his loyalty, hard work and

deep love for his family. His humor and steadfast nature touched the lives of many. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to the American Cancer Society. **There will be no services held to celebrate his life, as he valued his privacy. Arrangements are being handled by LOPATICH-BRINKER FUNERAL HOME LLC, 601 Weldon St., Latrobe.** To sign the online guest book, send condolences, or share a story, please visit [www.lopatichbrinker.com](http://www.lopatichbrinker.com).

*In the hearts of those who loved you, You will always be there.*

BRIEFLY SPEAKING

**Fundraiser**  
• West Newton Public Library will sell children's books from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the library parking lot, 124 N. Water St. Cost: one bag, \$5; get two bags free. **Details:** 724-633-0798.

**Music**  
• Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, 301 E. Pittsburgh St., Delmont, will have an End of Summer Bash at 1 p.m. Saturday at the church. The Delmont Area Concert Band will perform. Bring a lawn chair.

**Reunion**  
• Derry High School Class of 1960 will have a reunion at 4 p.m. Sept. 6 at DeNunzio's Italian Chop House, Arnold Palmer Regional Airport, Unity. Reservations required by Aug. 22. **Details:** 724-468-4863.

**Senior citizen news**  
• Irwin Senior Activity Center, 310 Oak St., will celebrate National Senior Citizens Day on Wednesday. Vendors will hand out free items from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. and there will be a buffet lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., dine in only. Registration for events and lunch required at least one day in advance. Donations are accepted for all activities. **Details:** 724-787-1760.  
• A Seniors for Safe Driving class will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 25 at Regional

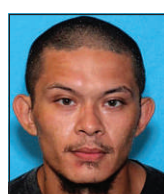
Family YMCA of Laurel Highlands, 490 Bessemer Road, East Huntingdon. The class is PennDOT approved and for drivers who are at least 55. Safe drivers can receive a 5% discount on auto insurance for three years. Cost: \$17. **Details and registration:** 800-559-4880 or [seniorsforsafe.driving.com](http://seniorsforsafe.driving.com).

**Veterans news**  
• A veterans service officer will be available to discuss Veterans Affairs benefits from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 25 at the Donegal American Legion, 3812 Route 31, Donegal Township. Veterans, spouses and widows from all counties welcome. No appointment required. **Details:** Ron, 724-830-3532.  
• A veterans service officer will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the office of state Rep. Jill Cooper, 105 Pfeiffer Road, suite 5, Washington Township. Services available will include disability and pension claims, benefit questions, assisting spouses with survivor benefits issues and applications for veterans grants. Appointments will be accepted, but walk-ins are welcome. **Appointments:** 724-387-9113.

*Submissions from nonprofit organizations for Briefly Speaking should be emailed to [cpinto-smith@triblive.com](mailto:cpinto-smith@triblive.com). Include a complete address and daytime phone number. Submissions are due at least two weeks prior to the event. Each announcement is printed once; there is no fee.*

**Greensburg man wanted for assault, break-in at Unity home, police say**

BY JEFF HIMLER



Vanderella

State police are searching for a Greensburg man who is accused of breaking in and assaulting a woman and her son in their Unity home. Police said Seth Michael Vanderella, 33, forced his way into the home in the middle of the night July 27 and attacked the woman. Her son was

shoved to the ground when he tried to intervene, police said. According to police, Vanderella had fled from the residence by the time troopers arrived to find the woman with a black eye and a fractured leg. An arrest warrant has been issued for Vanderella, who is charged with burglary, aggravated

assault, simple assault, criminal trespass and harassment. Police said he could be in the Lancaster area. He is 5 feet, 10 inches tall, weighs 215 pounds and has brown hair and eyes. Anyone with information concerning his whereabouts is asked to contact police at 724-832-3288 or call the state police tip line, 800-472-8477.

*Jeff Himler is a TribLive staff writer.*

MARRIAGE LICENSES

These marriage licenses were issued by the Westmoreland County Register of Wills Office:  
• Robert Anthony Forsha and Paige Alexis Klapchar, both of Derry.  
• Nicholas Andrew Roycroft and Taya Lee Offman, both of Greensburg.  
• Frank Joseph Koontz and Catherine Rose Brennan, both of Export.  
• Robert Charles Camilli of Connellsville and Shayna Lyn Nowark of McKeesport.  
• Shawn Michael Wilkins of Madison and Lyndsey Nicole Beatty of Charleroi.  
• Adam Zane Patsy and Emily Ayn Mizerski, both of Monessen.  
• Nathanael Luke Eichelberger of North Versailles and Taisia Maria White of Jeannette.

• Joshua John Coughanour and Katherine Grace Lash, both of Mt. Pleasant.  
• Sean Richard Boyles and Caitlin Marie Nicholson, both of Belle Vernon.  
• Parker James Roe and Hannah Mae Ponitz, both of Farmington Hills, Mich.  
• Jamie Robert Regan and Jodi Beth Pollick, both of Murrysville.  
• Garret John Polka and Allison Gabrielle Bruno, both of Monroeville.  
• Justin Clark Bohatch and April Lynne Kovatch, both of Latrobe.  
• Adam Richard Krozel and Kathy Ann Wade, both of Mt. Pleasant.  
• Peter Alan Streussnig and Caitlin Jennifer Johnson, both of Naples, N.Y.  
• Jarod Erich Hoegel and Heather Ann Mueller, both

of Irwin.  
• Levi Matthew Trapantotto and Kathleen Martina Kelly, both of Murrysville.  
• Joseph Donald Antonich and Michelle Elizabeth Lubovinsky, both of Rilliton.  
• Andrew Michael Laird and Maria Nicole Foschia, both of Greensburg.  
• John Joseph Christopher Gould and Stephanie Ann Berie, both of Monessen.  
• Matthew John Conley and Jordan Leigh Comer, both of Smithton.  
• Timothy Lee Gray and Elizabeth Grace Dixon, both of Westmoreland City.  
• Adam Leonard Miller and Allissa Marie Fronzaglio, both of Mt. Pleasant.  
• Gary Lee Lowden and Heidi Mae Kuhn, both of Mt. Pleasant.

• John Robert Hartman and Dawn Elizabeth Lewandowski, both of Irwin.  
• Bryon Micheal McCue of North Versailles and Charlotte Ann Spycha of Mt. Pleasant.  
• Derek Raymond Demao of Greensburg and Heather Marie Brandon of Manor Township, Armstrong County.  
• Jacob Timothy Wiltrout and Rachael Marie Stuebner, both of Scottsdale.  
• Andrew Dominik Hrubesky and Karen Elizabeth Vantassel, both of Derry.  
• Jesse Arron Hall and Kodi Lee Grimm, both of Connellsville.  
• John Michael Higgs of Middletown, Conn., and Taylor Theresa Obusek of Mt. Pleasant.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



**ROSS G. WALKER**  
FUNERAL HOME LTD.  
(successor to John E. Krupa Funeral Home)  
With the Goodwill and Support of the Krupa Family  
Easy transfer of funeral prearrangements to Ross G. Walker Funeral Home  
Ross G. Walker III, Supervisor  
New Kensington 724-335-1234

**KEPPLE GRAFT**  
FUNERAL HOME, INC.  
Affordable, Personalized Cremation and Funeral Services  
**Terence L. Graft**  
Supervisor/Funeral Director  
524 Main Street, Greensburg, Pa 15601  
724-837-1201  
[www.kepple-graft.com](http://www.kepple-graft.com)

**Barnhart Funeral Home, Inc.**  
Jeffrey M. Barnhart, Supervisor  
"Family owned and operated since 1933"  
505 E. Pittsburgh St. • Greensburg • (724)834-1421 • [barnhartfuneralhome.com](http://barnhartfuneralhome.com)

**SMITH**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD.  
Low Cost, On-Site Cremation  
930 Center Ave • Blawnox  
412-828-5700  
Daniel T. D'Alessandro, Supervisor  
Dustin A. D'Alessandro, Funeral Director

**Gigler Funeral Home, Inc.**  
2877 Leechburg Road • Lower Burrell, PA 15068  
724-335-6500  
Pre-planning, Traditional, Cremation and Alternative Services.  
Ample Parking/Handicapped accessible.  
Robert P. Karish, Supervisor

**Redmond Funeral Home, Inc.**  
Family owned and operated since 1968  
524 High Street  
Freeport PA 16229  
724-295-4500  
[redmondfuneralhomeinc.com](http://redmondfuneralhomeinc.com)  
Ashley Dayle Rogers, Supervisor | Mark S. Arvay, Director | W. Ryan Redmond, Director

**McColly Memorials**  
759 S. Main St., Greensburg, PA 15601  
[mccollymemorials.com](http://mccollymemorials.com)  
724-834-0720  
"Serving Westmoreland County since 1876."

**DUSTER**  
Funeral & Cremation Services Inc  
TARENTUM  
Pre Planning  
Traditional Funeral ~ Cremation  
Markers ~ Monuments  
Caring for Families in the Alle-Kiski area since 1938  
R. Gary Duster, Supervisor  
J. Rodney Duster, FD  
347 East 10th Avenue, Tarentum, PA 15084  
724-224-1526 • [www.dusterfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.dusterfuneralhomeinc.com)

**Curran**  
Curran-Shaffer Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.  
First Crematory in Armstrong County - Locally Owned & Operated  
100 Owens View Ave., Apollo, PA 15613 • Arthur R. Kunkle, Supervisor  
1-877-67-CURRANS

**PETERS FAMILY**  
FUNERAL HOMES  
PET CREMATION MONUMENTS  
Five Generations of Service to Our Community  
Serving You from Two Locations:  
**ROBERT PETERS FUNERAL HOME, INC.**  
1521 Freeport Rd, Natrona Heights, PA 15065 • 724-224-7730  
**CHURCHFIELD-PETERS FUNERAL HOME**  
501 Fifth Ave, New Kensington, PA 15068 • 724-335-1951  
John Adam Peters - Funeral Director/Owner  
Lindsay M. Peters-Heilman - Supervisor  
[www.petersfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.petersfamilyfuneralhomes.com)

**Clawson**  
FUNERAL AND CREMATION CENTER, INC.  
Brian S. Lucas, Supervisor  
170 Main Street, Leechburg, PA 15656-1333  
724-842-1051 • Fax: 724-845-7971

**RJ SLATER IV**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE  
AFFORDABLE and DIGNIFIED  
FUNERALS & SIMPLE CREMATIONS  
724-335-0100 | [www.rjslater.com](http://www.rjslater.com)  
1000 Freeport Road, New Kensington, PA 15068  
Raymond J. Slater, IV-Supervisor  
On Site Cremation

**Westmoreland Cremation Service**  
1-877-Cremate  
[www.westmorelandcremationservice.com](http://www.westmorelandcremationservice.com)

**ASHLEY D. X. NYE**  
supervisor  
Cremation Care & Funeral Home  
408 depot street • youngwood, pa 15697  
724 • 925 • 3600  
[www.nyefuneralhome.com](http://www.nyefuneralhome.com)

**TWIN VALLEY CEMETERY**  
The Area's Largest & Most Beautiful Full Service Cemetery & Mausoleum Since 1950  
483 ATHENA DRIVE • DELMONT, PA • 724-468-5184 • [www.twinvalley Memorialpark.com](http://www.twinvalley Memorialpark.com)

**FOR IN MEMORIAM ADS OR TO ADVERTISE ON THIS PAGE, PLEASE EMAIL SDIETRICK@TRIBLIVE.COM**

# Worm in your tequila shot? This bar has that beat

*For intrepid drinkers, Canadian tavern serves spirits with human toe*

BY HALEY DAUGHERTY

“You can drink it fast, you can drink it slow, but your lips must touch this gnarly toe.”

These were the last words James “Jazz” Byers, 55, of Penn Hills heard before raising a shot of Yukon Jack to his lips. As he knocked the drink back, at the bottom of the glass, pointing directly at him, was a dehydrated toe. Yes, a real human toe.

Rather than panicking at the loose body part in his glass, Byers welcomed the sight, wanting to become a member of the Sourtoe Cocktail Club.

## Club history

The club is a time-honored tradition in Canada’s Yukon territory, dating to 1973 when Captain Dick Stevenson found a jar of alcohol containing a toe in a remote cabin — or so the story goes.

The accuracy of the story is debatable, with the club’s background a mix of folklore and history.

According to the Downtown Hotel’s Sourdough Saloon in Dawson City (population 2,380), which hosts the tradition, the first “sourtoe” dates back to the 1920s and features a rum-runner named Louie Linken and his brother, Otto.

During one of their cross-border deliveries, they ran into a blizzard. In an effort to help direct his dog team, Linken stepped off the sled and into some icy water, soaking his foot. Fearing that the police were on their trail, the pair continued on their journey. Unfortunately, the prolonged exposure to the cold caused Linken’s big toe to freeze solid. To prevent gangrene, Otto amputated it using a woodcutting axe and some over-proof rum for anesthesia.

To commemorate this moment, the brothers preserved the toe in a jar of alcohol.

After finding the toe, Stevenson came up with the idea of the Sourtoe Cocktail Club, an exclusive club with one membership requirement: Potential members must drink the sourtoe cocktail — after paying \$17 for it.

## Locals make the trek

Byers was deemed the 126,630th member of the Sourtoe Cocktail Club.

“I got a certificate to prove it,” he said.

But he didn’t make the journey alone. Byers learned about the shot while on a trip to the Arctic and, in the spirit of finding the best party story, quickly began inviting people to accompany him.

Of the 17 people Byers asked, his friends Sean Nestor, 54, of Churchill and Vince Sylvester, 47, of Colorado joined the adventure. Nestor, who has



James “Jazz” Byers (right), 55, of Penn Hills poses for a photo with Vince Sylvester (center), 48, of Colorado and Sean Nestor, 54, of Churchill while waiting to drink the Sourtoe Cocktail.

known Byers since their teen years, is well-acquainted with Byers’ out-of-the-ordinary invitations.

Sylvester said he didn’t hesitate when Byers asked him to meet in Fairbanks, Alaska, to drive eight hours to Dawson City.

Finding a kindred spirit, Sylvester has participated in his fair share of adventures with Byers after the two met in 2007 while he was living in Pittsburgh’s Troy Hill neighborhood. After Sylvester relocated to Colorado in 2014, the two stayed in touch and have taken trips together over the years.

“We both have a similar philosophy,” Sylvester said. “Life is all about the experiences you’re able to

take away from it.”

Sylvester previously worked for the National Park Service and spent two seasons working for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve just north of Dawson City.

“It was fun to go back to a lot of those places that I had spent time in and kind of share that with Jazz and Sean,” Sylvester said.

Nestor said he remembers the one and only moment he felt nervous about the drink was when he heard from a group of locals in the nearby town of Chicken, Alaska (population 12 to 17), that the alcohol in the shot has to be Yukon Jack.

“The only moment or part of trepidation that came for the three of us at the same



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JAMES “JAZZ” BYERS

The Sourtoe Cocktail is a shot of Yukon Jack featuring a dehydrated, sanitized toe.

time, when we were informed the shot had changed,” Nestor said. “We were informed that the website had not been updated and it was mandatory that we do Yukon Jack.”

Sylvester agreed. He was more worried about the whiskey than the toe.

“In my opinion, it’s one of the most rot-gut, worst whiskey you could possibly drink, so I was definitely more trepidatious about drinking the actual whiskey than the toe,” Sylvester said. “I was afraid I would take the shot and make a face. ... I didn’t want to look like I was disgusted by the toe.”

When the time came, Nestor stepped up to the plate first. He wanted to get it over with.

He was sworn in as the 126,628th member of the Sourtoe Cocktail Club. Sylvester became its 126,629th.

Byers said it felt like ages before the toe slid down the side of the glass and hit his

lips, giving him the next membership.

“The worst part of the drink was the (Yukon) Jack,” Byers said. “It was too sweet for me.”

Terry Lee, the saloon’s official “Toe Master,” previously told Mel Magazine the shot is usually Yukon Jack, but anything will work so long as it’s at least 80 proof.

It also can’t have any flavoring, ice or anything else in it because it could affect the purity of the toe, which is intended to last for years at a time.

Eventually, the toes do wear out — when they start to fall apart, they’re retired and Lee cremates them.

According to the saloon, there have been 25 toes donated for the tradition in the club’s history. The club rotates two toes for shots each night between 6 and 10 p.m., Byers said.

A donated toe is dehydrated in salt and soaked for a year in alcohol before being included in the rotation.

Byers said the most surprising thing about the experience was the variety of people the club attracts.

“There were people from all walks of life, all demographics, there to take this shot,” Byers said. “A mother and daughter did it together, an elderly woman did it, there were young guys, old guys.”

Haley Daugherty is a TribLive staff writer. She can be reached at hdaugherty@triblive.com.

# Covid-19 trending up in most states

*Stratus considered a ‘variant under monitoring’ by WHO*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Summer heat, outdoor fun ... and cold and flu symptoms?

The three may not go together in many people’s minds: partly owing to common myths about germs and partly because many viruses really do have lower activity levels in the summer.

But it is possible to get the sniffles — or worse — in the summer. Federal data released Friday, for example, shows covid-19 is trending up in most states, with emergency department visits up among people of all ages.

Here’s what to know about summer viruses.

## How much are colds and flu circulating right now?

The number of people seeking medical care for three key illnesses — covid, flu and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV — is currently very low, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Flu is trending down and RSV has been steady. But covid is trending up in most U.S. states. Wastewater data from around the country estimates “moderate” covid activity.

CDC wastewater also shows the XFG variant — nicknamed stratus — is most common in the U.S. Stratus can cause a “razor blade” sore throat and is considered a “variant under monitoring” by the World Health Organization. The WHO said the variant is only marginally better at evading people’s immune systems and vaccines still work against it.

The expectation is that covid will eventually settle into a winter seasonal pat-

tern like other coronaviruses, but the past few years have brought a late summer surge, said Dr. Dean Blumberg, chief of pediatric infectious diseases at University of California Davis Children’s Hospital.

## Do viruses spread less in the summer?

Many viruses circulate seasonally, picking up as the weather cools in the fall and winter.

But another factor is our behavior, experts say. Nice weather means people are opening windows and gathering outside where it’s harder for germs to spread.

But respiratory viruses are still around. When the weather gets too hot and everyone heads inside for the air conditioning, doctors say they start seeing more sickness. In places where it gets really hot for a long time, summer can be cold season in its own right.

“I grew up on the East Coast and everybody gets sick in the winter,” said Dr. Frank LoVecchio, an emergency room doctor and Arizona State University researcher. “A lot of people get sick in the summer here. Why is that? Because you spend more time indoors.”

## Should you get another covid booster?

For people who are otherwise healthy, timing is a key consideration to getting any vaccine. You want to get it a few weeks before that big trip or wedding, if that’s the reason for getting boosted, doctors say. But, for most people, it may be worth waiting until the fall in anticipation of winter cases of covid really ticking up.

“You want to be fully protected at the time that it’s most important for you,” said Dr. Costi Sifri, of the University of Virginia Health System.

# Fender bender made waves in drug war

*Incident in Tenn. town led to U.S. charges against major drug operation in Mexico*

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The investigation began years ago after two drug dealers got into a car accident in a small Tennessee town. What followed was a series of secret wiretaps, a shootout with police and the discovery of drugs hidden in a tractor-trailer that would eventually lead federal investigators back to cartel leaders in Mexico.

The investigation culminated with Justice Department indictments unsealed Thursday against three leaders and two high-ranking enforcers of the United Cartels, a leading rival of Jalisco New Generation Cartel.

The U.S. government is offering a reward of up to \$10 million for information leading to the arrest of United Cartels’ top leader, Juan José Fariás Álvarez — “El Abuelo,” or the grandfather — along with multimillion-dollar rewards for

the four others. All five are believed to be in Mexico.

The case goes back to 2019, when two dealers got into a car accident near Rockwood, Tenn., outside of Knoxville, according to a search warrant affidavit filed in court. While fleeing the scene of the crash, they threw a hardened protective case filled with meth behind a building before being caught by police, according to court documents.

Authorities began investigating, using wiretaps, search warrants and surveillance to identify a man believed to be leading a major drug ring in the Atlanta area: Eladio Mendoza.

The investigation into Mendoza’s suspected drug operation led law enforcement in early 2020 to a hotel near Atlanta. During their surveillance, authorities spotted a man leaving with a large Doritos bag. Troopers tried to stop the man after he drove from Georgia into Tennessee but he fled and fired an AK-style rifle at officers, hitting one in the leg before another trooper shot him. Inside the bag, police found meth and heroin, and identified him as a low-level

dealer for Mendoza’s drug ring, court records say.

Weeks later, authorities searched properties linked to Mendoza and seized phones. They discovered messages between Mendoza and a close associate of “El Abuelo,” the leader of United Cartels, that showed the drugs were coming from Mexico, according to the court records. On one of Mendoza’s properties, investigators found a tractor-trailer that had crossed from Mexico days earlier. When they searched it, authorities seized 850 kilograms of meth hidden in the floor of the truck and discovered more drugs inside a bus and a home on the property, court papers say.

Mendoza fled the U.S. a short time later and returned to Mexico, where he was killed by cartel leaders angry that U.S. authorities had seized their cash and drugs, according to prosecutors.

In addition to “El Abuelo,” those facing U.S. indictments are Alfonso Fernández Magallón, or Poncho, and Nicolás Sierra Santana or “El Gordo,” who authorities say lead smaller cartels under the United Cartels organization. The two other

defendants are Edgar Orozco Cabadas or “El Kamoni,” who was communicating with Mendoza, and Luis Enrique Barragán Chavaz, or “Wicho,” who serves as Magallón second-in-command, according to authorities.

The Trump administration has seen major cooperation from Mexico in recent months in turning over cartel leaders wanted by U.S. authorities.

In February, Mexico sent the U.S. 29 drug cartel figures, including drug lord Rafael Caro Quintero, who was behind the killing of a U.S. DEA agent in 1985, to the U.S. And on Tuesday, the Mexican government transferred to American custody 26 additional cartel leaders and other high-ranking members.

“We’re working with the Mexican authorities to pursue these individuals,” said Matthew Galeotti, acting assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department’s criminal division. “We continue to work proactively with them, and we expect that they’ll be helpful with us in securing the presence of these individuals in United States courtrooms.”

## Bras 'n More

*Backless, Strapless, Effortless*

Meet the secret weapons that let your outfits do the talking. At Bras 'n More in Latrobe, Fashion Forms’ newest innovations deliver lift, shape, and invisibility—so you can wear backless, strapless, sheer, and silky looks without a traditional bra. Think sleek The Nude Bare Bra for a clean, barely-there contour, versatile Tape It Your Way rolls (including clear and X-Wide) to sculpt and secure any neckline, and Adhesive Concealers plus Reusable Waterproof Petals to keep everything smooth under whisper-thin fabrics. For extra hold with freedom, the Tape N’ Shape Adhesive Bra supports while staying out of sight.

Each solution is designed to disappear under your most daring cuts—plunges, low backs, slinky slips—while enhancing your natural shape. Soft, skin-friendly adhesives, flexible construction, and modern finishes make these pieces as comfortable as they are clever. Slip into your statement dress, swipe on confidence, and let the architecture happen underneath. Your look stays fluid, polished, and perfectly supported—no straps required.

**Bras 'n More Inc.**  
5924 Route 981, Latrobe  
724-532-1901  
Mon - Wed 10-5; Thurs 10-7; Fri 10-4; Sat 10-3 • BrasNMore.com

## Lapels A Fine Mens Clothier

**END OF SEASON SALE**

**SAVE 50% OFF**  
Selected Summer Fashions and Accessories from Our Best Designer

- Short/Long Sleeve Sportshirts
- Golf Knits
- Casual and Dress Shorts
- Swimwear
- Johnston & Murphy Shoes and more...

Lapels is Open Late Every Thursday Until 7 PM

**Lapels A Fine Mens Clothier**  
106 South Pennsylvania Ave.  
Downtown Greensburg • 724-853-7145  
www.LapelsMensWear.com

**Need a lifeline?**  
Ask about our Debt Consolidation Solutions

Stop by or call today!  
NEW STANTON  
724.925.1324  
www.gapfcu.org

NCUA Federally Insured by NCUA

## ASKING *for a friend*

*How do I deal with a friend who is always late?*

**Q:** I have a friend who is always late — whether it's dinner, lunch, or even major events. How do I tell her this is unacceptable?

**Asking for a friend,  
Joy in Hempfield**

**A:** Consistently showing up late isn't just annoying — it's disrespectful of your time. The best approach is a direct but kind conversation. Try something like, "I've noticed you're often running late, and it's making plans a bit stressful. Can we work on that?" You're not attacking her character, just pointing out something that you find questionable.

From there, you don't have to bend over backward. Start things on time, don't wait around, and if her lateness keeps getting in the way, it's OK to rethink how you make plans, or even if you make plans at all. If you want to have lunch at 12:30, you can always tell her you are meeting at noon, knowing that she won't show up until 12:30.

If her lateness is making you dread plans instead of enjoying them, it's fine to step back from certain invites. You don't need to ghost her — just be more selective about what you'll commit to.

This will be easier to do if you realize that all you're asking for is basic courtesy. If she's a true friend, she'll get it.

**Q:** I was paying for a pair of pants at Ross Park Mall when I realized they had tacked on a very high fee of \$66 for alterations. I didn't want to make a scene, so I didn't say anything and ate up the cost. I did mention it later when the store sent me a customer service survey. Was this the right call?

**Asking for a friend,  
Lou in Sarver**

**A:** Wow! That's definitely a high price to pay for alterations. You should have said something right then and there, if anything, to gauge the reaction from the store. Surprise charges should be addressed immediately at the register. You can do so quietly, without making a scene, to show that you're a savvy shopper. It's your money after all and they should be able to explain every mysterious fee. Good for you for bringing up during the survey — even if a bit late.

**Q:** My brother-in-law is always bringing up politics at family gatherings and I've just about had it. We don't share the views and his stances on some topics are completely against my beliefs and morals. I don't want to create unnecessary friction, but I'm having a hard time figuring out how to be gentle about something so delicate.

**Asking for a friend,  
Lauralee in Greensburg**

**A:** You're not alone, Lauralee. It seems like every family has this problem. It's understandable to want to keep peace and enjoy a family visit without tension and unnecessary confrontations (let alone compromising your values).

You don't have to play referee at family gatherings or put up with comments that you find offensive. When he starts revving up, try changing the subject. "Anybody want cake?" If that fails, there's always the nuclear option: politely but firmly say, "Hey, I'd love to keep things light — let's save the heavy stuff for another time."

You're allowed to set boundaries, even if it ruffles a few feathers. There's a time and place for every conversation, and sometimes it's just not when you're celebrating a festive occasion.

### ASK US!

Have a burning question or a sticky situation that needs untangling? Don't suffer in silence — Asking for a Friend is here for you. Whether it's a social faux pas or an etiquette emergency, we want to hear from you. We know you're just asking for a friend.

Submit your questions to [askingforafriend@triblive.com](mailto:askingforafriend@triblive.com).



PHOTOS: BRIAN C. RITTMAYER | TRIBLIVE

## Revvng up NOSTALGIA

2 OF 5 SURVIVING 'KNIGHT RIDER' CARS REUNITED IN BUTLER COUNTY; MOBILE UNIT RESTORATION NEARS COMPLETION

BY BRIAN C. RITTMAYER

The world's largest collection of screen-used Knight Rider cars is now in Butler County.

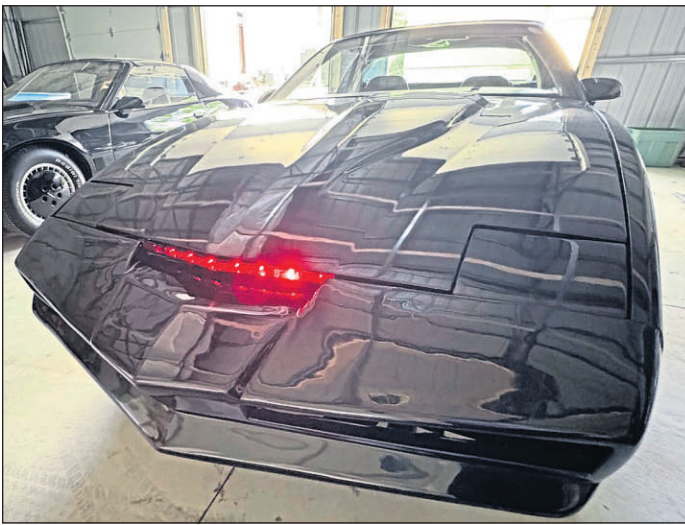
The first Pontiac modified to portray the Knight Industries Two Thousand — KITT for short — and seen in the 1980s TV show's iconic opening racing toward the screen in the desert is parked alongside one of the last cars built for the show that starred David Hasselhoff.

The pair qualify as the world's largest collection of screen-used KITTs because they are among only five that are known to still exist out of about 30 used during filming. The rest were destroyed during the show's production or after its cancellation in 1986 after four seasons.

The other three are at the Marconi Automotive Museum in Tustin, Calif.; the Orlando Auto Museum in Florida; and privately owned in the United Kingdom.

Butler native Joe Huth, 44, built a garage behind his Clay Township home this spring so he'd have a place to keep them. He owns the cars with partner AJ Palmgren of Iowa, who together are known as the Knight Rider Historians.

The cars are not alone. Outside the garage is a tractor-trailer that portrayed the mobile unit for the Foundation for Law and Government,



**Above:** The red scanner of a screen-used KITT glows on one of only five such cars known to still exist from the 1980s television series "Knight Rider." Instead of the distinctive whooshing sound heard on the show, the actual sound is that of relays clicking under the hood.

**At top:** Joe Huth built a garage behind his home in Clay Township, Butler County, to keep two of only five surviving cars that portrayed the Knight Industries Two Thousand, KITT, on the 1980s television series "Knight Rider." The car in the foreground, a 1982 Pontiac Trans Am, was the first KITT ever built for the show and one of the first three obtained to be KITT, while Huth sits on the hood of a 1984 Pontiac Firebird that was one of the last.

which Huth is in the process of restoring, including fitting out the interior of the trailer to look as it did on the show.

"It's like Hot Wheels on steroids," he said of the collection. "It's a great source of pride and satisfaction for me. These are things that I grew

up with and idolized as a kid. To be able to have the opportunity to actually touch them and restore them is amazing."

That first car, a 1982 Pontiac Trans Am, was among three that "Knight Rider" creator Glen A. Larson procured to film the pilot episode. It

arrived in Butler County in July after having been on display at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles since 2019.

Having the car at the museum was "kind of like having a celebrity in the building," said Kristin Feay, an assistant curator at Petersen.

"Boys of a certain age grew up idolizing the car. It's really exciting for them to come and meet their idol," she said. "We have a lot of guys come in with their families and be so emotional in front of the car. I saw a man with his family, and he was actually crying. He said he used to watch the show with his dad when he was a kid, and it meant so much to him to see the car. And he wanted to share that with his son."

For its Hollywood displays, Feay said the museum chooses cars that were more than just background vehicles, but that drive the story and are as recognizable as characters as the actors.

"KITT is unique in that it's an anthropomorphic car," she said. "It's not just a prop. It's a character that you, as a viewer, have a relationship with KITT as much as any other human characters in the TV series."

East Coast "Knight Rider" fans will have a chance to see the car at Retro Con, a pop

KNIGHT RIDER · C2

## 'Twisted Tale' revisits Amanda Knox story from all angles

Trib Total Media TV writer Rob Owen offers a viewing tip for the coming week.

Hulu's "Twisted Tale of Amanda Knox," streaming its first two episodes Wednesday, upends expectations for a true crime miniseries with an embrace of magical realism that's hinted at in the show's title.

Knox, who executive produces the series and co-wrote the finale with showrunner K.J. Steinberg ("This Is Us"), watched the magical realism-infused French film "Amelie" the night her British roommate, Meredith Kercher, was murdered in an apartment Knox, an American, shared with her while studying abroad in Italy.

Steinberg runs with the "Amelie" homage in the first and last episodes, especially, from applauding stuffed animals to a



DISNEY | ANDREA MICONI

Grace Van Patten stars as Amanda Knox in a limited series inspired by the story of how Amanda Knox was wrongfully convicted for the tragic murder of her roommate, Meredith Kercher, and her 16-year odyssey to set herself free.

camera that rotates 360 degrees.

However, in between, "Twisted Tale" becomes more serious as it explores the injustices that befall all the primary characters, not just Knox, but also the prosecutor, Mignini (Francesco Acquaroli), who sends Knox to prison.

One whole episode explores Mignini's background to explain (but not excuse) his decision to prosecute Knox.

In "Twisted Tale," Italian prosecutors are quick to pin the

crime on Knox. The series suggests cultural misunderstandings colored the authorities' interpretation of Knox's behavior and words. (The Italians mistake a text message Knox sent her boss, "See ya later," to mean Knox and the boss planned to meet later when it was just a colloquial sign-off.)

At eight hours, "Twisted Tale" seems too long, especially when the novelty of magical realism disappears for large stretches of the series.

If some of the middle episodes feel more familiar to true crime aficionados — the interrogation, the trial, etc. — there's a unique wrap-around story that begins in the first episode and returns in the last episode. It depicts Knox returning to Italy in 2022 and meeting with Mignini, an event brokered by a friendly priest. This happened in real life.

The grace Knox gives to the man she calls "my prosecutor" is quite extraordinary, particularly in an era of division where villainization of opponents is the

# Are more changes coming to KDKA-TV newscasts?

**Q:** Do you expect changes to the anchor format at KDKA-TV following the layoffs at the station? Will they go to a single anchor for most newscasts?



**ROB OWEN**  
TV Q&A

**Will the station cut back on the large news block, basically from 4 to 9 p.m.?**  
— **Mike, Beaver**

**Rob:** It appears cutbacks have already begun. I noted earlier this month that KDKA started rerunning the 6 p.m. news at 8 p.m. on KDKA+, replacing an original newscast at that time period.  
And, yes, I expect there will be some new anchor assignments to



COURTESY KDKA

KDKA-TV will need to find new anchors to fill the roles formerly occupied by Kym Gable (left) and Lindsay Ward.

fill the anchor chairs formerly occupied by Kym Gable in the evening and Lindsay Ward in the morning. I do not anticipate the station will go to a single anchor format.  
Representatives of KDKA and its corporate parent, CBS, did not respond when I sent them Mike's question, asked about morning

and evening anchor replacements and inquired how 8 p.m. KDKA+ news anchor Jessica Guay will be reassigned.

**Q:** Wondering if Jill Szwed is still at WTAE. Now that Jeff Verszyla is on the weekends, where are they going to put her?  
— **Cindy, Monroeville**

**Rob:** Szwed is assigned to typically work weekend mornings. The station announced Verszyla will move to weekend evenings.

**Q:** Where has Elena LaQuatra been? She's been there for about five days out of the last month.  
— **Catherine, via email**

**Rob:** TV news anchors get time off, too.

My understanding is LaQuatra was off in mid-July for bereavement leave and for two weeks of vacation last week and this week.

**Q:** I just read your fine inter-

view with Noah Hawley about "Alien: Earth." Do you have any information on whether he will continue with " Fargo"? Is another season of " Fargo" even in the works?  
— **Bill, via email**

**Rob:** Hawley has long said he makes " Fargo" when the inspiration strikes. I'm not aware that another season is in the works, and my guess is that if " Alien: Earth" is a success, FX will be keen for him to focus on additional seasons of this new series rather than revisiting " Fargo," at least for the immediate future.

**Q:** Why did Bill on the revived " King of the Hill" morph from an overweight blob in the first episode to normal size in the second episode with no explanation?  
— **Justin, Squirrel Hill**

**Rob:** I wondered about that, too,

and I asked showrunner Saladin K. Patterson about that creative choice in an interview last month.

" At one point, we're like, do we want to do a gradient, where he's 400 pounds here, and by the end he's back down to whatever," Patterson said. " God bless them, our animators and artists were like, ' You're asking a lot of us.' It wasn't a no, but it's like, ' That makes things hard.' Then we felt it's better to play it as a comedic reveal in the beginning as a statement about Hank's absence. How things in his world fall apart. ... It felt better to let it just serve that purpose than make it a series-long arc."

You can reach TV writer Rob Owen at rowen@triblive.com or 412-380-8559. Follow @RobOwenTV on Threads, Twitter, Bluesky and Facebook. Ask TV questions by email or phone. Please include your first name and location.

## Knox credits friendship with Lewinsky for project origin

TV TALK · FROM CI

easy, most common path.  
In a Zoom interview last month, Knox said although her story has been told before in filmed form, this is the first scripted take she's been involved in.  
" We're not just telling a tragic story we would never wish upon another person, but also one that is a human story that really seeks to humanize everyone involved, to understand how these things happen," Knox said. " It's also a story of a person regaining a sense of agency and identity in their life. It's not just the story of a bad thing that happened to me. It's the story of my life journey and coming to terms with all the facts in a relatable, universal way. I think people will be surprised by how much heart is in the story."  
" Twisted Tale" came about at the suggestion of Monica Lewinsky, who befriended Knox in 2017 with the two bonding over their shared traumatic experiences in the court of public opinion.

" When you talk about Amanda Knox's imprisonment, it stretches far beyond the bars of Capanne (prison) into the present day," Steinberg said, " which is why I thought the story is so unbelievably relevant. Here are these two resilient, brilliant women who share an experience most of us could never fathom, which is being ripped apart by society and our media consumptive culture."

Knox is quick to note " Twisted Tale" is a dramatization, not a documentary (there have already been several of those). This required Knox and Steinberg to create scenes conveying the essence of what was going on even if those scenes never occurred in real life.

The film does not shy away from showing choices Knox made that created suspicion in the minds of Italian police, including doing cartwheels inside the police station after Kercher's murder.

" I remember having this conversation with Monica early on, talking about how we were gonna have to show the context for these embarrassing decisions that I made at the time," Knox said. " I give my 20-year-old, oblivious self a lot of grace, and I am not embarrassed by this show or this representation of me. I look back on 20-year-old me and wish that there was someone there to protect her."

Steinberg said she hopes viewers will come away from watching " Twisted Tale" questioning their certainty on this case and maybe even in general.

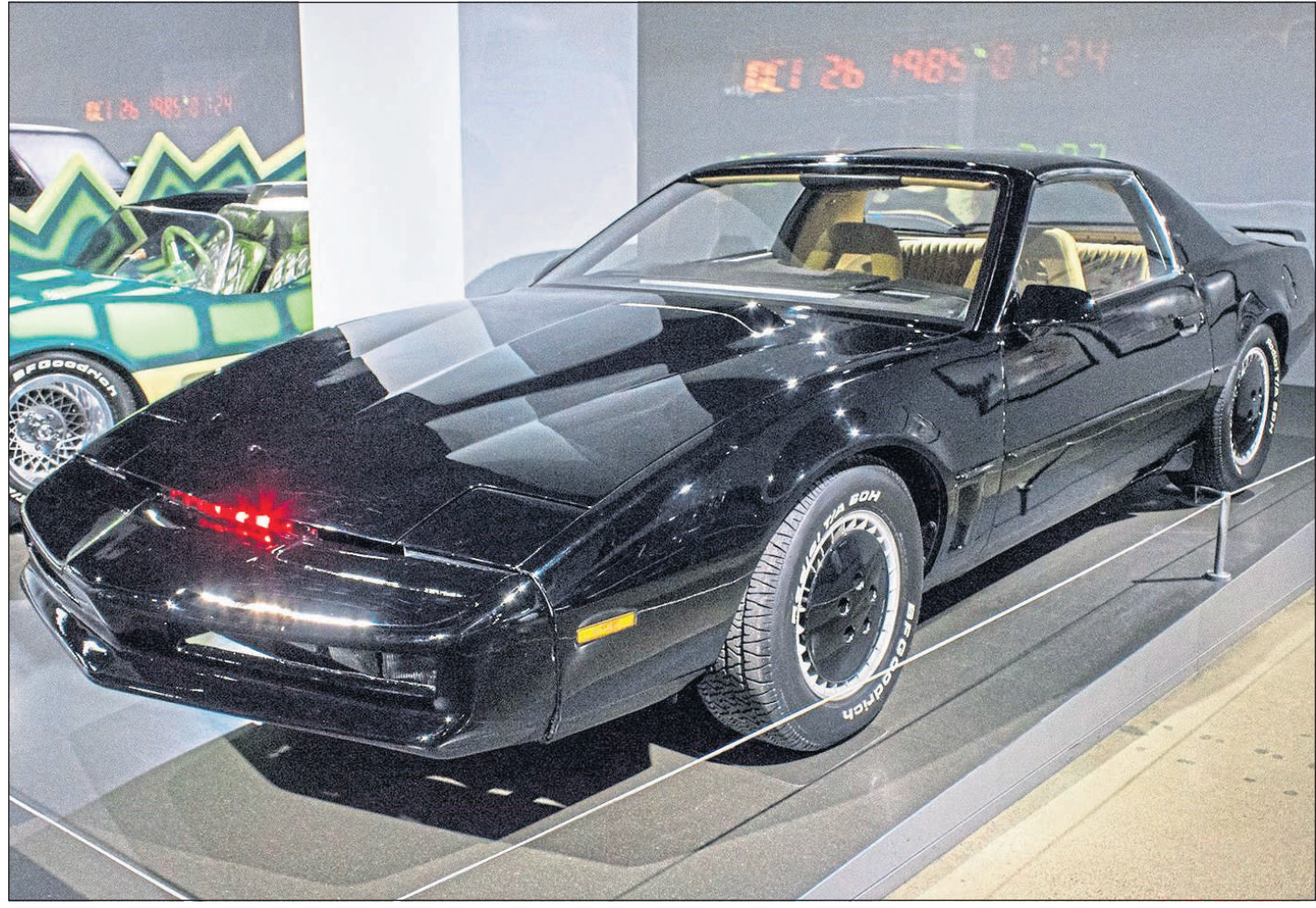
" I think certainty can be a very dangerous thing," Steinberg said. " Certainty is different than truth. Our thematic North Star for this series was (the organizing principle of) the anatomy of bias, which explores the dangers of false belief, the power of false belief. We wanted to examine how it takes hold of even the best of people, even the most thoughtful of people and intelligent of people and creates fertile soil for incredible mistakes and acts of injustice that result in trauma whose echoes are loud and long and still felt. ... I hope people come away mindful and thoughtful about what they thought they knew before this series, not just about Amanda, but about every person who participated in the ecosystem of this story."

You can reach TV writer Rob Owen at rowen@triblive.com or 412-380-8559. Follow @RobOwenTV on Threads, Twitter, Bluesky and Facebook. Ask TV questions by email or phone. Please include your first name and location.



DISNEY | ADRIENN SZABO

Stefano Cassetti and Grace Van Patten star in a limited series on Hulu mixing magical realism and the story of how Amanda Knox was wrongfully convicted of murder.



COURTESY OF JOE HUTH

The first KITT ever built for " Knight Rider," based on a 1982 Pontiac Trans Am, was displayed at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles from 2019 until July. It is one of two owned by Joe Huth of Clay Township, Butler County, and AJ Palmgren of Iowa, who together are the Knight Rider Historians. Their two cars are among only five known to still exist from the television show.

## Vehicles have traveled widely

KNIGHT RIDER · FROM CI

culture and memorabilia show, taking place Sept. 6 and 7 at The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, Pa.

While the convention's lineup includes a 1960s Batmobile, a " Smokey and the Bandit" Trans Am, and an " A-Team" van, those vehicles are replicas. KITT will be the real deal.

This year's Retro Con will be the first time the 1982 car, used primarily in Knight Rider's first two seasons, has been at the convention. It also portrayed KITT's " evil twin," the Knight Automated Roving Robot, KARR.

Huth was at Retro Con in 2022 with the other car, a 1984 Pontiac Firebird. One of the last two cars created for the show, it was used for stunts, not including jumps or " turbo boosts," in the third and fourth seasons.

The 1984 car was featured on Jay Leno's Garage in 2018 and reunited with Hasselhoff on ABC's " Good Morning America" in 2019.

Each car followed different roads after the end of the TV show — roads that could have led to their destruction had Huth and Palmgren not found and preserved them. Except for briefly in 2019 before the 1982 car went to the Petersen, the two cars had not been together since 1986, Huth said.

The 1982 car, which they acquired first from the Los Angeles area in 2007, was among four sold to a promotions company, Hollywood Productions. Huth understands that a Saudi Arabian prince bought it in the early 1990s, but never picked it up. It then sat outside in a San Diego auction lot, where one of its T-tops was stolen, before another individual bought it and restored it before Huth and Palmgren acquired it.

The 1984 car was displayed at Universal Studios in Los Angeles from 1988 to 1993. It then sat, unused, behind a maintenance building until 2008, when it was sent to a Los Angeles junk yard, which was when Huth and Palmgren rescued it.

Neither car had KITT's distinctive dash during its time on the show. Hollywood Productions put a dash in the 1982 car, which, before then, had just a fiberglass shell with stickers.

The 1984 car didn't have a dash until Universal Studios put it on display — Universal also had aftermarket T-tops added to the car; a hardtop that was made to look like a T-top was used on the show.

" It's such a blessing to be able to be the caretaker of something I adored so much as a kid and still do as an adult," Huth said.

### Tractor-trailer restoration nearing its end

Huth and Palmgren revealed in 2021



BRIAN C. RITTMAYER TRIBLIVE

Huth stands inside a trailer that was used on the 1980s television series " Knight Rider." While the trailer's interior seen on the show was mostly a set, Huth is working on outfitting the trailer to appear as it did on the show, as well as restoring the exterior to its screen appearance.

that they owned one of two semi-tractors that were used on Knight Rider. They bought the 1984 GMC General, appearing in the third and fourth seasons, from an Idaho farmer in 2019, but kept that secret in hopes of finding the one trailer that was used over the show's run.

The semi tractor from the first two seasons, a 1980 GMC General, has not been found.

Their search for the trailer, a 1978 Dorsy, came to a successful end in 2022 when it was located near Phoenix, where it was used for storage for 11 years.

As they were found, neither appeared as they had on the show. The semi-tractor was blue and the custom fake sleeper attached to it was gone; the trailer was white and had been previously modified to carry drag racing cars and boats.

Huth and Palmgren have been working to restore the tractor-trailer to its Knight Rider appearance, including outfitting the interior of the trailer, although the front half of it had been a set not contained within it.

They have posted video updates of their progress on their YouTube channel, which has more than 120,000 subscribers.

" It took me a year to strip everything off of the trailer to get it back to its base," Huth said, adding that it totaled 4,000 pounds of metal.

To pay for the restoration, Huth said they have so far raised about \$57,000 from donors around the world, including through a GoFundMe campaign and a " donor wall," where to date about 500 people have given \$100 each, which will get their names on plaques that will be displayed on the inside of a side door to the trailer. He figures they need another \$20,000 to

\$25,000 to finish it. Most of that money is needed for painting and cabinets inside the trailer.

Huth said he'd like to find a corporate sponsor to paint the tractor-trailer, or one that would donate the paint. He's also looking for a cabinet maker interested in a " unique project."

A supporter gave \$15,000 for a ramp, which, when lowered, allows KITT to travel into the trailer.

" It was a hugely generous gift," Huth said.

A new aluminum sleeper has been put back on the semi-tractor. Designed by fan Glenn Holzer and fabricated with his assistance in Wisconsin, behind-the-scenes photos and screenshots of the show were used to ensure its accuracy.

" I'm proud to say it's exact down to the rivet," Huth said.

Huth hopes to complete the semi-tractor this year and the trailer by June 2026.

With the help of the Northeast Ohio Dukes, a group of " Dukes of Hazzard" fans in Warren, Ohio, who jump replicas of the General Lee, they are planning an unveiling event for the semi.

It would feature a replica KITT that would be backed out of the trailer while the truck is in motion, and then perform a " turbo boost" jump stunt. A date and location have not yet been chosen.

After the unveiling, Huth said the plan is for the tractor-trailer to be kept in Chicago, where a third partner has space to keep it enclosed.

Brian C. Rittmeyer is a TribLive staff writer. He can be reached at btrittmeyer@triblive.com.

SUNDAY EVENING

MOVIES TALK NEWS KIDS SPORTS

AUG. 17, 2025

Grid of TV channels and programs including CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, A&E, AMC, ANPL, ATSP, BBC, BET, BRAVO, COM, DISC, DISNEY, EI, ESPN, ESPNU, ESPN2, EWTV, FOOD, FREEFM, FX, FYI, GOLF, GSN, HALL, HGTV, HIST, ID, LIFE, MTV, NBATV, NGE, NICK, NWSN, OWN, OXY, PARMT, PCN, PCNC, SYFY, TBS, TCM, TLC, TNT, TOON, TRAVEL, TRUTV, TVLAND, USA, VH1, WE, HBO, MAX, PARSHO, STARZ, STZNC, TMC.

Advertisement for Fay-West Dental featuring a smiling woman and text: 'LIGHT UP THE FAIR WITH A Thrill-Worthy SMILE. COMPARE OUR PRICES. ECONOMY DENTURE \$325. Longest Established Denture Practice in Western PA.'

Advertisement for Fay-West Dental featuring text: 'SEE US FOR: EXTRACTIONS DENTURE REPAIRS • ALL PHASES OF GENERAL DENTISTRY. \$25 Off Any Upgraded Dentures custom or premium only. Offer good thru 09-07-2025. Randall L. Palmiscno, D.M.D. Daniel Whirlow, D.M.D. • Peter Eddy, D.D.S. 1-800-442-6805 or 724-887-3060. www.faywestdental.net'

The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

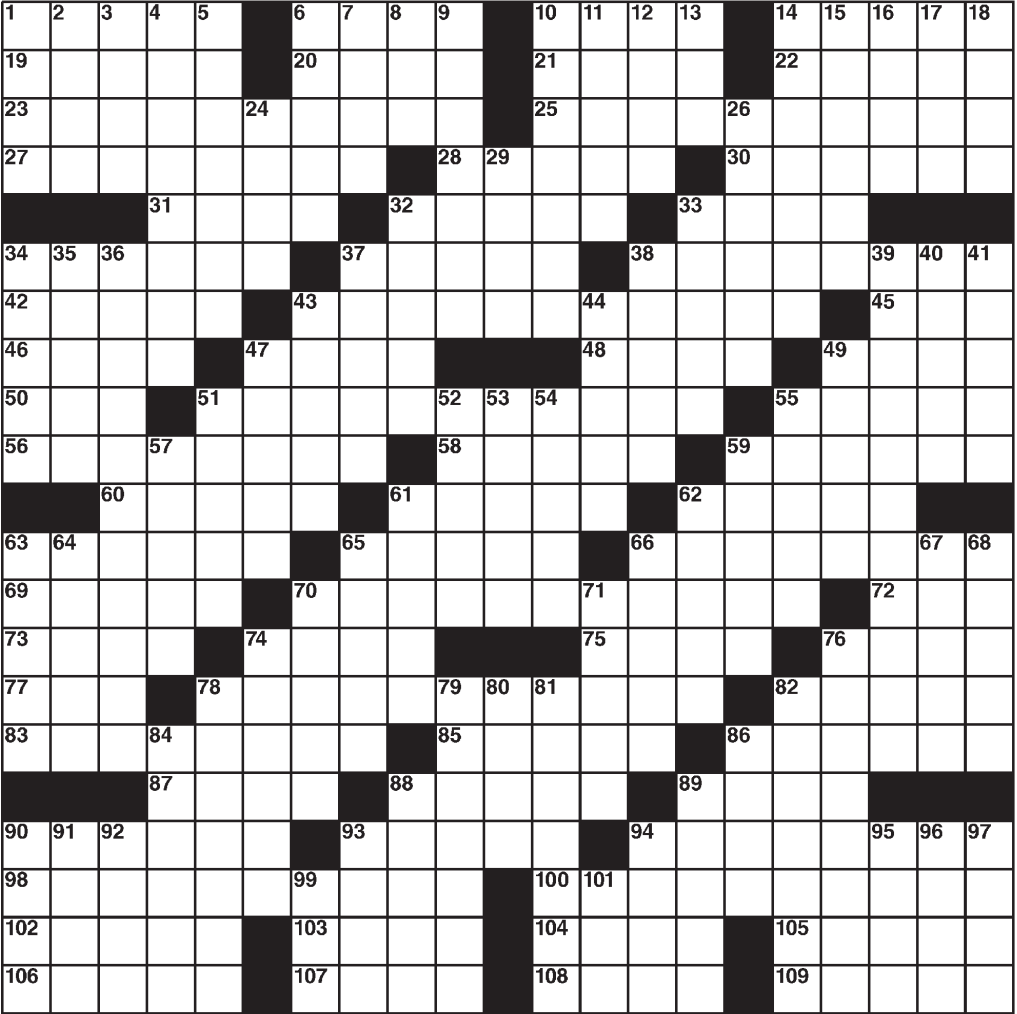
TENS & ELEVENS: Of matching lengths

by S.N.

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2025 STANLEY NEWMAN

WWW.STANXWORDS.COM

08/17/25



- ACROSS
1 Countrified
6 Backpack burden
10 Border on
14 Antsy feeling
19 "Grand" production
20 Roof edge
21 Young woman
22 Seuss' tree protector
23 FBI's list of 10
25 Sport with 10 playing at one time
27 Caribbean island group
28 Absolute
30 Muss, as hair
31 Boardroom VIPs
32 Security worker
33 Sorority letters
34 Ultimatum ender
37 Raise with a crane
38 Container kept near brushes
42 Non-pedigreed pets
43 Nation with 11 official spoken languages
45 Spaniard's river
46 Bldg.'s rental units
47 Guilty feeling
48 Drapery holders
49 Main idea
50 Yonder yacht
51 Figures with 11 vertexes
55 Repeated series
56 Brazilian slitherer
58 Keep entertained
59 Like crooked cards
60 Literary twist
61 Nautical "Halt!"
62 Type of tea
63 Banquet nibble
65 Main idea
66 Avoid skillfully
69 Smallest pups of a litter
70 City coded 11 on currency
72 \_\_ la la
73 Garfield's canine pal
74 Unwitting victim
75 Train track
76 Noble deed
77 Take first
78 Eagle, for Apollo 11
82 Talk formally
83 Where spaniels socialize
85 Off-target
86 Fill with love
87 Watches closely
88 Editorial perspective
89 Be boastful
90 Photograph finishes
93 Eeyore's creator
94 "Time to go!"
98 10 through L.A. and Mobile
100 2010's occupant of 10 Downing Street
102 Nasal noise
103 Very often
104 Fabric flaw
105 Waist-high concavity
106 Tasty
107 Confines, as cattle
108 Spot in the distance
109 Starts to waken
DOWN
1 Pear-shaped tomato
2 Fully aware of
3 Conclude a case
4 Constitution components
5 Anarchic
6 Trait carriers
7 Erodes
8 Wide urban st.
9 Diamonds, for instance
10 A Prairie Province
11 Emulated a ram
12 WWII ally
13 Sound of scolding
14 Pennsylvania city
15 Lose it all
16 S&L nest eggs
17 Statuesque
18 Car bar
24 \_\_ vera lotion
26 Business school course
29 Breakfast fare
32 Scooping tool
33 Sudden incursions
34 Midwest metropolis
35 Achieve peak flavor
36 11, on a baseball scoreboard
37 Hyundai rival
38 Face-down
39 11 people, for a British sport
40 Wedding path
41 Eminent
43 Shade of blonde
44 Wintry coating
47 Pasta with furrows
49 Greek sandwiches
51 25-Across, informally
52 Be nitpicky
53 Maytag alternative
54 Windy bursts
55 Soaps near sinks
57 Grapefruit box
59 Olympian's reward
61 Surfer since the '90s
62 Tiny troublemaker
63 Stadium attendees
64 Video complement
65 Family men
66 Waterproofs
67 Poetic muse
68 British dad
70 Dips a donut
71 Depend on
74 Undue force
76 Sweet-smelling
78 Like lasagna
79 Polo equipment
80 Nation on the Arabian Sea
81 Breakfast nook
82 Jacqueline Kennedy \_\_
84 "Great" czar
86 Art Deco illustrator
88 Occupy, as a bench
89 Currant, for instance
90 Fail to see
91 Tolstoy title character
92 Sporty auto roof
93 Stag or stallion
94 Giant hop
95 Prefix meaning "all"
96 Wild animal's home
97 Strong drain cleaners
99 Draw from
101 Fathers and uncles

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

BRIDGE

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"All rules are breakable, including this one." — graffiti
In the club lounge, Cy the Cynic showed me today's West hand and auction and asked what I would have led against four spades doubled.
"I'm not sure I would have doubled," I said.
"I did," Cy said. "Just give me your lead."
"The king of clubs, I guess."
"That shows how much you experts know," the Cynic growled. "I have a rule about leading singletons: If I have one, I lead it. It saves wear and tear on my brain."
"Some famous experts agree with you," I said mildly.
In a team match, both Souths had played at four spades doubled. When Cy was West and led his singleton diamond, declarer won and led a trump. Cy took his ace, and when East signaled with the ten of clubs, Cy led the queen of clubs to make sure East won. East returned a diamond, and Cy ruffed and cashed a club for down one.
At the other table, West led the king of clubs: three, ten, six. When he shifted to his singleton diamond, the result looked headed for down one again, but declarer won in dummy and led the king of hearts, discarding his last club — a "scissors coup." West won but could no longer give East the lead, so South avoided the diamond ruff and lost only three

tricks.
Despite the result, and despite what Cy thinks, leading singletons (and doubletons) to try for a ruff shouldn't be automatic. Prefer to lead from shortness when you have a weak hand (so partner may have an entry) and when you have a high trump and can get back in before declarer can draw all the trumps.
West dealer
E-W vulnerable
NORTH
6 2
K J 6 4 3
Q K Q 10
7 5 3
WEST
A 8 7 4
A 7 5 2
4
K Q J 4
EAST
None
Q 10 9 8
9 7 6 5 3
A 10 9 2
SOUTH
K Q J 10 9 5 3
None
A J 8 2
8 6
West North East South
1 4 2 4
Dbl All Pass
Opening lead — ♣ K
©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

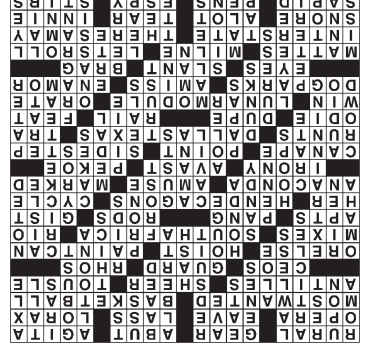
HOROSCOPES

By MAGI HELENA

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Mellow time at home or working to beautify your surroundings could be just what you need for a happy Sunday.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Gentle communication with thought toward the listener brings people closer together. A Sunday escape could suit you just right.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be seeking a new understanding or a new direction for your journey. Don't let worries and fears push you.
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Today could be a day that feels freer than some days do. Make the most of the vibe. A wild new career path could appear soon.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Matters of identity and self-expression may be on your mind now. An active getaway could give you a fab opportunity to blow off steam.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Enjoy an influx of help, ideas and resources that should be arriving now or soon. Apply some real effort to working out a money matter.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Committed folks may be dealing with mixed messages or tangled issues — an outside-the-box perspective could help.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A friend may offer the help you need, or you could be the helper for someone else. Avoid impulsive behaviors toward a partner.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't run with anxieties. If you are single, think carefully — dating could jack you up or throw you down, or both.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Committed partners could have flowing and companionable times. If you're dating, avoid making impulse decisions.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An attempt to talk through an issue could misfire; neither party may be ready to lay things to rest. Give with an open heart.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Move away from fear and toward your greatest dreams; they began, just like you, with your original roots.
IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: In the next few weeks, you could receive a windfall, opportunity or just some extra help. In September, get active if you're not already — plenty of physical action is the best use of September's vigorous vibes. October could bring a question: Is something too good to be true? Even if it's solid gold, don't start anything new during October's dark stars. It could be a good month for a vacation or staycation, though. November is a much better month: Be open to a new idea, insight or inspiration which could become a real game-changer. December is a time to shine; both your abilities and your charisma could be impressive.

Magi Helena is a Tribune Content Agency writer.

ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLE



ANSWERS TO TODAY'S JUMBLE

"MAD-HER"
ON LAUGHING
— SAH
He was just joking, but when his wife made a comment about his hair's weight, it was

ALMANAC

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Sunday, Aug. 17, the 229th day of 2025. There are 136 days left in the year.

Highlights in history

- In 1807: Robert Fulton's North River Steamboat made its first voyage, heading up the Hudson River on a successful round trip between New York City and Albany.
In 1863: Federal batteries and ships began bombarding Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor during the Civil War, but the Confederates managed to hold on despite several days of shelling.
In 1915: A mob in Cobb County, Ga., lynched Jewish businessman Leo Frank, 31, whose death sentence for the murder of 13-year-old Mary Phagan had been commuted to life imprisonment. (Frank, who had maintained his innocence, was pardoned by the state of Georgia in 1986.)
In 1945: Sukarno and Mohammad Hatta proclaimed independence for Indonesia, setting off the Indonesian National Revolution against Dutch rule. The George Orwell novel "Animal Farm," an allegorical satire of Soviet Communism, was first published in London by Martin Secker & Warburg.
In 1959: Trumpeter Miles Davis released "Kind of Blue," regarded as one of the most influential jazz albums of all time.
In 1978: The first successful trans-Atlantic balloon flight ended as Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman landed their Double Eagle II outside Paris.
In 1988: Pakistani President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel were killed in a mysterious plane crash.
In 1998: President Bill Clinton gave grand jury testimony via closed-circuit television from the White House concerning his relationship with Monica Lewinsky; he then delivered a TV address in which he admitted his relationship with Lewinsky was "wrong" but denied previously committing perjury (Clinton was subsequently impeached by the House of Representatives but acquitted in the Senate).
In 1999: More than 17,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the Kocaeli Province of Turkey.

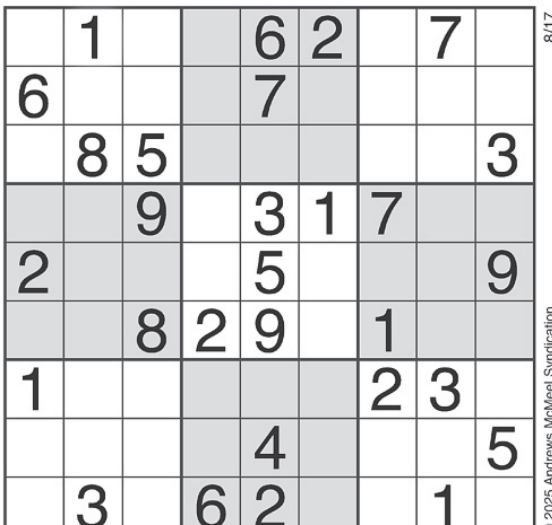
BIRTHDAYS

Table listing birthdays of famous figures: Margaret Hamilton (89), Robert De Niro (82), Larry Ellison (81), Jonathan Franzen (66), Sean Penn (65), Maria McKee (61), David Conrad (58), Donnie Wahlberg (56), Christian Laettner (56), Jim Courier (55), Thierry Henry (48), Alex Honnold (40), Bryton James (38), Austin Butler (34), Phoebe Bridgers (31).

ANSWER TO TODAY'S CRYPTOQUIP

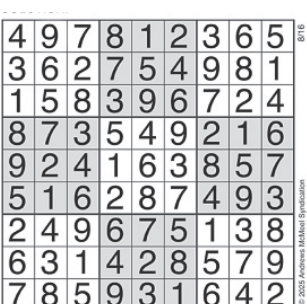
PETSYLVANIA
ANIMAL SUCH AS A DOG, CAT OR BIRD:
MUST BE LIVING WITH AT LEAST ONE
STATE WHERE, BY LAW, PEOPLE
BY LAW, PEOPLE
BIGGER ADJOIN AGENDA
HUMANE HOLLER UPHILL

SUDOKU



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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

QUOTE CRYPTOGRAM

FBR ANXZURMF ODK CSE D LDERVF FS YRF D ZBXWQM DFRVFXSV XM FS
MXF QSOV DVQ WSSU ZSTCFDPWR — WDVR SWXVYBSNMR

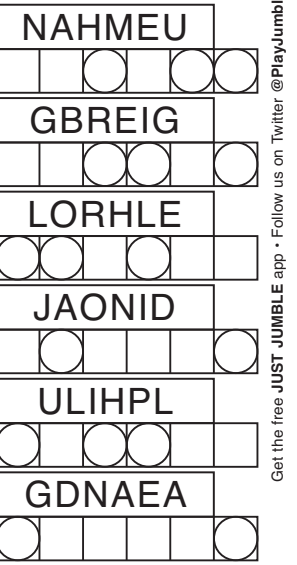
Last week's Quote Cryptogram: An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her — Agatha Christie 8/17/25

CRYPTOQUIP

UCZCV INVWV, FA SZI, QVLQSV JXUC FV SDODKM
IDCN ZC SVZUC LKV ZKDJS UXEN ZU Z PLM,
EZC LW FDWP: QVCUASOZKDZ.
Today's Cryptoquip clue: Q equals P

JUMBLE

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



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



## 5 stocks Ben Graham might buy, if the value investor were alive today

I wish I had known Benjamin Graham in person. Graham was a hedge-fund manager, Columbia University professor, mentor to Warren Buffett, author and bon vivant. He's widely considered the father of the value (bargain-hunting) school of investing.

Alas, I didn't know Graham, who was born in 1894 and died in 1976. But he lives on in his books and in the investment philosophies of dozens of money managers (including me).

Once a year in this column, I attempt to guess what stocks Graham would pick if he were alive today.

The average return on my "Graham" recommendations, over 22 years, has been 15.1%.

That beats the 12.4% average return for the Standard & Poor's 500 Total Return Index over the same years. Bear in mind that my column results are hypothetical and shouldn't be confused with results I obtain for clients. Also, past performance doesn't predict the future.

### Graham's method

Graham's stock-selection methods are set out in his books and other writings. For this column, I use a simplified version of his criteria. To qualify as a potential "Graham stock," a company must have:

- Debt no more than 50% of corporate net worth.
- A stock price that is 12 times earnings or less.
- A stock price that is less than a company's book value (corporate net worth per share).

Today, very few stocks meet these stringent criteria. I'd like to draw your attention to five of them.

### Mosaic

The Mosaic Co. (MOS), based in Tampa, Fla., makes fertilizer, especially potash fertilizer. Its sales fell 5% in the past year, but have averaged 7% growth over the past decade. The stock is



**JOHN DORFMAN**  
Investing

cheap, selling for 11 times earnings and 82% of book value.

One reason it's cheap is that a lot of potash is imported from Canada, and Canada is slated to face a 25% tariff under the Trump administration's trade plan.

### Bank OZK

From Little Rock, Ark., comes Bank OZK, a regional bank with big ambitions. A year ago, I included it among my Graham-inspired choices, and it rose 24.8%.

The rise surprised many people, since Bank OZK does a lot of commercial real-estate lending, including construction loans. Ever since covid-19 drove many people out of office buildings five years ago, commercial real estate has been poison.

The loan portfolio's make-up scares me a bit, but I have a lot of faith in the bank's chief executive officer, George Gleason.

### Meritage

Just under book value is Meritage Homes Corp. (MTH), a mid-sized homebuilding company with headquarters in Scottsdale, Ariz. It builds homes in 10 states, most of them in the sun belt. I like that service territory, as the South and West are gaining population.

Debt is only 36% of equity at Meritage. That should help the company navigate its way through the current downturn in home sales, which is caused mainly by high mortgage rates.

### Seadrill

Sometimes investors love energy

stocks, and sometimes they hate them. Seadrill Ltd. (SDRL), which does offshore drilling, is untimely. No one wants to drill under the ocean when oil fetches \$60 a barrel.

So, Seadrill has lost money in eight of the past 10 years. Its stock, down 25% this year, sells for less than it did a decade ago.

But if oil hits \$80 or \$90 a barrel, it would be a different story. I expect that to happen in the next three years, and I like this stock at its current valuation of less than six times recent earnings.

### Nacco

Selling for only 67% of book value is Nacco Industries Inc. (NC). Based in Cleveland, Ohio, it's a coal mining company that is barely covered by Wall Street analysts.

Nacco has shown a profit in 13 of the past 15 years and had a good year last year. The stock sells for eight times recent earnings.

### Last year

The past year has been an unpleasant one for the value approach. So, it's not surprising that my Graham-inspired picks from a year ago trailed the overall market. They rose 6.6% while the Standard & Poor's 500 Total Return Index jumped 21.1%.

Two stocks — Unum Group (UNM) and Bank OZK (OZK) did well, returning 33% and 25% respectively. But G-III Apparel Group Ltd. (GIII) and HF Sinclair Corp. (DINO) had small losses, and Peabody Energy Corp. (BTU) shed 22% of its value.

In 22 years, my Graham stocks have beaten the index 14 times, and shown a profit 15 times.

Disclosure: I own Meritage Homes personally and for most of my clients.

*John Dorfman is chairman of Dorfman Value Investments LLC in Boston, Mass., and a syndicated columnist. His firm or clients may own or trade securities discussed in this column. He can be reached at [jdorfman@dorfmanvalue.com](mailto:jdorfman@dorfmanvalue.com).*

## GE Appliances shifts more production to U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — GE Appliances plans to shift production of refrigerators, gas ranges and water heaters out of China and Mexico as part of a more than \$3 billion investment to expand its U.S. operations in Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina.

The investment — the second-largest in the Louisville-based company's history — is expected to add more than 1,000 jobs while ramping up domestic production and modernizing plants in the next five years.

"Our long-term strategy is about manufacturing close to our customers," said CEO Kevin Nolan. "With lean manufacturing, upskilling our workforce and automation, the math works for manufacturing in the United States."

The majority of GE Appliances' production is already in the U.S., and the shift means only that the company will transfer more work to its domestic plants.

GE Appliances will relocate production of gas ranges from Mexico to a plant in Georgia, while six refrigerator models now made in China will be manufactured at its Alabama plant, the company said.

In June, the company said it would move production of clothes washers from China to its sprawling manufacturing complex in Louisville. The reshoring announcements come as President Donald Trump tries to lure factories back to the United States by imposing import taxes — tariffs — on foreign goods.

GE Appliances said the first phase of its new investment will begin at plants in five Southern states: Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina.

"We are defining the future of manufacturing at GE Appliances by investing in our plants, people and communities," Nolan said. "No other appliance company over the last decade has invested more in U.S. manufacturing than

we have, and our \$3 billion, 5-year plan shows that our commitment to U.S. manufacturing will continue into the future."

The multiyear plan includes ramping up production of gas ranges that have been made in Mexico but will shift to the company's plant in LaFayette, Ga., the company said. Production of six refrigerators now made in China will move to its plant in Decatur, Ala.

The GE Appliances plant in Camden, S.C., will add production of electric and hybrid heat pump water heaters, doubling the factory's output and employment once the project is complete, the company said. The plant now produces gas water heaters. Production of the company's electric and hybrid water heaters — now made in China — will shift to South Carolina.

In Selmer, Tenn., its plant will produce two new models of air conditioners.

The latest investment includes the June announcement that GE Appliances will pump \$490 million into its Kentucky complex to produce a combo washer/dryer and a lineup of front load washers that are now made in China. In all, production of more than 15 models of front load washers will shift to the company's Louisville complex, known as Appliance Park, it said.

Once its new plan is fully implemented, GE Appliances will have invested \$6.5 billion across its 11 U.S. manufacturing plants and nationwide distribution network since 2016, it said.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said Wednesday the investment shows his state's ability to support world-class companies with a skilled workforce and the resources needed to thrive.

GE Appliances is a subsidiary of China-based Haier company.

Overall, GE Appliances says it contributes more than \$30 billion annually to the U.S. economy and supports more than 113,000 jobs — directly and indirectly — through its operations, suppliers and distribution network.

### Ask the Fool

#### Hunting Fat Yields

I know that when the stock market tumbles, dividend yields go up. Is that a good time to hunt for fat dividend yields? — *T.T., Big Rapids, Michigan*

Yes — with a caution. A dividend yield is simply a company's annual dividend amount divided by its current stock price. So when the price falls, the yield will rise, and vice versa.

For example, if Buzzy's Broccoli Beer (ticker: BRRRP) pays out \$0.50 per quarter, or \$2 per year, and its price is \$100 per share, its dividend yield would be \$2 divided by \$100, or 0.02 — which is 2%. If the price drops to, say, \$50, the dividend yield will be \$2 divided by \$50, which is 0.04, or 4%. That's a much higher and more appealing yield!

Tread carefully, though. Sometimes a stock has fallen because the company is struggling. In such cases, the company might end up having to reduce, suspend or even eliminate its dividend. So go ahead and search for high dividend yields, but also make sure each company's cash flow is fairly dependable and able to cover dividend payments.

\*\*\*

What's the current tax rate for when you sell stocks? — *F.L., Atlanta*

If you've held your shares for a year or less, the short-term capital gains tax rate applies. It's the same as your ordinary income tax rate — with tax brackets for 2025 ranging from 10% to 37%. For stocks held longer than a year, the long-term capital gains tax rate is either 0% or 15% for most folks. Those with relatively high earnings will have a tax rate of 20%. Remember that you can offset capital gains with capital losses to shrink the tax bite.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to [foolnews@fool.com](mailto:foolnews@fool.com).



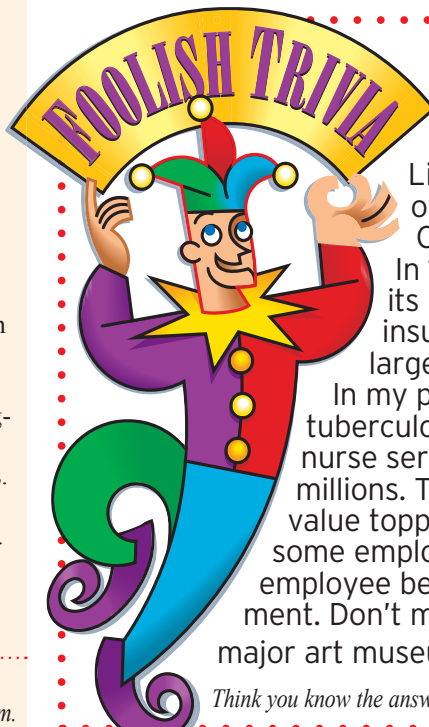
### Fool's School

#### What To Do When You Need Money

Like many of us, you may occasionally find yourself short on cash. When that happens, there are multiple ways to get your hands on the needed funds, and some are better than others.

One option is to borrow what you need from a friend or relative or even from a bank, via a personal loan. That can work well, but be sure to repay what you owe promptly, lest your relationship or credit score be damaged.

Alternatively, if you own a home and have built up some equity in it, you could take out a home equity loan or a home equity line of credit (HELOC). Or, if current interest rates are well below your first mortgage rate, you might even refinance your mortgage, taking out some cash in the process. These strategies might offer better interest rates than other loans, but remember that they're secured by your home, with your homeownership on the line.



## The Motley Fool

### To Educate, Amuse & Enrich™

Many people will be tempted to use credit cards more at times of financial stress, but this is risky, especially if your cards are charging steep interest rates. (It's common for credit card rates these days to be more than 20%.) A better strategy is to try to get a 0% APR credit card instead, which will charge you 0% for an initial period of up to 24 months. Aim to completely pay off the debt within that period.

Other possibilities include borrowing from or cashing out retirement accounts or life insurance policies. By doing so, though, you could shortchange your financial security in retirement and/or leave less money for your heirs.

You might not have to consider any of these strategies if you have an emergency fund at the ready, with at least three months' worth of living expenses in it. Another effective move is to spend less while earning more — perhaps via a short-term or long-term side gig. A little searching online will turn up plenty of possibilities — such as pet-sitting, tutoring kids or driving for a ride-sharing service.

#### Name That Company

I trace my roots back to the National Union Life and Limb Insurance Co., which offered disability coverage for Civil War sailors and soldiers. In 1868, its president changed its name to focus solely on life insurance. I'm now one of the largest U.S.-based life insurers. In my past, I've worked to eliminate tuberculosis, and I've run a visiting nurse service offering health care to millions. Today, with a recent market value topping \$50 billion and 49,000-some employees, I also offer annuities, employee benefits and asset management. Don't mistake my ticker symbol for a major art museum. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

#### My Dumbest Investment

#### Regret Saving Too Much

My most regrettable financial move is that I saved too much. After retiring in 2019 at age 63, my wife and I had a long and optimistic view of the years to come. We had been frugal, saving and investing for a long time, and ending up with about \$1.5 million. We're both active, with no preexisting health issues. In December 2023, though, I had a major stroke. Although I can once again drive, I can't walk along trout streams or cycle with my bike club. My recommendation to those reading this is: Save for the future, but don't count on it. Enjoy the present. — *B.M., via email*

**The Fool Responds:** We're so sorry to hear about your health challenges. But having socked away \$1.5 million before you retired may not turn out to have been too much. You probably have a decade or two ahead of you, after all, with, potentially, some unexpected expenses. Health care alone can cost a lot, especially for retirees. Much depends, of course, on how much you're collecting from Social Security and any other income sources, such as pensions, annuities, real estate investments, dividends and so on.

Still, while it's vital for most of us to build a hefty nest egg for retirement, your advice to stop and smell the roses is also sound.

(Do you have a smart or regrettable investment move to share with us? Email it to [TMFShare@fool.com](mailto:TMFShare@fool.com).)

#### LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I got my start in 2014, when Burger King (founded in 1954) joined with Canada's iconic coffee-and-doughnut chain, Tim Hortons (1964), forming me. The private equity company 3G Capital, then based in Brazil, was involved and ended up owning a chunk of me. Today, I also encompass the Popeyes (1972) and Firehouse Subs (1994) chains. With a recent market value topping \$30 billion, I rake in more than \$8 billion annually and boast more than 32,000 restaurants in more than 120 countries and territories. I'm headquartered in Canada now. Who am I? (Answer: Restaurant Brands International)



**Want to Invest?** Email us at [foolnews@fool.com](mailto:foolnews@fool.com), and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

#### Motley Fool Goes Mobile!



Get investing advice and information on the go, now FREE on Android and iPhone.

#### The Motley Fool Take

#### Energetic Growth and Dividends

Dividend payer NextEra Energy (NYSE: NEE) has raised its payout every year for more than three decades, and has grown it at a 10% compound annual rate since 2007. Based on its strong second-quarter results and growth outlook, it should have plenty of power to continue increasing the dividend, which recently yielded 3.2%.

The core of NextEra Energy is its regulated utility operation, which is largely made up of Florida Power & Light. On top of that, NextEra has become one of the world's largest providers of solar and wind power. So this "boring" utility is positioned to grow along with the world's demand for cleaner power alternatives.

One big benefit of mixing a strong and reliable core operation with a growth-oriented business has been dividend growth. NextEra's average annual dividend increase of 10% is significant — half that rate would be good for a utility.

NextEra Energy's earnings are growing rapidly, a trend that should continue in the coming years. The company's earnings growth should give it fuel to continue increasing its high-yield dividend. That compelling combination of growth and income makes NextEra Energy look like an excellent stock to buy and hold for the long term. (The Motley Fool owns shares of and recommends NextEra Energy.)

The Tribune-Review publishes only those real estate transactions valued at \$125,000 or more. Real Estate Transactions provided by RealsTATS, 1911 E. Carson St., Pitsburgh, PA 15203; 412-381-3880.

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY**

- Paul Heffernan to James and Celia Rutt at 212 Sewickley Ridge Drive for \$1,198,000.
- ASPINWALL**
  - Charles Totten to George Andrew and Michelle Jamie Harter at 411 Center Ave. for \$432,000.
  - Estate of William Slanders to Madison Osheskie at 404 Lexington Ave. Unit 2 for \$195,000.
- AVALON**
  - James Vandling to Francis Batson and Beverly Hogan at 130 Cleveland Ave. for \$289,900.
  - Sarala Sambandam to Abalsa Realty Management LLC at 309 Fisk Ave. for \$130,000.
  - Ethan Bryan to Brian and Audrey Radinovic to Larry and Joyce Kemp at 3184 Harts Run Road for \$400,000.
  - Alexandra Arbanas to Dakota Harbison at 4408 Laurel Oak Drive for \$248,000.
  - MCLP Asset Co. Inc. to Cristian Garcia and Jovita Gutierrez Marcias at 3036 McNeal Road for \$163,000.
- BALDWIN BOROUGH**
  - Luna Creek Ventures LLC to Zachary Popovich at 112 Eileen Drive for \$274,900.
- BALDWIN TOWNSHIP**
  - Mae Fannie to Carson Zakis at 552 Crestline Drive for \$186,000.
- BELLEVEUE**
  - Kristian Anthony Nardozi to Jordi Bryant at 730 Orchard Ave. for \$322,500.
  - Cassiopeia Investment Group LLC to Stephen Foley at 240 W. Riverview Ave. for \$379,000.
- BEN AVON**
  - Thornridge Investments L.P. to Michael Neotiger and Kara Gibbon at 260 Beringer Place for \$145,000.
- BETHEL PARK**
  - Patrick Donohue to Brian Breland at 5541 Claytonia Drive for \$320,000.
  - William Kelly to Pamela Slampak at 930 Havenwood Drive for \$345,000.
  - Eugene Stark to Linda Deans at 53 Highland Road Unit 508 for \$131,000.
  - Bryan Calhoun to Cara Brozenich at 5827 Kings School Road for \$125,000.
- BETHLEHEM**
  - Ahmiel Eliezer Baum to Hai Elbaz and Avivit Elbaz Kachta at 3348 Lenox Drive for \$730,000.
  - HPA Borrower 2016-2 LLC to John Power III and Hetal Mistry at 3364 Lenox Drive for \$410,000.
- INGRAM**
  - Estate of David Seretti to Eric and Jamie Mulvihill at 83 Evans Ave. for \$136,833.
  - Maronda Homes LLC to Jeffrey Ben Morgan Jr. and Carly Lynn Morgan at 3339 Lenox Drive for \$710,280.
  - Ahmiel Eliezer Baum to Hai Elbaz and Avivit Elbaz Kachta at 3348 Lenox Drive for \$730,000.
  - HPA Borrower 2016-2 LLC to John Power III and Hetal Mistry at 3364 Lenox Drive for \$410,000.
- INDIANA**
  - Maronda Homes LLC to Jeffrey Ben Morgan Jr. and Carly Lynn Morgan at 3339 Lenox Drive for \$710,280.
  - Ahmiel Eliezer Baum to Hai Elbaz and Avivit Elbaz Kachta at 3348 Lenox Drive for \$730,000.
  - HPA Borrower 2016-2 LLC to John Power III and Hetal Mistry at 3364 Lenox Drive for \$410,000.
- NORTH FAYETTE**
  - NVR Inc. to Derek John Allman and Jillian Christine Lindberg at 2056 Dana Drive for \$530,095.
  - Estate of William Seifert to Christopher and Michelle Lea Goring at 416 Hankey Farms Road for \$320,000.
  - NVR Inc. to Eric Scott and Rayshelle Johlee Walker at 1146 Olivia Drive for \$365,465.
  - NVR Inc. to Brian Harkins and Kelly Ann Caridi at 1148 Olivia Drive for \$352,090.
  - North Versailles
    - William Zewe to Cheryl McKevey at 878 Joan Drive for \$194,900.
    - Walter Zamosky trustee to Kurt Bryan and Lisa Unick at 425 London Ave. for \$129,000.
- O'HARA**
  - James Drake to Dustin and Carly Ferrone at 241 Cornwall Drive for \$705,000.
  - Catherine Lynn Blaisdell to Bertha Sager at 5 Highmeadow Road for \$225,000.
  - Estate of Donald Zielinski to Zachary Kay and Mandy Majocha at 109 Mattier Drive for \$217,000.
  - Lifeng Tian to Ross Joseph and Amanda Catherine Young at 251 Neilson Ave. for \$195,000.
  - Jung Ki Ro to Christoph Elben at 1611 Powers Run Road for \$625,000.
  - Genevieve Garlicki Wat to Samuel Pliszka at 427 Valley View Drive for \$269,000.
  - Alvin Filstrup III to Christopher and Julia Dougkass Diehl at 165 Woodshire Road for \$685,600.
- OKAIDE**
  - Christopher Good to Todd Keifer Glover and Katarina Marie Bittner at 322 Spring St. for \$230,000.
- OKMONT**
  - Benjamin Fownes to Jonathan and Mary Brandt Nigro at 125 Third St. for \$650,000.
- OHIO TOWNSHIP**
  - Michael Majersky to Tobin James Pyle and Lindsey Ann Reynolds at 122 Clarett Road for \$325,000.
  - Estate of Paul Feathers to Douglas Patton at 23 Falkirk Drive for \$244,900.
  - 101 Pitt Properties LLC to Nathan and Bridget Kneuppel at 127 Greenview Drive for \$242,000.
  - Charles Geiselhart to Zayne Andrew Aniszewski at 560 Idaho Ave. for \$210,000.
  - Thomas Stock to Brendon Taylor and Rikki Lynn Griffin at 172 Laurie Drive for \$262,000.
  - Charlene Brill to Amp Management Co. at 2002-2004 Palm Ave. for \$180,000.
  - Joyce Ann Gitchell to Hannah Thorn at 6657 Poketa Road for \$144,900.
  - KN Construction Services LLC to Emily Anne Yester at 105 Richmore Drive for \$249,000.
  - Edward Kastroll to Scott Fulton at 7067 Shannon Road for \$157,900.
  - Viking Real Estate Management Inc. to Jason Edward Golditch at 151 Killarney Road for \$293,000.
  - Shipley Brothers Development Inc. to MGB Capital LLC at 564 Macleod Drive for \$150,000.
  - Lake Macleod L.P. to MGB Capital LLC at 566 Macleod Drive for \$150,000.
  - Estate of James Murphy Jr. to Michael and Lisa Lovasik at 161 Roscommon Road for \$149,000.
  - Douglas Charles Glenn to Anselma Dutka at 1501 Van Drive for \$185,000.
  - John Osborne to Porfirio Quintero Cadena and Ellen Yan at 203 W. Hutchinson Ave. for \$428,500.
- MCKEES ROCKS**
  - Dennis Green to Elizabeth Salazar at 718 Mary St. for \$171,700.
  - National Residential Nominee Services Inc. to Surya Valsetty and Kerina Maharaja at 5008 W Grove Lane for \$811,000.
  - John Hays to Robert and Coleen Davis at 5010 West Grove Ln for \$851,000.
  - Adam Zargaroff to Caitlyn Hill and Kaylee Rogers at 290 Wexford Bayne Road for \$290,000.
  - PLYM
    - Olympos Energy LLC to EQT Artemis Production LLC at Unknown Address for \$1,082,294.
    - Adam Sieniacki to Rachel Gibson at 685 Blue Ridge Road for \$259,900.
    - PGH Renovations LLC to Raymond Trudeau III and Kelly Trudeau at 529 Cresthaven Drive for \$435,000.
    - Fernando Andrade Lagier to Tomasz Leszczynski and Sara Hurley at 398 Holiday Park Drive for \$316,000.
    - Ruth McCord-Britt to Kyle Richard McAleavey at 945 Key West Drive for \$165,000.
    - Randall Dale Naugher to Andrew Bigler and Autumn Black at 426 Mower Drive for \$229,900.
    - Residential Credit Opportunities Trust V - to Noah Williams at 216 Roberts Road for \$190,000.
    - Estate of Donald Balsalon to Katherine Cravaff and Cathy Wilson at 3214 Universal Road for \$233,500 by sheriff's deed.
- RICHLAND**
  - Donald Russell Stewart to Matthew Wilson at 232 Carters Grove Drive for \$254,000.
  - Mamba Bhatnagar to David and Natalie Rice at 3611 Centerville Road for \$1,170,000.
  - Buckhill Properties LLC to Steven and Kelli Decker at 507 Edgehill Drive for \$421,000.
  - Mark Brandon to Todd and Judith Schrecker at 415 Freedom Drive for \$705,000.
  - Jeffrey Alston to Craig and Amanda Smiley at 27 Kaufman Road for \$160,000.
  - Vincent Cirincione III to Matthew Sheeks and Gopi Ukani at 177 Wedgewood Drive for \$1,755,000.
  - HPA Borrower 2019-2 LLC to Vaibhavi and Satyashil Pradhan at 5015 Stags Ln for \$475,000.
  - **MT. LEBANON**
    - Andreas Schmid to Richard and Tara Merry at 464 Avon Drive for \$726,768.
    - Michael Romano to Anoop Madhavan and Aswathy Susekka Devi at 307 Fieldbrook Drive for \$375,000.
    - Emalee Ranalli to Vast River Holdings LLC at 228 Lavina Ave. for \$202,000.
    - Chandras Narne to John Christian Strong at 1450 Mohican Drive for \$444,900.
    - David Bast to Matthew and Heide Nicholas at 401 Parker Drive for \$960,000.
    - Robert Finkbeiner to Robert Paul Ames and Steve Thomas Nestoryak at 350 Tampa Ave. for \$410,000.
    - David Andrew Guest to Almir and Manja Rovcanin at 150 Vanderbilt Drive for \$562,500.
  - **MUNHALL**
    - Jacqueline Shammias to Daniel Allen at 121 N. Lehigh St. for \$150,000.
    - Pulchra Properties LLC to Jack Fishburn-Moore at 1320 Ravine St. for \$145,000.
    - Flatstone LLC to John Arthur Strong Jr. at 146 Video Drive for \$179,999.
  - **NORTH FAYETTE**
    - NVR Inc. to Derek John Allman and Jillian Christine Lindberg at 2056 Dana Drive for \$530,095.
    - Estate of William Seifert to Christopher and Michelle Lea Goring at 416 Hankey Farms Road for \$320,000.
    - NVR Inc. to Eric Scott and Rayshelle Johlee Walker at 1146 Olivia Drive for \$365,465.
    - NVR Inc. to Brian Harkins and Kelly Ann Caridi at 1148 Olivia Drive for \$352,090.
    - **NORTH VERSAILLES**
      - William Zewe to Cheryl McKevey at 878 Joan Drive for \$194,900.
      - Walter Zamosky trustee to Kurt Bryan and Lisa Unick at 425 London Ave. for \$129,000.
  - **O'HARA**
    - James Drake to Dustin and Carly Ferrone at 241 Cornwall Drive for \$705,000.
    - Catherine Lynn Blaisdell to Bertha Sager at 5 Highmeadow Road for \$225,000.
    - Estate of Donald Zielinski to Zachary Kay and Mandy Majocha at 109 Mattier Drive for \$217,000.
    - Lifeng Tian to Ross Joseph and Amanda Catherine Young at 251 Neilson Ave. for \$195,000.
    - Jung Ki Ro to Christoph Elben at 1611 Powers Run Road for \$625,000.
    - Genevieve Garlicki Wat to Samuel Pliszka at 427 Valley View Drive for \$269,000.
    - Alvin Filstrup III to Christopher and Julia Dougkass Diehl at 165 Woodshire Road for \$685,600.
  - **OKAIDE**
    - Christopher Good to Todd Keifer Glover and Katarina Marie Bittner at 322 Spring St. for \$230,000.
  - **OKMONT**
    - Benjamin Fownes to Jonathan and Mary Brandt Nigro at 125 Third St. for \$650,000.
  - **OHIO TOWNSHIP**
    - Michael Majersky to Tobin James Pyle and Lindsey Ann Reynolds at 122 Clarett Road for \$325,000.
    - Estate of Paul Feathers to Douglas Patton at 23 Falkirk Drive for \$244,900.
    - 101 Pitt Properties LLC to Nathan and Bridget Kneuppel at 127 Greenview Drive for \$242,000.
    - Charles Geiselhart to Zayne Andrew Aniszewski at 560 Idaho Ave. for \$210,000.
    - Thomas Stock to Brendon Taylor and Rikki Lynn Griffin at 172 Laurie Drive for \$262,000.
    - Charlene Brill to Amp Management Co. at 2002-2004 Palm Ave. for \$180,000.
    - Joyce Ann Gitchell to Hannah Thorn at 6657 Poketa Road for \$144,900.
    - KN Construction Services LLC to Emily Anne Yester at 105 Richmore Drive for \$249,000.
    - Edward Kastroll to Scott Fulton at 7067 Shannon Road for \$157,900.
    - Viking Real Estate Management Inc. to Jason Edward Golditch at 151 Killarney Road for \$293,000.
    - Shipley Brothers Development Inc. to MGB Capital LLC at 564 Macleod Drive for \$150,000.
    - Lake Macleod L.P. to MGB Capital LLC at 566 Macleod Drive for \$150,000.
    - Estate of James Murphy Jr. to Michael and Lisa Lovasik at 161 Roscommon Road for \$149,000.
    - Douglas Charles Glenn to Anselma Dutka at 1501 Van Drive for \$185,000.
    - John Osborne to Porfirio Quintero Cadena and Ellen Yan at 203 W. Hutchinson Ave. for \$428,500.
  - **MCKEES ROCKS**
    - Dennis Green to Elizabeth Salazar at 718 Mary St. for \$171,700.
    - National Residential Nominee Services Inc. to Surya Valsetty and Kerina Maharaja at 5008 W Grove Lane for \$811,000.
    - John Hays to Robert and Coleen Davis at 5010 West Grove Ln for \$851,000.
    - Adam Zargaroff to Caitlyn Hill and Kaylee Rogers at 290 Wexford Bayne Road for \$290,000.
    - PLYM
      - Olympos Energy LLC to EQT Artemis Production LLC at Unknown Address for \$1,082,294.
      - Adam Sieniacki to Rachel Gibson at 685 Blue Ridge Road for \$259,900.
      - PGH Renovations LLC to Raymond Trudeau III and Kelly Trudeau at 529 Cresthaven Drive for \$435,000.
      - Fernando Andrade Lagier to Tomasz Leszczynski and Sara Hurley at 398 Holiday Park Drive for \$316,000.
      - Ruth McCord-Britt to Kyle Richard McAleavey at 945 Key West Drive for \$165,000.
      - Randall Dale Naugher to Andrew Bigler and Autumn Black at 426 Mower Drive for \$229,900.
      - Residential Credit Opportunities Trust V - to Noah Williams at 216 Roberts Road for \$190,000.
      - Estate of Donald Balsalon to Katherine Cravaff and Cathy Wilson at 3214 Universal Road for \$233,500 by sheriff's deed.
  - **RICHLAND**
    - Karen Luffe to Keith Dezen at 257 Penhurst Drive for \$320,000.
    - Estate of John Edward Thomas to Dwight Heffrich and Linda Lieu at 943 Rita Drive for \$163,900.
    - William Stumpf trustee to Eugene Frank Scharf Jr. and Paula Scharf at 321 Sunset Drive for \$292,000.
    - **WIKINSBURG**
      - Jonathan Bennett to Lacy Williams at 571 Coal St. Apt 2 for \$135,000.
      - Tera Denise Bianchi to Andreas and Catherine Mlhoefner at 917 East End Ave. for \$470,500.
  - **BUTLER COUNTY ADAMS**
    - Mark Yohman to Robert Alan and Tammy Sue Perrotte at 248 Adams Pointe Blvd. Unit 1 for \$320,000.
    - Estate of Isabel Boynton to Lucy and Madeline Nacey at 535 Beaver St. Ext. for \$245,000.
    - Jaclyn Herring to Burk Properties LLC at 195 Crowe Ave. for \$340,000.
    - NVR Inc. to Marcelo Armando and Jennifer Velasquez at 2002 Shelly Ln for \$763,115.
    - Jeffrey Berneburg to Matthew and Gabriella Shaheen at 631 White Pine Drive for \$660,000.
    - **BUFFALO**
      - NVR to Todd Allen Adamski at 106 Bristlecone Ct for \$450,335.
      - NVR Inc. to Janet Jackson at 125 Bristlecone Ct for \$457,650.
    - Korry Weaber to Eric Klein and Emily Speaker at 218 Fifth Ave. for \$165,000.
  - **BUTLER TOWNSHIP**
    - DR Horton Inc. NJ to Francis Andrew and Brittany Ann Kurkowski at 1501 Cherry Tree Drive for \$319,990.
    - Robyn Bellaji to Gerald and Barbara Hortsman at 124 Dershimer Drive for \$197,000.
    - DR Horton Inc. NJ to Gary Lee Thompson Jr. at 343 Geneagles Drive for \$399,980.
    - DR Horton Inc. NJ to Robert Thomas and Deborah Ann Sinz at 375 Geneagles Drive for \$399,685.
    - Jonathan Peace to DCD Ventures LLC at 201 Shady Ave. for \$305,000.
    - James Osborne to Marjorie Kloker at 301 Tudor Drive for \$358,000.
    - Estate of Lucy Mudrick to Tiffani Foley at 122 W Christie Ave. for \$250,000.
  - **CENTER**
    - Cory Bajik to Daniel and Jessica Kurtek at 328 Chestnut Drive for \$289,000.
    - Jerry McGarrah to Conner Thomas and Adrianna McGarrah at 590 Glenwood Way for \$212,500.
    - Estate of Homer McAllister to William McQuillan and Judit Kleszc at 129 Lakeshore Drive for \$450,000.
    - Albert Leppert to Edward and Rita Ritzler at 117 Mar Vel Drive for \$284,000.
    - Lee Fosnaght to Dillon and Jenna Lawhorne Weston at 141 Minich Road for \$180,310.
    - Patricia Wuenstel to William Godshall and Christine Gale at 113 Sunburst Ct for \$405,000.
    - **CLAY**
      - Estate of David Allan Beverage to Mason Eugene Mersheimer at 113 Filer Ln for \$190,000.
    - **CLINTON**
      - Victor Cotton to Divot Acquisitions LLC at 114 Cotton Ln OG for \$500,250.
      - Jacob Pfeiffer to Tyler Bryan Nulph at 341 Deer Creek Road for \$290,000.
      - Andrew O'Connor to Dylan Cole at 493 Lindarnton Road for \$200,000.
      - Chad Galbreath to Jacob and Taylor Pfeiffer at 2000 Plantation Drive for \$600,000.
    - **CONCORD**
      - James Baker to Henry and Annie Rollfz at 132 McElroy Road for \$700,000.
      - Ryan Todd to Freedom Mortgage at 1957 Onaida Valley Road for \$181,440 by sheriff's deed.
      - Cecil Eudaly to Troy Angelo and Samantha Schall at 144 Springdale Church Road for \$460,000.
    - **CONNOQUEENESS BOROUGH**
      - David Jonathan White to Zachary Castora and Kaylee Campbell at 138 Leslie Farms Drive for \$391,000.
      - Eric Hughes to Brian and Alyssa Jarosh at 124 Joyce Drive for \$357,900.
      - Jeffrey Byrne to Ramesh Bhattarai and Kalish Chimariya at 44 Lintel Drive for \$850,000.
      - David Molinaro to Zachary and Chelsea Vonash at 57 Lintel Drive for \$720,000.
      - 339 Justabout Land Co. LLC to Benjamin Marcus Homes LLC at Loganbridge Road for \$343,567.
      - Donald Kalkbrenner Jr. to Robert Masters and Rhonda Vete at 138 Mallard Ln for \$854,288.
      - James McCarthy to Erin Kenavey at 241 Molly Drive for \$635,000.
      - Nicholas Miller to Richard Cole Jr. and Kira McDonough at 2811 Old Washington Road for \$250,000.
      - Albert William Burba Jr. trustee to Christine Mikuta at 205 Prestonwood Ln for \$540,000.
      - John Bennett III to Corbin and Sarah Hudson Semple at 111 S Heide Ln for \$489,900.
      - Phyllis Goldfarb to Eric and Lesley Drobotij at 311 Stonebrook Drive for \$455,000.
      - BNY Mellon NA trustee to William Russell and Rose Ann Taylor at 325 Village Green Drive for \$440,000.
      - Kinsale Land Partners LLC to Edin and Christine Sabic at 102 Vista Drive for \$172,500.
      - Daniel Miller to Donald Wills and Sydney Harteis at 417 Winesap Ct for \$613,000.
    - **SMITH**
      - William Kovach Jr. to Nicole Lapia at 24 North St. for \$149,900.
      - Kenneth Ray Yoder to Chris Connor Farms LLC at 40 Tranquil Ln for \$2,500,000.
    - **SOMERSET**
      - Kathryn A Brown Duffill to Andrew and Stephanie Kaye Brown at 598 Vanவில் Road for \$450,000.
    - **UNION**
      - William Nyga to Triston Scales at 6429 Union Ave. for \$266,000.
      - Scarmazzi Highland LLC to Jennifer Irwin at 165 Village Ln for \$460,160.
      - Scarmazzi Highland LLC to Jeffrey and Bethann Ellis at 167 Village Ln for \$467,710.
    - **WASHINGTON COUNTY FALLOWFIELD**
      - Apex North America Inc. to Alta Vista Investments 6 L.P. at 110 Monack Way for \$1,400,000.
      - Estate of Myra Rodriguez to Mandy Fonoimoana at 21 Moyer Ave. for \$140,000.
    - **NORTH STRABANE**
      - Jason McClain to Edward and Julie Smith Farrington at 100 Carriage Ct for \$490,000.
      - Ross Bevevino to Aaron Gaggin at 1073 E. Waterford Ct for \$343,000.
      - NVR Inc. to Shanker and Pramodini Podila at 1001 Greenwood Drive for \$388,662.
      - Nicholas DePasquale to Carissa Prieto at 1332 Route 319 for \$162,500.
      - Ammar Alnajjar to Andrew and Alexandra Greaves at 119 Suncrest Ct for \$578,000.
    - **PETERS**
      - Wayne Vanderaar to John and Denise Heisey at 312 Abbeey Brook Ln for \$885,000.
      - David Tornatore to Jessie Ho at 137 Bittersweet Cir for \$740,168.
      - Douglas Brandt to Grant and Amy Ellis at 171 Brooke Drive for \$430,000.
      - Maronda Homes LLC to Dennis John and Betsy Diana Bozic at 312 Darcy Ct for \$539,630.
      - Dennis John Bozic to Adam and Jennifer Flowers at 163 Fawn Valley Drive for \$450,000.
      - Audrey Lillian Brouwer to Michael Moore Jr. and Elissa Moore at 187 Friar Ln for \$430,000.
      - Eric Hughes to Brian and Alyssa Jarosh at 124 Joyce Drive for \$357,900.
      - Jeffrey Byrne to Ramesh Bhattarai and Kalish Chimariya at 44 Lintel Drive for \$850,000.
      - David Molinaro to Zachary and Chelsea Vonash at 57 Lintel Drive for \$720,000.
      - 339 Justabout Land Co. LLC to Benjamin Marcus Homes LLC at Loganbridge Road for \$343,567.
      - Donald Kalkbrenner Jr. to Robert Masters and Rhonda Vete at 138 Mallard Ln for \$854,288.
      - James McCarthy to Erin Kenavey at 241 Molly Drive for \$635,000.
      - Nicholas Miller to Richard Cole Jr. and Kira McDonough at 2811 Old Washington Road for \$250,000.
      - Albert William Burba Jr. trustee to Christine Mikuta at 205 Prestonwood Ln for \$540,000.
      - John Bennett III to Corbin and Sarah Hudson Semple at 111 S Heide Ln for \$489,900.
      - Phyllis Goldfarb to Eric and Lesley Drobotij at 311 Stonebrook Drive for \$455,000.
      - BNY Mellon NA trustee to William Russell and Rose Ann Taylor at 325 Village Green Drive for \$440,000.
      - Kinsale Land Partners LLC to Edin and Christine Sabic at 102 Vista Drive for \$172,500.
      - Daniel Miller to Donald Wills and Sydney Harteis at 417 Winesap Ct for \$613,000.
    - **SMITH**
      - William Kovach Jr. to Nicole Lapia at 24 North St. for \$149,900.
      - Kenneth Ray Yoder to Chris Connor Farms LLC at 40 Tranquil Ln for \$2,500,000.
    - **SOMERSET**
      - Kathryn A Brown Duffill to Andrew and Stephanie Kaye Brown at 598 Vanவில் Road for \$450,000.
    - **UNION**
      - William Nyga to Triston Scales at 6429 Union Ave. for \$266,000.
      - Scarmazzi Highland LLC to Jennifer Irwin at 165 Village Ln for \$460,160.
      - Scarmazzi Highland LLC to Jeffrey and Bethann Ellis at 167 Village Ln for \$467,710.
    - **WASHINGTON COUNTY**
      - **ALLEGHENY TOWNSHIP**
        - Geraldine McDaniel to Grant Jacob Scott and Hayley Lynn Sharon at 956 Normandy Drive for \$460,000.
        - William Hula to Justin and Jessica Renee Wojciechowski at 439 Pleasant Hill Road for \$750,000.
    - **ROBERT BRASIOLA JR. to KYLA HUGHEY-SMITH at 100 WELTY DRIVE for \$340,000.**
    - **BELL**
      - Estate of James Schimizzi to Dennis and Kristine Doran at \$193,900.
      - Rusty Hinge Road for \$375,000.
    - **DERRY BOROUGH**
      - Robert Knupp to Mandy Smith at 206 N Ligonier St. for \$147,500.
    - **DERRY TOWNSHIP**
      - Cole Rentals LLC to Tiffany Varner at 1202 Millwood Road for \$180,000.
      - Estate of J. Wayne Ray to Jordan Dennis Haase at 300 Pandora Road for \$250,000.
      - Deanna Michmchalk to Michael Baker at 206 Richards Drive for \$204,000.
    - **DONEGAL TOWNSHIP**
      - William Baker to VKH Enterprises LLC at 109 Private Ln for \$140,932.
    - **EXPORT**
      - Ramon Casanova to Anthony and Gina Zigerelli at 6014 Calisti Drive for \$310,000.
    - **GREENSBURG**
      - William Jeffrey Jones to Matthew Len and Roberta Watkins Weaver at 431 Center Ave. for \$250,000.
      - Scott Bisping to Paul and Shirley Dominic at 648 Jack St. for \$130,000.
      - Triple B Properties LLC to Colleen Dyche at 35 Meadowbrook Ave. for \$247,500.
      - Diane Retone to Daniel Louis and Hannah Marie Mihalko at 1058 Rimrock Road for \$500,000.
      - George Foresman to Sergio Dilascio at 344 S Spring Ave. for \$270,000.
    - **HEMPFIELD**
      - Yvonne Moore to Christopher and Theresa Lynn Miller at 585 Agnes St. for \$650,000.
      - Evan Dyll to Tyler Joseph and Valerie Slezak at 534 Austin St. for \$453,000.
      - Joel Peretic to Thomas Sweet Jr. at 81 Baltimore St. for \$136,900.
      - MSD Cherry Creek LLC to NVR Inc. at 5111-5113 Bentgrass Drive for \$148,000.
      - Philip Shelapinsky to Scott and Rhonda Davis at 317 Bridlewood Drive for \$357,000.
      - Mark Rush to Justin and Giovanna Sheridan at 127 Craig Drive for \$365,000.
      - Mark Steiner to Anthony James and Laura Campagna at 277 Dunn Road for \$516,000.
      - Suzanne Stevenson to Michael and Dana Cuss at 16 Franconia Drive for \$309,500.
      - Richard Chaussinand to Robert John and Kaja Paulina Simon at 925 Giovanni Ln for \$717,000.
      - Darrell Hill to Zachary Painter at 219 Hill Road for \$218,000.
      - Reynaldo Torio trustee to Jordan and Jessica Oswald at 436 Lakewood Road for \$515,000.
      - Nathan Keggs to Michael Joseph Devlin III and Alexa Victoria Carman at 34 Max St. for \$242,500.
      - Scott Tarabek to Michael and Tara Lynn Courtney at 807 Rembrandt Cir for \$621,500.
      - Innovation First LLC to Cage Kings LLC at 2414 State Route 119 for \$250,000.
      - Stewart Schwab Jr. trustee to Barry and Patricia Smith at 203 Tralee Drive for \$270,000.
      - Estate of Betty Jackson to John and Maureen Vittek at 6055 Triple Crown Cir for \$390,000.
    - **IRWIN**
      - Fulton Innovative Enterprises LLC to 2nd Street Enterprises LLC at 200 Second St. for \$225,000.
    - **JEANNETTE**
      - Darlene Stanoszek to Michelle Kukic at 808 N Third St. for \$145,000.
      - Alexander Smith to Daniel Gobble and Katie Cassidy at 509 Pennsylvania Blvd. for \$285,000.
    - **LATROBE**
      - Garret Lipcey to John Luch Klancher and Krysta McGinnis at 819 Forest St. for \$169,900.
      - Long's Electrical Services LLC to Keith and Abby Stevenson at 241 Gertrude St. for \$218,000.
      - Hugh Morrison Jr. to Patricia Kiss at 35 Wagner St. for \$154,639.
    - **LIGONIER**
      - Donjon RE LLC to Russ and Dione Graswick at 120 N St. Clair St. for \$650,000.
      - Beatriz Sweeney to Alex and Abigail Cairns at 214 W Vincent St. # 216 for \$150,000.
    - **LIGONIER TOWNSHIP**
      - Cletus McConville to Bhalin Singh at 205 Ericas Ln for \$235,000.
      - Edward Eperesi to Virginia Campbell at 525 Old Lincoln Highway for \$235,000.
    - **LOWER BURRELL**
      - Cody Kibbe to James Robert Serena at 316 Dutchman Run Road for \$148,000.
      - James Morrison to AMP V L.P. at 490 Millers Ln for \$157,297.
      - Matthew Smith to John and Jill Sheerer at 211 Widmer Ave. for \$355,000.
    - **LOYALHANNA**
      - Estate of Lawrence Bash to Frank and Diane Mangery at 244 Bash Road for \$150,500.
      - Estate of Lawrence Bash to Matthew Mangery and Marcy Stoeklein at 244 Bash Road for \$192,640.
      - Knox McRae to Bradley and Shauna Doshen at 201 Cameron Drive for \$315,000.
      - Estate of Martha Wilkinson to Jonathan McCann-Drury at 218 Longview Drive for \$230,000.
      - Rodman Management LLC to Ohi Holdings LLC at 63 Race St. for \$148,000.
    - **MT. PLEASANT BOROUGH**
      - Eugene Santorella to Justin Jackson at 143 Center Ave. for \$210,000.
    - **MT. PLEASANT TOWNSHIP**
      - Kimberly Rodgers to Richard and Kristi Steele at 206 Brook Hollow Road for \$485,000.
      - Estate of Paul Bernard Budney to Jeffrey Kattera and Karie Coleman at 2265 State Route 982 for \$195,000.
    - **MURRYSVILLE**
      - Gerald Loyacona to Gagandeep and Kirandeep Sandhu at 7023 Fair Oaks Drive for \$1,425,000.
      - Chi Hung Leung trustee to Christopher and Jessica Little at 1026 Lexington Drive for \$575,000.
      - Bonnie Proctor to Darwin Alexander and Jessica Shoop at 1025 Manor Vue Ct for \$380,000.
      - Estate of Georeganna Catherine Spinello to ANS Planting LLC at 3957 Old William Penn Highway for \$245,000.
      - Nicholas Subich to Jonathan and Madison Eibal at 5114 Scenic Road for \$490,000.
      - Kenneth Wetta to Krishanu and Lucky Datta at 5055 Sequoia Ct for \$409,000.
      - Jeffrey Dohallow to Matthew Hewston and Rhonda Chico at 6885 Stephanie Ct for \$625,000.
      - Adam McDowell to Matthew and Carolyn Reed at 1016 Timberwood Ct for \$495,000.
    - **NEW ALEXANDRIA**
      - Michelle Bauer to Richard

- **WILLIAM HATHFIELD II at 203 E MAIN ST. for \$247,000.**
- **NEW KENSINGTON**
  - Joseph James Flotta to Michael McGarvey at 1303 Forest Ave. for \$169,000.
  - Casey Gregory Claassen to Zachary Bender and Ahlissa Eichhorn at 619 Ridge Ave. for \$159,900.
  - Ronald John Runski to Daryl and Alexi Baker at 2544 Virginia Drive for \$260,000.
- **NEW STANTON**
  - Joseph Tarek to Adam Runiewicz and Monica Pire at 226 Chanticleer Cir for \$410,000.
- **NORTH BELLE VERNON**
  - Donna Conner to Gabrielle Lynn Kohr at 369 Ella St. for \$140,000.
  - Estate of Keith Allen Revak to Randie and Tasha Gribble at 403 Henry St. for \$169,900.
- **NORTH HUNTINGDON**
  - Christopher Franko to Andrew Santimyer and Sheena Ankey at 1703 Barry Drive for \$319,500.
  - Estate of Susan Haywood to Noah Masten and Gabriella DeLucia at 12610 Deborah Drive for \$245,000.
  - Ronald Guidas to David Sweeney at 14080 Easy St. for \$166,500.
  - Raymond McFeeley to Matthew Dickson and Ashley Ollwell at 208 Entry Road for \$246,000.
  - Estate of LaRae Basilone to Ryan and Alexandra Snyder at 2481 H Ridge Drive for \$200,000.
  - NVR Inc. to Christopher and Anna Nicole Franko at 6477 Marco Ct for \$511,420.
  - Kim Callari trustee to Matthew and Trina Mauder at 12169 Pine Crest Ct for \$369,500.
  - Pamela Hedding to Matthew Jackson at 1397 Samantha Way for \$439,000.
  - Christopher Folio to Eric and Nicole Young at 540 Skellytown Road for \$330,000.
  - Gregory Robert Matty to Logan James Cibak at 12732 Spruce Drive for \$140,000.

# CLASSIFIEDS



PHONE: 844-523-4297 | HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-5:00PM | INQUIRIES AT: CLASSIFIEDS@TRIBLIVE.COM

**JOBS & MORE**

**LEGALS**

**REAL ESTATE**

**FOR SALE**  
**GARAGE SALE & MERCHANDISE**

**PET**

**AUTOMOTIVE**

GENERAL INFORMATION: Trib Total Media reserves the right to edit or reject any advertising copy and determine the correct classification of any advertisement. MISPRINTS: Notice of error should be reported to the Classified Department immediately. Trib Total Media will not be responsible for more than the cost of that part of an ad rendered valueless by the error. CONFIDENTIALITY: Confidential box numbers - we do not disclose the name of any advertiser using our classified pages. Persons answering File Number ads who wish to protect their identity can do so as follows: Place your reply in an envelope addressed to Trib Total Media Classified Department, ATTN File Box, 622 Cabin Hill Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601. Include the file number and a list of firms or persons you DO NOT want your reply to reach. If the advertiser is anyone you've listed, we'll destroy your reply. NOTICE: All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, familial status or handicaps, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. The paper accepts only recruitment advertising meeting EOE standards. The newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising which is in violation of the law.

**jobs & more**

**real estate**

**Firewood**  
FIREWOOD-BY THE LOAD or BY THE BUNDLE  
724-557-1061 (Leave message)

**business directory**

**Asphalt**  
★ T & H PAVING ★  
**Residential Specialist**  
Driveways · Parking Lots, Patching/Sealer · Retaining Walls Landscaping · Tar & Chipping Insured ~ Free Estimates  
1-800-641-9055 / 412-281-9860  
www.tandhpavingllc.com PA#007266

**Brick Pointing**  
BRICK POINTING/WALL REPAIR  
Whole House, Chimneys, Spot Pointing, Caulking, Pressure Washing, Masonry, Brick Replacement.  
412-245-6518 PA#022905

**General**  
City of Jeannette Public Works Department - Hiring

**Apartment Rent Westmoreland**  
LATROBE AREA  
Remodeled 1&2 Bedroom Section 8 Accepted  
Call: 724-875-0882

**Tools-Hardware**  
32 FT ALUMINUM LADDER  
412-751-5563

**Asphalt**  
★ ASPHALT ★  
**PRO 1 PAVING**  
Residential - Commercial Paving - Sealing Line Striping \*PA043206  
724-694-8011

**Auto Services**  
**HILL AUTO SALVAGE**  
Will Out Beat Others By \$25  
NO TITLE NEEDED!  
\$200-\$8000  
Junk/Good Cars & Trucks. Free Towing & Notary.  
412-499-2016  
www.junkmycarpg

**Concrete**  
**AFFORDABLE CONCRETE WORK**  
**SCALA CONCRETE**  
OVER 48 YRS EXPERIENCE  
Driveways, Sidewalks, Steps, Walls, Patios, Porches, Basement Floors, Garages, Versa-Lok Walls, Exposed Aggregate, Stamped Concrete.  
PA#14302  
412-823-0604

**miscellaneous & notices**

**miscellaneous & notices**

**Wanted To Buy**  
\$\$\$ CASH PAID \$\$\$  
Older Computers: Commodore/Apple/IBM, Video Games & Consoles: Atari/Nintendo/Play Station/Sega/X-Box. 724-840-0586

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY**  
1-800-909-8742  
TTMCustomerCare@TribLIVE.com  
Tribune-Review

**Commercial Real Estate**

**Commercial Real Estate**

**City of Jeannette Public Works Department - Hiring**  
City of Jeannette Public Works Department is now accepting applications for a Full Time Position in the Public Works Department. The work schedule is Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Must pass a physical and drug & alcohol test. Must have current Pennsylvania Drivers License with a CDL preferred. Applications available at the Administrative Assistant's Office (Located on main floor), 110 S 2nd St, Jeannette. Open 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday or you may e-mail a resume and application to abeneke@cityofjnt.com All applications must be returned or emailed to Administrative Assistant's Office (Located on main floor) by September 5th 2025.

**DEL MONT CEMETERY PLOTS**  
For sale: Two plots at Twin Valley Memorial Park Delmont, PA 15626 Section M, Lot 72-C \$600.00 each, One Vault \$950.00 For more info contact: Lynn55wyatt@gmail.com or Call or Text 724-912-8032

**Antiques WANTED**  
Buying Furniture, Wringer Washers, Guns, Toys, WWII German, Japanese, US Military Souvenirs, Advertising Signs, Coins, Cocks, Christmas, Estates, Cash!  
(412) 848-6428

**real estate**

**real estate**

**real estate**

**Windows and Doors Installer**  
SBZ LLC (Pittsburgh, PA) is looking for a Windows and Doors Installer. High School Diploma (foreign degree is acceptable). Salary is 43,451 per year. Please send a resume to sbzllc.hr@gmail.com

**merchandise**

**pets directory**

**real estate**

**real estate**

**real estate**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**legals**

**FISHER**  
Specializing in Driveways, Garage Floors & Sidewalks  
Call Today for Free Estimate  
**CONCRETE & RETAINING WALLS** 814-661-4399

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices**  
**The Preferred Realty**  
800.860.SOLD • ThePreferredRealty.com

**EAST BETHLEHEM** 104 Second Street Updated half duplex offers contemporary design-spacious layout 2BR 1BA. Totally remodeled. Gorgeous kitchen w/island. Modern bath. Maryann Giovanelli 724-929-7228 724-984-0097 MLS#1693109 **\$74,900**

**GREENSBURG** 1906 Highland Ave Charming 3BR, 2BA w/stylish upgrades! Remodeled kit, enclosed sunporch, 2 car det grg. DIR: Rt 30, 119 exit, R 119, L Broad, R Washington, R Highland, Deneen Krowicki 724-838-3660 MLS#1715739 **\$168,000**

**YOUNGWOOD** 118 N 6th Lovely home w/world world charm! 3BR, 3 sty, updated EIK w/SS appl, DR w/bt ins, 1st flr laundry, back & front porches, quiet street, move in ready! Susan Rodgers 724-838-3660 MLS#1699586 **\$169,900**

**UNITY TWP** 358 E High Acres Road Well loved 3/4 BR, FR, 1st flr laundry, covered country porch, nice yard w/shed, full bsmt, 2 car det grg. DIR: Rt 30E, L @ Mt View to SS, L & bear R @ Y. Karen Henry 724-838-3660 MLS#1715349 **\$169,900**

**UNITY TWP** 1515 George St Well maintained 3BR, 1-1/2BA brk Ranch on 1/2 Acre! Spacious sunroom, LL w/lg FR, plenty of storage. DIR: 30E into Grg, R to 9825, R Keystone, last house on L, Robert Keslar 724-838-3660 MLS#1710618 **\$275,000**

**NORTH HUNTINGDON** 12729 Deborah Drive Classic 4BR, 2-1/2BA 2 styl Mstr w/lg closet & ensuite BA, LL FR w/bar, HW flrs, newer windows, EIK, covered side porch, lg terraced lot w/shed, 2 car grg. Valey/Wetzel/Maier 724-838-3660 x5613 MLS#1710218 **\$297,000**

**HEMPFIELD** 1980 CLAWSON AVENUE Lovely multi-level home, Living Room with Bay Window and wood ceiling beams, eat-in kitchen, two-tiered deck, and fenced rear yard Jody Moebius 724-929-7228 MLS#1712286 **\$299,900**

**CONEMAUGH** 501 NOWRYTOWN ROAD Charming updated 3BR, 1-1/2BA Farmhouse w/huge det 2 sty barn/grg/deck on flat almost 1/2 Acre, All Season Rm, FR. DIR: Rt286E out of Saltsburg, L Nowrytown. M.J. Meisner 724-838-3660 MLS#1713453 **\$319,900**

**PENN TWP.** 2 Meadowridge Rd Stunning 4BR, 2-1/2BA 2 sty on beautifully landscaped lot w/deck, FR w/fp, beautiful kit w/granite, spacious primary suite w/walk-in closet, 2 car att grg. Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5609 MLS#1715317 **\$440,000**

**SALEM TWP.** 1041 Ashfield Way Stunning 4BR, 2-1/2BA 2-sty Condo in Village at Totteridge, corner lot 2 sty Great rm w/ fr to ceil FP, Mstr ste w/fp, outdoor FP, 1st flr laundry, 2 car grg Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5609 MLS#1706209 **\$499,900**

**PENN TWP.** 1006 Sweetgum Court Elegant 4BR, 2-1/2BA Carriage Style in Village on Kistler Ridge! FR, 3 Season Room, office/den, 2 car grg. DIR: 130, L/R Chestnut, L Crappapple, L Sweetgum Marilyn Davis 724-838-3660 x5609 MLS#1703063 **\$564,900**

**SALEM TWP.** 229 Shaw Ct Stunning 3 BR, 3 full BA Ranch on almost 4 pvt Acres! HW flrs, gas FP, GR w/bar, patio, 2 car att grg. DIR: Rt66, 5 mi on 22, L Thorn to R 1 mi, L Davis, L Shaw Jodi Repasky/Denny Leschok 724-838-3660 MLS#1708065 **\$599,900**

# AUCTIONS

**Auctions**  
**Hempfield Mini Storage Delinquent Storage Unit Auction**  
Wednesday, August 20 at 1:00 pm  
Located: 1517 Roseytown Rd.  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
Contents of 3 delinquent storage units  
2- 10' x 20', 1- 10' x 30'  
to be sold in their entirety at public auction.  
A \$100.00 (cash) clean out deposit per unit will be charged.  
No Exceptions!! Terms: Cash only.  
Visit web for terms & removal dates  
**MARK FERRY AUCTIONEERS, INC.**  
724-423-5580 AY 2076  
www.markferryauctioneers.com

**Auctions**  
**LARGE PUBLIC AUCTION SAT., AUGUST 23 @ 10:00 A.M.**  
369 HELLEIN SCHOOL ROAD ACME, PA 15610  
· ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, HOUSEHOLD, FURNITURE, COSTUME JEWELRY & MORE!  
Terms Cash - Pa. Check w/L.D.  
- Good Food! - Good Parking!  
Visit auctionzip #10537 for Details & Photos!  
\*NO BUYER'S PREMIUM!  
**HENDRICK AUCTION SALES**  
LARRY HENDRICK AU2486L  
PHONE 724-238-4734

**LOG ON TODAY.**  
**TRIBUNE**

**ARE YOU READY TO MAKE A MOVE?**  
Now's the time!  
The real estate market is busy with buyers... contact us to sell your home today.  
**HOME VALUE COUPON**  
How much is your home worth? Contact us to find out what your home may be worth in today's market. It might just be more than you think.  
©2025 BHJ Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHJ Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity.

# RealEstate. **TRIBLIVE**.com



PHONE: 1-800-524-5700 | HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30AM-5:00PM | INQUIRIES AT: CLASSIFIEDS.TRIBLIVE.COM



**Single Level Living COMMUNITIES**

**PELLIS CONSTRUCTION**

724-961-5531

*Wimmerton Place*

Come visit our Model Home Sunday-Saturday 12p-3p

*Hurry while they last!!*

*Kingsbrooke Estates*

Customize your Villa today!

**COMING SOON**

*Luxury Paired Villas*

**KINGS LANDING**

Call to Reserve Yours Today!

**PellisConstruction.com**

Lower Burrell  
724.335.4700 724.845.4700

Sarver  
724.295.4700

**CENTURY 21**  
American Heritage Realty

**Open Wednesday 8/20, 5-7 pm**

**4130 James Dr, Lower Burrell**  
3BR, 1.5 bath home on corner lot. Finished game rm w/gas fireplace. Great yard with above ground pool. 2 car grge.  
\$299,900 MLS#1703114  
Kim 724.448.2583

**Open Saturday 8/23, 12-2 pm**

**1920 Grandview Ave, Irwin**  
5BR, 4.5 bath farmhouse. Two full kitchens, wood burning fireplaces, multiple porches, hot tub, and private fenced yard. 1 car grge.  
\$399,900 MLS#1707040  
Lori W-T 724.396.4733

**New Listing!**

**Harmar**  
3BR, 2 bath brick home. Spacious main lvl w/LR, DR, and equipped kitchen. 1st fl bedroom. Finished LL game rm. Detached 1 car grge.  
\$199,900 MLS#1715790  
Patti 724.980.0730

**New Listing!**

**Hyde Park**  
4BR, 1.5 bath 2 story. Nice size kitchen, DR, and LR. Lg master bedrm. Lots of updates. Nice size back yard.  
\$185,000 MLS#1715436  
Angela 724.944.3487

**New Listing! Land**

**Springdale Boro**  
13,200 sq ft of buildable land. Flat, 3% grade. On a quiet cul-de-sac. Two lots included.  
\$35,000 MLS#1716099  
Debbie 724.882.4067

**New Listing! Lease**

**Lower Burrell**  
1st fl apartment available. LR, kitchen, BR and bath. Full basement w/possible living space. Garage, covered porch, yard.  
\$850/month includes utilities  
Janet 412.607.4700

**Price Reduced! Multi-Unit**

**Springdale Twp**  
Well maintained side by side duplex. Each unit has 2BR, 1.5 bath, spacious LR and EIK. Front covered porches and shared rear deck.  
\$189,000 MLS#1705307  
Patti 724.980.0730

**Price Reduced!**

**Springdale Boro**  
3BR, 1 full bath 2 story home. Spacious living rm, eat in kitchen, and small family rm. Fenced yard.  
\$138,000 MLS#1705933  
Debbie 724.882.4067

**Price Reduced!**

**New Kensington**  
3BR, 1 bath home. LR w/fireplace and eat in kitchen. Dining room and den finish the 1st fl. Covered front porch.  
\$119,900 MLS#1711006  
Rick 724.321.5698

**Featured Property! Land**

**Gilpin Twp**  
Private 1.84 acres of buildable property. Partially cleared driveway. Leveled and sloped 80x60 stone pad. Utilities available.  
\$79,900 MLS#1696983  
Patti 724.980.0730

**Featured Property! Land**

**Lower Burrell**  
0.37 acre residential lot. Zoned R3. Utilities available.  
\$44,900 MLS#1690937  
Sandy 724.882.2050

**Featured Property! Land**

**Allegheny Twp**  
0.24 acres of residential land. Great opportunity to build in Allegheny Woodlands. Community has pool, playground and more.  
\$33,500 MLS#1702384  
Lori W-T 724.396.4733

**Featured Property! Land**

**Ford City Boro**  
0.16 acre double lot. Flat w/utilities at the curb. Alley access.  
\$33,000 MLS#1676360  
Bridget 724.448.9645

**Featured Property! Land**

**Upper Burrell**  
1.00 acre buildable lot. Acreage is wooded and on private road. Zoned RA.  
\$32,000 MLS#1668133  
Kim 724.448.2583

**business directory**

**Construction**

**CUSTOM CONSTRUCTION**  
Retaining Walls, Masonry, Fences, Concrete, Excavating, Asphalt, Drainage, Remodeling, Handyman, Pest Control. Many Services!  
724-396-5485 PA#155994

**MASONRY**  
Brick, Block, Stone Ret. Walls, Foundations

**EXCAVATION**  
Fr. Drains, Sewer Lines, Footers, Demolition, Additions

**ALL TYPES CONCRETE**  
Michael Desiderato Contracting LLC (PA 037327) 35 Years in Business CALL 724-863-8282

REALESTATE.TRIBLIVE.COM

**Demolition & Excavating**

**A1 Veteran 724-539-3792**  
Demolition Tear Downs: Buildings, Houses, Campers, Pools Decks, Trailers, Garages, Sheds, Digging: Foundations, Clear Land, Grading, Utility Lines, Driveways, Septic/Sewage, Yards, Drains PA036409. a1services4you.com

**Flooring**

**CAPOZZI FLOORING & TILE LLC**  
Walls, Ceramic, Carpet, Baths, Kitchens, Custom Designs. Showroom, 34 Years Exp. 724-837-8453 PA06892 www.capozziflooring.com

**SELL IT! Classifieds**  
1-844-523-4297  
HOURS: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Inquiries at: classifieds@triblive.com

**Gutter**

★★★★★

**SEAMLESS GUTTERS**  
Metal Roofs • Soffit • Fascia FREE ESTIMATES - PA#097394 Satolli Construction 412-352-0772

**Hauling**

**A 1 CLEAN UP**  
All types of hauling No job too big or small Best prices in town! 724-335-0369 • 724-681-9039

**Time for a change? LOG ON TODAY. JOBS.TRIBLIVE.COM**

**Hauling**

**A-1 Hauling**  
Attic, basement, garage, estate clean outs, downsizing specialist. Prompt, dependable, best price. All jobs are owner supervised. Call 724-216-3496.

SUBSCRIBE! 1-800-909-8742

**HAULING/ CLEANOUTS**  
Cleaning, Yard & Shrub Work, Dependable, Insured. Call Rich 724-872-0865 or 1-800-566-4167

**Home Improvements**

**DAVE PIVROTTO REMODELING & PAINTING:**  
Kitchens, Baths, Basements. Interior/Exterior Painting. Commercial & Residential. Quality Guaranteed! Insured. Free Estimates. PA 045558. 412-795-4836

**Landscaping**

**PA LANDSCAPING**  
Mulching, Concrete Border Edging, Excavating, French Drains, Block Walls, Boulder Walls, Paver Patios, Tree Work (Bucket Truck), Concrete, Gutter Cleaning. Free Estimates. Greensburg, PA Call Mike's cell 724-244-0362

**R.K. LAWN CARE**  
Spring Cleanup Special! Complete Landscaping Services: Mulching, Shrub Removal, & Gutter Cleaning. Free Estimates / Fully Insured 724-217-0773 / PA045225

**TRIBLIVE.com**  
1-800-909-TRIB

**Lawn Care**

**LANCE'S LANDSCAPING & HANDY MAN;**  
Spring Res./Comm. Clean Ups Roof, Mulching, Trees, Ret. Walls, Hillsides, Gutters, Painting, Insured. Senior/Veteran Discount. PA109441 412-758-8991

**TRIB TOTAL MEDIA**  
TribTotalMedia.com

**"I love that you don't feel alone."**  
Katie, stayed at Ronald McDonald Pittsburgh for 93 nights while her five year old son, received care for a multi-organ transplant.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Pittsburgh and Greensburg  
rmhcgph-mgtn.org/donate

**Houses-Westmoreland For Sale**

*Wimmerton Place*

**Only 2 lots remaining to build**

**Paired Villas**  
Tour our furnished model  
417 Castle Mt Court, Latrobe  
Mon-Sun 12-3

**1 Villa Ready for Move-In!**

Directions: Rt 30E, Turn L into Wimmerton community, Turn L onto S. Shenandoah, Turn left into Castle Mt. Court.

**PELLIS CONSTRUCTION**  
PellisConstruction.com • 724-961-5531

**Houses-Westmoreland For Sale**

**FRONTIER REALTY**  
4639 Rte. 136 | Suite 3, Greensburg, PA  
724.832.8040  
www.c21frontier.com

Ruth Fullem, GRI • 724-331-3690  
Shirley Shubuck, Assoc. Broker 412-551-9023  
Cindy Noll, Assoc. Broker 412-638-8982  
Marlin Zeilmore • 724-396-6364  
Rebecca Reubie • 724-972-3488  
Carolyn Barr 724-261-9260  
Sara Cowan 724-261-7872  
Lynne Kendrich - Assoc Broker/ Branch Manager

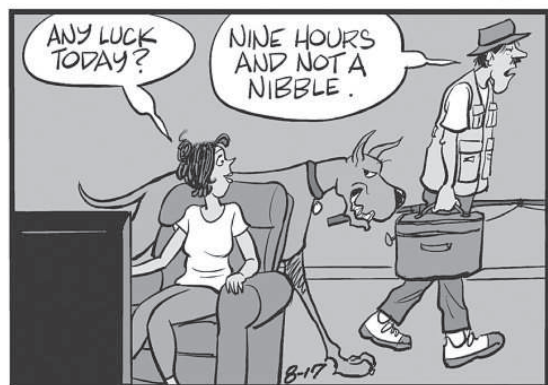
<p><b>NORTH UNION TWP.</b> \$275,000</p> <p>1715602. Just under 15 Acres, this property has several sprawling and cleared level acres in Laurel Highlands School District. Ample privacy as many of those acres behind the clearing are wooded. So many possibilities with this property! water and electric are available at the street. Enjoy the sounds from the small stream that runs alongside the property. Your opportunity has finally arrived to live in the country while just a few miles from highways, dining, shopping.</p>	<p><b>UPPER TYRONE</b> \$46,000</p> <p>1696161. Three bedroom, 2 story Saltbox Style home situated on approximately 1/4 acre in Southmoreland School District. This home has a convenient layout with the laundry located on the main level. Large level rear lot. Covered front and rear porch.</p>	<p><b>HEMPFIELD TWP.</b> \$232,500</p> <p>1711944. Take a look at this home that is larger than it looks from the outside. Could be a single family or live in mother-in-law home. Close to community college, shopping, as well as major routes and turnpike. Close to walking bike trail.</p>
<p><b>LATROBE</b> \$190,000</p> <p>1698455. 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath home located in the heart of the City of Latrobe. Open eat-in kitchen with stainless steel appliances, a large formal dining room, and a convenient main-level laundry room. A stunning staircase greets you upon entry. Upstairs Master bedroom with his and hers walk-in closets. Detached two-level garage and a flat, and fully fenced-in backyard. Home is just a minute's walk to the local walking trail — ideal for active lifestyles.</p>	<p><b>EAST HUNTINGDON</b> \$79,900</p> <p>1694024. Beautiful home in 55 plus community in gorgeous Candlelight Estates in stunning country setting, breathtaking kitchen-dining area kitchen island, large lovely living room, spacious bedroom sizes, adorable den-tv room, 1 owner home in immaculate condition.</p>	<p><b>LATROBE</b> \$225,000</p> <p>1710150. Split-level home in desirable neighborhood. This three bedroom, two and a half bath home has a spacious layout that offers comfortable living with generous natural light throughout. Open kitchen, featuring stainless steel appliances. Bedrooms on main level, including the primary suite. The finished lower level includes a wood burner and provides a great living space. Enjoy the outdoors from your large deck, complete with charming gazebo. The two-car integral garage adds convenience and storage, along with a two-story outbuilding.</p>
<p><b>NEW STANTON</b> \$249,850</p> <p>1704999. Striking home in wonderful Stanton Heights, conveniently located short drive to PA Turnpike, major bypasses, restaurants, shopping, etc. Large lovely living room, fabulous generously proportioned kitchen with room for dining table, gorgeous dining room with French doors that lead to great covered porch which is ideal for cookouts, relaxing, etc. Spacious bedroom sizes, awesome game-room with wood/coal burning fireplace, well maintained garage with nice storage areas, adorable yard too.</p>	<p><b>AVONMORE BORO</b> \$139,900</p> <p>1715642. Fantastic investment, triplex with detached 1 car garage that is also used as rental. Located in the heart of Avonmore, one unit is currently a PA State Liquor Store, beautiful large apartment upstairs beautiful updates, and a 3rd efficiency apartment that is adorable just needs finishing touches to be rented as well.</p>	<p><b>QUENAMAHONING TWP.</b> \$65,000</p> <p>1705038. Perfect starter or ideal family living in Somerset County. Country living room at its best. Daring house for either family living or purchase as a rental. Presently used as a rental. Level rear yard. Easy to show, just call Ruth Fullem, C21 Frontier.</p>

**IN THE MARKET FOR A NEW HOUSE? FIND YOUR DREAM HOME! Visit RealEstate.TribLIVE.com**

MARMADUKE

BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON

Painting



DOG GONE FUNKY HENDERSON, NV  
MIKE MARLER HAS A DUDLEY, A 185-POUND GREAT DANE AND NEWFOUNDLAND MIX. THE NEIGHBOR'S POOL WAS BEING CLEANED, AND DUDLEY SAW THE POOL POLE POKING ABOVE THE FENCE. DUDLEY CHARGED, BARKING, AND HIT THE FENCE. MIKE TOOK DUDLEY INSIDE, AND THE POOL GUY CAME TO SEE DUDLEY. HE SAID HE NEVER FELT A FENCE MOVE LIKE THAT. THE BIG DEAL? THE FENCE IS CINDER BLOCK!

**A-1 Best Quality Painting**  
A-1 Best Quality Painting LLC  
Res/ Com/ Ind  
\* Interior/ Exterior  
\* Pressure Washing  
Senior Discount  
Free Estimates  
Fully Insured  
40 yrs exp \* PA 124439  
724-797-3350

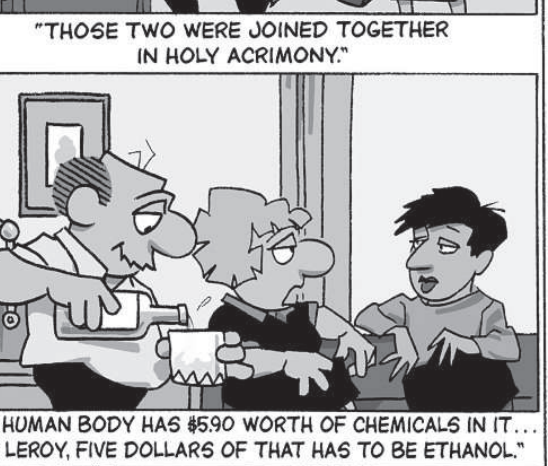
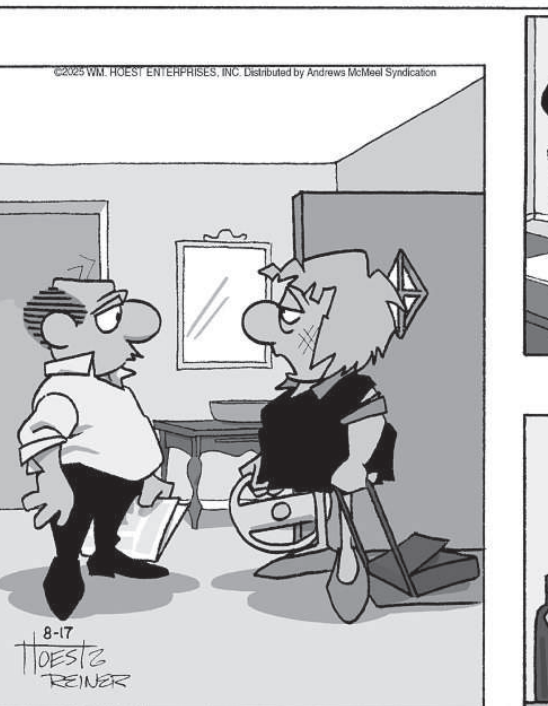
**ROLAND PAINTING & RESTORATION**  
Int/Ext., Painting & Restoration.  
Expert Kitchen Cabinets Refinish-  
ing. 55+ Years. Insured PA047819  
724-689-2256

**Plastering**  
A-1 PLASTERING INC.  
Plastering, Drywall, Painting,  
New Construction & Repairs.  
Insured. PA#005981 412-427-1999

**Pressure Washing**

THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER



**Awesome Exteriors Pressure Washing LLC**  
724-422-4475  
Apressurewashing.com  
Free Estimates  
House Washing  
Roof Washing  
Concrete Cleaning And Sealing  
Plus So Much More  
Licensed And Fully Insured

**Retaining Walls**  
RETAINING WALLS BY TOMASITS LANDSCAPING  
-NOW BOOKING 2025-  
All Types. Concrete, Pavers,  
Landscaping Design And  
Installation, Pressure Washing,  
Hardscape Restoration,  
French Drains, Driveway Grading  
And Stone Installed.  
\*Outdoor Lighting  
Fully Insured. PA#000672  
724-325-4999 412-798-8434

**Roofing**  
A+ Accredited BBB Business  
**RODGERS ROOFING**  
PA011142  
New Roofs \* Repairs \* Siding  
Soffit \* Fascia \* Gutters  
Military & Sr. Discounts!  
412-373-4695  
www.rodggers-roofing.com

Auction Services

Auction Services



**HIT Auctions LLC.**  
Online Estate Auction  
Ending August 22nd  
FEATURING  
Early 1800s John Broadwood & Sons Square Piano, Bacon & Day Montana Silver Bell Banjo, 1870 Pedal Reed Pump Organ, Antique Lamps, Wall & Table Clocks, Western Electric Wall Phone, Knights of the Golden Eagle Sword, 1962 Levi 557XX Big E Denim Jacket, 1950s Elvis Presley Poodle Skirt, Tiger Oak Hall Tree & Other Antique Furniture, Spool Cabinets, Chaplin's Chair, Hand Knotted Oriental Carpets, Antique Quilts, Framed Original Oil Paintings & Prints, Tin Types, Canes, Vintage Valentine Cards, 1800s Bibles & Family Records, Antique Books, Blue Mason & Strittmatter Jars, Lenox, Roseville, Weller, Van Briggle, Dresden, Duncan Miller, Blenko, Waterford, Westmoreland, Uranium Glass, CI Waffle Maker, Sterling & Silver Plate, Treenware, H & A .22 LR Single Shot Pistol, H & R Arms Hunter Model .22 Revolver, German & KA-BAR Knives, KKK Challenge Coin, Singer Treadle, Husqvarna Sewing, Bradlington Sofa & Chair, Primitives, Whisky Jugs, Decorated Crocks, Oil Lamps, Toys, Pocket Knives, Vesta Match Safe & Lighters, Designer Clothes, Purses, Shoes, Silk Scarves, Mink & Fox Furs, Perfumes, Pepsi Cola & Sinclair Opaline Advertising, 1930s Streamline Childs Trike, Roll fast Bike, Vintage Baseball Set, Seasonable Decorations & Statues, Antique Tools & Toolboxes, Two-Man Saw, CI Pot Belly Stove, Household & much more.  
Please go to **hit-auctions.hibid.com** to browse, register & bid  
Auctioneer Neville Whittle • License # AU006249  
HIT Auctions LLC

**AUCTION SALE**  
FARM MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, ETC.  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23 AT 9:00 AM  
LOCATED: 631 ROCK RUN ROAD, ELIZABETH PA 15037

John Deere 4300 series, 4 WD, tractor with JD 420 front end loader, 770 hours, bale spear, 3 pt ball hitch, JD 3 pt. hitch rear mount mower, 3 pt hitch back blade, Club Car lifted electric golf cart with new batteries and rear seating, oxygen acetylene torches, hydraulic "H" press, Bobcat Model 310, steel tracks gas engine, s/n 4996M13035 w/ forks, 2004 Yamaha Grizzly, 660, 4 x 4, w/ plow, 1375 hrs, 1997-16 Carmate dual axle trailer, Oliver 1 horse walking plow, (New Old Stock, nice advertising piece), McCormick Deering 42R combine, Ford 60" brush hog, Case 12 row grain drill, Dearborn disc, Woods Bros, corn picker, Case hay rake on steel, David Bradley 75 BU, ground driven manure spreader, (like new), Gravely L-1, walk behind electric start tractor, attachments: 48" blade, 32" mower, 40" sickle bar, rototiller, sulky, Stockman 3 pt hitch scoop, Danuser 3 pt hitch post hole digger, King Kutter 3 pt hitch spin spreader, McCormick Deering stationery feed grinder, Ford Mod 150, baler, corn sheller, Oliver 2 row corn planter, Gehl Mod 41 forage blower, Syracuse Plow Co. 2 bottom plow on steel, 12' x 6' metal deck flat bed trailer (rubber tires), 19' x 7' dual axle trailer wooden deck w/ ramps, Caldwell 2 ton mobile A-Frame gantry crane, Milwaukee core drill, Craftsman Mod 100 radial arm saw, Craftsman 10" table saw, misc. Craftsman rechargeable tools, Kohler Command CH225S generator, Miller Trailblazer Mod 250 gas driven, welder/generator on trailer, Husky Pressure Washer Honda engine, 3" electric sump pump, Westinghouse 1 hp electric motor, C/M 5 ton chain hoist, misc. hydraulic snow plow lift units, Power Guard 5500 watt generator, 15 hp gas engine, Ground Pounder AP2000 plate tamper w/Kohler engine, Core Cut concrete saw w/ Kohler gas engine, Craftsman Mod 919 upright 60 gallon air compressor, MIT M 3000 PSI gas driven steam cleaner, 2-225 gal. oil tanks, 2-8' x 11'3" steel beams, 2-6' x 15'6" steel beams, 4-12' x 3", Rigid pipe vise, mechanical transmission jack, 42" exhaust fan, gas driven water pump, 8" & 10" heavy C clamps, Wards Sea King boat, Grumman alum. canoe, etc.  
TERMS: CASH, CHECK, CREDIT CARD WITH 3% PROCESSING FEE. LUNCH AVAILABLE  
**MARK FERRY AUCTIONEERS INC.**  
"The Professionals"  
724-423-5580  
AY2076 • Participating member of PAA & NAA  
Visit website for full list & photos  
www.markferryauctioneers.com

Call 1.800.909.8742 or visit subscribe.triblive.com for convenient home delivery.  
Don't miss a single edition! Call today.

PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

FUNNY MONEY ACROSS

15x15 crossword grid with numbers 1-134 indicating starting positions for clues.

- 1 Irrksome insect
5 Give for free, as a ticket
9 Speckled fish
14 Early Peruvians
19 "Click — ticket"
20 Saber relative
21 Very severe
22 Native of New Zealand
23 Nicaraguan money used to buy a K-car?
26 Artist Claude
27 Kit — bar
28 Barbie's beau
29 Business school of MIT
30 A zodiac sign
31 Put- (ruses)
32 "— to differ!"
34 U.S. resident who collects French money?
37 Oscar and Pulitzer recipient Horton
39 Lay — (totally fail)
41 Writes
42 Armenian money submerged in water?
44 Want to give some Japanese money to?
51 Former jets to the U.K.
52 Prevent, in legalese
54 Soon to be up
55 U2 frontman
56 — Geo (popular mag)
58 Casual pants
60 Brought up, as a child
62 One flying around stealing Guatemalan money?
67 Pole carving
70 Hour div.
71 German linking word
72 Level
73 Cut the lawn
75 Ore store
76 Heady quaff
77 King Kong, for one
78 "Daniel" singer John
80 Terence who wrote plays about South African money?
83 Seattle hoops team until '08
85 In — (in the womb)
87 Total (up)
88 Battery liquid
89 Vocalist Perry
91 Bacon piece
94 Columnist Maureen
98 Panamanian money embedded with lots of tiny stones?
102 Second-place medal imprinted with Korean money?
104 "You want a piece —?!"
105 Faint from high emotion
107 "Nope" director Jordan
108 Spending British money unwisely?
114 Bullfight bull

- 116 Zenith rival
117 — Army (fans of golfer Palmer)
118 — box (TV)
120 TikTok upload
121 Spitz toy dog, for short
122 Spy's info
123 Response to people who tell you they lost Brazilian money?
127 What "straight up" means at a bar
128 Robert who played Mr. Chips
129 Classic comic Johnson
130 Coffin stand
131 "Trusty" horse
132 Forest bucks
133 Hunted beast
134 Likelihood

- DOWN
1 Putouts of runners between bases
2 Alcohols in liquor
3 Resolves, as a problem
4 Take a shot
5 A-list figure
6 Full listening attention
7 Body of eau
8 Chest muscles, in brief
9 From one end of to the other
10 Technology to track storms

- 11 Maine city
12 — port (PC feature)
13 Radio host Charlamagne — God
14 Dip in liquid
15 Judd of song
16 Shaped like a megaphone
17 Sports venue
18 Many a 1960s protest
24 Slid down a snowy slope
25 Couturier Cassini
30 Millennials, in brief
33 Irrksome insect
35 Summit
36 Veal or pork
38 Quaint contraction of denial
40 Many a texter's smiley
43 Minutiae
45 Writer Rule
46 Waistcoat
47 Lakers' org.
48 Not casual
49 Actor Ed
50 Comedian Dangerfield
53 Hair salon job
57 Early Mexican
59 Love to bits
60 Porters at stations
61 Edit, as text
62 Very distant celestial body
63 Spanish for "a little"
64 Like paradise
65 Permit to
66 Dude

- 68 Antique
69 Male cat
74 Huge battles
79 Anesthetized
81 "There are — ways about it"
82 Befuddle
84 "Beats me," in texting shorthand
86 Excessively
89 Like much hunting garb
90 Quaint term for margarine
92 Tree anchor
93 Do a totally new thing
95 Excessively remunerated
96 Greeted with hospitality
97 Visionaries
99 Sang on a peak, maybe
100 Closest buds
101 Lends a hand
103 Apple music players
106 "Easy there!"
108 Hurts
109 "... but maybe I'm wrong"
110 Remove, as a ribbon
111 Certain sibling's kid
112 Tropical vine
113 Spot's jingler
115 Live the life of —
119 Pitfall
123 NFL goals
124 Peppery
125 Bungle
126 "Euphoria" cable channel

© 2025 by King Features Syndicate

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEKS PUZZLE

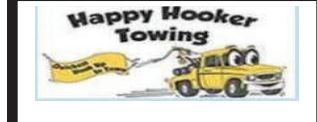
Grid of crossword answers from the previous week, including words like HARES, STOATS, CAMELS, etc.

automotive dealers & services

Used Car Lots
724-838-7010
Mike Petrillo Inc.
NORTH GREENGATE Auto Sales LLC

- 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee Ltd., 4WD, sunroof, fully loaded, 95k mi., White, SPECIAL PRICE \$17,995
2013 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara, 4 Door Convertible, 4WD, V6, 93k mi., Black, \$17,995
2010 Toyota Corolla LE, Full Pwr, Air, 4 cyl., auto, 144k mi., Green, \$6,995
2015 Kia Soul, Full Pwr, Air, Front Wheel Drive, 4 Cyl., 95k mi., White, \$8,500
2013 Buick Lacrosse, Sunroof, Back-up Cam, Fully Loaded, V6, 104k mi., Black, \$8995
2016 Dodge Journey, 3rd row seats, V6, Front Wheel Drive, Fully Loaded, 135k mi., Black, \$7,995
2016 Subaru Forester, AWD, Full Pwr., Air, 2.5 V6, 120K mi., Beige, \$9,995
2013 Chevrolet Cruze, 6 speed, Full Pwr, Air, 70k mi., Grey \$6,995
2014 Jeep Latitude, Front Wheel Drive, Full Pwr, Air, 110k mi., Blue, \$8995

Wanted To Buy



CASH FOR CARS TODAY
Up to \$5,000 + FREE Happy Hooker T-shirt
~ Guaranteed ~ NO Haggle!!!
Happy Hooker Towing & Salvage Yard
724-636-JUNK (5865) junkcarspittsburgh.com

LOG ON TODAY.
TRIBUNE

ALL THINGS AUTO

CHEVROLET
LATROBE CHEVY
LATROBE FORD
Rt. 981 & Rt. 30, Latrobe
724-537-7723
M, T, Th 9-8 • W, F 9-5 • Sat. 9-4

AUTO REPAIR
DON'S AUTO SERVICE
EST. 1977
5141 Center Drive
Latrobe, PA 15650
724-539-9071
Monday - Friday 8 am - 4 pm

TOWING
HAWK TOWING, INC.
WHEEL-LIFT AND FLAT BED SERVICE
New Kensington, PA
724-335-8500
WE BUY JUNK CARS

WE BUY VEHICLES
WREX LUCCHETTI
Cash! Cash! Cash!
Junk Cars & Trucks
New Kensington, PA.
Free Towing
CALL US NOW!!!
724-339-9861
Cash! Cash! Cash!
JUNK IT!

INSURANCE
MAKOWSKI INSURANCE
Erie Insurance
2520-A Leechburg Rd.
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
724-335-3213
www.makowskinsurance.com
Auto • Home • Life • Business

To advertise here, CALL
Carole DeSalvo 724-853-5054

Don't miss out! Convenient home delivery of your newspaper is available.
1.800.909.8742
Call today!

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA
TribLIVE.com • 1-800-909-TRIB

Roofing
AAA Quality
A+ BBB Rating
ROOF LEAKS
CHIMNEY WORK
BASEMENT LEAKS
PA 032461
CALL MARK
412-758-3772

ROOFING
ELI W. BYLER
METAL ROOFING
We specialize in Metal Roofing
40 Year Warranty
18-yrs in Business
Free Estimates, Fully Insured.
Amish Owned PA136653
814-845-7584 Leave message

GARY'S ROOFING
Roof Repair Specialist PA005682
New Roofs/Siding/Soffit/Fascia
412-824-9330 or 1-800-351-3520

JOHN'S ROOFING & SANDY'S WINDOW CO INC
Owens-Corning Preferred Contractor w/ 50yr Non-Prorated Transferable Shingle Warranties.
Flat Roof Specialist.
Windows, Siding, Gutters.
724-539-8260 PA25501

SEAMLESS GUTTERS
Metal Roofs • Soffit • Fascia
FREE ESTIMATES ~ PA#097394
Satolli Construction
412-352-0772

Need some help with your home delivery subscription?
Want to subscribe?
Contact our friendly and helpful Customer Care Team!
Call 1.800.909.8742 or log on to MyAccount.triblive.com

Roofing
THE ROOFER
Flat Roof Specialist
40 years experience.
Metal Roofing, Shingles, New Roofing, Major and Minor Repairs.
Free estimates.
Greensburg PA1327174
412-559-6369

Top Soil
SHREDDED TOPSOIL
Large or small loads. Delivery Available. Unshredded Topsoil, Gray Mountain Landscape Rocks, Shale, Stone & Horse Riding Rink Sand Also Available. House Coal. Office 724-238-3840 ext 100 or 104 or Press 1.Cell 724-396-2308

Tree Service
DAUGHERTY TREE SERVICE
REMOVAL & TRIMMING STUMP GRINDING
FREE ESTIMATES Fully Insured
CALL OR TEXT (724) 325-2211
Call Back Guaranteed PA183961
daughertytreeserviceinc@gmail.com

SUBSCRIBE TODAY
1-800-909-8742
TTMCustomerCare@TribLIVE.com

Tree Service
HALLIGAN TREE SERVICE
Removal - Trimming - Pruning Stump Removal
Bucket Truck - Crane Service
Free Estimates - Fully Insured
Workers Compensation & Liability Insurance Provided
PA#122886
T.J. Halligan
412-897-5209

R. K. LAWN CARE
Tree & Shrub Trimming, Removing & Stump Grinding. Cord Firewood.
Free Estimates / Fully Insured
724-217-0773 / PA045225

antique directory
Antiques
ANTIQUÉ APPRAISALS
(Ligonier Antique Gallery)
7 West 4th St., Greensburg
Buying Antiques & Anything Old
Art & Estate Appraisals
650+ Estate Sales Conducted
We are Commission Only!!!
For 47 yrs 724-832-7388
references-google John Mickinak

Shows
FLEA-TIQUE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 17
Antiques/Collectibles Only
Parking \$3 per car; Vendor Spaces \$30
Rain or Shine - No Refunds - No Pets
Down to 1 PM
Tour-Ed Mine off of Ridge Rd.
Route 28, Exit 14 Tarentum
724-224-0178
www.Flea-tique.org
Follow us on Facebook!
Next FLEA-TIQUE
Sunday, SEPTEMBER 21

Wanted To Buy
POLITICAL & LABOR
BUTTONS, RIBBONS, POSTERS
Wanted by Collector
Top Prices Paid
Call/ Text Steve 412-418-1567

Wanted To Buy
WANTED
Old Cars & Trucks from 1920's thru 1990's. Any make, Model, Condition or Anything Unique.
724-290-1356

Wanted To Buy
\$ TRAINS WANTED \$
Lionel, American Flyer, Marx
Any age, Any condition. Box is a+
Cash Paid
.... 412-600-2855 ....

WE PAY \$\$ FOR GLASSWARE
Westmoreland, Jeannette, Fenton, L.E Smith, Imperial, etc
Call: 724-836-5887

FOR SALE BY OWNER
AUTOMOTIVE
Boats & More
BOAT FOR SALE 2020 TRACKER PRO160 20hp EFI
Nice Boat, a Lot of Extras Asking: \$10,700 Call 724-537-9781

Wanted To Buy
WANTED
Old Cars & Trucks from 1920's thru 1990's. Any make, Model, Condition or Anything Unique.
724-290-1356

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA
TribLIVE.com • 1-800-909-TRIB

# GAME PLAN - 2025

An all-access pass to high school football season



Coverage all year at [tribhssn.triblive.com](http://tribhssn.triblive.com)



Tribune-Review

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025



# POWER 4

DIVISION-I BOUND AREA SENIORS  
SHARE BONDS, GOALS - PAGES 18-19

## INSIDE



- Previews, schedules, rosters for every school
- Conference breakdowns, players to watch
- The Birdie's predictions

**Pictured left to right:**  
Hempfield's Brock Heisler,  
Jeannette's Kymon'e Brown,  
Greensburg CC's Samir  
Crosby and Latrobe's  
Andy Tatsch  
**Above:** P-T coach  
John Ruane



# CALL THE PICKLE!

ROOFING ● SIDING ● GUTTERS

**GERKEN**  
ROOFING

# 724-515-5551

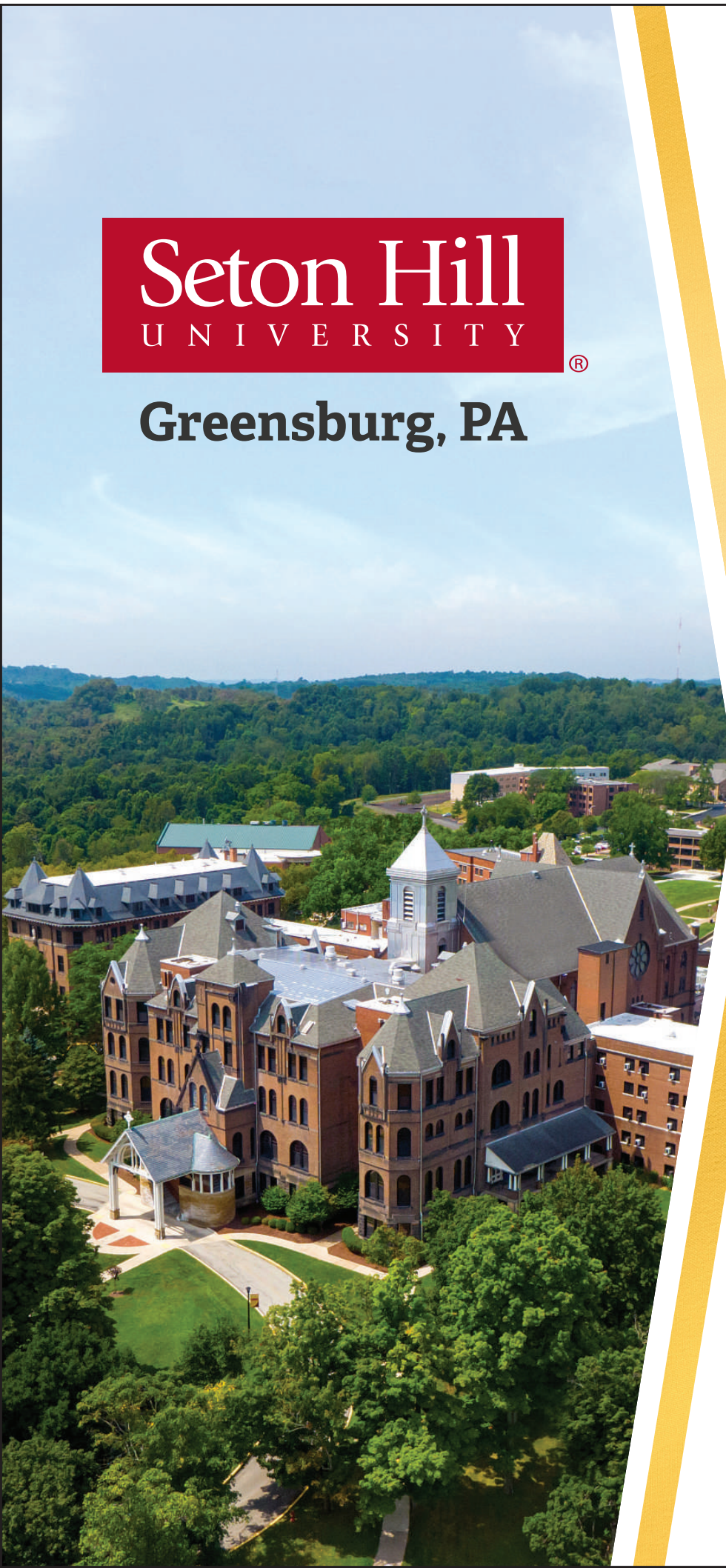




**Seton Hill**  
UNIVERSITY



**Greensburg, PA**



# Find Your **FORWARD**

A LEADING  
**Catholic Liberal Arts University**

WELCOMING STUDENTS OF  
ALL BACKGROUNDS & FAITHS

**80+**

UNDERGRADUATE  
PROGRAMS, INCLUDING  
DEGREES IN **BUSINESS,**  
**SCIENCE, HUMANITIES,**  
**EDUCATION & THE ARTS**

**98%**

CAREER/  
GRAD SCHOOL  
**Placement**



**Best  
Value**

U.S. NEWS  
& WORLD  
REPORT



**MacBook Air**

FOR TRADITIONAL  
FULL-TIME BACHELOR'S  
DEGREE STUDENTS

**SCHEDULE A CAMPUS VISIT TODAY!**

**[setonhill.edu/visitSHU](https://setonhill.edu/visitSHU)**

**PRESEASON RANKINGS****1. Central Catholic (12-3)**

The Vikings added their ninth WPIAL football championship last fall by dethroning two-time champion North Allegheny. Central Catholic graduated its leading passer (Jy'Aire Walls) and leading rusher (Elijah Faulkner) but will turn to sophomore quarterback Owen Herrick, who already has an offer from Syracuse despite sitting out last season. Central Catholic returns 13 starters.

2. North Allegheny (10-2)

3. Mt. Lebanon (3-8)

4. Canon-McMillan (3-7)

5. Hempfield (4-6)

\* RECORDS FROM 2024

**THE STARS****ASHTON BLATT**

**Central Catholic, Sr., DE**

The 6-foot-4, 230-pound senior edge rusher was a second-team all-conference defensive end last season, leading the Vikings with seven sacks and 13 tackles for a loss. Blatt is a North Carolina commit.

**LINCOLN HOKE**

**North Allegheny, Sr., OL/DL**

Hoke, a 6-2, 260-pound Pitt recruit, was an all-conference player last fall at defensive tackle for a second straight season and a first-team all-state selection.

**PATRICK SMITH**

**Mt. Lebanon, Sr., QB/LB**

The 6-3, 220-pounder connected on 132 of 227 passes for 1,610 yards and 12 touchdowns, led the team in rushing with 1,091 yards and in scoring with 15 TDs. Smith is a Penn commit.

**COLSEN GATTEN**

**Central Catholic, Sr., LB**

The 6-1, 220-pound Duke recruit was a first-team all-conference pick last season when he had 51 tackles and three INTs.

**T.J. SABATUCCI**

**Canon-McMillan, Sr., TE/DE**

Sabatucci, a Buffalo recruit, is physical with deceptive speed. The 6-2, 225-pounder caught 17 passes for 226 yards with three TDs last season.

**DON'T MISS**

**9.19: Mt. Lebanon at Canon-McMillan**

This should be another key game between the South Hills representatives.

**9.26: Central Catholic at North Allegheny**

This rematch of the 2022, 2023 and 2024 WPIAL 6A championship games could be a preview of a fourth straight golden showdown in November.

**10.3: Hempfield at Norwin**

The Westmoreland County rivals returned to Class 6A football last fall with mixed results and will look to take a step forward.



Central Catholic's Chrys Black (1) celebrates with Bradley Gompers after intercepting a pass in the end zone to seal the victory against Harrisburg during the PIAA Class 6A semifinals last season in Altoona.

# CAN ANYTHING BE DONE TO SPRUCE UP CLASS 6A?

BY **DON REBEL**

Welcome to the 10th season of Class 6A football in the WPIAL and PIAA.

The decision for the state to expand from four to six classes in football, boys and girls basketball and baseball and softball prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year was driven by bigger schools out east, especially in District 1 (suburban Philadelphia) and District 3 (Harrisburg and central part of the state).

Class 6A football in the WPIAL went from 14 teams in the first two-year cycle to the current seven teams, which is up from the low of five teams for the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

Since the district started taking only four teams to the

6A playoffs in 2020 (five went in 2021), only five teams have qualified for the WPIAL postseason in the highest classification.

Central Catholic, Mt. Lebanon and North Allegheny have qualified all five years, and Canon-McMillan and Seneca Valley have made the playoffs three times.

Every 6A playoff game has been a rematch of a regular-season meeting since 2018.

Wash, rinse and repeat.

Some Class 6A head coaches were asked if there is a way to spice things up in what has

become a predictable classification.

• "I don't think it's broken," Canon-McMillan interim coach Brian DeLallo said. "I wish

there were more 6A teams on the western side of the state, but it is what it is. If anything, it simplifies the mission. You want to win a WPIAL title? Find a way to get your program on a level that these other perennial powers are on. I look at the stronghold North

Allegheny and Central Catholic have on the WPIAL 6A title and see it as a challenge. We aspire

to have that kind of consistent excellence at Canon-Mac."

• "What the WPIAL was dealt with six classes ruined big-school football," Mt. Lebanon coach Greg Perry said. "We have lost what Fridays were in the fall. Kids from Mt Lebanon grew up playing Bethel Park, Baldwin, South Fayette, Peters Township, Upper St. Clair and Canon-McMillan. Last season, we went to Penn-Trafford and Penn Hills for nonconference games and Hempfield for a 6A game. What parent from either school would allow their kids to drive that distance or the general fan to go to the game? Lebo vs. the South Hills schools, the crowds were great and it allowed schools to make money. Now, there is not really an alternative way."

**"You want to win a WPIAL title? Find a way to get your program on a level that these other perennial powers are on."**

BRIAN DELALLO  
CANON-McMILLAN COACH

# OFFSEASON BUILDUP CRUCIAL FOR HEMPFIELD

BY BILL BECKNER JR.

Hempfield is doing all the right things off the field in the hopes to capture more wins on it.

The Spartans have been conditioning since the winter.

So has every other team, yes. But Hempfield makes the offseason an event.

They have a weight room goal-board with increasingly larger goal totals — and attendance numbers that are equally as impressive.

A group chat has kept players in a collective loop all offseason.

They even have an unofficial nutritionist on staff who has the team eating better.

You don't have to sell their coach on how hungry his team is.

"They all have bought in," third-year coach Nick Keefer said.

"We're coming together with some leaders. We've had guys step up.

It's an advantage when you have to play younger guys and can bring them back the next year."

Hempfield, which finished 4-6 last season (2-4 in the Class 6A conference), brings back four starting linemen, as well as its leading passer, rusher and receiver.

A senior-heavy group is aiming for its first WPIAL playoff berth since 2016.

"The way these kids work," Keefer said, "shows how hungry they



JACK KOPAS

are. This is Year 3 for (the staff). The first two years we were finding an identity, where we could get to. Now we know what we want to be."

The Spartans look to have a balanced attack with senior Dom Detruf back under center and a Division I lineman blocking and tackling in senior Brock Heisler.

Detruf is a drop-back passer who can be effective in rhythm. He

threw for 1,696 yards and 14 touchdowns last season after missing time early on due to myocarditis, a medical condition of the heart.

He is healthy and ready to start a new season on time.

"When we weren't sure if we'd have Dom, we had to adjust," Keefer said. "We thought we might have to go wildcat. It was great to get him on the field. We're

expecting big things from him. It's his third year."

Leading rusher Aiden Stinebiser is back for his senior season and looking to top the 576 yards he ran for last fall.

And another senior, Jack Kopas, is back after grabbing 40 receptions. The next closest on the team had 18.

**Coach:** Nick Keefer  
**2024 record:** 4-6, 2-4 in Class 6A  
**All-time record:** 308-348-13



**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	North Hills	7
8.29	at Franklin Regional	7
9.5	Kiski Area	7
9.12	at North Allegheny*	7:30
9.19	at Central Catholic*	7
9.26	Canon-McMillan*	7
10.3	at Norwin*	7
10.10	Seneca Valley*	7
10.17	at Mt. Lebanon*	7
10.24	Gateway	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Passing:** Dom Detruf  
 127-239, 1,696 yards, 14 TDs  
**Rushing:** Aiden Stinebiser  
 145-576 yards, 2 TDs  
**Receiving:** Jack Kopas  
 40-558 yards, 3 TDs

**FAST FACTS**

- Hempfield has not been to the WPIAL playoffs since 2016 and has not won in the post-season since 1997.
- Universal trainer Al "Poodie" Carson is a defensive coach again with the Spartans. He has worked with NFL and major-college players, including former Pitt star and Super Bowl champion Aaron Donald.

HEMPFIELD • 6

**ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	16	Domenick Giannelli	WR/DB	5-5/140	fr.	34	Liam Terek	RB/LB	5-10/160	fr.	54	Dennis Tang	OL/DL	6-1/210	jr.	72	Patrick Moreman	OL/DL	5-10/210	jr.
0	Andrew Jones	HB/LB	5-10/185	sr.	18	Dominic Detruf	QB/LB	6-0/205	sr.	36	Drahmiere Woody	RB/DB	5-8/145	fr.	55	Brock Heisler	OL/DL	6-3/260	sr.	73	Landon Beeson	OL/DL	5-8/254	fr.
1	Troy Sebring	WR/DB	5-7/180	jr.	20	Dante Giannelli	RB/DB	5-7/159	so.	37	Levi Clark	WR/DB	5-11/120	fr.	57	Jacob Wiederstein	OL/DL	6-2/315	jr.	74	Dillon Ruffin	OL/DL	5-7/257	fr.
2	Terrance Vaughns	WR/DB	6-0/155	jr.	22	Andrew Bentz	WR/LB	5-7/156	jr.	38	Ethan Peluso	HB/LB	5-9/163	fr.	58	Sean Musgrove	OL/DL	5-10/194	fr.	76	Desmond Walker	OL/DL	5-7/274	so.
3	Jack Kopas	WR/DB	6-0/185	sr.	23	Nicholas Marquis	WR/DB	5-9/195	sr.	39	Devin Shevlin	RB/LB	5-5/154	jr.	59	Jeromy Shafer	OL/DL	5-11/230	fr.	77	Niko Horton	OL/DL	6-0/289	jr.
4	Xavier Smith	HB/DL	6-0/197	jr.	24	Anthony Carello	HB/LB	5-9/163	so.	42	Leroy Corey	RB/LB	5-9/191	so.	60	Dom Granata	OL/DL	6-0/303	jr.	78	Noah Helfrich	OL/DL	6-3/285	jr.
5	Brayden Gerst	RB/LB	5-9/190	sr.	25	Aidan Stinebiser	RB/DB	5-7/160	sr.	43	Talin Dyson	WR/DB	5-7/120	so.	61	Tyler Roudeski	OL/DL	6-1/192	fr.	81	Devin Bernd	WR/LB	5-8/150	so.
6	Jacob Morgan	HB/LB	6-0/176	sr.	26	JM Landa	HB/LB	5-9/200	sr.	44	Jacob Hamilton	HB/LB	5-11/173	so.	62	Ray Dougan Jr.	OL/DL	6-2/220	so.	82	Maximus Hawk	HB/LB	5-4/140	fr.
7	Carden Lippmann	QB/DB	5-10/140	jr.	27	Deniro Mongell	HB/LB	6-0/200	jr.	45	Keegan Hrutkay	RB/LB	6-0/168	sr.	64	Salai Uk	OL/DL	6-0/210	so.	83	William Robb	WR/DB	5-10/115	fr.
8	Riley Evans	QB/DB	5-11/170	fr.	28	Ezra Peluso	WR/DB	5-8/143	jr.	48	Thomas Hertzog	HB/LB	5-11/192	so.	65	A.J. Ermlick	OL/DL	5-11/250	so.	84	Cade Ballantyne	WR/DB	5-10/170	so.
9	Sawyer Leuthold	K	5-8/140	so.	29	Deron Hunter	RB/DB	5-4/140	so.	49	Nick Leone	HB/DL	5-9/170	sr.	66	Everett Woodbury	OL/DL	5-11/260	jr.	85	Anthony Brancato	WR/DB	5-11/175	so.
10	Henry Mutschler	WR/DB	5-8/160	sr.	30	Renden Katchur	WR/DB	5-9/143	fr.	50	Jonathan Burgess	OL/DL	6-0/167	fr.	67	Duncan Fox	OL/DL	5-9/210	fr.	86	Hunter Hutchison	WR/DB	5-4/115	fr.
12	Jake Kosinski	WR/DB	5-10/156	jr.	31	Carter Sekerchak	WR/DB	5-7/130	fr.	51	Brayden Sturm	OL/DL	5-6/200	so.	69	Braxton Lindstrom	OL/DL	5-8/180	so.	87	Cooper Blady	WR/DB	6-1/140	fr.
14	Lucas Simmons	WR/DB	6-4/175	jr.	32	Joseph Turek Jr.	RB/LB	5-7/150	fr.	52	Andrew Waikus	OL/DL	6-1/183	fr.	70	Aiden Gross	OL/DL	6-2/280	fr.	88	Dakota Smith	WR/DB	5-9/119	fr.
15	Ty Humes	WR/DB	6-0/154	so.	33	Teddy Kopas	WR/DB	5-8/137	fr.	53	Angelo Apodaca	OL/DL	6-0/245	jr.	71	David Carson	OL/DL	5-8/205	fr.	89	Sai Stewart-Yaniszkeski	WR/DB	5-9/140	fr.



**GOOD LUCK HEMPFIELD**

Best of the Best Mexican Restaurant

**ROUTE 30 • GREENSBURG 724-834-1586**

Mon-Thurs 11am-10pm • Fri & Sat 11am-10:30pm • Sun 11am-9pm



**\$5 Off** Any Food Purchase

of \$35 or more, excludes alcohol

**DON PATRON MEXICAN GRILL**

With this coupon. One coupon per table. Not valid with other offers.

**\$2 Off** Your Order

When You Buy 2 Dinner Combos

**DON PATRON MEXICAN GRILL**

With this coupon. One coupon per table. Not valid with other offers.

# SPARTANS O-LINE LARGE, EXPERIENCED

HEMPFIELD • FROM 5

Kopas will be a key target for Detruf, but watch 6-3 sophomore Lucas Simmons in the passing game.

Seniors Drew Jones and Nick Marquis give the running game pillars as H-backs. Marquis is primed to become a fourth-year letterman.

The key to offensive production could lie in the consistently sound play of the line.

Harvard commit Brock Heisler (6-3, 260) is the left tackle, with junior Jacob Wiederstein returning at center. Both bring a wealth of snaps to the front row.

Heisler is a load and has the athleticism other linemen and opposing coaches covet.

Two other juniors also will protect Detruf and open running lanes in Noah Helfrich (6-2, 275) and Angelo Apodaca (5-11, 220).

"Our line is clicking," Keefer said. "They have a group chat going, and they are always communicating."

Assistant coach Tim Evans, a physical education teacher at Latrobe, has set up a nutritional plan for the team.

"We're feeding the boys the right way," Keefer said.

Defensively, senior Henry Mutschler is a key at cornerback, while the experienced Jones and senior Brayden Gerst will look to stop the run at inside linebacker.

Gerst made a team-high 90 tackles last season.

Heisler will also lead the defensive line. He had 39 tackles, including five for loss.

Kopas and Mutschler anchor the secondary, while newcomer Xavier Smith, a junior transfer from Palmyra, could bring energy to the rushing edge.

Smith had 47 tackles and three sacks as a sophomore playing in District 3.

Hempfield allowed 25 or more points in eight games last season.

The Spartans did have some late momentum. They were 3-2 in their last five games and won their finale, 41-21, over Gateway.

"I've seen a lot of competition in practice," Keefer said. "Positions are not given. The offseason is so valuable to what our identity becomes."



DOM DETRUF

**BROWN'S**  
Plumbing, Heating &  
Air Conditioning, LLC

*Celebrating over 50 years in business*  
**Youngwood** PA#002992  
**724-925-2102**  
www.brownsphac.com

**JOE'S**  
**CONSTRUCTION**  
**814-590-6023**

METAL ROOFS, SHINGLE ROOFS, POLE BUILDINGS, PORCHES & DECKS, GENERAL CONSTRUCTION  
**CALL TODAY TO FIND OUT HOW JOE CAN BUILD FOR YOU!**  
**GOOD LUCK ALL AREA TEAMS!**  
FULLY INSURED  
LIC #PA183755

**Good Luck Hempfield Spartans!!**  
**John V. Graziano Funeral Home Inc.**  
Jeannette Funeral Director: James P. Graziano, Supervisor  
Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans Available - "Service Is More Than Just A Word With Us"  
228 N. Second St., Jeannette, PA • 724-523-5433 • Johnvgrazianofuneralhomeinc.com

Call 1.800.909.8742 or visit [www.tribtotalmedia.com](http://www.tribtotalmedia.com) for convenient home delivery.

Don't miss a single edition! Call today.

**TRIB** | TOTAL MEDIA



**ELLIOTT COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**  
*Celebrating 90 YEARS*  
**AND STILL GROWING STRONG**



Membership open to ALL those who live, work, worship, or attend school in Westmoreland County

**Good Luck Hempfield Spartans!**

**Celebrate 90 years with us with our \$90 offer**  
 Open a Master Share, Share Draft w/direct deposit and debit card  
**and get \$90 from us!!**

Contact us for all the details!  
 Certain restrictions and conditions apply with all Loans.

[www.elliottfcu.com](http://www.elliottfcu.com)

- North Fourth Street Branch  
724-527-2822
- Jeannette Rubber Branch  
724-527-1550
- Greensburg Branch  
724-216-1474
- MSA Murrysville Branch  
EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES ONLY  
724-733-9141
- MSA Cranberry Branch  
EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES ONLY  
724-776-8605

CALL ANY BRANCH WITH QUESTIONS  
 1-877-812-6769

*Wishing the Hempfield Spartans a Safe & Successful Season!*



**BONONI & COMPANY P.C.**  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*A Law Firm Serving Individuals & Families*  
**Trust Our Team**  
 724-832-2499  
 GREENSBURG • PITTSBURGH • LATROBE • JOHNSTOWN



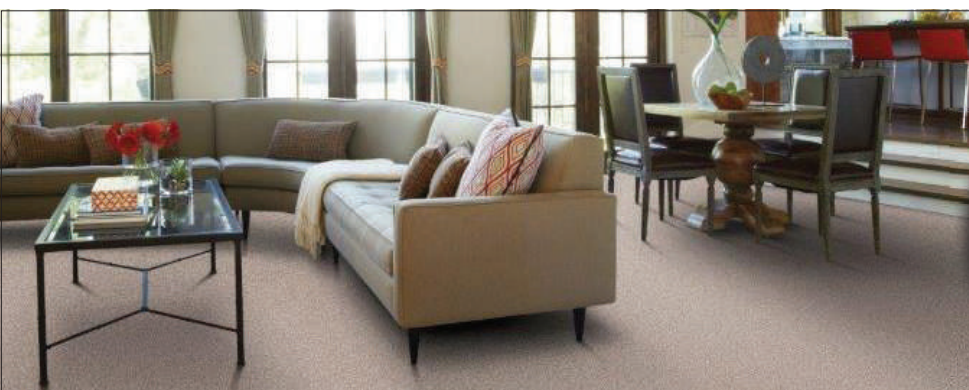
**Good Luck All Local Teams!**

**PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**JAMIE P. DiANDRETH**  
 PHYSICAL THERAPY

4536 RT. 136 GREENSBURG • 724.830.8815  
 (1/2 MILE EAST OF HEMPFIELD HIGH SCHOOL)

Orthopedics • Sports  
 Women's Health  
 Massage Therapy  
 Myofascial Release



**GOOD LUCK, HEMPFIELD SPARTANS!**

**GO SPARTANS!**

**Larry Lint**  
**Flooring**

724-446-0480  
 221 Lint Ln., Irwin

Contractor License #PA004471

*Scan Here!*



**BEAUTIFUL KITCHENS LLC**  
*Building Beauty at Last*

PA160985

**Residential & Commercial Cabinets**  
 Custom Wood • Custom Laminate  
 Refacing Specialists • Stock Cabinets  
 QUARTZ, GRANITE, & LAMINATE COUNTERTOPS



**FREE ESTIMATES**



724-834-4480 861 N. GREENGATE RD. • GREENSBURG 800-464-4896

**GOOD LUCK ALL AREA TEAMS!**



MIKE BROWN

**Coach:**  
Mike Brown  
**2024 record:**  
2-8, 0-6 in  
Class 6A  
**All-time record:**  
401-612-36



**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	at Penn-Trafford	7
8.29	Kiski Area	7
9.5	at Latrobe	7
9.12	at Seneca Valley*	7
9.19	North Allegheny*	7
9.26	at North Hills	7
10.3	Hempfield*	7
10.10	at Central Catholic*	7
10.17	Canon-McMillan*	7
10.24	Mt. Lebanon*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Passing:** Tristyn Tavares  
98-183, 1,388 yards, 9 TDs  
**Rushing:** Giovanni Rothrauff  
146-607 yards, 2 TDs  
**Receiving:** Jake Knight  
30-422 yards, 4 TDs

# HEALTHIER NORWIN BOASTS SIZE, DEPTH, CONFIDENCE

BY BILL BECKNER JR.

To appreciate the level of excitement at Norwin heading into a new season, one must first understand what the team endured last year.

Injuries gnawed the Knights to the bone. It was painful and grueling.

“We only had one game where everybody was healthy,” third-year coach Mike Brown said. “And that was the opener against Penn-Trafford. We lost three starters in that game. There were 26 starting positions injured throughout the season. A lot of guys played both ways. We had so many guys playing out of position.”

How things have changed. A wave of refreshment has washed over the program — numbers are up, depth has increased, and bodies are healed — and the Knights are eyeing a turnaround year after going 2-8 and losing their final eight games.

The jarring speed bumps were gone on the campus parking lots this summer. It might be a sign.

“If we don’t make the playoffs, it will be a disappointment,” a confident Brown said. “That’s the goal. That’s always the goal. But I think we have the team to do it.”

There were upwards of 95 players — 30 freshmen — attending summer workouts. Backups are prepping to play more natural po-



TRISTYN TAVARES

sitions and putting pressure on would-be starters.

“We’re two-deep everywhere,” Brown said. “The smallest class is the seniors, with 19. Last year, we had guys in spots they didn’t earn. Sometimes when you lost somebody, you lost three positions. It’s nice what we have now.

“I don’t see any holes anywhere.

There is nobody we have to hide.”

Competing in Class 6A requires depth and size, and the Knights look to have both.

“We have a lot back up front,” Brown said. “A negative you always hear about Norwin is that they don’t have any linemen. Well, we do this year. We aren’t going to have to send a 215-pounder out

there to block.”

Talented quarterback Tristyn Tavares returns after a limited seven-game season because of a knee injury (MCL strain). Tavares threw for 1,388 yards and nine touchdowns and rushed for 308 yards and eight scores while leading the fast-paced offense, which could see three- and four-receiver sets again.

Tavares threw for a school-record 2,459 yards and 25 TDs as a sophomore.

“If we can keep him healthy and clean, it will be huge for us,” Brown said. “He is so valuable. If he didn’t have the arm he does, he’d be an all-conference running back. He extends so much. He’ll sell out.”

The bulked-up line will include senior three-year starter Patrick Schmook (6-0, 250), senior Lucas Altier (6-4, 315), a Division I prospect who broke his foot in Week 2 and did not return, junior Sebastian Summerville (6-1, 260), and junior Hunter Luchkiw (5-10, 260).

New assistant Mike Shannon, the former Frazier head coach, and alum Anthony Giansante will coach the line.

A pair of sophomores with potential Division I futures are Will Bossart (6-5, 275) and Gavin Gonda

NORWIN 10

# AMBROSIA

222 Main St., Irwin, PA  
724-367-4000  
LAMP THEATRE.ORG

**SAT. AUG. 30**  
**8PM | \$59**

5 GRAMMY NOMINATIONS & 5 HIT SINGLES

INCLUDING THE TOP 5 HITS “HOW MUCH I FEEL” AND “BIGGEST PART OF ME,” AND TOP 20 HITS “YOU’RE THE ONLY WOMAN” AND “HOLDIN’ ON TO YESTERDAY”

**THE LAMP**

*There's magic inside*

**THEATRE**

A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

# CORE

— EVENT CENTER —

*Life is an event...Make it memorable.*

Best Wishes on a Safe & Successful Season, Norwin!

100 Colony Drive, Irwin, PA | 724.382.4600 | coreeventcenter.com

Call 1.800.909.8742 or visit [www.tribtotalmedia.com](http://www.tribtotalmedia.com) for convenient home delivery.

Don't miss a single edition! Call today.

TRIB | TOTAL MEDIA



# GOOD LUCK NORWIN KNIGHTS!



10630 Route 30 • North Huntingdon, PA 15642  
Open 7 days a week 11am-9pm

## 724-590-0550

ONLINE ORDERING AVAILABLE!

DINE IN ONLY **\$2 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF \$20 OR MORE

SIENA AT NORWIN • NORTH HUNTINGDON • 724-590-0550  
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers. Alcohol Excluded. Expires 9/30/25

DINE IN ONLY **\$5 OFF**  
ANY PURCHASE OF \$40 OR MORE

SIENA AT NORWIN • NORTH HUNTINGDON • 724-590-0550  
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers. Alcohol Excluded. Expires 9/30/25



## NORWIN TEACHERS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

### Welcome all Norwin School District Students

Join **TODAY** and let us help guide your financial future!

**724-864-7469 | [www.norwinteachersfcu.org](http://www.norwinteachersfcu.org)**



## Wishing all Norwin Students A Safe & Successful Year!



### **State Farm® Gdula Insurance Agency Inc.**

John Gdula, Agent | 415 Main St. Irwin, PA 15642 | Bus: 724-863-1340

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company Bloomington, IL



## GOOD LUCK, NORWIN KNIGHTS!



# Larry Lint Flooring

724-446-0480  
221 Lint Ln., Irwin

Contractor License #PA004471

Scan Here!



## Go Get 'Em Norwin Knights!



*"Thank you doesn't seem enough! Dr. Altier offered to meet my high schooler in the office at 6:30am after learning that he was having neck and back issues...My son had a playoff golf match that day and upon hearing this Dr. Altier graciously offered to open the office early to accommodate him. This offer of service is unprecedented in this day and age! I am filled with gratitude"*  
- Marnie K

### **ALTIER CHIROPRACTIC**

Take Advantage  
of our New  
**RED LIGHT THERAPY**  
with your Adjustment



JOSEPH ALTIER, D.C.

Insurance Accepted

621 N. 4th St., Suite 100, Jeannette

724.527.7463



# P-R LOOKS TO BREAK BACK-TO-BACK CURSE

BY CHRIS HARLAN

Can reigning WPIAL champion Pine-Richland break the Class 5A curse?

No team has won back-to-back WPIAL titles in 5A since the classification was created nine years ago. Pine-Richland won in 2020, '22 and '24. Gateway was the champion in 2017 and '19. Peters Township won in 2023, but its hopes to repeat were dashed in the finals last year.

So, the curse lives on.

Or for those less superstitious, maybe there's a simple explanation for why nobody stays on top for more than a year.

"That's just a testament to the quality of opponents in 5A," Pine-Richland coach Jon LeDonne said. "When you get into the playoffs, there is no cupcake. You've got to be ready to play. There are good programs here."

Regardless of recent history, don't expect Pine-Richland to accept its fate and hand the title to someone else. The team brings back its leading passer, rusher and receiver from a championship offense that averaged 35 points.

The Rams want to make history.

"That puts a mark on our back for sure because it hasn't been done since six classifications was implemented," LeDonne said. "We're excited with what we're returning, but at the same time, we know we've got to be ready week in and week out."

Pine-Richland begins the season ranked No. 1 in TribLive HSSN preseason rankings followed by No. 2 Peters Township, a WPIAL finalist four of the past six years. Woodland Hills is third with Penn Hills fourth and Upper St. Clair fifth.

But as recent history has shown, the list of contenders in Class 5A almost always runs deeper. Teams from nine different schools have reached the 5A finals since 2016, and six different schools won titles.

In that same nine-year span, only four different schools won the Class 6A title, and Class 4A had just three. Those classifications also have had multiple back-to-back champions since 2016, unlike 5A.

"It's a war of attrition in 5A," said Upper St. Clair coach Mike



Pine-Richland quarterback Aaron Strader threw for more than 1,700 yards last season.

Junko, whose Panthers reached the finals in 2022. "You've got to get into the playoffs healthy. And then you know when you get (to the semifinals), you can look at four teams that all have the ability to win the thing."

Upper St. Clair was a semifinalist last year along with Pine-Richland, Peters Township and Bethel Park. The 12 teams that qualify for the Class 5A bracket can rightfully argue it's the toughest tournament in the WPIAL.

"The four teams left at the end are going to be killers," Junko said. "The seeding doesn't matter as much in 5A because you're going to play good football teams at the end."

"And it's no different this year."

Last year's runner-up, Pe-

ters Township is led by senior quarterback/safety Nolan DiLucia, a Villanova recruit, who has passed for 5,656 yards and 55 touchdowns in two seasons. The Indians defense features two college-bound linebackers in seniors Reston Lehman (Pitt) and Lucas Shanafelt (Stanford).

Woodland Hills anticipates having two key seniors back after season-ending leg injuries last year: quarterback Cam Walter and running back/linebacker Ziggy Moore, an N.C. State recruit. Walter and wideout Scoop Smith, a Miami (Ohio) commit, form a dynamic tandem.

The Wolverines are trying to reach the WPIAL finals for the first time since 2013, prior to six classes.

Penn Hills has one of the WPIAL's top receivers in junior

Carter Bonner, and quarterback Devin Harris is a senior with Ivy League offers. The Indians won 5A in 2018.

"It's highly competitive," Peters Township coach T.J. Plack said. "You've got really good football players and really good coaches. Not that other divisions don't, but it's top-level football. It's bigger schools. You've got lots of kids to choose from."

The PIAA expanded football to six classes prior to the 2016 season with mixed results. The move left the WPIAL thin at Class 6A (seven teams) but created an extremely competitive 5A, which has 19 teams right now.

"I liken 5A to the old 'AAAA' world," Junko said, "where you knew it was going to be a grinder from Week Zero to the WPIAL championship."

## PRESEASON RANKINGS

### 1. Pine-Richland (11-1)

The Rams are defending WPIAL champions after winning their second title in three years under coach Jon LeDonne. They return much of their lineup, including 1,700-yard passer Aaron "Oobi" Strader and 1,300-yard rusher Maclane Miller.

### 2. Peters Township (11-2)

### 3. Woodland Hills (8-3)

### 4. Penn Hills (7-5)

### 5. Upper St. Clair (11-1)

\* RECORDS FROM 2024

## THE STARS

### CARTER BONNER

#### Penn Hills, Jr., WR/DB

Bonner (6-foot-3, 190 pounds) caught 26 passes for 436 yards and six touchdowns last year. He lists Pitt, Penn State and West Virginia among his offers.

### JOHN CURRAN

#### Pine-Richland, Sr., OL/DL

Curran's blocks helped the Rams offense average more than 300 yards from scrimmage last year. The 6-3, 295-pound tackle is a Pitt recruit.

### RESTON LEHMAN

#### Peters Township, Sr., TE/LB

A Pitt-bound linebacker, Lehman intercepted three passes, forced two fumbles, recovered two fumbles and made 13 tackles for a loss last season.

### SCOOP SMITH

#### Woodland Hills, Sr., WR/DB

A Miami (Ohio) recruit, Smith caught 38 passes for 630 yards and scored 15 touchdowns last year. His longest TD was a 99-yard kick return.

### JAY TIMMONS

#### Pine-Richland, Sr., WR/DB

Timmons had 755 yards on 40 catches and scored 12 times last season. A standout defensive back, Timmons is committed to Florida State, his father Lawrence's alma mater.

## DON'T MISS

### 9.12 Penn-Trafford at Woodland Hills

Woodland Hills defeated P-T, 35-21, in Week 3 last year, a key victory in winning the Big East title. The Wolverines' win snapped a string of six straight losses to P-T.

### 9.26 Upper St. Clair at Peters Township

USC won their Week 5 matchup last year en route to the Allegheny Six title. But Peters Township won the playoff rematch 7-3 in the WPIAL semifinals thanks to a 97-yard kickoff return.

### 10.3 Pine-Richland at Penn Hills

The Northeast foes have split four matchups over the past three seasons, and the average margin of victory was seven points.



**TYRONE LEONARD**

**Coach:**  
Lance Getsy  
**2024 record:**  
8-4, 4-2 in Class  
5A Big East  
Conference  
**All-time record:** 318-279-12



**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	Plum	7
8.29	Hempfield	7
9.5	Upper St. Clair	7
9.12	at Latrobe*	7
9.19	Gateway*	7
9.26	at Kiski Area*	7
10.3	Fox Chapel	7
10.10	Penn-Trafford*	7
10.17	at Woodland Hills*	7
10.24	at Armstrong*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Passing:** Chase Lemke\*  
86-190, 1,310 yards, 15 TDs  
**Rushing:** Kyle Dupill\*  
258-1,793 yards, 15 TDs  
**Receiving:** MacAllister Bresnahan\*  
21-392 yards, 4 TDs

\*GRADUATED

# FRANKLIN REGIONAL REBUILDS AFTER GRADUATION LOSSES

BY PAUL SCHOFIELD

As Lance Getsy begins his fifth season at Franklin Regional, he is faced with a retooling job.

The Panthers graduated 16 seniors from last year's team that finished 8-4 overall and 4-2 in Class 5A Big East Conference.

There are a lot of starting positions available on the Franklin Regional football team this season. Among the graduates were quarterback Chase Lemke (Cal, Pa. baseball), running back Kyle Dupill (Washington & Jefferson), receiver MacAllister Bresnahan (Robert Morris), linebacker Austin Kerns (Cal.), defensive back Jake Weir (Westminster), kicker Joey Bayne (Pitt) and offensive lineman Andrew Devola (Michigan Tech).

"We have some holes to fill, that is for sure," Getsy said. "That makes it fun, finding players to fill those positions and creating depth."

So, who is Getsy looking to be this year's playmakers?

Sophomore Dom Devola and junior Tyler Pechar will get the first shot at quarterback. Devola saw limited action in 2024.

In the backfield, senior Jet Taylor, sophomore Amauri Jones-Lane and senior Mason Mullooy will battle for playing time.

Returning starters on the offensive line include senior center Troy Slezak, senior tackle Ron Schall Jr., junior tackle Ben Chiarizo, junior tight end Cole Devola and senior end Matt Moore.

Junior Tommy Verruggio is



**DOM DEVOLA**

among the candidates for the H-back/end spots along with Moore, senior Jaymeir Austin and Austin McClure. Sophomore Antonio Delissio and seniors Tyler Ley and Damian and Logan Priest also will compete for spots on the offensive line.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us," Getsy said. "We have good overall team speed, especially on defense."

The only starters back on defense

are Moore at safety, Austin at cornerback and Slezak on the line.

Getsy said he expects senior Lochlan Bresnahan to be a force playing outside linebacker, along with juniors Sebastian Ponko and Tyrone Leonard in the secondary.

"A concern is the lack of game experience," Getsy said. "We need to get the players reps. You cannot mimic the speed of the game until you put on the pads."

Getsy said despite the graduation losses, he expects his Panthers to battle for a playoff berth.

"Penn-Trafford again will be good, along with Woodland Hills and Gateway," Getsy said. "The entire conference will be good."

The other teams in the conference are Armstrong, Latrobe and Kiski Area.

The Panthers open the season Aug. 22 against rival Plum.

**ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Yr.	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Yr.	No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	Yr.								
0	Amauri Jones-Lane	RB/DB	5-10/165	so.	11	Lochlan Bresnahan	TE/LB	6-2/215	sr.	24	Colin Mullooy	WR/DB	5-8/160	jr.	48	Hrithik Singh	WR/DB	5-6/125	so.	65	Brendan Hurney	OL/DL	5-9/180	fr.	
1	Brandon Kash	WR/DB	5-7/125	fr.	12	Jake Pucka	QB/DB	5-10/161	so.	26	Austin Vinsic	RB/DB	5-9/175	so.	49	Eli Chadwick	TE/LB	6-2/165	fr.	66	Robert Hanson	OL/LB	5-7/151	fr.	
2	Austin McClure	WR/DB	6-3/170	fr.	13	Tyler Pechar	QB/DB	5-11/175	jr.	27	Veer Singh	WR/DB	5-10/167	so.	50	Logan Priest	OL/DL	6-1/275	sr.	67	Majeed Boukaabar	OL/DL	5-11/260	fr.	
3	Mathew Moore	WR/DB	5-11/165	sr.	14	Max Evans	QB/DB	5-11/240	fr.	28	Zack Verruggio	HB/DB	5-8/160	fr.	51	Evan McManis	OL/LB	5-9/185	jr.	70	Ronald Schall	OL/DL	6-3/230	sr.	
4	Aaron Bennett	HB/LB	5-10/175	sr.	15	Dominic Mascara	K/P	6-1/165	sr.	29	Kaydin Clay	WR/DB	5-9/130	fr.	52	Taquann McBride	OL/DL	6-0/245	sr.	72	Tyler Ley	OL/DL	5-11/215	sr.	
5	Tyrone Leonard	WR/DB	5-8/135	jr.	16	Gage Williams	WR/DB	6-0/165	jr.	31	Brendan Murtha	WR/DB	5-3/120	fr.	53	Connor Bush	OL/DL	5-11/190	fr.	74	Ben Chiarizo	OL/DL	6-1/240	jr.	
6	Jaymeir Austin	WR/DB	6-3/180	sr.	17	Jet Taylor	RB/LB	5-10/185	jr.	32	Griffin Marsiglio	WR/DB	5-7/125	fr.	56	Jordan Yates	OL/LB	6-2/200	so.	75	Troy Slezak	OL/DL	6-0/265	sr.	
7	Dominic Devola	QB/DB	6-1/180	so.	18	Luca Aguilera	K/P	5-10/135	fr.	34	Joseph Depaolo	RB/LB	5-8/165	fr.	55	Gavin Young	OL/DL	6-0/220	so.	77	Antonio Delissio	OL/DL	6-0/235	so.	
8	Sebastian Ponko	WR/DB	5-9/165	jr.	19	Brock Bowser	QB/DB	5-8/145	fr.	36	Colin Curley	WR/DB	5-2/120	fr.	57	Nolan McGuire	OL/DL	5-6/180	fr.	78	Lincoln Montgomery	OL/DL	5-9/275	so.	
9	Oliver Leven	WR/DB	6-2/160	so.	20	Kaydon Ferrell	TE/LB	6-3/200	so.	39	Tyler Atkins	WR/DB	5-7/135	so.	58	Connor Grant	LS	6-2/185	sr.	79	Clifford (CJ) Keough	OL/DL	6-1/196	fr.	
10	Evan Chadwick	HB/LB	6-2/190	jr.	21	Keyan Morrison	WR/DB	6-1/155	jr.	42	Aiden Varghese	WR/DB	5-9/172	so.	60	Nick Tedesco	OL/DL	6-1/190	sr.	83	Raven Childs	WR/DB	5-8/145	fr.	
					22	Mason Mullooy	RB/DL	5-10/175	sr.	43	James Hlopick	WR/DB	5-7/160	so.	61	Damian Priest	OL/DL	6-1/245	sr.	88	Michael Jezek	TE/LB	5-10/180	fr.	
					23	Tommy Verruggio	HB/LB	5-10/195	jr.	45	Cole Devola	TE/LB	6-0/230	jr.	62	Julian Wedding	OL/DL	5-6/200	fr.						

*Wishing the Franklin Regional Panthers a Safe & Successful Season!*

**BONONI & COMPANY P**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*A Law Firm Serving Individuals & Families*  
**Trust Our Team**  
**724-832-2499**  
GREENSBURG • PITTSBURGH • LATROBE • JOHNSTOWN



**RECYCLE Your NEWSPAPER!**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Newspapers are recycled into other products such as cereal boxes, egg cartons, pencil barrels, grocery bags, tissue paper, cellulose insulation materials, and many more diverse products.

We encourage you to recycle your newspaper.

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA



**SunCo**  
WINDOW & DOOR  
A Division of Suncrest Homes Inc.  
Visit our showroom at  
1014 Unity Center Rd. in Plum  
(By Appointment Only)

**724-325-2840**



**ANDERSEN || PLYGEM || VINYLMAX || PROVIA**

**FREE SCREENS**  
with window purchase  
NOW THROUGH 9/1/25

Serving Westmoreland County for over 50 years  
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED



**EXTREME DANCE CENTER**

725 Pellis Road • 724-217-3166  
WWW.EXTREMEDANCECENTER.COM

**NOW ACCEPTING FALL REGISTRATION**

COME TRY A CLASS FOR FREE!

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS ON THE UPCOMING SEASON!**

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS**

**Jioio's**  
RESTAURANT

**Weekend Specials!**

- FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY -  
Large Plain Pizza, Family Salad & 2-liter  
- SUNDAY -  
2 Baked Ziti or Baked Rigatoni served with Garlic Toast or Italian Bread

939 Carbon Road,  
Greensburg, PA



**724-836-6676**

Find us on Facebook  
@ GreensburgJioiosRestaurant



**FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED**

Quality Workmanship & Customer Satisfaction PA#031731

**GOOD LUCK FRANKLIN REGIONAL PANTHERS!**

www.Family-Floors.com | 412.856.1987



**Award Winning**

**FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES**

**NO SUBCONTRACTORS**

**Crafted to Perfection Since 1987**



QUALITY YOU CAN COUNT ON!

**BACHMAN'S**  
ROOFING & SOLAR

2051 Golden Mile Hwy • Plum, PA 15239 • 412-744-8390  
www.bachmansroofing.com/pittsburgh/

**Wishing all of our local teams GOOD LUCK for a great season**



**WPIAL ALIGNMENT**

**CLASS 6A**  
Canon-McMillan, Central Catholic, Hempfield, Mt. Lebanon, North Allegheny, Norwin, Seneca Valley

**CLASS 5A**  
**Allegheny Six:** Baldwin, Bethel Park, Moon, Peters Township, South Fayette, Upper St. Clair  
**Big East:** Armstrong, Franklin Regional,

Gateway, Kiski Area, Latrobe, Penn-Trafford, Woodland Hills  
**Northeast:** Fox Chapel, North Hills, Penn Hills, Pine-Richland, Plum, Shaler

**CLASS 4A**  
**Parkway:** Aliquippa, Ambridge, Blackhawk\*, Montour, New Castle, West Allegheny  
**Greater Allegheny:** Hampton, Indiana, Knoch, Mars, McKeesport, West Mifflin  
**Big Six:** Belle Vernon, Chartiers Valley, Laurel Highlands, Ringgold, Thomas Jefferson, Trinity

**CLASS 3A**  
**Western Hills:** Avonworth, Beaver, Central Valley, Hopewell, McGuffey, North Catholic, Quaker Valley  
**Allegheny 7:** Burrell, Deer Lakes, East Allegheny, Freeport, Highlands, Imani Christian, Valley  
**Interstate:** Derry, Elizabeth Forward, Greensburg Salem, Mt. Pleasant, Southmoreland, Yough

**CLASS 2A**  
**Allegheny:** Apollo-Ridge, Ligonier Valley, OLSH\*, Shady Side Academy\*, South Allegheny, South Park, Steel Valley  
**Midwestern Athletic:** Beaver Falls, Ellwood City, Freedom, Mohawk, New Brighton, Riverside, Union, Western Beaver\*  
**Century:** Carlynton, Charleroi, Keystone Oaks, Seton LaSalle, Sto-Rox, Washington, Waynesburg Central

**CLASS A**  
**Eastern:** Brentwood, Clairton, Frazier, Greensburg C.C., Jeannette, Leechburg, Riverview, Springdale  
**Tri-County South:** Avella, Bentworth, Beth-Center, California, Carmichaels, Jefferson-Morgan, Mapletown, West Greene  
**Black Hills:** Bishop Canevin, Burgettstown, Chartiers-Houston, Cornell\*, Fort Cherry, Monessen, Serra Catholic  
**Big 7:** Laurel, Neshannock, Northgate, Rochester,

Shenango, South Side, Summit Academy  
\*Cooperative sponsorship  
**Independent:** Albert Gallatin, Brownsville, Butler, Connellsville, Uniontown  
**DISTRICT 8 CITY LEAGUE**  
Allerdice, Brashear, Perry, University Prep, Westinghouse  
**Independent:** Carrick

***Wishing the Latrobe Wildcats a Safe & Successful Season!*** 

**BONONI & COMPANY P**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*A Law Firm Serving Individuals & Families*  
**Trust Our Team**  
**724-832-2499**  
GREENSBURG • PITTSBURGH • LATROBE • JOHNSTOWN



**LAZOR FURNITURE**  
3588 US Route 30 East, Latrobe, PA 15650  
**724-539-1718**  
HGTV HOME DESIGN STUDIO Bassett



BASSETT • NORWALK • LANCER • STANLEY • BEST • HECKMAN • UTTERMOST • COZIA • SVAGO



**WWW.YVFFARMS.COM**

Yinzer Valley Farms, located in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, boasts an exceptionally beautiful and unique venue. Featuring indoor and outdoor event spaces, it's the perfect location to conveniently host your next wedding, shower, adult birthday party, graduation party, sports banquet, and more!

**681 Mulberry Hill Road Mount Pleasant, PA 15666**



NATE DESMOND

**Coach:**

John Ruane  
**2024 record:**  
 9-3, 5-1 in Class  
 5A Big East  
 Conference

**All-time record:** 340-209-10



**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	Norwin	7
8.29	at Mt. Lebanon	7
9.5	at Moon	7
9.12	at Woodland Hills*	7
9.19	Kiski Area*	7
9.26	at Plum	7
10.3	Gateway*	7
10.10	at Franklin Regional*	7
10.17	Armstrong*	7
10.24	Latrobe*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Passing:** Jon Lovre\*  
 108-197, 1,414 yards, 10 TDs  
**Rushing:** Tasso Whipple\*  
 217-1,716 yards, 14 TDs  
**Receiving:** Jack Weishaar\*  
 34-470 yards, 7 TDs

\*GRADUATED

**FAST FACTS**

- Penn-Trafford was a PIAA and WPIAL Class 5A champion in 2021. The Warriors defeated Moon, 24-21, in the WPIAL final, and stunned favorite Imhotep Charter, 17-14, in overtime in the PIAA final.
- John Ruane has coached at Penn-Trafford since 2010, compiling a 130-44 record.
- Penn-Trafford lost in the WPIAL finals in 1997 and 2015. The Warriors lost to Upper St. Clair, 28-27, in 1997 and Central Catholic, 24-17, in 2015.

# P-T INTENDS TO CHALLENGE FOR 1ST PLACE IN BIG EAST

BY PAUL SCHOFIELD

During his 15 seasons as Penn-Trafford's football coach, John Ruane has been known to run plays to make his opponents prepare for anything, whether it be trick plays, fake punts or onside kicks.

This year is no different. Ruane has numerous tricks up his sleeves.

Penn-Trafford is coming off a 9-3 season when it finished second in the Class 5A Big East Conference and reached the WPIAL quarterfinals before falling to Peters Township.

The Warriors are again a team favored to challenge for the conference title among a group that includes Woodland Hills, Gateway, Franklin Regional, Kiski Area, Latrobe and Armstrong.

"We expect to be competitive in a conference that returns a lot of great players from great teams," Ruane said. "We have good depth at most positions and a lot of good, young players who will push the veterans."

Ruane said he may use as many as three quarterbacks to replace the duo of Jon Lovre and Derek Carr, who graduated. Senior Nate Desmond and sophomore Cody Yacamelli may split time with junior running back Ben Grabowski, who could work out of the wildcat formation.

"Nate and Cade have had a good summer," Ruane said, "and Ben is a special talent. He'll get the ball a bunch, and he can throw the ball too."

Grabowski rushed for 779 yards and 10 touchdowns as a freshman, but a foot injury limited him to 20 carries for 110 yards last year. Senior Nico Cox and senior Alex Nicolette are expected to get time spelling Grabowski.

Ruane must replace all his statistical leaders at the skill posi-



BEN GRABOWSKI

tions: Lovre threw for 1,414 yards and 10 touchdowns, Tasso Whipple rushed for 1,716 yards and 14 touchdowns, and wide receiver Jack Weishaar caught 34 passes for 470 yards and seven touchdowns. Whipple is now at IUP, and Lovre is playing at Washington & Jefferson.

Some of the offensive weapons Ruane will use are sophomore wide receiver Nick Ponko, senior

wide receiver Ty Boss, running back Colton Tyburski and senior tight end Jacob Briggs.

Ponko caught 11 passes for 165 yards and two touchdowns, and Boss had seven catches for 62 yards a year ago. Ruane said he expects more production from both receivers.

"We have to find creative ways to get the ball to Ponko and Boss," Ruane said.

Up front, senior Lucah Butler will play tackle, senior Bryce Ruby is back at center and senior David Dzeidzic returns at guard. Ruane also mentioned juniors Aiden Corbett, Aiden McCaw, Travis Moorhead and Mario Robinson Jr. as possible starters along the line.

"We have a number of candidates for the other line positions,"

P-T • 17



## Go Get 'Em Penn Trafford Warriors!

"Thank you doesn't seem enough! Dr. Altier offered to meet my high schooler in the office at 6:30am after learning that he was having neck and back issues...My son had a playoff golf match that day and upon hearing this Dr. Altier graciously offered to open the office early to accommodate him. This offer of service is unprecedented in this day and age! I am filled with gratitude"

- Marnie K



Take Advantage of our New **RED LIGHT THERAPY** with your Adjustment



JOSEPH ALTIER, D.C.

Insurance Accepted

621 N. 4th St., Suite 100, Jeannette

724.527.7463



# PLAYING 4 KEEPS

## Westmoreland County standouts, friends, foes eyeing D-I college careers

BY BILL BECKNER JR.

**S**amir Crosby and Ky-mon'e Brown have been exchanging jabs since they began playing Madden against each other in grade school.

They are the ultimate friends and foes.

They've shared dustups and daps, stories of big games and college visits, and a bitter dislike for one another that lasts a few hours on select Friday nights.

Former Jeannette Midgets teammates and close friends into their high school years, the local football headliners skilled athletes who have played quarterback for rival schools — are primed to cap their prep careers with electrifying senior seasons.

Crosby, who is set to move to receiver, is from Jeannette but has played at Greensburg Central Catholic his entire career, while Brown leads Jeannette.

"Samir is a Central kid," GCC coach JT Thompson said. "He is an unbelievable talent."

Said Jeannette coach Tommy Paulone: "Kymon'e keeps evolving at quarterback. It's really Year 2 for him in the system. He didn't take over (at QB) until the first half of our opener last year — unleash the beast."

Crosby and Brown went to school together from kindergarten through eighth grade, always part of the same home room roll call and always attached at the hip.

"We'd always worked out together or run routes," Brown said. "Man, so many memories hanging out. We're not as close during the season."

Before they were slippery playmakers in the WPIAL, Crosby and Brown used to throw touchdown passes to one another in youth football. But now they are hatching plans to face off again in the Class A Eastern Conference and maybe beyond, like last year when they met in the WPIAL playoffs.

Crosby and Brown are two of four Division I-caliber players suiting up for Westmoreland teams this fall, joining Hempfield lineman Brock Heisler and Latrobe receiver/defensive back Andy Tatsch.

Crosby and Brown, who also go against each other in basketball, have a number of Division I offers but are mulling them over

with the hopes of committing before the season.

Heisler and Tatsch are verbally committed, Heisler to Harvard and Tatsch to Lehigh.

A story of a Gronk wanna-be who changed positions is what follows Heisler, whereas Tatsch's tale is one of realization and belief that he could follow in his brother's footsteps and carve his own path.

### Rematch time

After GCC thumped the Jayhawks, 44-27, in Week 6, Jeannette dumped the Centurions in the rematch 29-23 to reach the semifinals as a No. 13 seed.

"I don't think we gave them our best game last year (in the playoffs)," Crosby said. "We played a little down. After the game, I couldn't even watch the film. I didn't pull any highlights for my film. Now we have to get our get-back."

GCC and Jeannette could be on another collision course, and Crosby and Brown are all for it.

"We talked about it," Brown said. "You know there is a chance we could play each other to get to the WPIAL championship."

### Measuring up

Crosby and Brown share more than a lifelong friendship. They are both fighting stigmas as they make their way through the college recruiting process.

While their highlights are worth a rewind, their roster specs leave something to be desired.

The 5-foot-10, 175-pound Crosby is too small to play wide receiver at the Division I level, college coaches say. Brown, on the other hand, college coaches to put weight on his 6-foot, 160-pound frame to match hits with next-level talent.

"Kymon'e is a picky eater," Crosby said. "Chicken tenders and french fries is all he eats. He has to expand his palate."

Brown retorts with, "Samir eats like crazy; he eats everything. He can maintain his weight. It's harder for me to gain it."

Added Brown: "You can't just eat eight times a day at the crib. It's not easy to just gain all that weight. They usually add weight when you get to college."

Last year, Crosby threw for 1,483 yards and 20 touchdowns and rushed for 1,060

yards and 18 scores. A do-it-all playmaker during his high school years, he could be moving to receiver for his final season, allowing him to make more plays with his hands and legs than his arm.

"He is explosive and really strong," Brown said. "He will run you over. I am more elusive; turn nothing into something."

In a similar happenstance, Brown last season started out as a receiver before moving full time to quarterback, where he passed for 1,844 yards and 25 touchdowns and ran for 1,257 yards and 15 TDs.

"Kymon'e has always been special," Crosby said. "He could always do everything." Brown's recruiting is a conundrum to those in his camp.

"I am as shocked as anybody he doesn't have more offers," Paulone said. "The schools that passed on him, he keeps the receipts."

"It gives me chills to think about his game and how selfless he is and how he approaches things. He wants to be the best QB he can be."

Brown is becoming more comfortable in the pocket, extending plays and throwing on the run.

"I like to spread the ball around," Brown said. "I like to see my teammates shine."

With Crosby moving to receiver, he and Brown could go one-on-one again.

"We first did that sophomore year," Brown said. "I lined up at safety."

Fellow defensive backs, Crosby had 67 tackles and five interceptions, Brown 40 stops and two picks.

"Samir is the ultimate competitor, and he is motivated," Thompson said. "People say he's not tall enough, but that makes no sense to me. He has that 'it' factor. It's cliché, but you can't measure heart. He has intangibles you can't see on film."

Crosby has 10 Division I offers, from the Mid-American Conference, Ivy League and Patriot League.

"It motivates me for sure," he said of his questionable size. "But I know I can play at that level with the ability I have. It hit me my sophomore year. Things started to become easier."

Former Jeannette athletes who played quarterback because of their skill set inspired Crosby in Gio Vonne Sanders and Robert "Pogie" Kennedy — Brown's cousin.

"Those are two names I want to hold up to," Crosby said.

Brown, who also has aspirations to play wideout in college — he has an offer from Navy — said numerous coaches have told him to gain weight.

Schools from the American Athletic Conference and ACC told Brown he'd get a scholarship if the scale showed a higher number.

"A lot of them said they'd

offer if I was 172 or 175," Brown said. "I am trying to get to 172. I am always in the weight room."

Brown wishes Crosby would have attended Jeannette so they could share big plays and wins together, rather than trade barbs as rivals. But Crosby harbors no regrets about his decision to play for the Centurions.

"I wouldn't take it back now," he said. "Who knows what happens if I go to Jeannette. People talk about, oh, you guys could win so many games, so many championships. But I like it at Central. I am taking three AP classes here."

Brown said he was upset with Crosby at first.

"I didn't believe him when I heard he was transferring," Brown said. "I mean, you're leaving your brothers. He has his reasons, and that is fine. It took me time to get used to it."

**Team guy**  
If you opened a window into Heisler's soul several years ago, you would have seen a blossoming, pass-catching tight end with an edge to him. A kid who envisioned shredding cornerbacks in the end zone and spiking the ball with a thud.

"I wanted to play tight end," said Heisler, now a 6-foot-3, 260-pound two-way tackle with a future in the Ivy League. "I didn't picture myself as a lineman. I moved to tackle my sophomore year and didn't like it at first."

We have our skill guys on one side of the locker room and the linemen on the other. I changed sides, and I love it."

The faith that he could play on the line stemmed from his size, yes, but also from coaches telling him he projected as a lineman in college.

"I began to tell myself I can do this," he said. "I am a big team guy; I play for the guy next to me. As much as I'd like to score a touchdown, I would be just as happy for my buddy if he scored one."

Hempfield coach Nick Keefer is also a teacher and first had Heisler in class when the bruiser was in sixth grade.

"In middle school, he was immature," Keefer said. "He was like a big deer who didn't know how to use his body. He wanted to be a skill guy, a tight end or edge. We moved him to tackle, and he embraced it. He went from 190 pounds as a freshman to 260 now."

Tatsch didn't always see himself as a Division I football player.

The germ of the idea was his older brother's recruiting journey to Penn State. Alex Tatsch, a gifted linebacker from Latrobe, pulled in more than 20 offers, many from

Power 4 programs, before pledging to James Franklin and the Nittany Lions.

When Alex Tatsch picked up his first offer, Andy Tatsch became — envious isn't the right word — motivated to follow suit.

Before long, eight Division I schools offered, including West Virginia and a few Ivy League teams. Like Heisler, he overcame the gravitational pull of major college football and put emphasis on an academic-first approach.

Tatsch's "hello world" moment came at a 7-on-7 tournament at West Virginia last year.

Coaches were scouting Alex Tatsch and John Wetzel when they saw Andy Tatsch making plays.

"The first game, he started making catches and was the go-to receiver," Latrobe coach Tom McIntyre said. "He dominated. They offered."

McIntyre said coaches are impressed with the imposing Tatsch before they even see his film. He has long limbs, a long neck and a commanding presence.

"They come in and see him and they are like, wow, I didn't realize you were this big," McIntyre said. "They can't believe it."

The evaluation and praise from college coaches sold Tatsch, and he quickly believed he belonged at the next level.

His brother had always pushed him, the two jockeying for position to beat one another at any game while also showing respect to

and learning from the other.

"We've always competed with each other and lifted," the younger Tatsch said. "I think we have that internal competitiveness."

Andy Tatsch, who played defense only as a sophomore before becoming a two-way threat last year, led Latrobe last season with 26 receptions for 438 yards and four touchdowns. He had 67 tackles and an interception.

His role this year could run from prime pass catcher to bulldozing ball carrier to decoy.

He said he wants 700 touchdowns, along with four or more interceptions and 60-plus tackles.

"The thing with Andy is he can draw attention away from other guys," McIntyre said.

Athletics run in the Tatsch family. The brothers' father, Bob Tatsch, played football at Yough and was an All-American defensive tackle at Allegheny College. Their mom, Emily (Marini) played basketball at Mercyhurst Prep and Penn State Behrend.

And the family tree keeps extending. College coaches take notice: There is a third Tatsch brother coming up. Tony is in eighth grade.

"He might be the fastest of the three," McIntyre said.

**"He is explosive and really strong. He will run you over. I am more elusive; turn nothing into something."**

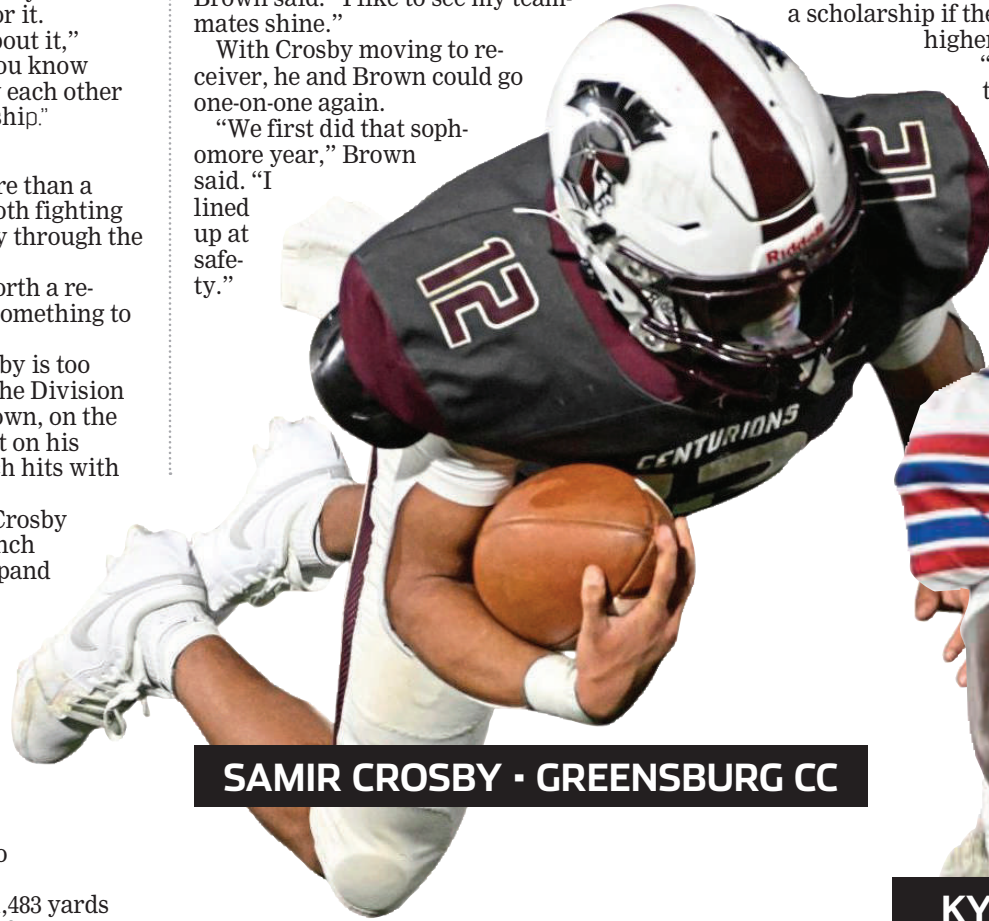
KYMON'E BROWN  
JEANNETTE QB, ON SAMIR CROSBY

**"Kymon'e has always been special. He could always do everything."**

SAMIR CROSBY  
GCC RECEIVER

**"As much as I'd like to score a touchdown, I would be just as happy for my buddy if he scored one."**

BROCK HEISLER  
HEMPFIELD LINEMAN



SAMIR CROSBY - GREENSBURG CC



KYMON'E BROWN - JEANNETTE



BROCK HEISLER - HEMPFIELD



ANDY TATSCH - LATROBE

**PRESEASON RANKINGS****1. McKeesport (8-5)**

The Tigers started slow last year, but they turned it on to win their last five regular-season games before falling to Thomas Jefferson in the championship game. With several stalwarts back to lead the way, the potential is there.

2. Thomas Jefferson (14-1)
3. Aliquippa (7-3)
4. Montour (8-2)
5. Mars (6-6)

\* RECORDS FROM 2024

**THE STARS****TYLER EBER****Thomas Jefferson, Jr., RB**

Eber is looking to raise some eyebrows in the recruiting game as he hopes to be a workhorse again. He logged 420 carries last year for 2,276 yards and 30 touchdowns.

**GABE HEIN****Mars, Sr., WR/DB**

The Sacred Heart recruit finished second in Class 4A in receiving yards and receptions and was selected first-team all-conference. He caught 66 passes for 939 yards, an average of 14.2 a grab.

**ARMAND HILL****West Mifflin, Jr., RB/DB**

The West Virginia verbal commit ran 188 times in 2024 for 1,693 yards and 23 touchdowns. He surpassed 3,000 career rushing yards in the Titans' 70-12 victory over Hampton in the regular-season finale.

**JAVIEN ROBINSON****McKeesport, Jr., WR/CB**

The WPIAL Class 3A runner-up in the 200-meter dash and a four-star prospect, Robinson has eight Division I offers, including Pitt and Syracuse.

**KEMON SPELL****McKeesport, Sr., RB/DB**

Pennsylvania's No. 1-ranked player in the Class of 2027 according to 247 Sports is ready. The four-star recruit broke out with 1,681 rushing yards and 24 touchdowns last season and verbally committed to Penn State.

**DON'T MISS****9.5 Thomas Jefferson at McKeesport**

Last year, the Jaguars won a regular-season battle that went into overtime. TJ then topped McKeesport when the teams rematched for the WPIAL title.

**10.11: Mars at McKeesport**

McKeesport won at Mars last season. The Planets, with several key starters back, hope to be at their peak in an upset bid.

**10.17: Montour at Aliquippa**

Last year, the Spartans and Quips finished tied for the Parkway Conference championship. Montour helped its cause for the share of the title with a wild 36-35 home victory over Aliquippa.



McKeesport's Kemon Spell runs against Thomas Jefferson last season. The Jaguars beat the Tigers twice last season.

# McKEESPORT OUT TO SEIZE TJ'S THRONE

BY MICHAEL LOVE

Thomas Jefferson found itself in familiar territory last year.

The Jaguars finished the regular season undefeated and went into the WPIAL Class 4A playoffs as the No. 1 seed.

They then topped West Allegheny and Aliquippa in the quarterfinals and semifinals before upending McKeesport, 28-7, in the title game at Norwin.

TJ's hopes for a PIAA championship were dashed as it fell to Lampeter Strasburg in the state semifinals at Mansion Park in Altoona.

A new season breeds new goals and expectations, and veteran coach Bill Cherpak hopes his team is ready to meet those challenges against a talented crop of Class 4A teams hoping to knock it off its throne.

"This group, that was their first championship, so as the defending champion, and as many underclassmen as we had play-

ing as well, it is kind of a new experience for them to be highly ranked this year," Cherpak said. "We weren't highly ranked coming in last year. I didn't even know what we would end up being last year. It was kind of a work in progress.

"They understand they are going to be the hunted along with a couple of other teams, especially McKeesport, who we beat twice last year but probably shouldn't have the first time. They let us off the hook when we were losing 28-0. We know teams are gunning for us, and we have to be ready."

McKeesport is also a favorite in Class 4A with junior running back/defensive back Kemon Spell, a Penn State verbal commit, leading the way along with junior speedster Javien Robinson.

The Tigers started last year 1-4 before winning seven games in a row through a 35-7 rout of Mars in the WPIAL semifinals.

Aliquippa hopes to remain in

the upper echelon of Class 4A.

The Quips last year tied Montour for first in the Parkway Conference and beat No. 5 Trinity in the WPIAL quarterfinals before dropping their semifinal contest to Thomas Jefferson, 38-21.

A familiar face not too far removed from the helm returns to the sidelines this fall. Mike Warfield will lead Aliquippa again after taking a leave of absence last season.

Warfield, an Aliquippa graduate, went 74-6 in six years as coach of the Quips with four WPIAL titles and three state championships.

"I missed the kids, and I truly missed the coaches," Warfield said at the time of his announcement to return. "I missed being around. I was still involved in the fundraising and getting the kids everything they needed as far as equipment. But I said, 'I miss it.'"

Aliquippa opens the season with a Week Zero matchup at

Belle Vernon, under the direction of first-year head coach and former Leopards defensive coordinator Scott Bryer.

Mars, runner-up to McKeesport in the Greater Allegheny Conference, started 1-4 before closing out the regular season 4-1 with the only loss coming against Montour, 28-7.

The Fightin' Planets then returned the favor and took out Montour, 48-42, in a high-scoring WPIAL quarterfinal.

Mars coach Eric Kasperowicz said he feels Class 4A is wide open.

"You have McKeesport with Kemon Spell, one of the top players in the country, and you would have to say they are one of the top teams to watch," he said. "Then you have Thomas Jefferson, who always is right there. Then there are teams like us and Montour and Trinity and Aliquippa who will be battling to get over that hump. Hopefully, this will be our year."

CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS



Call Today  
For Your  
Complimentary  
In-Home  
Consultation

**30% OFF**  
ANY WINDOW COVERING  
ORDER OVER \$1,000

Cannot be combined with other offers

O: 724.805.0969 M: 724.493.6652  
lynlynch@gotchacovered.com  
gotchacovered.com/pittsburgh-east



LINDA LYNCH  
OWNER/DESIGNER  
CONSULTANT

BLINDS / SHADES / SHUTTERS / DRAPERIES / SMART HOME / COMMERCIAL

**MURDER MYSTERY  
MASQUERADE BALL**

**GREENSBURG COUNTRY CLUB**

Step into a night of mystery, elegance, and intrigue  
at our Masquerade Ball! Open to the Public!

Sunday, October 4th

Arrival: 6:00 PM

Show: 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Dinner will be Served

Reservations Required

\*Call 724-837-1810 for pricing and more information\*



**Fall Fest**

Sunday, September 21st, 2025 | 8AM-1 PM  
Greensburg Country Club

Celebrate the season with festive fall vibes, family fun, and  
a limited-time menu available throughout the event!  
Open to the public!

NOW ACCEPTING VENDORS!

Crafts, seasonal goods, boutique items & more.  
If interested in being a vendor or attending the event,  
reserve now!

Email us at receptionist@greensburgcc.com or  
call 724-837-1810





SCOTT BRYER

**Coach:**

Scott Bryer

**2024 record:**

4-5, 3-2 in Class 4A Big 6 Conference

**All-time record:** 370-246-7



**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	West Allegheny	7
8.29	Aliquippa	7
9.5	at Central Valley	7
9.12	McKeesport	7
9.19	at South Fayette	7
9.26	Thomas Jefferson*	7
10.3	at Chartiers Valley*	7
10.10	at Laurel Highlands*	7
10.17	Ringgold*	7
10.24	Trinity*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Passing:** Curtis Wade

63-108, 1,049 yards, 12 TDs

**Rushing:** Kole Doppelheuer\*

98-699 yards, 9 TDs

**Receiving:** Anthony Crews\*

22-304 yards, 3 TDs

\*GRADUATED

**FAST FACTS**

- Belle Vernon has won three WPIAL titles (1995, 2022, 2023) and two PIAA titles (2022, 2023).
- The Leopards began playing in 1965 after a merger between Bellmar and Rostraver high schools.

# NEW COACH, SAME GOALS FOR BELLE VERNON

BY PAUL SCHOFIELD

There may be a new football coach at Belle Vernon, but the goals remain the same: win and play for titles.

Scott Bryer has taken over for Matt Humbert, who resigned in February after 11 seasons when he led the Leopards to WPIAL and PIAA Class 3A titles in 2022 and 2023.

Bryer, who was the team's linebackers coach, was going to ask Humbert if he could move to defensive coordinator. Days later came the resignation.

"It was a surprise," Bryer said of the resignation. "I am excited about the challenge."

The Leopards finished 4-5 in 2024, 3-2 in the Class 4A Big Six Conference.

They graduated numerous key starters, including running back Kole Doppelheuer and wide receivers Antony Crews, Alonzo Wade and Dom Ghilani.

"We have some big shoes to fill," Bryer said. "We do have a group returning who saw a lot of playing time, and the junior varsity did all right."

"I feel the players have bought into what we want to do and are ready to step up. The summer has gone well."

Bryer will be counting on senior quarterback Curtis Wade to lead the offense.

Wade is a dual-threat quarterback who threw for 1,039 yards and 12 touchdowns as a junior and was the second leading rusher with 365 yards and three scores.



ANTHONY DICENZO

"Curtis seems more comfortable this season," Bryer said. "I expect good things from him. He had big shoes to fill last year."

Senior Deaubre Lightfoot will

switch to running back after playing wide receiver last year. He caught 11 passes for 222 yards and two touchdowns. Bryer said the move allows Lightfoot to utilize

his speed better.

Joining Lightfoot in the backfield will be junior Chace Petrosky, sophomore Jace Gedekoh and sophomore Ean Tater.

Senior Anthony DiCenzo, Tater and senior Nick Mihalko will be some of Wade's targets in the passing game.

An area of strength on offense should be the offensive line. Senior tackle Jason Minniti (6-foot-3, 240 pounds) and junior center Ethan Baron (6-1, 225) lead the way. Bryer said he has numerous candidates for the other three spots.

Defensively, the Leopards' new defensive coordinator is Chris Edenfield. He is working with an experienced linebacker corps that Bryer feels is special.

The inside linebackers are Gedekoh and junior David Bergstedt, and DiCenzo and junior Skylar Gush will work on the outside.

Minniti, Baron and junior Cam Jenko will anchor the defensive line.

The secondary is loaded with candidates, including Tater, Petrosky, Mahalko and Lightfoot.

Again, the Leopards open with a difficult nonconference schedule. They start the season Aug. 22 at home against West Allegheny and then host Aliquippa on Aug. 29.

Then they play at Central Valley, host McKeesport and then go to South Fayette before opening conference play at home against Thomas Jefferson on Sept. 26.

"Our schedule is brutal," Bryer said. "It sure will prepare us for conference play."

**ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	9	Lightfoot Deaubre	RB/DB	sr.	18	Rylee Doppelheuer	WR/DB	so.	40	Andrew Palenchar	TE/LB	fr.	65	Aaden House	OL/DL	jr.
2	Nick Bell	WR/DB	fr.	10	Jace Gedekoh	QB/LB	jr.	19	Jackson Shawley	QB/DB	fr.	41	Robert Allshouse	WR/CB	jr.	68	Tim Schwerha	LS	sr.
3	Curty Wade	QB/DB	sr.	11	Jason Petrusky	WR/LB	sr.	21	Chace Petrosky	RB/LB	jr.	50	Jake Zelenski	OL/DL	so.	70	Jude Minniti	OL/DL	sr.
4	Luca Ghilani	WR/DB	jr.	12	Nick Mahalko	WR/DB	sr.	23	Braylin Blackburn	RB/LB	fr.	52	Skylar Gush	OL/LB	jr.	72	Logan Campbell	OL/DL	fr.
5	Ean Tatar	WR/DB	so.	14	Cameron Black	QB/DB	so.	24	Cameron Jenko	TE/DE	jr.	53	Hunter McKenzie	OL/DL	so.	77	Connor Cunningham	OL/DL	fr.
6	Eli Triffanoff	RB/DE	sr.	15	Vander Raczkowski	RB/LB	so.	27	Mason Baughman	WR/LB	jr.	54	Ethan Baron	OL/DL	jr.	79	Derek Deleonibus	OL/DL	jr.
7	Preston Pathway	K/P	sr.	16	Caleb Horner	WR/LB	sr.	28	Jeremiah Osborne	RB/LB	fr.	55	Mason Rygiel	OL/DL	fr.	80	Jackson Alexander	TE/DE	sr.
8	Anthony DiCenzo	WR/LB	sr.	17	David Bergstedt	RB/LB	jr.	29	Suyash Sapkota	WR/DB	sr.	58	Dalton Daumit	OL/DL	jr.				

Let's do it together!

**Good Luck Belle Vernon Leopards!**

1652 Rostraver Rd  
Belle Vernon, Pa 15012

724-929-2340  
cfsbank.bank



Avonworth's Luca Neal rushed for 13 touchdowns and made 93 tackles last season.

# AVONWORTH LOOKS LIKE 3A TEAM TO BEAT AGAIN

by PAUL SCHOFIELD

Avonworth coach Duke Johncour may not want to hear this, or maybe he does, but opposing coaches say his Antelopes are the team to beat in WPIAL Class 3A.

"It starts and ends with Avonworth," said Central Valley coach Mark Lyons, whose team fell to the Antelopes in the WPIAL championship game last year.

"If you want to be the man, you have to beat the man," said Imani Christian coach LaRoi Johnson, whose team fell in the 2024 semifinals.

Johncour did admit that his team will be pretty good once again as long as the players stay healthy. But he says there are a lot of good teams in Class 3A this season.

"I feel our conference (Western Hills) might be the strongest in the state," Johncour said. "We have a good team, but so do Central Valley, Beaver, Hopewell with seven transfers and North Catholic with its quarterback.

"The other conferences (Allegheny 7 and Interstate) have strong teams. Imani Christian is very athletic, Highlands and Freeport in the Allegheny 7 and Elizabeth Forward, Greensburg Salem and Mt. Pleasant in the Interstate."

The Antelopes will rely on quarterback Carson Bellinger, running back Luca Neal and 6-foot-5, 280-pound left tackle Peter Bonnet to lead the way.

Central Valley has some holes to fill after graduation and an unexpected transfer.

One of those losses was Division I running back prospect Jance Henry Jr., who transferred out of state following a sophomore season in which he rushed for 875 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Graduation nabbed Mason Dixon, who led the team in rushing with 1,372 yards and 17 scores, and starting quarterback Steven Rutherford, who passed for 1,000 yards and rushed for 403.

"Our depth and our experience are going to be up front," Lyons said. "We have to grow up and

bring our younger, skilled guys along, and hopefully they grow up."

North Catholic, with quarterback Joey Felitsky and his talented receivers, and Hopewell, led by quarterback James Armstrong, are ready to contend.

Felitsky was the WPIAL's leading quarterback, and Armstrong threw for 11 touchdowns and 1,372 yards and rushed for 746 yards and 15 touchdowns.

Imani returns numerous players being recruited by colleges, including defensive backs David Davis and Gabe Jenkins, linebacker Dajaun Craighead, defensive end Will Gorman and lineman Davon Johnson, a three-year starter.

"The kids are motivated, and we are headed in the right direction," LaRoi Johnson said. "We respect everyone we play."

Johnson said he expects Freeport, Highlands, Deer Lakes and East Allegheny will challenge his team.

Elizabeth Forward is considered the team to beat in the

Interstate Conference. Quarterback Ryan Messina leads the Warriors.

"Ryan is very good," Elizabeth Forward coach John DeMarco said.

"We will be counting on him to lead the way. We must find skilled players, but our strength is our offensive line."

Messina was the conference's first-team quarterback the past two seasons. His main targets should be Aaron Ulmar and senior transfer Landon Honick, who caught 37 passes for 727 yards for Greensburg Central Catholic last year.

Middle linebacker Brendan Stroschein, a three-year starter, will lead the way on defense.

DeMarco said the conference will be better, and he predicts Greensburg Salem will be a sleeper in Class 3A.

Mt. Pleasant returns an experienced line, and Southmoreland will count on junior Dawson Wolfe at quarterback to replace Anthony Smith, who transferred.

## PRESEASON RANKINGS

### 1. Avonworth (12-4)

The Antelopes are defending WPIAL champions after falling against Belle Vernon in 2023 and 2022. They are looking for their fourth title and are led by quarterback Carson Bellinger and running back Luca Neal.

### 2. Imani Christian (11-1)

### 3. Hopewell (4-6)

### 4. Elizabeth Forward (8-4)

### 5. Central Valley (7-6)

\* RECORDS FROM 2024

## THE STARS

### BRENDEN ALEXANDER

#### Central Valley, Sr., OL/DL

The 6-4, 270-pound Alexander has received interest from more than 26 NCAA Division I programs, including Pitt, Penn State and West Virginia. He had 81 tackles, 31 solo, last season.

### DAVID DAVIS

#### Imani Christian, Sr., DB/WR

The 6-foot, 193-pound Davis rushed for 297 yards, caught 11 passes for 266 yards and scored 10 touchdowns. He is a Penn State commit. He is an outstanding defender with high-end speed and athleticism.

### JOEY FELITSKY

#### North Catholic, Sr., QB

Felitsky (6-foot-1, 180 pounds) led the WPIAL in passing yards. He completed 236 of 355 passes for 2,982 yards and 23 touchdowns.

### RYAN MESSINA

#### Elizabeth Forward, Sr., QB

The 6-4, 220-pound Messina completed 121 of 181 passes for 2,035 yards and 22 touchdowns. He only threw four interceptions.

### LUCA NEAL

#### Avonworth, Sr., RB/LB

The 5-10, 185-pound senior led the Antelopes in rushing with 1,018 yards and 13 touchdowns. He also led the team with 26 catches for 489 yards. He had 93 tackles, 53 solo, eight for losses, two sacks and three fumble recoveries.

## DON'T MISS

### 9.19: Imani Christian at Highlands

The conference title may be on the line when these two tangle in Natrona Heights. Imani Christian won last year's meeting.

### 9.26: Avonworth vs. Central Valley

This is a midseason test for both teams. Avonworth won both meetings in 2024 — including in the WPIAL championship game.

### 10.3: Greensburg Salem at Mt. Pleasant

The games between these county rivals seem to always be close. The game could decide seeding in the playoffs. Mt. Pleasant won last year's game at Offutt Field, 28-21.



NOAH STOUGH

**Coach:**

Mike Arone  
**2024 record:**  
 3-7, 0-5 in Class  
 3A Interstate  
 Conference  
**All-time record:** 275-379-14



**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	Ligonier Valley	7
8.29	at Freeport	7
9.5	at Deer Lakes	7
9.12	Burrell	7
9.19	at Indiana	7
9.26	Southmoreland*	7
10.3	at Elizabeth Forward*	7
10.10	at Greensburg Salem*	7
10.17	Mt. Pleasant*	7
10.24	Yough*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Passing:** Anthony Sacco  
 39-96, 433 yards, 3 TDs  
**Rushing:** Damauri Robinson\*  
 73-525 yards, 7 TDs  
**Receiving:** Robinson\*  
 5-72 yards

\*GRADUATED

**FAST FACTS**

• Since posting five consecutive winning records from 2015-19, Derry has fallen below the .500 mark in each of the five seasons since, though the Trojans reached the playoffs in 2023.

# STRONG JUNIOR CLASS DRIVING DERRY'S HOPES

BY DAVE MACKALL

Despite that five-game skid, Mike Arone is not deterred. Forget the season-ending implosion, Derry's fourth-year coach insists.

And while thoughts of another season-turned-bad linger, Arone is hopeful the Trojans will rally.

"The 11 guys we put on the field on offense, the 11 on defense and the 11 on special teams, they're going to bust their butts," he said amid preparations for Class 3A Derry's Aug. 22 opener at home against Class 2A Ligonier Valley.

A sizable junior class that was the face of Derry's successful middle school team in 2022 is expected to lead the way for a varsity group hungry to return the program to its winning ways.

Nearly a decade ago, the Trojans were a WPIAL power under former coach Tim Sweeney, qualifying for four consecutive WPIAL playoff berths while combining for a record of 38-8 and twice reaching the Class 3A semifinals.

Since then, things have come apart, though the Trojans did manage one more playoff berth under Arone in 2023.

But there have been just 10 victories since the 2019 team finished 9-3, and two of the seasons were winless. But Arone is continuing a fight to turn things around, and he hopes the needle moves this season.

"This is one of those teams where we could be 8-2 or 1-9," he said. "There's a lot of potential. We've got to put it all together."

Arone is betting on the plus side.



ANTHONY SACCO

"A lot of these kids have played since they were freshmen after playing for a very good middle school team," Arone said. "We have the potential to play quite a few impact players. Our practices are getting better because they know the system. It comes quick, and that's encouraging. We're not going to change up. We want to be physical, and we want to try to run the ball."

There's nothing new there under Arone's rule.

A year ago, Derry seemingly was on its way to a winning season behind now-departed running back Damauri Robinson, who missed much of the second half with a leg injury after rolling up 525 yards rushing through the first five games.

It was no coincidence, too, that the Trojans were 3-2 at that point. With Robinson out, they finished the season with five consecutive losses and a 3-7 mark.

"Our conference (Class 3A Interstate) was good, and the schedule got tougher," Arone said.

Junior Max Doherty, an all-Interstate honorable mention linebacker last season, has moved into the tailback spot on offense. Like most of the remaining projected starters, Doherty will play on both sides of the ball.

"We're going to be almost true ironmen," Arone said.

Quarterback Anthony Sacco returns, hoping to improve on a sophomore season that produced 433 yards passing and three touchdowns.

"He went through some growing pains, which was expected," Arone said. "He's not a big kid, but he's got a strong arm, he's real smart and he's quick. He can move, so we will run the ball a little bit this year and mix him in there because he's accurate and throws a nice ball."

Senior Ricky Daniels and sophomore Carson Weiers could become primary targets for Sacco, with junior Noah Stough also a key consideration.

Stough was thrust into action last season because of injuries to others, and Arone said "he's come a long way."

"We'll use him to run the ball some, too. He's worked hard."

Up front, massive senior Dylan Pitzer, a second-team all-conference, two-way tackle last season, is likely to play offensive tackle and defensive end.

The other offensive tackle likely will be 300-pound junior Aiden Piper.

The Trojans also return junior offensive guard Chase Lukon and junior center Devin Ohler.

"We're going to lean on those guys to be road graders and wear people down," Arone said.

On defense, Arone was hopeful junior inside linebacker Brady Brown, a standout wrestler at Derry, would return. Before the opening day of practices, Brown, who won the WPIAL 189-pound championship last season, had not yet made a decision.

"He started for us as a freshman," Arone said. "He wasn't sure about coming back, and that's not surprising. He's getting some big-time (wrestling) offers."

Besides Brown, several other players were undecided about returning to the Trojans' football team this season.

"If we get the guys on the fence," Arone said, "it certainly makes us a lot better."

**ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	13	Ricky Daniels	WR/DB	6-0/180	sr.	50	Franklin Palmer	OL/DL	5-8/200	sr.	75	Aiden Piper	OL/DL	6-3/300	jr.	Will McNeal	QB/DB	fr.
1	Brady Brown	RB/LB	5-9/210	jr.	14	Kaden Weiers	WR/LB/DB	5-10/170	sr.	52	Chase Lukon	OL/DL	5-10/210	jr.	77	Dylan Pitzer	OL/DL	6-6/250	sr.	Parker Petrosky	WR/DB	jr.
2	Anthony Frank	WR/DB	5-9/150	jr.	17	Cameron Beeman	WR/LB	5-9/150	so.	55	Devin Ohler	OL/DL	5-6/200	jr.	86	Tanner Shurina	WR/LB	6-3/150	jr.	Anthony Quidetto	WR/DB	fr.
3	Noah Stough	WR/DB	5-9/145	jr.	21	Max Doperak	WR/DB	5-9/160	sr.	58	Jakeob Mellinger	OL/DL	5-10/215	so.		Michael Buterbaugh	OL/DLB		fr.	Travis Tucholski	RB/LB	fr.
5	Aiden Frank	RB/LB	5-8/160	jr.	20	Anthony Sacco	QB/DB	5-8/145	jr.	63	Aspen Blystone	OL/DB	6-0/175	jr.		Levi Haase	OL/DL	6-4/275	sr.	Andrew Yuschak	WR/DB	fr.
8	Chris Kubistek	RB/LB/DB	5-5/126	jr.	24	Chris Shannon	OL/LB	5-5/160	jr.	67	Evan Monnich	OL/DL	5-9/190	so.		Robert Hayden	WR/OLB		fr.	Paxton Lee-Powell	OL/LB	fr.
9	Max Doherty	RB/WR/LB/DB	6-0/180	jr.	26	Karsen Weiers	WR/DB	5-8/130	so.	69	John Itchue	OL/DL	6-1/275	so.		Mason Link	RB/LB		fr.			
10	Justin Papuga	RB/TE/LB	6-1/235	sr.	32	Jaiden Beeman	WR/LB	6-2/160	jr.	70	Alexander Basay	OL/DL	6-0/220	jr.		Kaleb Ludvik	RB/LB		fr.			
12	Hunter Smith	WR/DB	5-10/185	sr.	42	Preston Donovan	RB/LB	5-8/175	jr.	71	Hunter Hanning	OL/DL	5-10/250	so.		Logan McCullough	WR/DB		fr.			



GEO. J BUSH  
 KITCHEN CENTER Inc.

## Check Out Our New Showroom

1279 W. 4th Ave, Derry, PA 15627

724-694-9533

George@georgebushkitchens.com

PA HIC# 8809

**GOOD LUCK TROJANS**

# GOLDEN LIONS SEEKING ANOTHER RUN TO PLAYOFFS

BY DAVE MACKALL

For one of the WPIAL's all-time winningest programs, Greensburg Salem has seen more than enough losing in recent years.

Following a head-turning 7-4 record in 2024, perhaps the culture is changing again.

"We're trying to get back to winning football games and get back to the playoffs," coach Ty George said.

Again. For the Golden Lions, their first WPIAL playoff appearance in five seasons was a start.

"We set some goals again this year ... so people don't think it's a fluke," George said.

Despite losing 12 seniors, Greensburg Salem still managed to return a number of key players — among them junior quarterback Brody Chismar — from a team that dropped a 43-27 decision to eventual WPIAL-champion Avonworth in a first-round Class 4A playoff game.

Chismar, who has been in and out of the starting lineup since his freshman year, completed 14 of 20 passes for 259 yards with four touchdowns and one interception in a game that Greensburg Salem twice was within three points of a lead in the fourth quarter.

"You don't celebrate losing, but that's a big thing for us," George said. "That was a huge step. Nobody on our football team had ever played in the playoffs."

"We had a ton of seniors last year, but we had a ton of guys who were not (seniors) that played a lot."



**BRODY CHISMAR**

Besides Chismar, a handful of two-way seniors return, all "with a ton of reps" from past years, George said.

Players such as wide receiver/linebacker Anthony Matthews, tight end/linebacker Max Topper, 300-pound offensive/defensive lineman Isaiah Stillwagon and wide receiver/cornerback Tyrese Lewis.

Greensburg Salem is attempting to sustain momentum after producing just seven winning records from 2000-23.

The seven victories last season were the program's most since back-to-back seven-win campaigns during a four-year playoff run from 2008-11, which represented the last time the Golden Lions had finished above .500, a span of 12 years.

But with an impressive showing in the rearview mirror, George, the former Hempfield star who later played at Seton Hill, enters his third season at Greensburg Salem with a heavy heart.

Former Golden Lions assistant Rich Bowen, George's high school coach, died last season.

A former Parade All-American quarterback at Serra Catholic, Bowen was serving as an assistant on George's staff before leaving the team early and soon after passed away Oct. 8 of colorectal cancer at age 60.

"Selfishly, I think, how lucky am I?" George told TribLive shortly after Bowen's passing. "I got to play for him, and we had some successful seasons at Hempfield, which is hard to do. He hired me

right after I graduated (from Seton Hill). He taught me the ropes. He didn't claim to know all the secrets, but he showed you how to do things the right way."

Hopefully, George said, it's starting to pay off as the Golden Lions have stirred memories of past winning seasons.

"The biggest thing is we're trying to build a culture, and that looks differently everywhere," he said. "We have a bunch of kids on our team that are tough and resilient, and they proved it last year."

During a four-year span from 2020-23, Greensburg Salem — the second-winningest program in Westmoreland County and one of just eight WPIAL schools with more than 700 all-time victories — won just 12 games.

What's more, the Golden Lions haven't won a postseason game since 2000, a 23-0 first-round victory over Hopewell in the Class 3A playoffs.

Maybe this year will break the spell.

"You're trying to get high school kids to understand there's a lot of life skills to be learned here," George said, perhaps taking a page from his mentor Bowen's philosophy.

"There's so many teachable moments. There's so many times you want to stop kids from going down a bad path or making a bad choice. (Their) time is limited. It will expire. You have to show up and work hard. You have to wake up and come to work when you're tired and sore and don't feel like it. But you'll have to go to work if you want a chance to succeed."



**TY GEORGE**

**Coach:**  
Ty George  
**2024 record:**  
7-4, 3-2 in Class 3A Interstate Conference  
**All-time record:**  
718-418-39



**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	at Albert Gallatin	7
8.29	at Ligonier Valley	7
9.5	at Valley	7
9.12	Ringgold	7
9.19	at Ambridge	7
9.26	Elizabeth Forward*	7
10.3	at Mt. Pleasant*	7
10.10	Derry*	7
10.17	Yough*	7
10.24	at Southmoreland*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Passing:** Brody Chismar 78-127, 947 yards, 14 TDs  
**Rushing:** Kai Brunot\* 78-520 yards, 6 TDs  
**Receiving:** Dom Rosensteel\* 28-427 yards, 8 TDs

\*GRADUATED

**FAST FACTS**

• Greensburg Salem is among eight WPIAL schools with more than 700 all-time victories. The Golden Lions have combined for a 129-year record of 718-418-39. Aliquippa tops the list at 790.

**ROSTER**

No. 2	Caiden Orr	sr.	8	Colin Doran	fr.	14	Deshawn Miller	sr.	19	Connor Wilson	jr.	28	Matthew Wainwright	so.	56	Seth Meanor	fr.	69	Isaiah Stillwagon	sr.
3	Tyrese Lewis	sr.	9	Noah Dudek	sr.	15	Colin Porecca	sr.	20	Jackson Stevey	so.	32	Colton Vogel	fr.	58	Kyle Bruni	sr.	70	Tucker Guerrieri	so.
4	Anthony Matthews	sr.	10	Tanner Schmidt	sr.	16	Sebastian Skoloda	jr.	21	Grady Rizzo	jr.	34	Max Topper	sr.	59	Jeremiah Know	jr.	74	Colin Carloni	jr.
5	Jackson Hostetler	jr.	11	Chris Berger	fr.	17	LeTrey Derry	sr.	22	Eric Smith	jr.	50	Jaleel Woody	sr.	60	Carlos Lizarraga	jr.	77	Nico Hardaway	so.
6	Brody Chismar	jr.	12	Braydon Miller	so.	18	Alex Swatchick	sr.	23	Cooper Reusser	fr.	51	Kaz Funches	sr.	63	Orion Leone	so.	83	Peyton Comer	fr.
			13	Aden Krug	sr.	25			25	Ahkeim McCreary	sr.	55	Elijah McKinley	so.	66	David Peters	jr.	85	Noah Lovett	fr.
				Brandt Sandstrom	so.	27			27	Chris Bruni	so.									

**ELLIOTT COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**  
Celebrating **90 YEARS**  
AND STILL GROWING STRONG

Membership open to ALL those who live, work, worship, or attend school in Westmoreland County

**Good Luck Greensburg Salem Lions!**

Celebrate 90 years with us with our **\$90 offer**  
Open a Master Share, Share Draft w/direct deposit and debit card  
**and get \$90 from us!!**

Contact us for all the details!  
Certain restrictions and conditions apply with all Loans.

**www.elliottfcu.com**

North Fourth Street Branch 724-527-2822  
Jeannette Rubber Branch 724-527-1550  
Greensburg Branch 724-216-1474  
MSA Murrysville Branch EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES ONLY 724-733-9141  
MSA Cranberry Branch EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES ONLY 724-776-8605

CALL ANY BRANCH WITH QUESTIONS  
1-877-812-6769



LUKAS GONZALES

**Coach:**  
Jason Fazekas  
**2024 record:**  
5-6, 3-2 in Class  
3A Interstate  
Conference  
**All-time record:** 357-293-9



**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	Jeannette	7
8.29	Greensburg Central Catholic	7
9.5	at Burrell	7
9.12	Ambridge	7
9.19	at Laurel Highlands	7
9.26	Yough*	7
10.3	Greensburg Salem*	7
10.10	at Southmoreland*	7
10.17	at Derry*	7
10.24	at Elizabeth Forward*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Passing:** Cole Chatfield\*  
60-116, 1,079 yards, 6 TDs  
**Rushing:** Brody Hutter\*  
94-471 yards, 8 TDs  
**Receiving:** Jarett Garn\*  
19-489 yards, 7 TDs

\*GRADUATED

**FAST FACTS**

• Mt. Pleasant was WPIAL Class 3A champion in 1983 and '86. The Vikings were runners-up in 1984.

# EXPANDED ROSTER BOLSTERS MT. PLEASANT

BY PAUL SCHOFIELD

Things are looking up for Mt. Pleasant football coach Jason Fazekas and his program.

The Vikings roster expanded to nearly 60 players this summer, which is encouraging for a Class 3A program.

The other encouraging thing is Fazekas must only replace six starters from the 2024 team that went 3-2 in the Interstate Conference and finished 5-6 overall.

The biggest losses were the graduation of quarterback Cole Chatfield, a three-year starter and four-year letterman, as well as running backs Jarett Garn, Garrett Eicher and Brody Hutter, who transferred to River Valley. The trio combined to rush for 1,153 yards and 25 touchdowns.

Junior Stephen Predajna will be counted on to carry the load in the running game. He toted the ball 92 times for 383 yards and five touchdowns in 2024.

Senior Dane Firmstone, who saw action when Chatfield was injured or needed a break, and sophomore Cole Hart are battling for the starting quarterback job.

Fazekas said he is excited to see how both grow into the position.

"Dane has experience in varsity games," Fazekas said. "I am looking for him to take the next step. Cole has been impressive in drills and at 7-on-7 competition.

"It is going to be hard to replace



COLE HART

Cole and Jarett."

Both quarterbacks and Predajna will benefit from an experienced offensive line that returns all five starters.

Leading the way is 6-foot-5, 250-pound senior left tackle Carter

Strayer. Also returning are 6-foot, 275-pound senior right guard Payton Schaum, senior left guard Charles Stader, senior center Caleb Peace and senior right tackle Alex Ference. The line averages 266 pounds.

Fazekas said sophomores Dane Smitley, John Klejka and Preston Sherrick and juniors Christian Brodak and Blake Sellinger will provide depth.

"Those guys will have guys pushing them for playing time," Fazekas said. "Our line is the key. They must dominate. You are always a better team when you have competition for jobs."

Others expected to share carries with Predajna include seniors Richard Shawley and Rage Suchar.

The tight end battle is between sophomore Andrew Brodak and senior Gage Valore. Senior Jonah Townsend returns at wide receiver, and sophomore Lukas Gonzales and senior Robert Hixson will back him up.

The Vikings return seven starters on defense — Schaum, Strayer and Christian Brodak along the defensive line; Predajna, Firmstone and Suchar at linebacker; and Shawley in the secondary.

Others vying for spots on defense include Smitley, Klejka and Andrew Brodak on the line; senior Mike Reese and Valone at linebacker; and junior Tristan Wtorkiewicz and sophomore Brady Brooks in the secondary.

Fazekas said Elizabeth Forward again is the favorite in the Interstate Conference. He expects Southmoreland and Greensburg Salem to contend and looks for improvement at Derry and Yough.

**ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	19	Colten Smith	QB/DB	6-0/140	fr.	35	Colten Keefer	TE/LB	5-9/175	jr.	55	Joseph Evanichko	OL/DL	5-6/225	fr.	73	John Klejka	OL/DL	6-0/295	so.
2	Jonah Townsend	WR/DB	5-10/150	sr.	20	Anthony Pologruto	WR/DB	5-8/165	jr.	39	Shawn Jeffrey	RB/DB	5-5/120	fr.	58	Mike Reese	OL/LB	5-8/190	sr.	74	Shane Hay	OL/DL	6-2/250	so.
4	Cole Hart	QB/DB	6-0/155	so.	21	Carter Urban	RB/LB	5-8/155	so.	41	Dolyn Wilttrout	RB/DB	5-5/140	fr.	60	Michael McLaughlin	OL/DL	5-10/190	jr.	75	Aidan Berry	OL/DL	5-11/225	so.
5	Dane Firmstone	QB/DB	5-9/205	sr.	22	Gage Valone	TE/LB	6-0/185	sr.	42	Jake Chatfield	TE/LB	5-10/180	jr.	61	Jordan Klocek	OL/DL	5-9/205	fr.	76	Hunter Ament	OL/DL	5-10/215	fr.
6	Richard Shawley	RB/DB	6-2/175	sr.	23	Cunнар Smith	WR/DB	5-11/160	jr.	44	Tristan Wtorkiewicz	RB/DB	5-9/155	jr.	64	Ryan Kuhn	OL/DL	5-7/215	fr.	77	Jonathon Dipasquale	OL/DL	5-11/230	jr.
7	Noah DeWitt	RB/DB	5-8/150	fr.	24	Kaden Hudec	RB/LB	5-10/165	fr.	45	Stephen Predajna	RB/DB	5-10/185	jr.	65	Caleb Pease	OL/DL	5-10/290	sr.	78	Alex Ferencz	OL/DL	6-4/300	sr.
8	Van Kopcho	WR/DB	5-10/155	jr.	25	Brady Brooks	RB/DB	5-11/155	so.	46	Andrew Brodak	TE/DE	6-2/215	so.	66	Payton Schaum	OL/DL	6-0/275	sr.	79	Bryce Hovanec	OL/DL	5-10/200	fr.
10	Rage Suchar	RB/LB	6-0/215	sr.	27	Derrick Smith	WR/LB	5-11/175	so.	48	Gage Marker	TE/DL	6-0/190	jr.	67	Blake Sellinger	OL/DL	5-10/255	jr.	80	Haydan Garland	WR/DB	5-10/155	fr.
14	Lukas Gonzales	WR/DB	6-0/155	so.	28	Giovanni Newill	WR/DB	5-8/160	fr.	50	Charles Stader	OL/DL	5-9/215	sr.	68	Mason Keslar	OL/DL	5-5/210	fr.	81	Carter Poorman	WR/DB	5-6/140	fr.
15	Nick Morell	RB/DB	5-5/125	so.	29	Aiden Roadman	RB/DB	5-8/155	fr.	51	Dane Smitley	OL/DL	6-1/255	so.	70	Christian Brodak	OL/DL	5-11/255	jr.	82	Braden Pavlocak	WR/DB	5-10/155	sr.
16	Tyler James	WR/DB	5-8/160	jr.	30	Payton Pease	RB/LB	5-2/120	fr.	52	Robert Everly	OL/DL	5-8/236	jr.	71	Carter Strayer	OL/DL	6-5/250	sr.	83	Riley Shawley	WR/DB	5-6/120	fr.
18	Robert Hixson	WR/DB	5-11/170	sr.	33	Mason Eicher	RB/LB	5-10/180	jr.	54	Trent Stanek	OL/DL	5-10/215	so.	72	Preston Sherrick	OL/DL	6-0/315	so.	89	Tyke Snyder	K	5-9/150	so.

**Donahue's**  
**HEATING • COOLING**  
724-834-9178 • donahues-inc.com

**GOOD LUCK TO ALL AREA TEAMS!**  
from your friends at **Donahue's**





# ROSTER CHANGES LEAVE TITLE RACE WIDE OPEN

By JONATHAN BOMBULIE

As of the middle of July, there was a clear favorite in WPIAL Class 2A football this season.

With 2,000-yard passer Anthony Smith throwing to game-breaking receiver Khalil Taylor, Seton LaSalle was looking like the team to beat.

But sometimes life gets in the way, even at private schools.

On July 21, Smith was ruled ineligible for this season as the WPIAL deemed his transfer from Southmoreland to be at least partially motivated by athletics. A few days later, news broke that Taylor had transferred to Pine-Richland. A few days after that, word spread that another playmaking pass-catcher, Tre Littlejohn, was headed to Penn Hills.

The Rebels, of course, are hardly bereft of talent. Aaron Loritts and Will Martin are a terrifying pass rush combo. Loritts is headed to Monmouth and Martin to Duquesne.

“A lot of respect for the talent that they have,” said Brian Abbey, who coached South Park past Seton LaSalle in last year’s championship game.

But with the Rebels’ roster changes, it now looks like the field has opened up.

Could Steel Valley be the team that steps to the fore?

The Ironmen have made it to at least the WPIAL semifinals each year they’ve had a Barksdale in the backfield, and though 5,000-yard rusher Donald is off to Youngstown State, Pitt recruit Da’Ron is back for his senior season.

“We’ve got a lot of good athletes in double-A, you know?” Steel Valley coach Ray Braszo said. “Not the biggest programs, but athletes. You get a couple of Division I kids on a team here and there, and it makes a big difference in double-A.”

There’s a good chance Steel Valley and South Park will slug it out for the Allegheny Conference crown.

South Park graduated record-setting running back Eric Doerue and all five starters from an earth-moving offensive line, but quarterback Robert Lenzi returns to lead the still-dangerous Eagles.

“We’re looking at it as reloading,” Abbey said. “We have a lot of guys that gained a lot of valu-



Steel Valley quarterback Da’Ron Barksdale scored 20 touchdowns last season.

able experience coming back.” Don’t forget about South Allegheny, which has an experienced roster led by all-conference receiver Drew Cook, the WPIAL’s leader in receiving yards last season with 1,490.

Meanwhile, in the Century Conference, Washington has the firepower to contend with Seton LaSalle. The Prexies are coming off an uncharacteristic 5-6 season, but they bring back nine starters on both offense and defense.

Washington will be led by Tristan Reed, the team’s starting quarterback the last two seasons who committed to Miami (Ohio)

as a receiver.

“Washington is always a tough test,” Abbey said. “They had a down year last year, but look out for them.”

The team that emerges from the rough-and-tumble MAC is always battle tested.

Last year, that was Ellwood City, which captivated its community with its first undefeated regular season since 1944.

Star running back Elijah Palmer-McCane and quarterback Chris Smiley graduated, but all-conference defensive back DaiLonn Currie and sideline-to-sideline linebacker Deklan O’Brien return to anchor

the defense.

Western Beaver can’t be counted out of the Acrisure conversation. Potent passer Jaivin Peel moved on to Kiski School, but the Golden Beavers might have an ace up their sleeve in freshman quarterback Amari Marshall.

Mohawk playmaker Bobby Fadden, who threw for 1,600 yards and 19 touchdowns and ran for 600 yards and seven scores last season, is back as well.

“All the (MAC) teams are tough. I love it,” Ellwood City coach Dan Bradley said. “They’re all well coached, but everybody’s a little bit different, and that makes it fun to coach.”

## PRESEASON RANKINGS

### 1. Steel Valley (9-4)

The Ironmen will make sure dynamic Pitt recruit Da’Ron Barksdale is a factor on as many plays as possible, moving him around on defense and keeping the ball in his hands as the quarterback on offense. Steel Valley lost big-time back Donald Barksdale to graduation but brings back almost its entire offensive line.

### 2. Washington (5-6)

### 3. Seton LaSalle (11-1)

### 4. South Park (12-2)

### 5. South Allegheny (9-3)

\* RECORDS FROM 2024

## THE STARS

### DA’RON BARKSDALE

#### Steel Valley, Sr., QB/DB

Back from a knee injury that cost him his sophomore year, the 5-foot-11, 175-pound Barksdale scored 20 touchdowns and was a first-team all-conference defensive back last season.

### DREW COOK

#### South Allegheny, Sr., WR/DB

A 1,000-point scorer who led the Gladiators to a WPIAL basketball title, Cook came out for football as a junior and responded by racking up nearly 1,500 yards and 18 touchdowns receiving.

### ROBERT LENZI

#### South Park, Sr., QB/DB

Lenzi had 942 rushing yards and 13 scores to lead the Eagles to a WPIAL title last season. He basically never left the field, making all-conference first team as a defensive back and even handling long-snapping duties.

### AARON LORITTS

#### Seton LaSalle, Sr., TE/DE

At 6-6, 220 pounds, the Monmouth recruit has too much athleticism for most offensive tackles to handle and routinely runs down plays from the back side.

### TRISTAN REED

#### Washington, Sr., QB/WR/DB

The 6-5 Reed has the kind of effortless long stride that strikes fear into opposing defenses.

## DON’T MISS

### 9.12: South Park at Steel Valley

The Eagles won last year on a Robert Lenzi QB sneak in the final minute. The Allegheny Conference title could hang in the balance again.

### 10.3: Western Beaver at Ellwood City

A win for the Wolverines in this matchup last season decided the MAC. It should be a great test for a Golden Beavers team that’s dynamic but unproven.

### 10.24: Washington at Seton LaSalle

This season-ender could easily decide the Century Conference title. The Prexies will want to avenge a loss from last year.





Fort Cherry's Matt Sieg runs during the WPIAL Class A championship game Nov. 23.

# QB SIEG, FORT CHERRY PURSUE WPIAL 3-PEAT

by BILL HARTLEP

Fort Cherry defeated Clairton by the slimmest margin in the WPIAL football final at Acrisure Stadium last season. That 21-20 victory showed just how evenly matched the Class A powerhouses were.

Expect much of the same this fall.

The Rangers are chasing a three-peat while the perennial power Bears will try to add to a trophy case that includes 14 WPIAL titles, second most in District 7 behind Aliquippa's 20.

Both teams have plenty of returning star power to make their case for contention.

Fort Cherry's Matt Sieg was the Willie Thrower Award winner and Black Hills Conference Offensive Player of the Year in 2024 and enters his senior season as one of the area's top talents. The Penn State recruit has rushed for 6,176 yards and passed for 4,177 yards in his career, joining Jeannette great Terrelle Pryor as the only players in WPIAL

history to rush and pass for more than 4,000 yards.

"I just want them to show up and compete," Fort Cherry coach Tanner Garry said. "I know it's cliché, (but) we believe we're blessed to be in a (competitive) conference. ... There's no break in the schedule where we have to think a couple of games ahead. So we'll have to keep grinding and let the chips fall where they may."

Clairton also returns a talented passer in senior Jeffrey Thompson, who threw for nearly 1,900 yards and 27 touchdowns last season.

He was hampered by a shoulder injury in the playoffs, which limited his ability to throw throughout the postseason run when Clairton outscored Rochester, California and Bishop Canevin a combined 134-0 en route to the finals. The Bears defense compiled 10 shutouts.

Clairton will be tested again in the Eastern Conference as Greensburg Central Catholic and Jeannette return key players af-

ter facing off in the quarterfinals last season, with the Jayhawks earning a 29-23 win.

Greensburg Central Catholic's Samir Crosby threw for nearly 1,500 yards and ran for more than 1,000 last season but is likely moving to receiver. Jeannette quarterback Kymon'e Brown threw for more than 1,800 yards, and rushed for more than 1,200.

"I know Neshannock was ranked high, but Jeannette came on as well," Clairton coach Wayne Wade said. "The regular teams — Greensburg Central Catholic, Clairton, Fort Cherry and Bishop Canevin — are going to be there. Cornell is also returning some guys. It's going to be exciting."

Neshannock's first season in Class A after dropping down from 2A was a success — the Lancers went 6-0 to win the Big 7 Conference title and earned the WPIAL's No. 4 seed — before a first-round playoff loss to Jeannette.

Fort Cherry's top competition in the Black Hills Conference last

year came from Bishop Canevin and Cornell. Both again return formidable lineups capable of making postseason runs.

Cornell, a WPIAL quarterfinalist a year ago, will look for production from running back/wide receiver Khyllil Johnson, a William & Mary commit who had more than 1,400 yards combined in rushing and receiving last season.

Bishop Canevin was the No. 3 seed and reached the semifinals before falling to Clairton. The Crusaders, now under the guidance of veteran coach Rod Steele, feature returning skill player Damar Olds and 6-foot-6, 330-pound lineman Charles Butler, as well as a WVU recruit in junior outside linebacker Minikon Johnson.

Jefferson-Morgan took control of the Tri-County South Conference last season, going 7-0 in conference play and averaging nearly 40 points before falling to South Side in the first round of the playoffs.

## PRESEASON RANKINGS

### 1. Fort Cherry (14-1)

The back-to-back WPIAL Class A champion Rangers have been dominant the past two seasons with a 29-2 record in that span. They averaged 37.9 points in reaching the PIAA final for the second straight year.

### 2. Clairton (13-1)

### 3. Bishop Canevin (9-3)

### 4. Neshannock (9-2)

### 5. Jeannette (9-4)

\*RECORDS FROM 2024

## THE STARS

### SAMIR CROSBY

#### Greensburg Central Catholic, Sr., WR/DB

Crosby (5-10, 175), the Eastern Conference's Offensive Player of the Year, will show his versatility this season by moving to wide receiver after he rushed for 1,060 yards and 18 touchdowns and also threw for 1,481 yards and 20 touchdowns last season.

### JINO MOZZOCIO

#### Neshannock, Sr., QB/CB

The Big 7 Offensive Player of the Year last fall threw for 1,115 yards and 12 scores and helped the offense average 32 points.

### DAMAR OLDS

#### Bishop Canevin, Sr., WR/DB

An all-conference receiver in the Black Hills last fall, Olds will also be a threat in the backfield this season. He has offers from Akron and Kent State after catching 47 passes for 867 yards and scoring 13 times in 2024.

### MATT SIEG

#### Fort Cherry, Sr., QB/DB

The Penn State recruit threw for 1,350 yards and 20 touchdowns and ran for 1,840 yards and 32 scores. Sieg (6-0, 180) also made 50 tackles (34 solo) and had four interceptions and one punt return touchdown.

### JEFFREY THOMPSON

#### Clairton, Sr., QB

One of the WPIAL's top 15 passers last season, Thompson threw for 1,882 yards and 27 touchdowns in leading the Bears to a WPIAL runner-up finish.

## DON'T MISS

### 10.3: Greensburg Central Catholic at Jeannette

These neighborhood rivals split last season, with the Jayhawks getting revenge in the WPIAL quarterfinals. Jeannette leads the all-time series 22-12-1.

### 10.10: Bishop Canevin at Fort Cherry

The Crusaders remember last season's loss that snapped a five-game winning streak. This one will go a long way to deciding the Black Hills champ.

### 10.24: Neshannock at Laurel

The season finale could decide the Big 7. The Lancers won the Lawrence County showdown last season en route to a 6-0 finish in conference play.

**Coach:** JT Thompson  
**2024 record:** 8-3, 6-1 in Class A Eastern Conference  
**All-time record:** 385-254-18



# GCC OFFENSE SHOWS BIG-PLAY POTENTIAL

## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	Shady Side Academy	7
8.29	at Mt. Pleasant	7
9.5	Apollo-Ridge	7
9.12	Clairton*	7
9.19	at Brentwood*	7
9.27	at Riverview*	noon
10.3	at Jeannette*	7
10.10	Springdale*	7
10.17	Frazier*	7
10.24	Leechburg*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

## STATISTICAL LEADERS

**Passing:** Samir Crosby  
 81-146, 1,483 yards, 20 TDs  
**Rushing:** Crosby  
 152-1,060 yards, 18 TDs  
**Receiving:** Landon Honick\*\*  
 37-727 yards, 12 TDs

\*\*TRANSFERRED

## FAST FACTS

- Coach John "JT" Thompson took over in the offseason as GCC's athletic director, replacing longtime AD and former football coach Dan Mahoney.
- GCC had 30 players for summer workouts. The team battled injuries and low numbers last season, and it ended the year with 18 healthy players.
- The Centurions averaged 32 points and allowed 23.5.
- An assistant coach who joined the team late last season is back in Dioh Desuah, a former Seton Hill star and PSAC West Defensive Player of the Year.

BY BILL BECKNER JR.

With Samir Crosby eyeing a possible move to receiver and Jerry Davis lined up wide opposite him, Greensburg Central Catholic could have big-play ability downfield.

The senior pass-catching duo brings a blend of hands and speed few teams will have this football season. Both can go deep or create in space on short-range throws.

The development of sophomore quarterback Bobby Smithnosky, though, appears to be the key to allowing the standout Crosby to change positions. Crosby and Smithnosky were competing for the starting QB job at the onset of camp.

With a new season still in the green room, GCC had high hopes for those plans and what they could produce.

Getting the ball in the hands of the dynamic Crosby remains the team's main mode of operation. He is the Centurions' top returning passer and rusher, so he could also pile up yards on carries.

"I am really excited about this team," GCC third-year coach JT Thompson said. "We have a good mix of older, experienced kids and talented younger guys. We have the potential to be explosive."

GCC finished 8-3 and reached the WPIAL Class A quarterfinals before falling to rival Jeannette, 29-23, to snap a seven-game winning streak.

GCC was second in the Eastern Conference behind Clairton.

"We were playing our best football late in the season," Thompson said. "But we didn't play our best game in the (quarterfinals)."



SAMIR CROSBY

Crosby was the Eastern Conference Offensive Player of the Year. The Division I prospect accounted for over 2,500 yards and 40 touchdowns, but he has not caught a pass since his sophomore year.

That should change if he plays more on the perimeter. And Davis, a WPIAL 400-meter champion who had nine receptions for 133 yards and a score last year, adds to the big-play threat. The tandem would be tough to game plan for, given Smithnosky starts and has time to operate.

"We will be multiple on both sides of the ball," Thompson said. "We should be able to spread it out or pack it in tight and go with three- or four-man fronts. It all starts with our offensive and defensive lines."

The strong-armed Smithnosky can take pressure off Crosby, who projects as a receiver in college.

With the receiving corps getting a jolt, new offensive coordinator Zach Cooper had new wrinkles to think about in the playbook.

"Bobby is an elite baseball player," Thompson said. "He has arm talent. We need to get him more reps."

Junior Landon Honick would have been the leading returning receiver, but he transferred to Elizabeth Forward.

Junior Luke Semelka also could figure in as a running back and defensive back.

Sophomore Blase Bugosh also returns to contribute to the backfield. He had 26 carries and a touchdown as a freshman.

"Ultimately, we want to be balanced," Thompson said. "You can't force things you're not good at. You have to work on your weaknesses."

Five linemen are primed for a

big season in junior Aiden Lent (6-3, 260), senior James Botti (6-3, 215), sophomore Sam Dlugos (6-3, 260), sophomore Enzo Bard (5-10, 235) and junior Sam Kifer (6-2, 240).

The front blockers are generally unproven as a unit but also show potential.

The secondary, meantime, is packed with athleticism as it boasts Crosby, Davis and Smithnosky posturing in lockdown mode, while junior Colin Snively, senior Jackson Lowden (39 tackles) and Bugosh also are looking to bat down passes.

GCC had 11 interceptions a year ago.

Crosby also led the team with 67 tackles and five interceptions. Snively had 35 stops and three picks.

At linebacker, juniors Brock McMillen and Thomas Ames are back, although Smithnosky and Davis could line up there as well.

Ames and Botti had 32 tackles each.

Thompson also said he may have a freshman or two who can make an impact.

"I really like the character of this team," Thompson said. "There is a culture we've been building, and the kids get it."

Thompson thinks GCC could again find itself in the hunt for the Eastern Conference title, but Clairton and Jeannette could have something to say about that.

"It's going to come down to, who can stay healthy?" Thompson said. "Us, Clairton and Jeannette all lost three seniors. We really have a great little conference."

## ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	No.	Name	Pos.	Cl.	
0	Luke Semelka	RB/DB	jr.	9	Lucca Denis	WR/CB	so.	23	Jackson Lowden	WR/DB	sr.	52	Matthew Mazowiecki	OL/DL	sr.	
1	Alex Snively	WR/LB	so.	10	Jerry Davis	WR/DB	sr.	26	Max Weber	RB/LB	fr.	53	Enzo Bard	OL/DT	so.	
2	Colin Snively	WR/DB	jr.	11	Tommy Dlugos	WR/DB	fr.	42	Brennen Blanchard	WR/DB	fr.	54	Carson Kramer	OL/DE	fr.	
3	Blasé Bugosh	RB/DB	so.	12	Samir Crosby	WR/QB/DB	sr.	43	Brock McMullen	WR/LB	jr.	55	Sam Kifer	OL/DL	jr.	
4	Preston DiCesare	WR/DB	jr.	15	Stone Felder	RB/DB	fr.	44	Daniel Brady	HB/LB	fr.	56	Aiden Lent	OL/DL	jr.	
6	Bobby Smithnosky	QB/DB	so.	17	Tommy Ames	TE/LB	jr.	45	Chase Ferrier	LB	so.	57	John Kudla	OL	fr.	
7				21	Logan Polomoscianik	WR/DB	so.	51	Kayven McAuley	OL/DL	jr.	58	Rhys Weber	OL/DL/MLB	so.	
													63	Henry Detwiler	OL/DE	sr.
													75	Sam Dlugos	OL/DT	so.
													81	Aidan Kerr	OL/DL	fr.
													88	James Botti	OL/TE/DE	sr.
														Randy Farrow		sr.

# GOOD LUCK GREENSBURG CENTRAL CATHOLIC



CREEKSIDE  
 LANDSCAPE



724-834-2929  
 www.creeksidelandscape.com

# JEANNETTE WANTS TO RECLAIM 'FAVORITE' ROLE

BY BILL BECKNER JR.

Players in this year's senior class have been with Tommy Paulone from the start, and the fourth-year Jeannette coach has watched them bring the program back to propriety.

The proof came in a somewhat unexpected run last year.

The Jayhawks were the No. 13 seed when they ripped off a pair of playoff upsets to reach the WPIAL Class A semifinals.

Paulone looks fondly upon the postseason run but keeps it firmly in perspective.

Jeannette's great teams of the past had fans expecting annual success. But Paulone, a former Jeannette quarterback, reminds his players that every season is fragile, especially with 20-something roster numbers and lineups that can rupture with one or two injuries.

"We emphasize that we were playing great ball late in the year, but we also have a chip on our shoulder," Paulone said. "We were still only a fourth-place team in the conference. We were a 2-point conversion against Brentwood away from that maybe not happening. It's like the old adage with boiling water; one degree off and it's not boiling."

The Jayhawks went 9-4 (4-3 Eastern Conference) and, after wins



KYMON'E BROWN

over No. 13 Neshannock (23-7) and No. 5 Greensburg Central Catholic (29-23), they finally ran out of steam in a 49-14 loss to Fort Cherry.

Low numbers have plagued the program for the last five years, and 2025 won't provide much relief. The team was set to start the season with 23 players, the same number it ended with last season.

"One good thing is that all 23 are on the same page," Paulone said.

"We have to be careful and crafty with how we use guys so we can keep that number where it is."

Jeannette has the talent to make another run and elbow its way back into the Eastern Conference title conversation.

"We're working to get better every day," Paulone said. "Experience is important, and our guys are used to playing together. We have to get better at situational football.

over No. 13 Neshannock (23-7) and No. 5 Greensburg Central Catholic (29-23), they finally ran out of steam in a 49-14 loss to Fort Cherry.

We weren't great on third down."

The team's success starts and ends with returning TribLive Westmoreland Player of the Year Kymon'e Brown, who has his sights on a productive senior season. In his first year as a starting quarterback — he moved from receiver in the second half in Week Zero against Mt. Pleasant and never looked back — Brown threw for over 1,800 yards and 25 TDs while also rushing for more than 1,200 yards and 12 scores.

The Division I prospect will lead the offense again and has his top receiver back in junior all-state wideout Jayce Powell, who pulled in 57 receptions for over 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns as a sure-handed sophomore.

The pair can hook up readily when their timing is on.

At running back, seniors Nick Mendoza and Eli Jones could share carries, with senior Austin Cataldo also an option.

Mendoza ran for 398 yards on 76 carries, Jones 291 on 35.

Junior Majhi Sanders will play fullback behind a line that includes three returning starters in seniors Carmine DeAnuntis and Wyatt Schaeffer, and junior Isaiah Jones.

Sophomore Landon Carney also is in the mix to play on the line.

Junior McAlister Steele brings

JEANNETTE • 34



TOMMY PAULONE

**Coach:**

Tommy Paulone

**2024 record:**

9-4, 4-3 in Class A Eastern Conference

**All-time record:**

786-345-48



## SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	at Mt. Pleasant	7
8.29	at Apollo-Ridge	7
9.5	Ligonier Valley	7
9.12	at Frazier*	7
9.19	at Leechburg*	7
9.26	Clairton*	7
10.3	Greensburg Central Catholic*	7
10.10	Brentwood*	7
10.17	at Springdale*	7
10.24	Riverview*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

## STATISTICAL LEADERS

**Passing:** Kymon'e Brown  
95-184, 1,844 yards, 25 TDs

**Rushing:** Brown  
159-1,257 yards, 12 TDs

**Receiving:** Jayce Powell  
57-1,023 yards, 10 TDs



**ELLIOTT COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**  
*Celebrating 90 YEARS*  
**AND STILL GROWING STRONG**

Membership open to ALL those who live, work, worship, or attend school in Westmoreland County

## Good Luck Jeannette Jayhawks!

**Celebrate 90 years with us with our \$90 offer**  
 Open a Master Share, Share Draft w/direct deposit and debit card  
**and get \$90 from us!!**

Contact us for all the details!  
 Certain restrictions and conditions apply with all Loans.

[www.elliottfcu.com](http://www.elliottfcu.com)

North Fourth Street Branch  
724-527-2822

Jeannette Rubber Branch  
724-527-1550

Greensburg Branch  
724-216-1474

MSA Murrysville Branch  
EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES ONLY  
724-733-9141

MSA Cranberry Branch  
EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES ONLY  
724-776-8605

CALL ANY BRANCH WITH QUESTIONS  
1-877-812-6769



# Good Luck Jeannette Jayhawks!

**John V. Graziano Funeral Home Inc.**

Jeannette Funeral Director: James P. Graziano, Supervisor

Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans Available - "Service Is More Than Just A Word With Us"

228 N. Second St., Jeannette, PA • 724-523-5433 • [Johnvgrazianofuneralhomeinc.com](http://Johnvgrazianofuneralhomeinc.com)

# JAYHAWKS HAVE OPTIONS AT WR

JEANNETTE • FROM 33

consistency to the kicking game after making 31 of 35 extra points. He also could play tight end.

Schaeffer is a fourth-year starter.

Other linemen are sophomores Dane Simmons and Jason Fletcher, and senior June Jones.

Brown's targets also include athletic seniors Noah Sunder and Xavier Odorisio-Farrow, both key members of Jeannette's WPIAL championship basketball team last winter, along with Brown and Powell.

Sunder (6-foot, 180) had 18 catches as a junior, 11 that went for touchdowns.

Odorisio-Farrow (6-1, 185) made some highlight catches during 7-on-7 play this summer.

Sophomore Hunter Schaeffer may also see time in the slot.

On defense, Brown and Powell highlight a potentially stingy secondary, along with Hunter Schaeffer and unproven newcomer Cam Bobo (6-2, 275), a junior transfer from West Mifflin.

Wyatt Schaeffer, DeAnuntis and Isaiah Jones are the down linemen, with Eli Jones, Sanders, Mendoza, Sunder and Steele at linebacker.

Eli Jones had 69 tackles last season, Sanders 63, Mendoza 58 and Powell 57.

Mendoza also posted six sacks.

Jeannette would have had more players,

## ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht/Wt.	Cl.
0	Noah Sunder	WR/OLB	6-2/195	sr.
1	Jayce Powell	WR/DB	5-9/165	jr.
2	Elijah Jones	RB/OLB	5-9/190	sr.
3	Kymon'e Brown	QB/DB	6-0/160	sr.
4	Majhi Sanders	FB/ILB	5-11/200	jr.
5	Trevor Tillman	WR/DB	5-9/160	jr.
6	Nick Mendoza	RB/ILB	6-0/185	sr.
7	Hunter Schaeffer	WR/K/DB	5-9/155	so.
8	Cam Bobo	QB/WR/DB	6-3/170	jr.
9	Anthony Stuchell	QB/DB/OLB	5-9/160	fr.
10	McAlister Steele	TE/K/OLB	6-1/180	jr.
12	Xavier Odorisio-Farrow	WR/DE	6-2/200	sr.
13	Dhestin Sanders	RB/DB	5-6/160	fr.
15	Ty'reon Jones	WR/DB	5-7/135	fr.
20	Austin Cataldo	RB/OLB	5-8/165	sr.
21	Nashon Dunn	RB/DB	5-1/140	so.
50	Carmine Deannuntis	OL/DL	6-1/250	sr.
52	Isiah Jones	OL/DL	5-10/220	jr.
59	Wyatt Schaeffer	OL/DL	6-0/245	sr.
62	Wykil Fortune	OL/DL	6-0/194	sr.
65	Jason Fletcher	OL/DL	5-8/215	so.
67	Ted Kilgore	OL/DL	5-10/250	sr.
74	Landon Carney	OL/ILB	5-10/170	so.
77	Chey Wright	OL/DL	5-11/280	so.
99	Dane Simmons	OL/DL	6-0/225	so.

but senior brothers Isaac and Jayden Smartnik are not playing this season. Isaac graduated early, while Jayden switched to a cyber school outside of Jeannette.

Junior Markus McGowan, one of the school's top basketball players, also opted out of football. He was the opening-week quarterback last season before Brown took the reins.

Jeannette opens the season Friday night at Mt. Pleasant.



JAYCE POWELL

## Orthopedics You Can Trust, On and Off the Field.

Whether it's a Friday night injury or everyday joint pain, our expert orthopedic team is here to help you heal. We offer baseline concussion testing to keep you safe, advanced diagnostics, state-of-the-art surgical options, and personalized care — right here in your community.



**Schedule today!**  
**Call 724-689-1983.**

To learn more, scan code or visit  
[www.Independence.Health/Ortho](http://www.Independence.Health/Ortho)



**Ralph Passarelli III, MD**  
Orthopedic Surgeon

**Jennifer Erdos, MD**  
Orthopedic Surgeon

**Andrew Schleihauf, DO**  
Sports Medicine

# MONESSEN SEEKING WILL TO MATCH ITS SKILL

BY CHARLES CURTI

We have the skill, but do we have the will? That is the question fifth-year Monessen coach Wade Brown is asking his players heading into the 2025 season.

The Greyhounds ended 2024 on a three-game losing streak, which included a first-round playoff loss to Greensburg Central Catholic. Injuries ate into Monessen's annually small roster toward the latter stages of the season, but neither Brown nor his players want to use that as an excuse.

"It's really just a mindset," said senior two-way lineman T.J. Taylor. "All the kids that play at Monessen, we've been going through this (having a small roster) our whole life. This is nothing different from then to now."

Taylor is part of a senior class that will shoulder the responsibility of prodding the Greyhounds (7-4, 3-3 Black Hills) toward what they hope is a deeper playoff run. The first order of business will be to fill two gaping holes on offense:

- Ty Vaughn Kershaw, who rushed for 22 touchdowns and more than 1,600 yards last season, did not return to the team.

- Dennis Hawkins, a rising junior who started at quarterback the past two seasons, transferred to Ringgold.

In their places will step junior Kaier Payne at quarterback and senior Tavian Taylor — T.J.'s brother — at running back. Tavian Taylor, who played primarily at receiver last season, carried 16 times for 184 yards and two scores but will have a much bigger load.

"He really came on for us last year and really got into the groove of playing the running back slot," Brown said. "He's worked really hard this offseason as far as the weight room goes."

Payne's situation is different. An offensive lineman last season, Payne will step under center after having not played quarterback since his youth football days.

At 6-foot-1, Payne has plenty of size for the position. His biggest hurdle will be learning the nuances of the position, such as timing and footwork.



**TAVIAN TAYLOR**

The good news for Payne is he doesn't have to carry the team. There are plenty of skill position players to lighten the burden: Tavian Taylor; Rodney Johnson, who will play a hybrid tight end/H-back role; and a pair of tall receivers in Jay'veon Jeffries and Kayden Kolbeck.

"We've got a lot of talent coming back skill-wise," Brown said. "All (Payne) has to do is concentrate on getting those guys the ball and

letting them do what they can do in open space on the field and make things happen for us."

Of course, almost everyone on the roster will be asked to play two ways. Even though Brown expects to have about 30 players when the season starts, his roster still will pale in size compared to a team such as Fort Cherry, the two-time defending WPIAL Class A champion.

Monessen led the Rangers in the

fourth quarter when the teams, both 4-0 at the time, met last season. But Fort Cherry pulled away for a 35-14 win.

Monessen rebounded with a comeback win over South Side the following week, and that's the type of effort Brown wants to see for 10 weeks and beyond.

"It's about being in tough games, even if you're down a little bit ... and just try to keep fighting," he said.



**RODNEY JOHNSON**

**Coach:**

Wade Brown  
**2024 record:**  
 7-4, 3-3 in Class A  
 Black Hills Confer-  
 ence



**All-time record:** 689-405-47

**SCHEDULE**

Date	Opponent	Time
8.22	at Charleroi	7
8.29	at West Greene	7
9.5	Beth-Center	7
9.12	at Serra Catholic*	7
9.19	at Fort Cherry*	7
9.26	South Side	7
10.3	Chartiers-Houston*	7
10.10	at Burgettstown*	7
10.17	Bishop Canevin*	7
10.24	Cornell*	7

\*CONFERENCE GAME

**STATISTICAL LEADERS**

**Rushing:** Ty Kershaw\*  
 159-1,631 yards, 22 TDs  
**Passing:** Dennis Hawkins\*  
 49-90, 908 yards, 9 TDs  
**Receiving:** Tavian Taylor  
 10-252 yards, 3 TDs

\*NO LONGER WITH TEAM

**FAST FACTS**

- In each of its four losses last season, Monessen gave up at least 35 points and at least 54 in two of its last three losses.
- Despite its struggles with roster numbers, Monessen has a winning overall record (19-17) the past four seasons under Wade Brown.
- The season before Brown took over as coach, the Greyhounds were 0-7.
- Monessen is seeking its first playoff win since 2013.

**ROSTER**

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht./Wt.	Cl.	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	22	50	52	55	56	58	62	63	65	66	72	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72		
	Rodney Johnson	TE/LB/DL	6-0/230	sr.																																		
	Kaier Payne	QB/DE	6-2/175	jr.																																		
	Addye Fields	QB/LB	5-10/185	so.																																		
	Jacory Minnie	WR/DB	5-9/135	fr.																																		
	Daniel Towler	FB/LB	5-7/200	so.																																		
	Jaivion Weaver	WR/DB	5-9/135	so.																																		
	Kezjere Butler	WR/DB	6-0/150	so.																																		
	Malakai Hampton	WR/DB	5-10/135	jr.																																		
	Nazeah Anderson	WR/LB	5-6/135	so.																																		
	Tymane Braswell	WR/LB	5-7/150	fr.																																		
	Jacob Dell	C/DL	5-10/200	so.																																		
	Torrence Taylor	OL/DL	5-11/235	sr.																																		
	Roodly Destyl	OL/DL	5-11/233	so.																																		
	Dariyon Prince	OL/DL	5-9/195	jr.																																		
	Nick Marinos	OL/DL	5-8/225	jr.																																		
	Brayden Crews	OL/LB	5-8/190	sr.																																		
	Josh Smith	OL/DL	5-10/187	so.																																		
	Azariah Austin	OL/DL	5-6/220	so.																																		
	Xavier Bell	OL/DL	6-0/295	so.																																		
	Tommie Hewitt	OL/DL	6-3/260	sr.																																		

MONESSEN • BLACK HILLS

# ESSEY Tire

5200 ROUTE 51, BELLE VERNON  
724-379-4800 • [ESSEYTire.com](http://ESSEYTire.com)  
Monday thru Friday: 8:00am - 6:00pm; Saturday: 8:00am - 2:00pm

4.8 ★★★★★ Google Rating



**YOUR TIRES IN STOCK & INSTALLED TODAY!**

**FREE MOUNT & BALANCE WITH TIRE PURCHASE • EASY FINANCING - NO CREDIT CHECK**

# COMING SOON

## NEW LOCATION

# Route 30 Jeannette

**FAST, FRIENDLY,  
CONVENIENT!**



**JUST STOP IN**  
*No Appointment Needed*



6155 OLD WILLIAM PENN HWY, EXPORT  
724-327-1200 • [EXPORTTire.com](http://EXPORTTire.com)  
Monday thru Friday: 8:00am - 6:00pm; Saturday: 8:00am - 2:00pm

4.9 ★★★★★ Google Rating

# EXPORT Tire